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BRIEFS

College names new department head

Dr. Suhada Jayasuriya, a Meindorf H. Kotzebue Endowed Professor, has been named the head of the Texas A&M Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Dwight College of Engineering. Jayasuriya succeeds interim department head Dr. Jerald Caton, who is returning to full-time teaching and research. Jayasuriya specializes in robust control, active control of vibrations, structural acoustics and noise control. He is a Fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and has been a NASA Faculty Fellow, a Distinguished Faculty Fellow at the David Taylor Naval Facility, a Halliburton Professor and a Texas Engineering Experiment Station Research Fellow.

INS seeks license for radio station

EL PASO (AP) — U.S. officials are gearing up to go on the air with a radio station that will provide information to listeners and one of the area's largest international bridges. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has asked the Federal Communications Commission for a license to broadcast on its own radio station at the Bridge of the Americas. The AM station, which would broadcast between \$20,000 and \$100,000, would broadcast from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in English and Spanish in an area about 12 miles in circumference, INS officials said. FCC approval is expected within 30 days, INS spokesperson Dan Kane said. "Its purpose is to improve the quality of customer service development and to improve communication in Mexico and the United States," Kane said.

Police investigate death of pelicans

HOUSTON (AP) — Ten endangered brown pelicans killed last week might have been attacked with a slingshot or bow and arrow, shot as previously believed. Authorities believe the pelicans were killed on Aug. 13 near the mouth of the Colorado River and Laguna Peninsula, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Two other pelicans were injured in the attack. Investigators at first thought the pelicans had been shot. But after examining the two surviving birds, they came up with new theories. "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special Agent Tom Lane. (The wounds) don't appear to be consistent with a firearm. It's more possibly a slingshot or possibly a bow, a large arrow," Lane said. "Someone hit them with a large-caliber projectile of some kind." It's also possible that someone used a metal stick or rod, Lane said.

INSIDE

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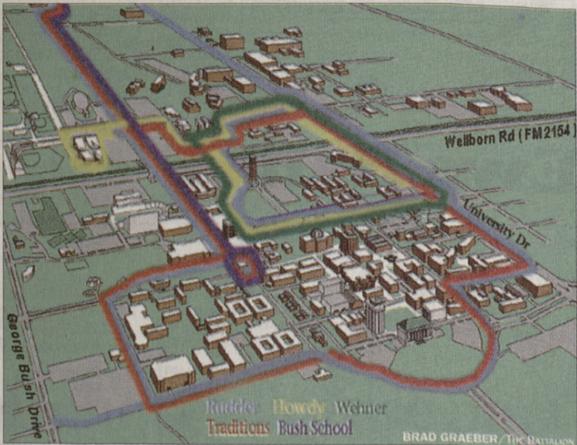
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PTTS alters on-campus bus routes



By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services rerouted some on-campus bus routes to transport students to and from West Campus and the George Bush School of Government.

Three on-campus shuttle routes will operate Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The routes, "Rudder," "Traditions" and "Howdy," will make stops on Main Campus and on West Campus, including the bus stop at the Wehner Building.

The Wehner/YMCA shuttle operates between the Wehner and the YMCA Building on Main Campus. The Bush School/Trigon shuttle runs between the Military Sciences Building on Main Campus and the George Bush School of Government.

Tom Williams, PTTS director, said the different routes may confuse students at first, but after students get settled into their schedules, they will find the bus system easier to use.

"I am pleased with the way the routes have gone so far," he said. "We have people out there to make it easy for students."

Williams said trainees from PTTS are available to assist students in choosing the correct shuttle the first week of school. The trainees are wearing maroon shirts with the PTTS logo.

Kelly Garrett, a sophomore business administration major, said the routes are too long.

"Rudder takes too long," she said, "and it is real crowded on the bus. It's faster to just walk."

Garrett said adding more bus stops and another route may help solve the problems.

Chris Stallings, a junior mechanical engineering major, said the first day of school was confusing because of the bus routes.

"I have my math class on West Campus, and the shuttle bus took half an hour to get there," Stallings said. "I just hope it gets better as the semester progresses."

David Laney, a freshman history major, said he may invest in a bike after his experience with the bus routes.

Williams said although the on-campus bus routes may take some getting used to, the services are free.

Night bus services for students also are offered from 7 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday.

Change in payment policy puts students on 'hold list'

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

Under a tuition policy change, A&M students who have not paid their fall tuition were placed on administrative hold until 5 p.m. today instead of having their classes dropped last Friday.

The previous tuition policy dropped students with unpaid tuition from their classes on the last working day before classes started. The new policy puts students on administrative hold until the third day of classes.

Students on administrative hold will be charged late registration fees and cannot change their schedules.

Don Carter, registrar for Admissions and Records, said more than 950 students were placed on the hold list last Friday.

Mark Cangelose, senior

staff accountant for Student Accounts and Billing Services, said the names of students on hold are put on the top of professors' class rosters.

"Hopefully, professors will warn students in addition to the three extra days they have," he said.

Kara Walkup, a junior agricultural development major, said she was dropped from her classes her first semester at A&M because her tuition bill was lost. She said the policy will help students if professors inform them their names are on the list.

"This policy won't be beneficial unless professors warn students they are on the hold list," Walkup said.

She said after being dropped from her classes she had to spend a day reestablishing her schedule.

"I had to reregister and get forced back into my classes,"

Walkup said. "It was a big mess and a burden on the faculty in my department."

Carter said the policy change was made to help faculty and staff members.

"This policy change aids faculty and staff in the departments because students who are dropped go there to get forced back into the classes," he said. "This relieves them of much confusion on the first day of class."

Bob Piwonka, manager of Student Financial Services, helped initiate the policy change.

"So far this change has worked as well or better than we expected," Piwonka said.

"Students can pay the cashiers and have their classes reinstated instead of running between the Student Financial Services office and their departments to get their schedule fixed."

Schools exchange cadets

By JENARA KOCKS
Staff writer

Two Citadel cadets and six Virginia Military Institute cadets are getting a taste of Aggie hospitality this semester, and eight members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets are spending the fall at those schools.

The Citadel and VMI are participating with A&M in a semester-long Corps Exchange Program to help improve integration of women at the two other schools.

Monica Strye, Corps recruiting sergeant and a junior animal science major, said the cadets from the Citadel and VMI are at A&M to observe how men and women in the Corps react to each other so they can improve integration at their schools.

She said two A&M cadets went to the Citadel and six A&M cadets went to VMI to observe situations between men and women and to tell them how situations are handled at A&M.

Citadel and VMI cadets attend classes and participate in all their outfit's activities with A&M cadets. Also, the A&M cadets at the Citadel and VMI will attend classes at those schools and participate in activities.

John Getgood, a senior VMI cadet and a member of Squadron 16, said he and the other VMI cadets have had a smooth transition from a campus of 1,250 students to a campus of 42,000 students.

"We really like the campus," Getgood said. "One of the guys said he'd like to transfer here (A&M)."

Ken Carll, a junior from the Citadel and a member of Company P-2, said he thinks the program helps cadets see how integration at A&M works instead of just hearing about it.

"It's one thing to tell someone how to do something, but it's another thing to actually go there and see the other side," Carll said.

PLEASE SEE EXCHANGE ON PAGE 5.

Gearing up



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Troy Moore, a senior biology major, makes some adjustments to his mountain bike at AggieLand Cycling where he has worked for the past two years.

On-campus residents take advantage of Internet availability

Residence Life offers connection help during three-week program

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Wire Fest, a three-week program sponsored by the Department of Residence Life, offers on-campus residents the opportunity to utilize free technical assistance in hooking up their Ethernet accounts.

Bethany Weir, a technical director for Wire Fest and a junior business management major, said a lot of students have asked for help.

"We have had an amazing turnout," Weir said. "We are really glad to help kids out."

The "grab-a-tech" program will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. in the Commons Lobby until Sept. 19.

Cassandra Schultz, a Wire Fest

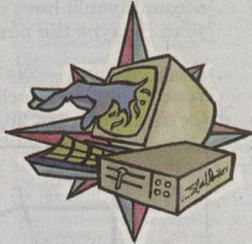
director and a junior aerospace engineering major, said Residence Life wants to increase the number of students who use Res Net.

Schultz said Residence Life modeled Wire Fest after similar programs at universities like Stanford.

Five wire technicians and one technical director will be available at all times to assist on-campus residents needing to hook up Ethernet connections. The Department of Residence Life hired 14 wire technicians and 3 directors to operate the three-week event.

She said the technicians have found password errors and problems within the system.

Residents may direct questions to a Wire Fest consultant or pick up



printed instructions on accessing their Ethernet accounts. Technicians will go to dorm rooms to assist students who are having recurring difficulties.

In addition to the temporary technicians hired for Wire Fest, resident computer consultants (RCCs) will be available to assist students with computer problems.

PLEASE SEE INTERNET ON PAGE 5

Department expands ResNet access

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Department of Residence Life expanded Res Net access this summer to include 10 more residence halls, bringing Res Net access to a total of 2,500 dorm rooms.

Raymond McCauley, a Residence Life analyst who coordinated the work done in the halls, said the department is promoting new programs in the residence halls.

The expansion marks the halfway point in the completion of the Res Net package, tentatively scheduled to be completed by Fall '00. The package is designed to provide computer access to every student living on campus, McCauley said.

Monica Sanchez, a resident computer consultant (RCC) in Haas Hall and a junior computer science major, said off-campus access generally takes longer than on-campus access because students must use a modem to get on-line.

"In the dorms with Ethernet access, you are always on-line," Sanchez said.

With the exception of Dorm 10, the 10 residence halls wired this summer were in operation by the first day of classes. Dorm 10 is expected to be wired for Res Net access within the first two weeks of school.

McCauley said Residence Life wants to complete the expansion quickly to help on-campus students.

PLEASE SEE RESNET ON PAGE 5