

Listen Up — Shuttle Buses, Pro And Con

Editor:
I have watched bemused at the shuttle bus proposals for some weeks now, and can only wonder why the officially designated committee to study the proposal has failed to come up with some of the information that I, as an independent and very casual observer, have come across. First, to aid the argument for all-user's fee:

I. The more people who ride the buses, the more parking places will be available for those who don't. Therefore, the entire student body should be billed for part of the cost, since it benefits all. This argument sounds good, but cannot hold water under the present and proposed route designs. The only way to guarantee that parking spaces will be saved is to bus those who live far enough away so that they have to drive; such as the students from Caldwell. But even then, car pools mean that the actual number of parking spaces saved is only one-fifth or one-sixth the number of bus riders. So to save even 1,000 spaces, 5,000 or 6,000 people must be bused from a distance great enough to ensure that they could not arrive on campus by any means other than a car. To the extent that this is not being proposed, billing the entire student body is a misallocation of resources. No benefits are guaranteed in any designed way.

II. The only methods of payment which seem to have occurred to the Senate and to the Committee are student fees and/or user's fees. I am truly surprised that in a free market economy, and with a student government so intent on saving us money, that an obvious thought has not occurred to them: let advertising pay part of the cost. If this proposal seems far fetched, let us consider only a few examples: all of the billions of dollars of television programming are paid for by advertisers; the same for radio; the same is largely true of most popular magazines. And a shuttle bus system at California State University at San Diego.

The entire cost of transporting over 500 students daily on car-

peted, rock music playing buses with free snacks on the ride is borne by advertisers. And this is after only one year of operation; the system is still expanding.

The result: two automobiles plastered inside and out with enough commercial messages to provide a free ride for students. Each bus is equipped with an eight-track stereo tape player bursting forth with 300 songs and a friendly driver who dispenses snacks.

I would like to extract some hard realities from this example: I don't propose carpeted buses, free snacks or rock music on the buses, so our per-unit cost will be less than CSU. Now let us assume that the entire \$120,000 of the original proposal will be paid for in ads. Over a 30 week school year, that means \$4,000 a week is needed. Consider that Bryan-College Station has over 3,000 businesses. That means if just 100 of those or about 3 per cent would buy \$40 per week of advertising, then the entire system would cost us nothing. Of course, 3 per cent is a rather minute fraction of businesses. If 10 per cent of the businesses would buy \$13 a week, the system could be completely supported.

These statistics should take away the strength of any speculation that there is not enough advertising potential here to pay for even a fraction of the costs of the system. The point is that the potential is here. If Transportation Enterprises, Inc. won't allow advertising on their buses, let's buy our own and save a bundle of money. There is no reason we are morally indebted to TEI for our system.

Advertising can and should pay a substantial portion of any system which we adopt. It is feasible and working. Let's at least give it a try. After all, it's our money.

Mike Perrin '75
★ ★ ★

Editor:
In response to the letter of Mr. Randy Stephens in Wednesday's Battalion, we felt this letter was needed in order to rectify several of the obvious points overlooked or misunderstood by Mr. Stephens.

In the first place, in his statement "we will spend \$96,000," we think he overlooked the fact that in the present proposal only \$42,000 of the Student Services Fee is allocated for the bus service, the rest to be paid by the users. The periphery service that he was promoting would have added an additional \$24,000 (or more if we had more than two periphery buses) to make a minimum Student Service Fee Allocation of \$66,000.

The next point Mr. Stephens either missed or didn't understand is the fact that if there were on-campus periphery buses as were proposed, the faculty and visitors would not be able to use them since these buses would be paid for by the students, and is therefore unfair to let others ride at the students' expense.

The biggest point that we feel Mr. Stephens has missed is the timing element involved in an on-campus bus service. It would take students much longer to get from one point to another on campus due to the numerous stops on the route and the traffic congestion. Mr. Stephens should also have paid closer attention to the routes which the periphery buses would have taken. They would not have gotten any closer to the Zachry Engineering Center than the corner of the Petroleum Engineering, nor would they have run to the outer parking lots "a mile or two" away.

In conclusion, not only would the buses be too costly and strain students' already limited time schedule, they would add congestion to an already congested traffic situation in regards to auto, motorcycle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

The bus proposal will be decided upon by the Student Senate this Thursday night, and I urge you to contact us or your representative and voice your opinion.

Ron Miori, Senator
College of Business
Virginia Ehrlich, Treasurer
Student Government
★ ★ ★

Editor:
We are writing to express our dissatisfaction with the reply of the Student "Y" Association's Viewpoint Panel. In the reply it was explicitly stated that many Aggie males refuse to date Maggies because of fear of being rejected. We find this totally absurd.

While this may be true for a few individuals, the majority of the Aggies don't date often because, 1) they already have girl

Counselor And Cabinet Forms Ready At 'Y'

Applications for Fish Camp Counselors and Student "Y" Association Cabinet positions are available in Room 102 of the YMCA Building.

Fish Camp Counselor applicants are interviewed by the present Student "Y" Cabinet and, if selected, will be notified the week after spring break, according to Barbara Cowan, Vice President of Public Relations.

They will receive information about the camp at the Election Steak Fry, April 12.

Student "Y" Association Cabinet applicants are interviewed by a committee who will nominate 12 applicants for the positions. The nominees will also be notified the week after spring break.

All applicants will still be eligible for the election held at the steak fry but the emphasis will be placed on the 12 nominees.

Deadlines for interviews are March 2 for Fish Camp Counselor applicants and March 9 for Student "Y" Association Cabinet candidates.

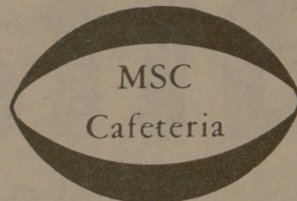
friends at other locations, 2) they are more interested in using their energy towards expanding their minds than in wasting it chasing after the whimsical Maggie, 3) no Maggie might particularly appeal to them, 4) an Aggie may lack the funds and time to compete with his fellow Ag's, and 5) a good percentage of Aggies have had experiences in having relationships shattered because of the unnatural ratio of boys and girls.

In conclusion we would like to state that we are not being critical of the individual Maggie, but we just resent being called cowards because we fail to chase after them to their pleasing.

Vance Driscoll '75
Randy Cates '75
Gene Barta '75
★ ★ ★

Editor:
Saturday night I was, along with several hundred others, amused by the NORML flick, "Reefer Madness". One thing baffled me about the show, however. One of the characters stated, on at least two occasions, that marijuana was especially dangerous because it grew wild in all 50 states. Can anyone explain how, if this flick was made in 1936, could they have known about Alaska and Hawaii?

It was still a funny flick.
Charles Haltom



NOW BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE. YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH THESE CAREFULLY PREPARED AND TASTE TEMPTING FOODS. EACH DAILY SPECIAL ONLY \$1.09 PLUS TAX.

<p>MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL BROILED BACON WRAPPED MOCK FILET STEAK GERMAN STYLE POTATOES Choice of one vegetable Rolls & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL FRESH CORN FED CATFISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Grandma's Cornbread Choice of one vegetable Rolls & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL CHICKEN FRIED BEEF STEAK w/CREAM GRAVY Choice of two vegetables Rolls & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>
<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL ITALIAN CANDLELIGHT DINNER — ITALIAN SPAGHETTI SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p> <p>FREE RINGS FOR CHILDREN</p> <p>20 OUNCE GLASS OF TEA</p> <p>You cannot believe you get, "The Whole Thing," for \$1.09</p>		
<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER TWO CHEESE AND ONION ENCHILADAS w/CHILI Spanish Rice Patio Style Beans Rolls & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY SPECIAL NOON AND EVENING OLD FASHIONED YANKEE POT ROAST Potato Pancake Choice of one vegetable Rolls & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON AND EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce & Crabapple Cornbread Dressing Rolls - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable.</p>

EVERYDAY PRICES PLUS SPECIALS

MEAT DEPT.

PRICES GOOD FEB. 22-23-24, FEB. 26-27-28, 1973.

WILSON CERT-I-SELECT 1/4 SLICED PORK LOIN LB. 97¢

KRAFT BAR-B-Q SAUCE
18 oz. Bottle 39¢

LONG CABIN SYRUP
(Pitcher Pack) 24 oz. Btl.) 79¢

HY-TOP ASPIRIN
5 Grain. Btl. 100 19¢

BROOKSHIRES
SAVE 40¢ WHEN YOU BUY A 3 LB. CAN of FOLGER'S COFFEE
SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON \$2.39
WITHOUT COUPON \$2.79
Limit 1 With \$7.50 P.U. Coupon cash value 1/20¢ at 1¢
GOOD THRU 2-28-73

WOLF PLAIN CHILI
19 oz. Can 69¢

PRODUCE
VINE PINK TOMATOES LB. 25¢

Lilly 1/2 Gal. Sq. Ctn. MELLORINE 4 For \$1.00 LB. 25¢

ALCOHOL
Pint Btl. 15¢

GOLDEN AGE DRINKS
12 oz. CANS 10¢

FROZEN FOOD
PATIO MEXICAN DINNERS 15 oz. REGULAR 49¢

Brookshire Bros. THE BEST FOR LESS

ORANGE DRINK TANG
27 Apothecary Jar \$1.35

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I don't like walking through th' planting, but I'm late for an ecology meeting!"

The Battalion

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