

Student workers speak out about early registration



We, as student workers in Evans Library, are writing to address the issue of early student worker registration as introduced in McDaniel's March 28th article. It has been estimated that nearly 60 percent of the student body are student workers. The Academic Operations Committee (AOC), under the Faculty Senate, claims students cheat and abuse the early registration system by finding a job, staying long enough to earn the consecutive paychecks, or getting hired just in time to register early...

Student workers work out of necessity. The only credit we get from our job is the paycheck we receive that is immediately used to pay for tuition, food, and rent. Creating a class schedule that coincides with our work schedules is already a difficult enough task. As an employee of Bus Operations, it is a necessary privilege that we get to make our schedules early. We need to be able to concentrate our classes during certain times of the day in order to make it possible to drive the different routes that we offer. Texas A&M's bus drivers have always looked at early student registration as a necessary provision for scheduling and a sign from the administration that they understand and care about our concerns.

Are you kidding me? Has the administration even given a reason for possibly taking away early registration for student workers? Has there been complaints about it? If there has, then let me be the first to apologize to all the rich little boys and girls whose daddies pay their entire way through college so that they can study all the time, make good grades, and join every organization. I'm very sorry that this tiny little advantage that has been given to those of us who come from hard-working, lower income families inconveniences you. If my need to schedule my classes so that I can work during the day to pay my way through college so that I can graduate and pay off my large debt in student loans interferes with your ability to get the professor you want at the time you want because the huge amount of spare time you already possess isn't enough, then please forgive me. Oh, and I'd also like to apologize to the faculty, who I must be inconveniencing by registering early, though I don't know how. Why else would you consider taking this one little advantage away? Does it offend your conservative Republican sensibilities? Does it defy your capitalistic notions that the rich should get richer and the poor should get poorer? If so, then I think I speak for all the lower to middle class students here when I say that I am so sorry that we have made the lives of rich students and faculty so hard, and to make it up to you we will stand still so that you can step on us during your climb to the top of the social/economic ladder.

James J. Mickler
Class of '00
764-0161
Texas A&M Bookstore
Signatures: Ayesha M. Kelly, Amber Black, Brian Kelly, Kristine Green, Katelynn Smith, Sandra Decker, Michelle Higgins, Ashley Burt, Janice A. McGuire, Brock Swindle, Lisa Holke

Table with 2 columns: Name, Class. Lists names of student workers and their classes.

Table with 2 columns: Library Dept., Reserves. Lists library departments and reserve items.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Signature, Class. A list of names, signatures, and class numbers.

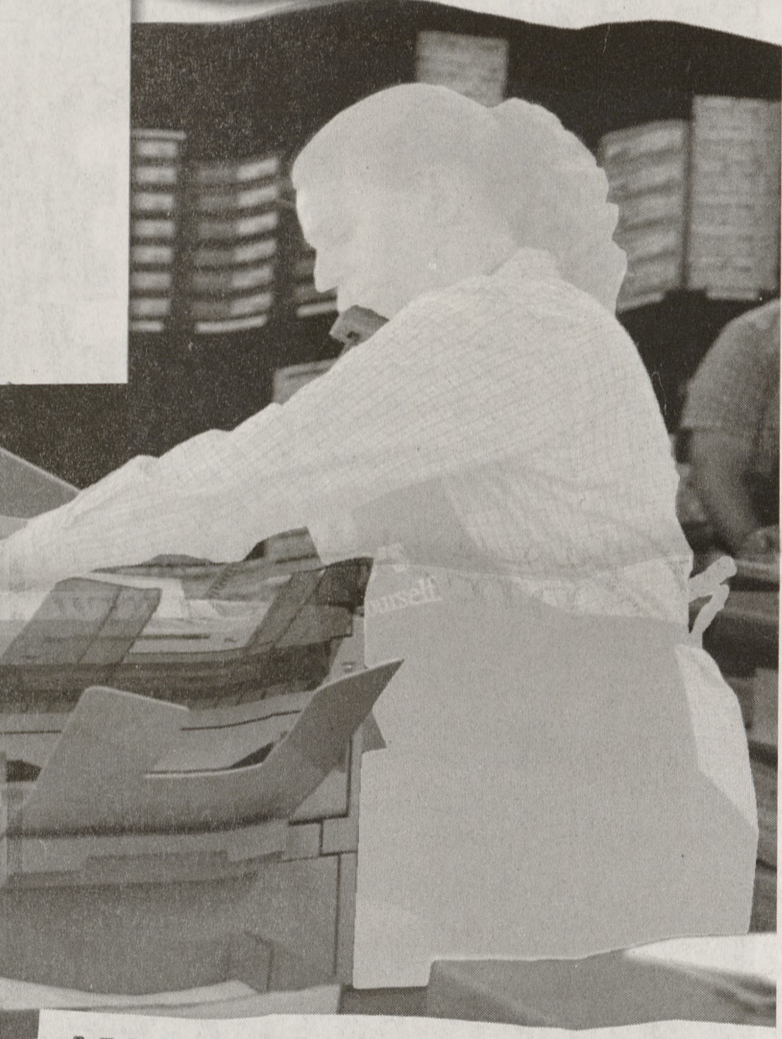


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To: The Battalion
From: Jennifer Kozz
Subject: Early Registration
Date: March 28, 2000
In reading today's Battalion, I am in shock over the University's thoughts to remove early registration. I am a class of '99 student putting myself through this fine institution, by slaving away many a multitude of hours at my job. I have worked for approximately 4 1/2 years at one place, when the starvation and survival of the fittest mode set over. I have worked anywhere from 25-40 hours weekly since I have been in college. My freshman year, the important decisions I made everyday weren't about "should I join the Aggie Fish Club", but how was I going to eat that day, or how in the world am I going to pay rent this month. One of the few issues that guaranteed that I could both attend college and survive, besides the topic of student loans, was early registration. With normal registration I was guaranteed at least five hours of busy times and then an abstract mixture of whatever classes were not full. All because I was a freshman, and we all know freshman don't get classes. The one great thing about student worker early registration is that I have had a chance to get decent classes and a decent schedule to allow me to work somewhat significant blocks of time. If this right was taken away, I would probably be forced to work strictly a graveyard shift because that is the only solid block of time attainable. The greatest thought I have is that my college career is just about over. Now I fear only for the future Aggies who will have to face this. Higher education seems to put up roadblocks for students everyday, and unfortunately A&M feels we need one more.

Station Mail Call
Student Workers? Reply
McDonald
A&M University
Aggie Station, TX
81111
Call 845-0569
THE BATTALION
It may concern.

So they want to take away early registration. Can we say sure, let's punish the poor! I am a full time student taking 17 hours and working two jobs that average 35 hours per week. Do you think that I indulge in this stressful lifestyle for fun? Of course not, but if I want to be an Aggie, I have no other choice. There are some students in Aggieland that do not have the luxury of wealthy parents who can contribute to a college education and who still make too much money for their children to qualify for work study or grants. I am a child from a family in this situation and have been working from the age of 15 in order to pay for college. Although living with the daily reminder that somehow I have to earn enough money to pay rent, buy groceries, gas, and pay for tuition and books, my worries are eased by the knowledge that at least I am able to work while I go to school. The Texas Commission on a Representative Student Body claims they want a more diversified student body. How can this be accomplished when you take away the possibility of working and work study for "minority students" through the elimination of early registration? It seems to me if this removal takes place, a statement is being made: We only want the elite here at A&M; only the ones with parents who can afford this university have the right to an education here. Without early registration it would be impossible for me to work. Without even one job, (mind you I am working two) I would not be able to enroll as a student at A&M. I disappear along with early registration if this action takes effect. We should stop and ask the most important question of all: Why? Why strip so many students from their dreams without making all the struggles they have endured thus far seem worthless? Where's the Aggie Spirit in that?

Vanessa Gaus
Class of 2003
Employment: Timber Creek Apartments and Brazos Bingo

Working at the Center for Public Leadership Studies in the Bush Building last October. I was hired to work the early hours of the day (2 am) when they have difficulty finding available student workers. Because the hours I had to attempt to schedule my classes sometime after noon to accommodate my work schedule. Now I will be the first to admit that because as a freshman I am new to the world of registration, but I'm not so new that I realize how much of an advantage early registration gives me. Think about a freshman trying to get all of her classes after 12:00. I only hope that the AOC is as realistic as I do. I love my job here and because of my special standing I need to work, but this would be impossible if early registration was abolished.

Student Worker Early Registration is necessary for those who put themselves through school by working. Although many students may depend on scholarships through school by working, a significant percentage of the student body is dependent on a part-time job to support their education and living costs. Early registration makes it possible for these students to choose a class schedule that will allow them to attend both work and class. Aside from studying, students are busy enough trying to organize their daily schedules, and take the early registration option the choice to work a practical schedule without the early registration classes cannot be fulfilled. The only other option to take the desired classes is to create enough classes so that a working student can still get the classes they need. With limited class options, early registration seems to be the only viable alternative.

Eric Quist
Class of '02
Post-Net brand fax transmittal memo 7671
To: The Battalion
From: Eric Quist
Subject: Early Registration
Date: Wed, 29 Mar 2000 11:34:30 CST



Megan Stubbs
Class of 2003
Center for Public Leadership Studies
Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University

From: "Kirsten Anderson"
To: battletters@hotmail.com Save Address
Subject: early registration for student workers
Date: Wed, 29 Mar 2000 11:34:30 CST
I am a student worker and have been all through college. I will be graduating in December so the end of student worker registration won't really affect me, but it is something that should definitely remain. If I didn't have to work and early student worker registration was eliminated, life would be great. I'd schedule all of my classes in the morning and spend the rest of the day at home studying, watching my soaps, sunbathing or whatever else seemed fun that day. But I live in the real world and mommy and daddy don't pay for everything anymore... which I never expected them to, anyway. I have to coordinate a schedule around work. We all know how hard it is to do this even with the early registration so I can only imagine the stress I'd have without it. Early registration is a privilege given to those who definitely deserve it and is an incentive for those of us who do have work. To those who think it's not fair, guess what... everything in life is going to be unfair to someone. I don't think it's fair that I have to work all day and go to school and then spend all my free time studying to get the grades that I do while the person sitting next to me gets to sit at home studying all day, so of course they pull off a 4.0 and then they want to complain because I get to register a couple of days before them. If people are so upset about us getting early registration, the solution is simple... get a job.

Kirsten Anderson
Class of '00