

Thursday, March 21, 1991

The Battalion

## Bus service stresses security

### Dial-A-Ride program offers alternative

By Troy D. Hall  
The Battalion

Walking across Texas A&M at night can be a harrowing experience for some students. But many students are taking an alternative route which provides security, convenience and, in some cases, just plain fun.

A&M's Dial-A-Ride program, which can be reached at 847-RIDE, offers students, faculty and staff an alternative to walking across campus after dark.

The service, sponsored by Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, shuttles people both on and off campus after regular shuttle bus routes have ended.

One bus shuttles people through main campus, to west campus, Research Park, Agronomy Road and Easterwood Airport.

Two buses run from 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and one bus runs from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Riding the on-campus shuttle is free.

The off-campus Dial-A-Ride service is reserved for people with shuttle bus passes or one-ride coupons. It runs from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Friday and provides service off campus to and from all A&M shuttle bus stops.

The Dial-A-Ride program allows people riding the bus to talk directly to the driver, says



Jessica Liska, a junior mathematics major from Donna, uses the Dial-A-Ride service provided by Parking, Transit and Traffic Services. Driver Chuck Dickerson lets Liska off at Olsen Field Tuesday night.

Tom Williams, director of PTTS. "It provides personal service to the rider," Williams says.

When people call Dial-A-Ride, they talk to the driver through a two-way radio dispatch system. The driver asks where they are located, where they want to go, and then gives them an approximate time they will be picked up.

Students can call from any phone, including emergency telephones around the campus. Emergency phones are for emergencies and student needs, in-

cluding the Dial-A-Ride service, Williams says.

Dial-A-Ride is one way administrators are trying to make campus more secure, Williams says.

Doug Williams, director of bus operations, says Dial-A-Ride promotes the service as convenient and safe.

"It is a secure feeling to have someone take you door to door," he says.

But concern for passenger safety does not end with the administration.

Chuck Dickerson, a senior

aerospace engineering major from Center and a Dial-A-Ride driver, says a driver's main concern is the passengers' safety.

"It is dangerous to have people out on the streets at night," Dickerson says.

Dickerson says he usually will stop when he sees people walking alone or when the weather is bad. He even occasionally picks up A&M Corps of Cadets members escorting students across campus at night.

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## Report blames officials for misplaced millions

PRAIRIE VIEW (AP) — A special prosecutor's report on mismanagement at Prairie View A&M University says three former school officials are getting away with "reckless conduct" because the statute of limitations has expired.

About \$15.1 million was misplaced at Prairie View A&M University from 1983-87 because of accounting practices that "were so bad they constituted reckless conduct," special prosecutor Albert M. "Buddy" McCaig said in the final report on the 14-month probe.

McCaig said former school president Percy Pierre, former controller Charles White and former vice president Herbert Watkins should have faced charges of misapplication of fiduciary funds, but the transgressions were not discovered for four years.

"A case for misapplication of fiduciary funds can easily be made," the report cited. "Notwithstanding that, the statute of limitations has run on their conduct, and they are safe from such prosecution."

Pierre denied the allegations when reached by the Houston Chronicle at his office at Michigan State University, where he now serves as vice president of

research and graduate studies.

"I think I totally fulfilled my fiduciary responsibilities," Pierre said. "I find it extraordinary that they would literally indict me and others in the press and then say they can't do anything about it."

Pierre, who served as Prairie View's president from 1983 to 1989, said the report was racially motivated.

"I think this attack against me and my colleagues is racist. It would not have happened at a predominantly white university. I will not be a scapegoat."

McCaig made the comments in a final report to Texas A&M University System officials and the 9th Judicial District attorney's office.

"Most of (the money) probably was spent for the benefit of the university, but we're also convinced that some of it was mis-spent," McCaig said. "While they may not have intentionally stolen money from the university, their reckless conduct will now go unpunished."

The Texas Rangers' investigation resulted in the indictments of 18 former and current officials and students on charges ranging from official misconduct to theft and commercial bribery.

## In Advance

### Student Activities accepts event applications

Big Event applications are available on the second floor of the Pavilion in Student Activities and are due by 5 p.m. Friday.

T-shirt orders also are being taken in the Student Government office in the Pavilion. For more information, call Student Activities at 845-3051.

### Class of '91 presents class gift ballot tonight

A ballot presentation for the Class of '91's class gift will be at 8:30 p.m. today in 301 Rudder.

Voting for the class gift begins Monday and will continue until March 29. Seniors can vote at the MSC or Blocker from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

For more information, call Heather Glenn at 847-0185 or Chris Hendrics at 846-5269.

## Green Week Tips: Home Energy

The Battalion will offer its readers suggestions this week on ways to make our planet available for the next generation.

This service coincides with the Texas Environmental Action Coalition's "Green Week."

The following tips focus on home energy use:

- Insulate, caulk and weatherstrip your home.
- Install a timer on your thermostat.
- Insulate floors with carpet.
- Install double-paned windows.
- Wear a sweater instead of turning up

- the thermostat.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Hang your clothes in the sun to dry them.
- Keep lint screen and outside exhaust for the dryer clean.

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Classes begin Sat., April 6th, 8 a.m. at College Station Conference Center

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Intern programs are offered for Spring, Summer and Fall Semesters. Summer 1991 applications are due by April 15th, 1991. For complete information, write to: International Access, 302 East Carson Avenue, Suite 400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. Or call (702) 458-7210.