

State and Local

Manager: Summer busing chaotic, unfair to students

Apartments limit A&M shuttle bus service by choosing whether to buy charter passes

By Elisa Hutchins
Reporter

When the spring semester ends, thousands of Texas A&M students will begin a mass exodus home for a much needed break, but thousands will stay for summer school.

Many of them will drive to campus, for only those who live in privileged apartment complexes will be able to ride the shuttle bus during summer sessions.

During fall and spring semesters, buses run at approximately 15-minute intervals. Anyone can buy a pass through the University for about \$45 a semester.

Bus operations manager Doug Williams said there aren't enough students in the summer to justify full service.

"In order for there to be any service at all for summer, bus operations offers charter service to apartment complexes," Williams said. "They pay us a fee and we will stop at only their complex."

Williams said there are no set rules for operating in the summer. Apartments can buy the service for their residents and can refuse to sell passes to individuals from other complexes.

In 1986, enrollment for the first summer term was close to 15,000, Associate Registrar Donald D. Carter said, and there were more than 13,000 students for the second term.

But because of expected enrollment increases, Carter said, there will probably be more people this summer.

Williams said only two shuttle bus routes will be in operation this summer. Parkway Circle and Plantation Oaks apartments will have shuttle buses running from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning June 8.

Nine other complexes will share a route from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

These are: Longmire House, Yellow House, Brazos House, Arbor Square, Southwest Village, Brownstone, Sevilla, Scandia and Pepper Tree apartments.

"I feel very strongly that all the complexes should serve other residents equally and at least sell summer passes. I live across from Parkway Circle, at Willowick Apartments, and I can't get a pass."

— Francisco Letta, 1985 A&M graduate

Students won't be able to buy a pass through A&M. All of the complexes on the 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. schedule will sell passes to residents of any other apartments on the route and their residents will get free service.

"The fee we charge to non-residents will be based on our cost to provide the service," D.R. Cain property manager Cynde Sikes said.

D.R. Cain, which owns Longmire House, Yellow House and Brazos House, and the owners of the other complexes paid a combined total of \$5,000 for the service, Sikes said.

Plantation Oaks and Parkway Circle, however, won't sell passes to non-residents.

"We will not sell or give passes to anyone," Parkway Circle apartment manager B. Riley said. "It cost us \$5,000. This is a convenience for our residents and not for everyone who travels down Southwest Parkway. If you don't sign a lease either for summer or during the regular school year, you can't ride."

There are several other apartments on Southwest Parkway that didn't buy shuttle service, so many of their residents will have to find another way of getting to school.

"I feel very strongly that all the complexes should serve other residents equally and at least sell summer passes," 1985 A&M graduate and A&M employee Francisco Letta said. "I live across from Parkway Circle, at Willowick Apartments, and I can't get a pass."

There are three other complexes in the area near Parkway Circle, but only one, Brownstone Apartments, has purchased the shuttle service and will sell passes. The other two haven't.

Williams said the summer system is chaotic and unfair to residents whose complexes don't buy the service. But he claims there is nothing he can do about it.

Shuttle buses operate on funds from shuttle bus fees each semester, as well as from money received from student activity fees, said Howard S. Perry, associate vice president of student services.

"During the summer we do contribute funds for inter-campus service, but we really aren't that involved in the process," Perry said.

Brownstone manager Alda Shaw said complexes that buy the service should sell passes to non-residents. "Since Parkway Circle isn't selling, it should help us make money by issuing passes to other students along Southwest Parkway."

Brian Banner, student body executive vice president for school administration, thinks the University should be more involved in summer shuttle operation.

"Though I am not familiar with this problem at the moment, I will look into it," he said. "Anyone should be able to get a pass."

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2.05	7280.00	14,500.00	49	650.00	1300.00	55	695.00	1700.00
2.04	4850.00	9700.00	48	695.00	1300.00	55	895.00	1700.00
2.03	4785.00	9700.00	42	660.00	1350.00	52	665.00	1300.00
2.02	7650.00	15,000.00	41	470.00	985.00	51	695.00	1400.00
2.01	5675.00	12,000.00	40	540.00	985.00	45	325.00	675.00
1.83	2900.00	5800.00	35	395.00	850.00	37	350.00	675.00
1.80	3650.00	7300.00	35	375.00	750.00	31	245.00	500.00
1.17	2525.00	4900.00	30	335.00	750.00			
1.17	1395.00	2700.00	20	165.00	325.00			
1.16	2200.00	4200.00	15	110.00	220.00			
1.10	1345.00	4900.00	10	63.00	140.00			
1.08	2250.00	2600.00	07	38.00	75.00			
1.08	2895.00	4400.00	05	35.00	70.00	1.52	5275.00	9800.00
1.06	1975.00	3800.00	03	14.00	30.00	1.15	2495.00	5500.00
1.02	1495.00	2800.00	02	10.00	22.00	1.04	1495.00	2900.00
1.02	2375.00	4500.00				.89	1750.00	3500.00
1.02	2685.00	4500.00				.83	1350.00	2700.00
1.01	1295.00	5100.00				.78	1495.00	2800.00
1.00	3975.00	7700.00				.71	1495.00	2800.00
1.00	1950.00	3800.00				.46	375.00	675.00
1.00	1345.00	3800.00						
.99	2150.00	2700.00						
.97	1520.00	4200.00	2.78	\$13200.00	27,500.00			
.96	1840.00	3100.00	2.14	4888.00	9800.00			
.88	1475.00	3500.00	1.23	2750.00	4500.00			
.80	1200.00	2800.00	1.10	3200.00	6400.00	.64	6400.00	2300.00
.77	985.00	2300.00	1.01	1175.00	2300.00	.27	4950.00	2200.00
.72	1145.00	1800.00	.76	2585.00	4950.00			
.71	1195.00	2200.00	.74	1085.00	1800.00			
.71	1175.00	2300.00	.71	2900.00	5800.00			
.67	760.00	2300.00	.62	795.00	1850.00			
.65	815.00	1450.00	.57	895.00	1900.00			
.63	975.00	1600.00	.57	895.00	1900.00			
.62	715.00	1700.00	.55	895.00	1900.00			
.61	775.00	1400.00	.54	795.00	1850.00	.54	\$895.00	1750.00
.60	895.00	1400.00	.47	695.00	1300.00	.50	695.00	1400.00
.60	695.00	1700.00	.47	625.00	1300.00			
.59	930.00	1200.00	.35	425.00	890.00			
.59	930.00	1800.00	.31	425.00	875.00			
.57	695.00	1800.00						
.55	895.00	1400.00						
.55	865.00	1700.00						
.55	695.00	1400.00						
.54	875.00	1600.00						
.54	695.00	1400.00						
.53	795.00	1650.00						
.53	495.00	1750.00	1.80	3495.00	6800.00			
.52	845.00	985.00	1.38	2275.00	4500.00			
.52	810.00	1750.00	1.12	3100.00	6200.00			
.51	795.00	1625.00	.83	1975.00	4900.00			
.51	795.00	1550.00	.62	1395.00	2800.00	.46	\$920.00	1850.00
.50	795.00	1550.00	.60	1195.00	2300.00	.33	385.00	750.00

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