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# THE BATTALION

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## City proposes limited parking near campus

The parking plan ensures emergency vehicle access to campus events.

By Lisa Johnson  
THE BATTALION

A proposed city of College Station ordinance restricts parking in the east and south gate neighborhoods during Texas A&M special events. The proposal involves limiting park-

ing to one side of designated streets during football games, Bonfire and other campus events.

Hinged "No Parking" signs, which could be opened and closed, would be installed on the restricted streets.

Edwin Hard, College Station transportation planner, said the plan will cost between \$36,000 and \$48,000 to implement and, if approved by the City Council, will go into effect by August.

"The beauty of this plan is that parking will not be affected at any other time than the day of the event," he said. "Many college cities have a constant

parking problem in nearby neighborhoods. We don't, so we designed a program that will specifically fit our needs."

Hard said the parking plan is also expected to reduce congestion on narrow neighborhood streets and to ensure emergency vehicles easy access to and from campus.

"Under the present parking conditions, ambulances and fire trucks would not be able to efficiently access the campus during events like Bonfire or football games," Hard said.

Though its creators said the plan will benefit south gate and east gate resi-

dents, not everyone thinks the plan will bring positive changes.

Charla Cook, a sophomore construction science major and east gate resident, said people should be allowed to park on any street whenever they want.

"Otherwise, people have to be shipped to campus from all over," Cook said. "Sure there may be a kind of a traffic jam at Bonfire, but people should just expect that and police should deal with it, just like they always have."

Maj. Mason Newton, College Station police officer, said the city spends over

\$10,000 on traffic control and parking attendants Bonfire night alone.

"These savings should enable us to pay for the plan within three years," Newton said.

He said additional revenue will also be gained from parking tickets issued in the restricted areas.

Residents will have two opportunities to publicly express their opinions about the proposed parking plan.

A meeting for south gate residents is scheduled Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the College Station Conference Center, and for east gate residents at 7 p.m. Feb. 5.

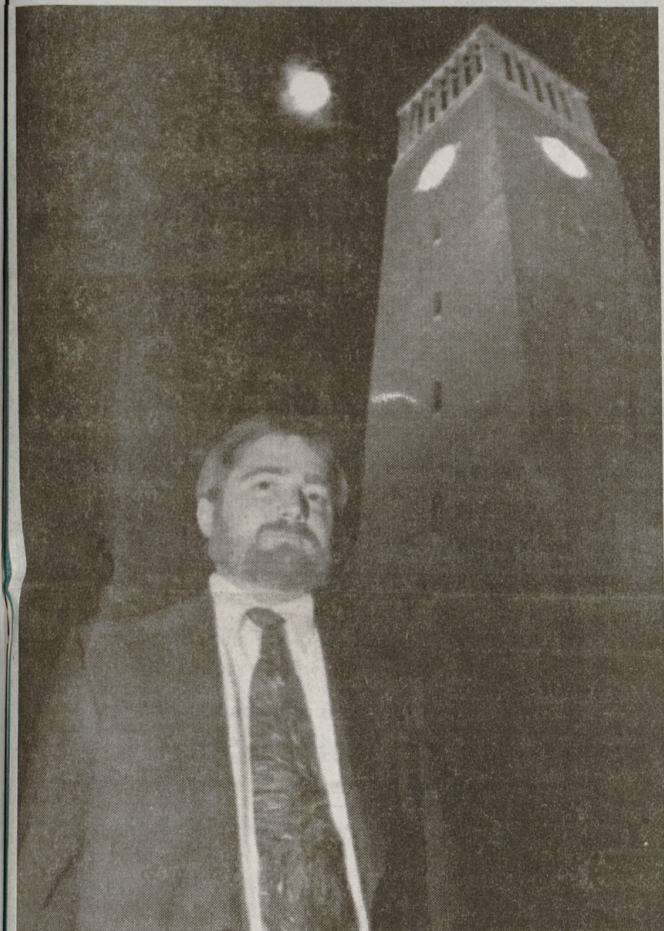


Photo illustration by Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M employee Steve Brunson survived a double lung transplant.

## GIVEN MORE TIME

### University employee's life saved through double lung transplant

Brunson is now back at work and is promoting organ donation.

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

For Steve Brunson, a Texas A&M debt service accountant with a serious lung illness, the simplest of tasks became increasingly difficult last year. Even breathing became a laborious chore, and he almost died.

Then, just in time, Brunson received a double lung transplant that completely changed his life.

At the age of five, Brunson was diagnosed with Chronic Pulmonary Hemorrhosis, a rare disease of the blood and lungs. He was not expected to live more than eight years.

More than 30 years later, in June 1995, Brunson took sick leave from A&M and moved to San Antonio to await a single or double lung transplant.

Just days after arriving, his left lung collapsed, shifting Brunson to priority level on the organ donor list.

Plagued with constant complications, Brunson awaited surgery, finally receiving an organ match in August.

"Twice while I was in the hospital, the doctors called a Code Blue on me, which is what they call it when your heart stops," Brunson said. "I somewhat died twice, I guess you'd say."

For 88 days he was in hospital rehabilitation, and since muscular atrophy had set in, he had to relearn tasks such as walking and eating.

He returned to work two days before Christmas break.

Brunson said he could not have recovered without the help of his family and friends, especially his wife, who camped out on a cot in his room while he was in the hospital.

"It was rough on me, and it was rough on my family," he said. "They were scared because they thought I was going to die ... I put everyone through hell."

Brunson's wife, Leslie, said the ordeal was traumatic, but the outcome was wonderful.

"It is amazing, the difference in him," she said. "It's just a total turnaround. I guess I had gotten used to every year him being able to do less and less, and now he can do everything."

Marilyn Maynard, University comptroller, said she is impressed with the progress Brunson has made.

"His case was so bad that even when they did find a donor who was a perfect match, they did not think he would survive the elevator ride down to the operating room," Maynard said. "Now he's back at work, and I think it's a real miracle."

Brunson said that since recovering from the transplant, his mission has

been to promote organ donation.

He was one of several people who received organs from a man who died of a brain aneurysm.

"Seven people ended up benefiting from him," Brunson said. "He saved a lot of lives, including mine."

"Right now, I'm hoping to get the word out about donating organs. The best thing to do is sign the back of your driver's license and contact either the Living Bank Center or the United Network for Organ Sharing."

Brunson said people should inform their next of kin if they wish to donate organs.

"[My family was] scared because they thought I was going to die ..."

— Steve Brunson  
A&M debt service accountant

"Somebody may as well benefit from your death," he said. "I know that sounds kind of morbid, but there is the opportunity for you to help someone else."

Maynard said Brunson's ordeal convinced her to donate her own organs.

"You can't go to heaven with your body parts, but you can help someone to have a better life here," she said. "People should realize they can affect people even after they are gone."

Those interested in being organ donors can contact the United Network for Organ Sharing at 1-800-24-DONOR.

## Current, projected road construction near campus causes traffic adjustments

Texas Avenue construction will begin this month.

By Heather Pace  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and employees traveling to and from campus on Texas Avenue will face gridlock when road construction begins Jan. 29.

College Station residents were warned to prepare for delays on the stretch

of Texas Avenue between University Drive and Dominik Drive in the fall, but construction was delayed because of bid complications.

Construction completion has been reset for January 1998.

Peggy Calliham, College Station public relations and marketing manager, said residents "are going to have to pay the price in the short run" for improved traffic flow.

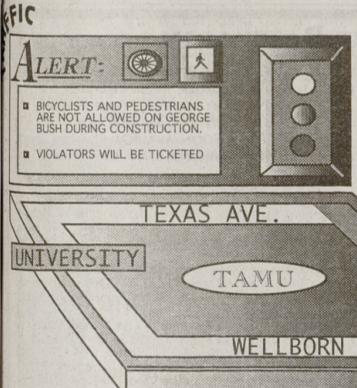
Margie Lucas, Brazos Transit Authority associate administrator

of marketing, said the traffic flow will be hindered, but that buses will not be rerouted during construction.

"There should not be any changes in our bus operations," Lucas said. "It may take us a little bit longer, but that is just something that happens because of construction."

The City of College Station Traffic Management Task Force will hold a public meeting Jan. 26 at 9 a.m. in the College Station Conference

See Roads, Page 6



Traffic lanes are narrowed on George Bush Drive.

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

Pedestrians and cyclists traveling portions of George Bush Dr. must take a detour to avoid being ticketed.

A College Station City Council ordinance went into effect last week that prohibits pedestrians and cyclists from entering a construction zone on George Bush Dr. from Marietta Pugh Drive to FM 2818.

Pedestrians or cyclists in the restricted areas could face a misdemeanor charge with a fine of up to \$500.

Maj. Mason Newton, a College Station police officer, said officers will issue warning citations until Mayor Larry Ringer officially signs the ordinance this week.

"Eventually it has to come down to taking enforcement action because a few people will think this ordinance doesn't apply to them," Newton said.

Denise Fischer, Texas Department of Transportation public information officer, said the ordinance's purpose is to deter people from entering the crowded construction area.

Shoulders along this stretch of road have been eliminated and traffic lanes narrowed.

To separate the traffic from the construction, a low, narrow concrete barrier serves as a guideline.

Police officials said people were using the

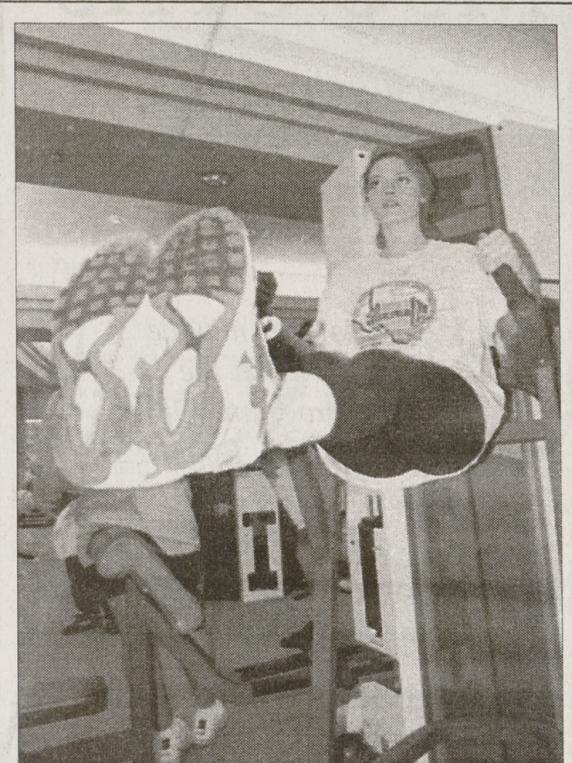
barrier as a sidewalk, jogging and biking on it.

"We really didn't anticipate, frankly, a problem; we thought common sense would prevail," Fischer said.

"We don't mean to be mean and take away something they enjoy, but keeping in mind their safety, we had to do this. When construction is finished, it will be a beautiful facility for cyclists and joggers."

Peggy Calliham, College Station public relations and marketing manager, said the construction will be finished in two or three years.

"The streets in the City of College Station are going to be very difficult for the next couple of years," Calliham said. "We really are going to have to emphasize caution. There's a fear that people feel invincible."



Dave House, THE BATTALION

## LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Samantha Hines, a freshman business major, works out at the Student Recreation Center Monday afternoon.