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Aggielife

Can't live with 'em Can't live without 'en



BY MICKEY SALOMA

The Battalion

othing strikes fear into the hearts of Texas A&M students like the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services. By the same token, PTTS also instills much

adventure and humor into the lives of Aggies. PTTS has a reputation that has spawned Tshirts and Fish Camp yells expressing students' disdain toward this University service.

Whether students love it or hate it, the PTTS is here, will be here and will provide entertainment at Texas A&M as long as it functions. PTTS statistics illustrate the volume, as well

as peculiarities, of the department. Tom Williams, director of PTTS, said it issues

100,00 tickets a year, which he says is typical for any large university. However, he said that the amount of citations

issued depends on how many officers are on duty at any particular time. Sometimes more officers can equal more tows

According to PTTS records, the most number

of cars towed in one day is about 150. Williams said cars are towed because people unknowingly park them in spots reserved for members of the 12th Man Foundation.

Williams said the most parking tickets received by one student is 80, but added that there are 300 students with 20 or more tickets.

"Surprisingly enough, the people with the O'Brien said.

most traffic tickets have garage permits. I guess it's because they are out and about more than those who hate to move their cars out of parking lots," Williams said.

However, PTTS does not block students with unpaid tickets from graduating or registering.

'They are given what is called a T-Block which prohibits them from having transcripts sent," Williams said.

Most Aggies have had a memorable run-in with PTTS, and they have not all been negative. Chris Fox, a senior electrical engineering major, said he had a bad experience with the PTTS that ended on a happy note.

"I parked in the Koldus garage and parked with the front of my car facing out, and ridiculously enough, I got a ticket for that," Fox said.

'They tried to get me to fill out some paper work, but after some intense coercion, I took one of the guys for a tour of the garage to show him that there was no sign which said that parking backwards was illegal. Fortunately for him, he saw it my way, and the ticket was thrown out."

Typically, students frustrated with parking point their fingers at those brave enough to don the blue uniform of the PTTS officer.

Sara O'Brien, a senior agricultural journalism major, said being a PTTS officer is a noble profession, which she would never want to do.

"I couldn't imagine wearing that PTTS patch on my shoulder. That patch invokes thoughts of anger and hostility to all those who see it,'

Amanda Barnes, a senior psychology agrees. She said she had a run-in with aPT cer that left her a tad disgruntled and almost

'It was like 20 degrees outside, andle airs, s the street when a PTTS officer detained ary Ca= proceeded to give me a 10 minute lecture e Colle= walking and how I could get fined," Barns, Everyday there is an Aggie who adds o mee

ment to PTTS officers' lives by attempting out of a ticket. Some know no boundari their excuses, but most have no clue how out of the ticket. kas De___

'Girls have it easy, all they have too and they will get off without a slap on the Fox said.

Williams said it is each student's right however they want about PTTS.

"Sometimes students just display the maturity when they bash us," he said. a job to be done; we were selected tod we do it.

Despite students' opinions of PTTS, t a major service for the University.

Williams said PTTS has one of the bi sponsibilities on campus - dealing with system as well as campus parking.

"We are unique on campus because vide parking and transportation services dents," he said.

"We doubt we will ever be the most! campus, yet we should gain the respect students because A&M would be chaos with the order we maintain.





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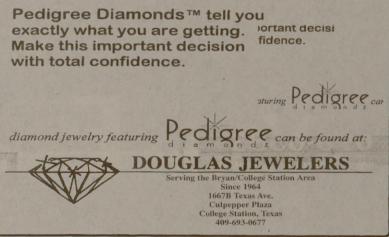
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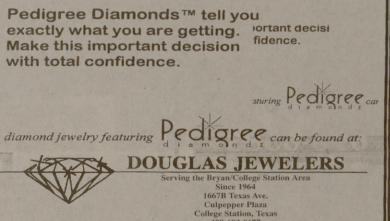
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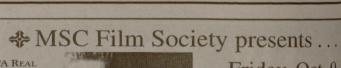
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