



### WHAT ARE WE PAYING FOR?

A detailed analysis of the fees each student pays to attend A&M.

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Taylor: When people start viewing "different" as "bad," horrible things will come.

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### INSIDE — APPLY TO WORK FOR THE BATT!

Attention — Everyone interested in writing, graphics, or photography ... Fill out The Battalion staff application!

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# THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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## UPD reports car burglaries up from last year

Officials report an increase of over 100 percent from the previous year.

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

Vehicle burglaries at Texas A&M have increased in the past year, University police officials said, making it more important for A&M students to be aware of suspicious behavior.

A report released Wednesday by the University Police Department

compared the incidents of on-campus crime between 12-month period Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, a crime prevention specialist with the University Police Department, said burglary vehicle theft jumped from 41 incidents in 1994 to 100 in 1995.

"This is a crime of opportunity that happens at any time of the day," Kretzschmar said. "I compare it to window shopping. Criminals walk around and look in cars to see which one gives them the best deal. The car with the most valuable, visible items is the one they will steal from."

Comparing the University Police statistics from March 1994 to March 1995, disorderly conduct decreased from 61 offenses to 28 offenses, misdemeanor theft decreased from 363 to 337, and alcohol violations decreased from 516 to 342.

Although these violations have dropped, criminal mischief, miscellaneous crime and burglary vehicle theft continue to rise.

Kretzschmar said that in order to deter criminals, students should either remove valuable items from their cars or place them out of view. Backpacks, cassette tapes,

cameras and radar detectors are among the more popular items thieves look for.

"People forget and leave their wallet, purse or backpack sitting in the front seat or on the floorboard of their car," he said. "This is just an invitation to a burglar."

Tracy Fermi, a junior history major, said she often forgets to put her valuables away during the day because of the number of people on campus.

"With 42,000 A&M students going to class each day, you would

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### Texas A&M University Police Department COMPARISON OF OFFENSES REPORTED

Offense	9/93 - 3/94	9/94 - 3/95
Criminal Mischief	137	180
Criminal Trespass	11	11
Disorderly Conduct	61	28
Burglary-Vehicle	41	100
Misdemeanor Theft	363	337
Liquor Violations	516	342

## Local merchants, residents celebrate Bike-To-Work Day

Sponsors are trying to encourage people to break the habit of driving to work daily and are offering free and reduced-price meals to cyclists.

By Stephanie Dube  
THE BATTALION

Bicyclists are encouraging other people to ride their bicycles to school and work Friday for the second annual Bike-to-Work Day.

Bicyclists can receive a free breakfast or half-price lunch Friday for riding their bicycles.

The event, sponsored by Brazos Valley Cyclists, a chapter of the Texas Bicycle Coalition, will provide a free breakfast for bicyclists from 7 to 9 a.m. Freebirds World Burrito will also offer half-price burritos from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Bicyclists can get their free meal at the following locations: Aggieldand Cycling & Fitness, B-CS Bicycles, Valley Cyclery, Bryan City Hall, College Station City Hall, Brazos Blue Ribbon Bakery; Cafe Ecce, and both Shipley Do-Nut shops.

Danise Hauser, transportation researcher with the Texas Transportation Institute and event coordinator for Bike-to-Work, said she wants to promote bicycling as a primary mode of transportation.

"We want people to break the car habit," Hauser said. "We are encouraging people to try bicycling this one day and then, if they see that it is much better than driving a car to work, they might stick with it."

Hauser said that traveling three miles in an urban area takes about the same time either in a car or on a bicycle.

"During peak hours, cars have to stop at lights and there is a lot of congestion," she said. "Although bikes are slower, cars are brought more toward that speed."

Last year, more than 1,100 bicyclists participated in Bike-to-Work Day.

Hauser said that many of the participants were bicycling to work and school for the first time.

"Last year was the largest first-time Bike-to-Work event in Texas," Hauser said.

Terri Keck, assistant manager for Freebirds, said the restaurant gave away more than 800 burritos last year.

"We weren't expecting that much, so this year we're offering half-price burritos," Keck said. "Our

owner is involved with cycling, so we want good community awareness. Anyone can bicycle; it's not too hard to do."

Wayne Bryan, owner of Aggieldand Cycling and Fitness, said his store won an award last year for the highest level of participation in the Bryan-College Station area. However, he said, no awards will be given this year.

Bryan said Aggieldand Cycling and Fitness will provide free doughnuts and fruit punch for the bicyclists.

"As a sponsor, I hope to see increased participation and awareness that cycling is a viable and preferable way to get around town," Bryan said. "This town tends to be a one-person-in-a-car town, which is not efficient. One person on a bike is efficient."

Hauser said bicycling is safer than driving a car. "Driving a car is one of the riskiest things we do in our everyday lives," she said. "It is more dangerous to drive a car than to take a plane ride."

"Because our society is so car-oriented, we think of a bicycle as riskier because fewer people use it. But, if a bicyclist follows all the traffic laws, bicycling can be a safe and enjoyable way to get to work and school."

Hauser encouraged participants to learn more about bicycle safety.

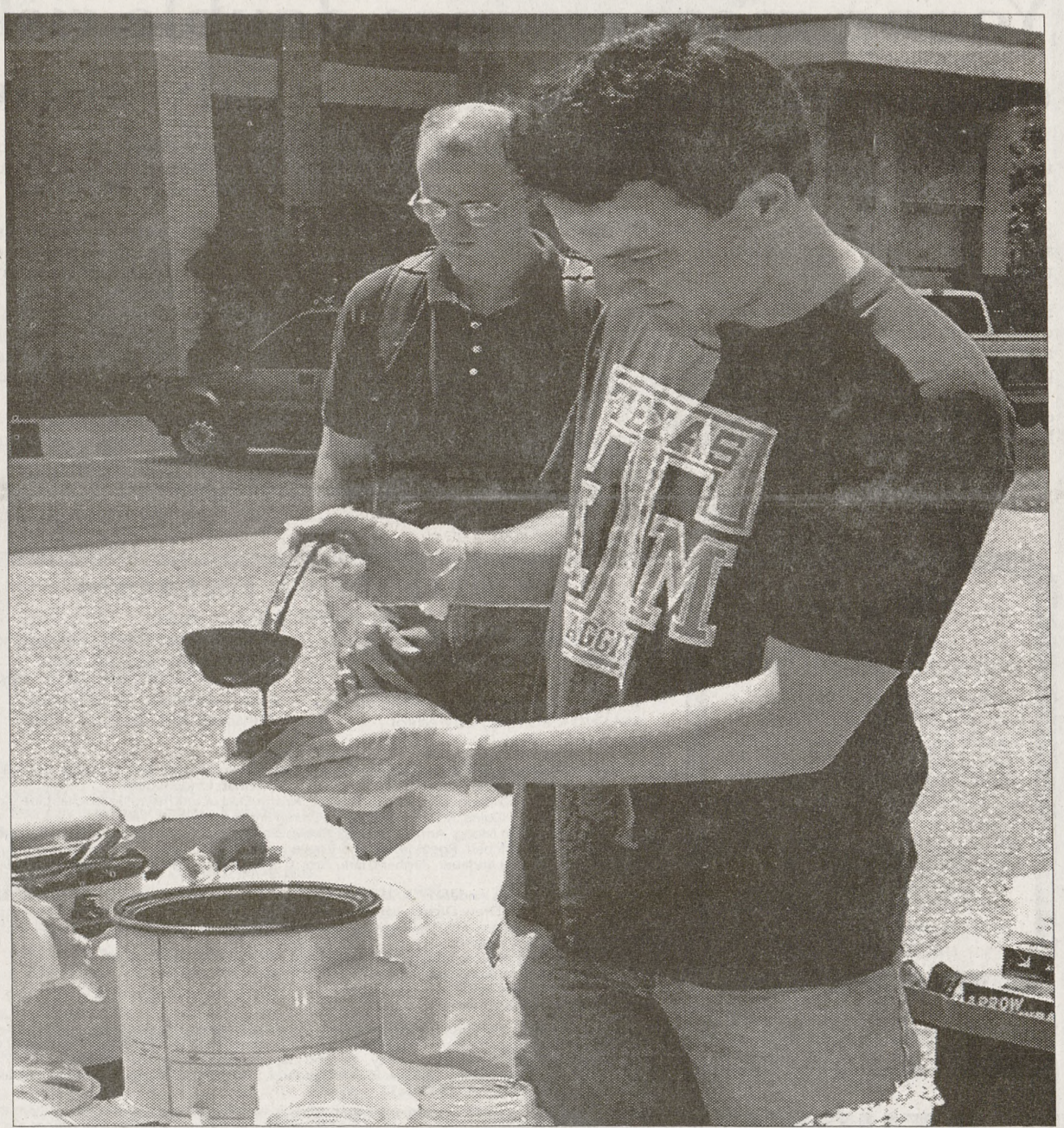
**"We are encouraging people to try bicycling this one day and then, if they see that it is much better than driving a car to work, they might stick with it."**

— Danise Hauser  
transportation researcher

"The educational aspect is important, not only so that the bicyclists can know how to cooperate with the cars, but so the motorists can know how to cooperate with the bicyclists," she said. "They both need to understand each other."

Bicycle accidents, she said, can be avoided with more safety education.

Donations for Trevor Shockley, an A&M student and cyclist who was seriously injured in a West Campus accident with a University bus in early February, will be collected at the Bike-to-Work Day food stations.



Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

### Finger-lickin' good

Erik Koehlert, an engineering technology major from The Woodlands, dishes up barbecue as part of a fundraiser for the American welding society behind Thompson Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

## Suspect told friend 'Something big is going to happen,' prosecutor says

Wednesday marked the one-week anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — New details of Timothy McVeigh's activities in the days before the Oklahoma bombing surfaced Wednesday, including the suspect's chilling warning to a friend that "Something big is going to happen."

Investigators also were trying to trace McVeigh's movements after the explosion that gutted the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, a source told The Associated Press. One theory was that McVeigh dropped off a still-missing colleague before he was arrested for traffic and weapons violations.

Three witnesses placed McVeigh in front of the federal building moments before the explosion — apparently before the truck carrying the bomb arrived, according to the same source.

Revelations of McVeigh's actions in the days before the bombing came in a Wichita, Kan., courtroom as prosecutors sought to take the friend, Terry Nichols, to Oklahoma.

The judge granted their request but delayed it until May 5 so Nichols could appeal.

As the investigation advanced, the city and the nation paused to observe a moment of silence at 9:02 a.m. — the precise moment of the blast one week ago. Bells rang, tears flowed and heads bowed as searchers stood amid the ruins of the collapsed federal building.

The death toll stood at 98.

In court, U.S. Attorney Randy Rathbun said McVeigh called Nichols from Oklahoma City on April 16 and asked him to pick him up. Nichols, 40, lives in Herington, Kan., about 270 miles north of Oklahoma City.

Rathbun, quoting what Nichols told the FBI after he was taken in, gave this account of what happened next:

Nichols picked McVeigh up, and as the two men drove north, McVeigh told Nichols: "Something big is going to happen." Nichols responded: "Are you going to rob a bank?" and McVeigh repeated, "Something big is going to happen."

The men reached Junction City, Kan., early in the morning of April 17. The FBI

See **Bomb**, Page 9

## THE END OF AN ERA

### Stafford Opera House to host final performance

The club will reopen as The Dixie Theater.

By Amber Clark  
THE BATTALION

An era has ended. The Stafford Opera House will host a final performance before closing another chapter in local entertainment history. 3rd Floor Cantina owner John Williams and manager Willie Bennett will take over the building's lease and reopen as The Dixie Theater.

Thanh "T.C." Nguyen, Stafford's owner, said the closing is not necessarily bad. It is simply time to move on to something new, he said.

"We've been at Stafford for several years," Nguyen said. "We feel this is as far as we can go. We just feel we have to grow."

Nguyen said the building is too small to host big-name bands, although the club continues to draw large crowds and is doing well. The problem, Nguyen said, is that bands do not want to play at the small

club, despite its local popularity.

"When we first opened, it seemed we got every band we wanted," Nguyen said. "But we only have capacity for 350 people, and bands think that's too small. Since we haven't grown in three-and-a-half years, booking agents are starting to turn us down."

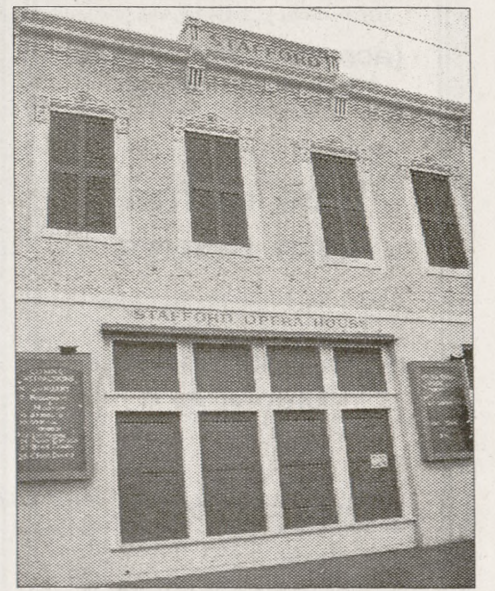
Complaints from neighbors have also caused some difficulties for Stafford.

Nguyen said shows often must begin early so residents in nearby buildings won't complain of noise late at night. Bryan police have been supportive and rarely issue noise violation tickets, Nguyen said, but the complaints have become a burden.

Todd Traylor, manager of Marooned Records, is in charge of ticket sales for Stafford performances. Traylor said the closing of Stafford should not be attributed to a decline in popularity.

"If anything, Stafford has gotten increased popularity," Traylor said. "It's getting a lot of press because of

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Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

The Stafford Opera House will close its doors and reopen as The Dixie Theater.