

THE BATTALION

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Car pool lot to be considered by PTTs

By Wesley Poston
THE BATTALION

Student Government, Parking, Traffic and Transportation and Operations officials are investigating the possibility of a parking area specifically for students in a car pool to campus. Eliot Kerlin, chair of the Student Government student services committee and a senior finance major, said Student Government proposed the idea to PTTs earlier this semester as a

way to decrease parking congestion on campus.

"Other ideas to help out the parking situation are in progress," he said. "We were looking for something more short-term."

The suggestion is still in the early discussion and investigation stages, Kerlin said, and any forthcoming plans would not likely be implemented before Fall 1997.

Transportation options for off-campus students include driving their own cars to class and taking the bus to campus, he said.

"Other ideas to help out the parking situation are in progress."

Eliot Kerlin
Student Services Committee chair

"In the middle somewhere is car pooling," Kerlin said.

Several students taking the same car to campus would lower the number of cars on campus, increasing the number of available parking spaces. To encourage students to commute in groups, Kerlin said, the University would have to offer a more convenient or less expensive parking area.

Tom Williams, PTTs director, said there are few resources available for such a lot. Parking Area 48, across from the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center, and Parking Area 74 on West Campus, near the

Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center, are the lots currently under speculation, he said.

"It's not going to solve some students' problems getting closer to campus," Williams said.

However, dividing the cost of a commuter lot permit could make car pooling a less expensive option for students, he said.

The logistics of how many people would be required per vehicle and how to enforce that policy have yet to be decided, Williams said.

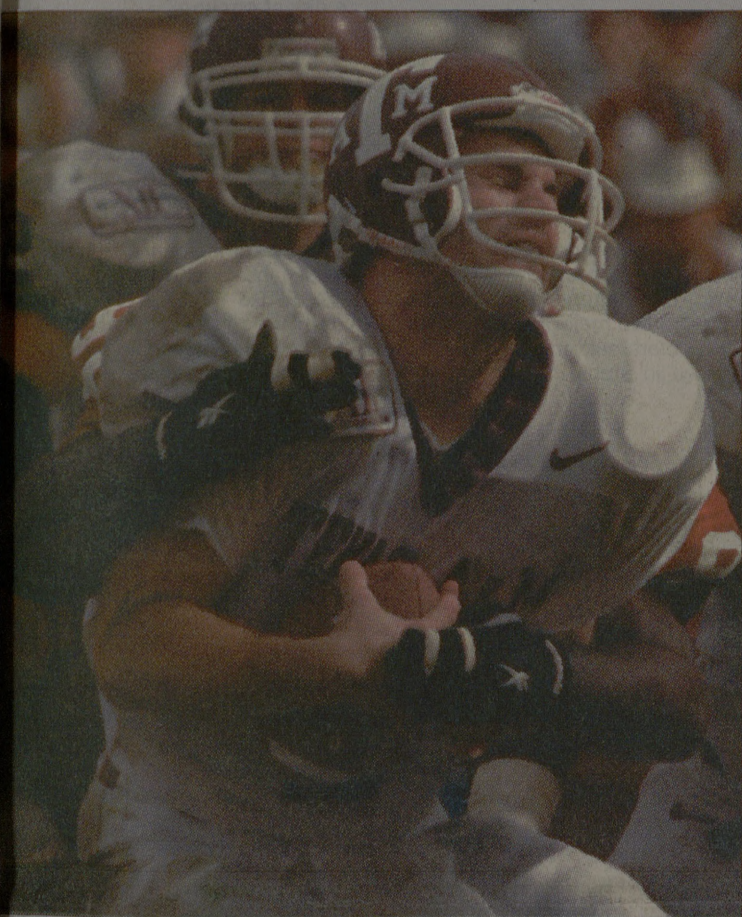
"It really wouldn't cost anything," he said. "It's just the mechanics of getting it done."

Kerlin said a parking area of this type could be run on the honor system, trusting students not to abuse access to the parking area.

"We obviously can't hire someone to watch the lot," he said.

Williams said the best answer to on-campus parking congestion would still be the bus system.

"That's the best car pool we can have," he said, "fifty students on a bus."



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

A&M quarterback Brannon Stewart gets sacked by #96 Chris Atkins, causing A&M to lose 7 yards and punt the ball away.

A&M bowl dreams dashed down in Austin

Plight of the Aggies remains an unsolved mystery

It is simply mind-boggling to watch the Texas Aggies play football.

The consensus among fans, followers and supporters of Texas A&M is clear — the Aggies

are a walking mystery no one has a clue how to figure out. And for nearly two seasons, this ascension to full-blown mystery status has been painful to watch.

Whether it be questionable play-calling or decision-making, mental or communications breakdowns, turnovers or just shoddy execution, the Aggies always find a way to puzzle themselves and their fans.

In the meantime, the wins are dwindling, the rankings have disappeared, and with them A&M's state and national reputation as a collegiate football powerhouse.

What is even more distressing — no, make that down right sickening — is how a once-proud program can walk into the house of its hated ri-

val, sleepwalk, and then lie down and get destroyed and embarrassed on national television.

The Aggie Bonfire may have burned on Tuesday, but the Aggies left their fire and emotion in Aggieland, as exposed by the jacked-up Longhorns not only to A&M, but also to the 81,887 spectators at Memorial Stadium and the countless millions tuned into the game on television.

Now just what is going on here? How did we fall so hard, so fast? Fourteen months ago the A&M football program was ranked No. 3 in the country and gunning for a national championship. Now, what is considered to be an immensely talented collection of players will be sitting at home on Christmas, pondering a .500 season and no bowl berth in a year not marred by NCAA sanctions for the first time since 1984.

Call me spoiled, but this is unacceptable. What gives? Are the Aggies overrated talent-wise, or have R.C. Slocum and his coaching staff lost touch with their players and the changing climate of college football altogether?

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Sports Editor



Tom Day
Senior journalism major

Committee to request funds

Child-care center would operate on tuition after opening

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

The child-care center advisory committee will request funds to open an on-campus child-care center at the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting in January.

Mary Miller, associate vice president for administration and chair of the child-care center advisory committee, said the center will provide part-time and full-time care for pre-kindergarten children. The center will provide services for children of Texas A&M employees and students only.

Faculty, staff and students have been asking for an on-campus child-care center for about 20 years. In the past few years, Miller said, an advisory committee has been formed, and the idea of an on-campus child-care center was given serious consideration.

Miller said parents will be required to pay tuition for their children so the center can operate finan-

cially independent of the University. "The University provides a place and the upstart money," Miller said.

"The University provides a place and the upstart money."

Mary Miller
Child care center advisory committee

"The tuition paid by the children will support upkeep."

She said the child-care center advisory committee is looking for ways to raise money for scholarships for children of students and lower-paid staff.

She said the original goal was for the center to be operating by the fall of 1997. But because they are waiting for approval of funds from the regents, the center is behind schedule.

Miller said the on-campus

center would not compete with other Bryan-College Station day-care centers.

"People have asked for higher quality care," Miller said. "We will have better-quality teachers and a lower student-to-teacher ratio. That's why we're raising money for scholarships and trying to subsidize the cost."

She said they plan to raise enough money so, even if tuition is high, students' costs will stay down with the help of financial aid.

Miller said volunteers and student workers will also help offset the center's operating cost.

"Volunteers are a possibility, and we have positions for student workers," Miller said. "If we can get enough qualified student workers, that will keep the cost down."

The projected site for the center is near the married student housing area. The committee is working on designs for the center and wants to have a center director hired at least six months before it opens.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Tis the Season

Angie McDaniel, a senior psychology major and member of MSC Hospitality Committee, decorates the 14-foot Christmas tree in the MSC Flagroom Sunday afternoon.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Sibling Aggies

Brothers and sisters have ventured to A&M to share life at college.

Aggielife, Page 3

Join' Dancin'

The A&M Volleyball Team will host Arkansas-Little Rock in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Sports, Page 7

Now Hiring

Leinroth: "Leftover burgers for employees with degrees." The job market's looking grim.

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Aggies design Heritage House

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M architecture students are working on designs for Heritage House, a facility to house pregnant homeless women in Bryan-College Station.

Marie Fournier, assistant lecturer in the College of Architecture, said having students do a class project for Heritage House is a good way to link the University with a community need.

An article she read last year spurred her interest in the project, Fournier said.

"What's really interesting is that one article in The Battalion gave us an idea to do something creative and something linked to and needed by the community," Fournier said.

She said the students are working on how to make the design of the facility fit the needs of its residents.

The students have visited

similar facilities in Houston to get a practical idea of what Heritage House requires. Fournier said the students got to see the residents' state of mind, problems and needs.

"[Visiting similar facilities] helps students better see the space needed for future users," Fournier said. "It's important to take into account people's needs."

Sue Sorensen, board chair of Heritage House, said the project is in the fund-raising stage. The Board is trying to raise money to lease a building or purchase property to house the facility.

"We want to provide a safe residence for women who find themselves pregnant without a place to live," Sorensen said.

A leased facility would house about six women, while a newly built one would house up to 30.

Sorensen said women will not receive prenatal care at Heritage House because it is provided by the community.

"We would either take them (residents of Heritage House) to the doctor or to the prenatal clinic," Sorensen said.

Women would be allowed to live in Heritage House for three to four months after the birth of their baby. The purpose of Heritage House, Sorensen said, is to help women get back on their feet while they are pregnant. They can learn job skills or finish school while living there.

Sorensen said the project the A&M students are working on will be helpful in designing the facility.

"We're excited about the project the students are doing," Sorensen said. "It will give us something to look at."

Fournier said the designs will help Heritage House's fund-raising efforts.

"It's hard to raise money for something people can't see," Fournier said. "[The designs] will give them images to show people and give them an idea of what it would look like."

Dining halls try to serve students' breakfast needs

By Carla Renea Marsh
THE BATTALION

Attendance for breakfast in campus dining halls is low but still important for students who want a balanced, nutritional meal during the day.

Although breakfast may include fattening foods such as eggs and bacon, this is not a problem if healthy choices are made.

Vicki Beck, dietitian for food services, said breakfast has never been a popular meal in the dining halls.

"Breakfast is important," Beck said. "Everyone should eat a well-balanced meal."

Last year, the dining halls began offering a limited breakfast to students all day long.

"We do try to encourage people to eat, but it is not that popular," Beck said.

Breakfast hours are 7 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. during the week.

Beck said most students are either in class or still asleep during these



breakfast hours. Kelly Manson, a freshman chemistry major, said a major reason she does not eat breakfast in the dining halls is the time factor.

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