

State and Local

Intra-campus shuttle gets new buses

By Cheryl Clements
Reporter

Texas A&M Bus Operations is replacing the old intra-campus shuttle buses with new air-conditioned buses that should provide a comfortable ride and save on future repairs. Bill Conaway, assistant manager of bus operations, said the current Carpenter brand buses aren't performing as well as expected. The

buses are only a few years old and are already in need of some major repairs, he said.

"The Carpenter buses should have a life of about eight years," Conaway said. "They are three years old now, and the problems we are having with them will only get worse. Instead of buying more of the Carpenter buses... we have decided to pay a little extra and get a much better type of bus."

The new buses cost \$38,000 compared to \$30,000 for the Carpenter buses.

They have air-conditioning, AM-FM stereo with an intercom system and cloth seats rather than the vinyl covering that the Carpenter buses have, he said. The Diamond buses, however, have five fewer seats than the Carpenter buses, Conaway added.

The bus system, unlike many Uni-

versity departments, produces its own income.

"The bus system gets very few funds from the University," Conaway said. "If we had to operate off the money the University gives us we would not last a month."

"The campus buses get their income mainly from bus pass fees and the revenue from allowing organizations on campus to charter some of our buses."

Clements criticizes leadership

White pressed to call session

HOUSTON (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements pressed incumbent Gov. Mark White on Monday to call a special session of the Legislature to deal with the state budget crisis, insisting White's failure to do so shows a lack of leadership.

"He is devoid — literally devoid — of leadership," Clements said at a news conference.

"If he was the leader the people of Texas have every right to expect, he would call a special session immediately, charge agencies and depart-

ments to set their priorities and start scrubbing that budget."

Clements said he has been advocating a special session of the Legislature since February, contending the time lost since then has caused the anticipated state budget deficit to grow.

"The projected budget shortfall of \$1.3 billion is now estimated at \$2.3 billion," he said.

Clements said the Legislature needs to be summoned to pass laws implementing a constitutional

amendment approved last year that allows the governor, as part of a special commission, to scrub the state budget.

In Austin, White campaign spokesman Mark McKinnon said Monday the governor was working toward a consensus among lawmakers before calling them for a special session.

"Bill Clements obviously hasn't been reading the papers lately or talking to members of his own party," McKinnon said, adding that

Gov. White is working with the legislative leadership on developing a plan before he calls a special session.

Clements called the consensus idea absurd, saying Senate leaders favor a tax increase while House members are against higher taxes.

"There's no meeting of the minds," Clements said. "I think he's in a dilemma."

He said the budget shortage could not be tied totally to falling oil prices. He blamed increased state spending for part of the problem.

A&M business study center signs Chinese agreement

By Patricia Dearman
Reporter

An A&M administrator headed a delegation to the People's Republic of China to negotiate and sign agreements that will encourage economic trade and communication between Texas and China.

Dr. William H. Mobley, dean of the College of Business Administration, negotiated and signed the agreements on behalf of the Texas A&M's Center for International Business Studies.

"China needs Western technology and has great marketing and cultural opportunities for the United States," Mobley said.

Joint research, management development, and exchange program agreements were signed with China

National Offshore Oil Co. and the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

Mobley says the Center for International Business Studies, developed nine months ago, has obtained support from more than 20 top corporations with international interests.

According to an international business studies publication, more than 285,000 Texas jobs depend on the export of manufactured goods. Mobley said the center isn't limiting its research to China, but is funding 12 different international research programs.

"Clearly we are in a world economy," Mobley said. "The United States has to be more competitive if we are going to be significant in world trade."

What's up

Tuesday

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 845-3051.

MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE: John Ryan, of Parker Photo Processing, will speak on graduate schools in photography at 7 p.m. in 604 A-B Rudder. For more information call Mike, 696-5557.

Thursday

ATARI USER GROUP: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Teague. For further information call Bill, 845-4054.

BRAZOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB: meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the College Station Community Center. Beginners are welcome.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Buyers urged to hold on to counterfeit tickets

AUSTIN (AP) — Authorities are asking people who bought counterfeit tickets to the Farm Aid II concert to save the phonies and contact law enforcement officers.

"We're not promising we can get their money back, but the more people who contact us the stronger the case we'll have," said Mike Simpson, Travis County Precinct 2 constable and Farm Aid security chief.

Simpson said 20 victims had contacted the Travis County sheriff's office by Sunday. He said as many as 200 people may have fallen victim to the counterfeiters.

A man, a woman and two juve-

niles were arrested Friday afternoon near the concert site.

They had been selling fake tickets for several hours.

The tickets were sold along U.S. 290, the highway which carried thousands of concertgoers to Farm Aid II.

He said the four were arrested after several people with counterfeit tickets told law officers where to find the quartet.

The man was carrying more than \$5,000 when arrested, Simpson said.

The suspects were released without being formally charged, Simp-

son said, but the investigation is continuing.

Simpson said if authorities can build a strong enough case against the counterfeiters, they could be charged with a felony rather than misdemeanor theft.

Simpson said the fake tickets were printed on slick paper and didn't have raised lettering, like the legitimate tickets which sold for \$20 each. He also said numbers on the fake tickets were printed upside down.

Despite the "minor defects," Simpson said the quality of the phony tickets was generally good.

He said some people who pur-

chased the counterfeit tickets probably were admitted.

Most fakes were sold for a face value of \$20 each, although a few were scalped for slightly higher prices, he said.

Proceeds from genuine ticket sales went to the Farm Aid fund, Simpson said. Organizers said \$800,000 worth of tickets were sold, along with about \$500,000 in contributions raised through telephone pledges.

Simpson said counterfeit tickets always are a problem at large outdoor concerts.

Air Force doctor jailed in porn case slashes neck

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — An Air Force doctor charged with violating federal child pornography laws was in stable condition Monday after slashing his neck with a razor blade, a jailer said.

Capt. Mark Russell Player, 24, underwent surgery and was in the intensive care unit at the McKenna Memorial Hospital a few hours after the incident, according to a nursing supervisor who refused to give her identity.

Player was arrested last week and held in lieu of \$100,000 bond on charges of possessing a roll of 35mm color film of a young boy engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Comal County Jail Supervisor Walt Sumner said a jailer found Player half-sitting on his bunk at about 6:30 a.m. Monday.

Player had used a razor blade to slash his carotid and jugular veins, Sumner said. A nurse on duty gave him immediate attention and Player was transferred to the hospital, Sumner said.

In a federal indictment, Player was accused of mailing the roll of film June 2 from San Antonio to a processing plant in Minnesota.

Texas white-collar workers face rising unemployment

DALLAS (AP) — Job opportunities practically leaped at Joseph Sanders III from the pages of Dallas' newspapers seven years ago, as they did for thousands of white-collar workers who swarmed to Texas in the state's oil-fed boom days.

But now those ads are thinning while lists are filling with people like Sanders — white-collar workers who are being laid off by both the smallest and largest of companies.

Sanders, a Buffalo, N.Y., building executive who had worked 22 years with the same northern company, hadn't even been considering a job change before his Dallas visit in 1979.

But "the ads were incredible. I had 10 interviews in a week," he said.

Hired by a local construction company, Sanders, 51, found a steady working role in a city where building was constant.

But today, he's out of work and struggling to get interviews.

"I thought it was going to be simple, believe me," he said.

But after weeks of trying, "you send out resumes like they're going out of style and you get no calls."

The downturn in the petroleum-based Texas economy has affected a much wider group than the rough-necks watching wells shut down. As oil prices have fallen, the further downturn in an already soft economy has taken a toll on the financial, management and development industries.

In Dallas, mid- and upper-level executives and office personnel are paying the price along with the historically vulnerable laborer.

The state's unemployment rate soared to 10.5 percent in June, and the six-county Dallas-Fort Worth region's unemployment rate has risen from 3.9 percent last spring to 5.2 percent this year.

Texas Employment Commission analyst Don Johnstone told the Dal-

"I thought it was going to be simple, believe me . . . you send out resumes like they're going out of style and you get no calls."

— Joseph Sanders III, unemployed white-collar worker.

las Times Herald that a significant factor is "white-collar people out of work who didn't used to be."

It's a trend that has highly credentialed professionals in a number of fields struggling to make career changes at reduced salaries, or straining to get interviews — when corporate recruiters once flocked to their doors.

"When I was working, I had headhunters (recruitment firms) calling me all the time. Now the same guys are avoiding me," said Errol Brous-

sard, a 47-year-old Plano resident who was laid off as domestic and international sales manager for Milchem Inc., an oil drilling and field service company.

Although the hardest hit even among executives are those in the oil and gas industry, the downturn has also rippled through the real estate business.

Economic hard times have caused some agents to supplement lower commissions with part-time jobs.

Because of a glut of office space and an uncertain future, major construction projects are being canceled or postponed, sometimes with resulting layoffs.

Raleigh Roussel, executive vice president of the Dallas chapter of the Associated General Contractors, said, "It has to do with the fact that the prospects just aren't good for the immediate future."

"People have begun to cut back on mid-level management people . . . You can't afford to keep people making \$35,000 or \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year on your payroll."

Bill Allen, president of Management Recruiters of Dallas, said the number of unsolicited resumes is climbing dramatically.

"They're usually very educated people, two degrees, 10 to 20 years experience," he said. "Many are totally tied to the energy field. And, in many cases, their skills are not transferable."

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