

Traffic regs, bus route changes deserve attention

has been a busy summer. Returning students will see several subtle changes to the campus they have called home for two, three or four years. The biggest changes will affect the way students live about campus. Although there is still little talk about selling railroad tracks for scrap and campus-wide monorail seems far away, both Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services and Operations have new plans for fall semester. The changes at PTTS demonstrate the department's focus on the future. Many students are still victims to the long lines of students waiting to pick up their passes. PTTS has worked hard to make these lines shorter, and returning students will notice the level of success. PTTS administrators postponed mailing student permits to prevent almost 5,000 Aggies from standing in line. The department's semester plans are dictated by several similar situations aimed at increasing support of the student body. The fall changes in campus parking should give students more options and should decrease the number of unused parking spaces. Tom Williams, director of PTTS, says he would like to see parking become a non-issue. This semester's changes seem to progress toward that goal. PTTS has increased campus parking spaces. The new Reed arena lots will open up about 500 new parking spaces to commuter students. A new bus stop will be added at the corner of Olsen and Kimbrough Boulevards. These new lots and convenient option for off-campus students. The new Central Campus Parking Garage is now open. The garage provides parking spaces for faculty and staff. In the evenings, however, all but 50 of the spaces will be open to students who need to visit campus, particularly the library or computer center located nearby. In order to keep these spaces open to staff during the day, however, there will not be any overnight parking in the Central Campus garage. This semester, resident and commuter students will have more flexibility when parking in the west campus lots. Last semester, the slabs of concrete affectionately referred to as "Fish Lots" were divided to a commuter student lot and resident student lot. Unfortunately, one of the lots was never built and the other seemed to never have an empty spot. To address the problem, this semester PTTS has designated both of these lots as open to both red and blue parking tags, giving students more parking options. The only potential problem with the new plan is the fact one of the lots is a 12th Man parking lot. Parking areas designated as 12th Man lots are not open to students during home football games.



DAVE JOHNSTON

This means resident students will need to move their cars the evenings before football games. Six times a year, students will be burdened to move their cars from the 12th Man lots by 6:30 p.m. on Friday night before the Aggies take to Kyle Field. It may seem a nuisance now, but as alumni, the advantages will be apparent. Of course enforcement is always a significant part of the department's responsibilities. In order to encourage drivers to follow the parking regulations more closely and make parking easier for everyone, the fine for parking in the wrong lot will increase from 10 dollars to 25. The suggestion to increase fines came from the PTTS student advisory board. By discouraging offenders, PTTS officials hope to make parking easier and more convenient for all students. Although parking safety officers may sometimes appear overly strict, on a campus the size of Texas A&M, strict enforcement is the only way to maintain any order. The changes in parking on campus have impacted Bus Operations as well. As the number of commuter parking spaces increases and commuting by car becomes more convenient, students buy fewer bus passes. This means fewer buses are required and managers can focus their energies on creating more efficient routes designed to save money and resources. Off-campus routes will be heavily altered, and on campus, the bus routes will see minor changes from the spring term. The "bus hump" next to Fish Pond will be closed, so busses will run differently. There will also be a focus on running more busses during class change times, when they are most needed. An express route servicing the Bush School will be added this semester, and the street connecting the Bush Library parking lot with Kimbrough Blvd. will be closed. Hopefully, this will continue to discourage students from parking in the library's parking lot to attend classes. A contract between the national archives and PTTS requires the University to provide parking to library visitors. The department expends considerable effort to maintain the agreement, but after hours the Bush School parking areas are open to all students with parking passes. New bus shelters are popping up. Now, students waiting for a bus will have some relief from the oppressive sun and fierce rainstorms. Aggies may run into other minor changes on campus. PTTS is testing new payment methods, including the Pay-N-Display machine at the Rec Center that officials described as a "high-tech parking meter." Some modifications will be quickly embraced, and others may take some getting used to. Almost every Aggie will be affected, so students need to make themselves aware of the changes before the first day of classes. They need to find a bus map or hang on to the parking map that came with their parking permit. It will take work to make parking a non-issue, but the campus seems well on its way.

Dave Johnston is a senior mathematics major.

New experiences, unexpected lessons await this year's incoming freshman class

University life has some pain, some joy and many opportunities

Dear Class of 2002, Congratulations, you have finally done it. After four years of high school, you are in college; you are out in the "real world." And whether coming to A&M has been a life-long dream or a major fluke, you are ready to accept the challenges that college has to throw you. You are ready to experience all that the big, bad world has to offer you. Each of you has different expectations and different goals; some wish to be members of the Corps of Cadets, while others want to be a part of the Greek system. For some, this is a brand new experience, being away from home. For others, it is nothing new. But all of you share one unifying characteristic: the desire to learn. And you will. You will learn that eight o'clock classes are usually the most boring and the hardest, which makes sleeping through them a catch-22 situation. You will learn that the ability to write a 10-page paper is directly proportional to the number of hours until it is due. You will learn that PTTS does not, in fact, stand for Parking, Traffic, and Transportation Service, but actually stands for Parking, Ticketing, and Towing Service. And you will learn why it earned that name. You will learn how to wildcat on the third deck of Kyle Field. You will learn how to pullout. And



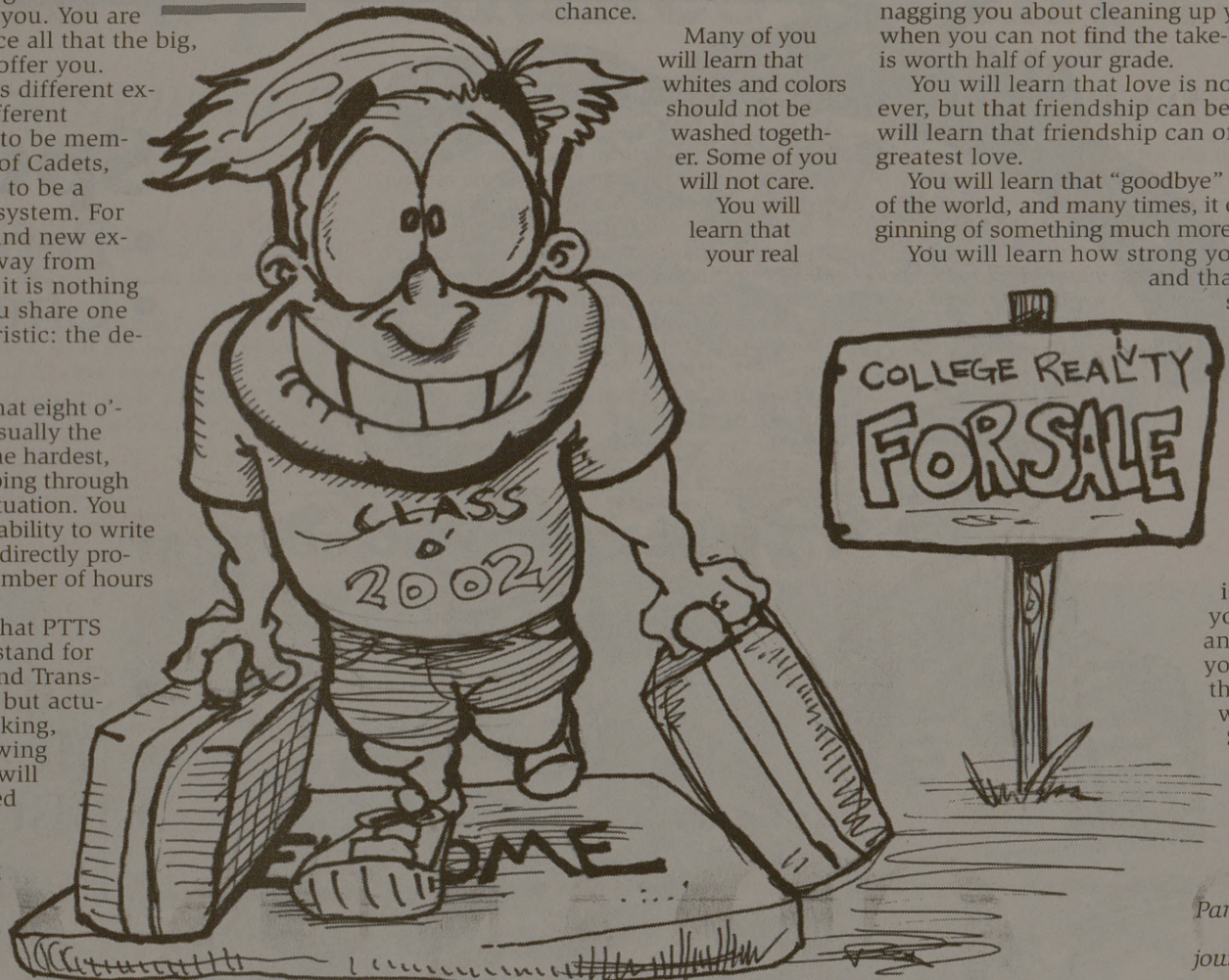
MANISHA PAREKH

minutes later, you will learn how to do a class set. You will learn that it is not fun to do a class set while drunk. You will learn that, finally, you have the chance to be yourself without worrying about being branded a nerd, an airhead or a jock. And you will learn that the people who seemed so different in high school are really a lot like yourself, if you give them a chance.

Many of you will learn that whites and colors should not be washed together. Some of you will not care. You will learn that your real

friends are not always the ones you party with, but they are always the ones who will help you clean up. Especially after you have gotten sick. During your years in college, you will learn that even though you can make more of your own rules, it gets harder to follow those rules that are really important. You will learn that common sense is not all that common. You will learn that you miss your mom nagging you about cleaning up your room - when you can not find the take-home test that is worth half of your grade. You will learn that love is not always forever, but that friendship can be. And you will learn that friendship can often be the greatest love. You will learn that "goodbye" is not the end of the world, and many times, it can be the beginning of something much more worthwhile. You will learn how strong you really are, and that you are not simply a survivor, you are a fighter. You will learn that your determination and intelligence can make a difference. The world is waiting for you. Go out and make it yours. And in the immortal words of Jerry Springer, "Take care of yourself, and each other." Gig' em.

Manisha Parekh is a junior psychology & journalism major.



Bright promises of college life dimmed by reality of new roles, responsibilities

For all of you veteran Aggies, if you have not seen them yet, those young, bright shining faces that are actually enjoying the first of their annual August moves, you will. The class of 2002, some 2003, and, okay, throw in some 2004 grads are here and they are happy about it. Why shouldn't they be? The largest freshman class in the history of this university is about to experience the period of life known as college. As everyone knows, students anxiously look forward to college for many reasons. All upperclassmen once felt the same way today's freshmen do. They could not wait for high school to end so they could experience the freedoms of college. Freshmen see nothing but limitless possibilities as they enter college and leave behind what they see as a constricting and worn out high school life. Commonly described as the "best years of our lives," college years include the end of curfews, countless new people to meet, a chance to begin life on one's own, a no ID's-needed clause, independence, and more. The positive



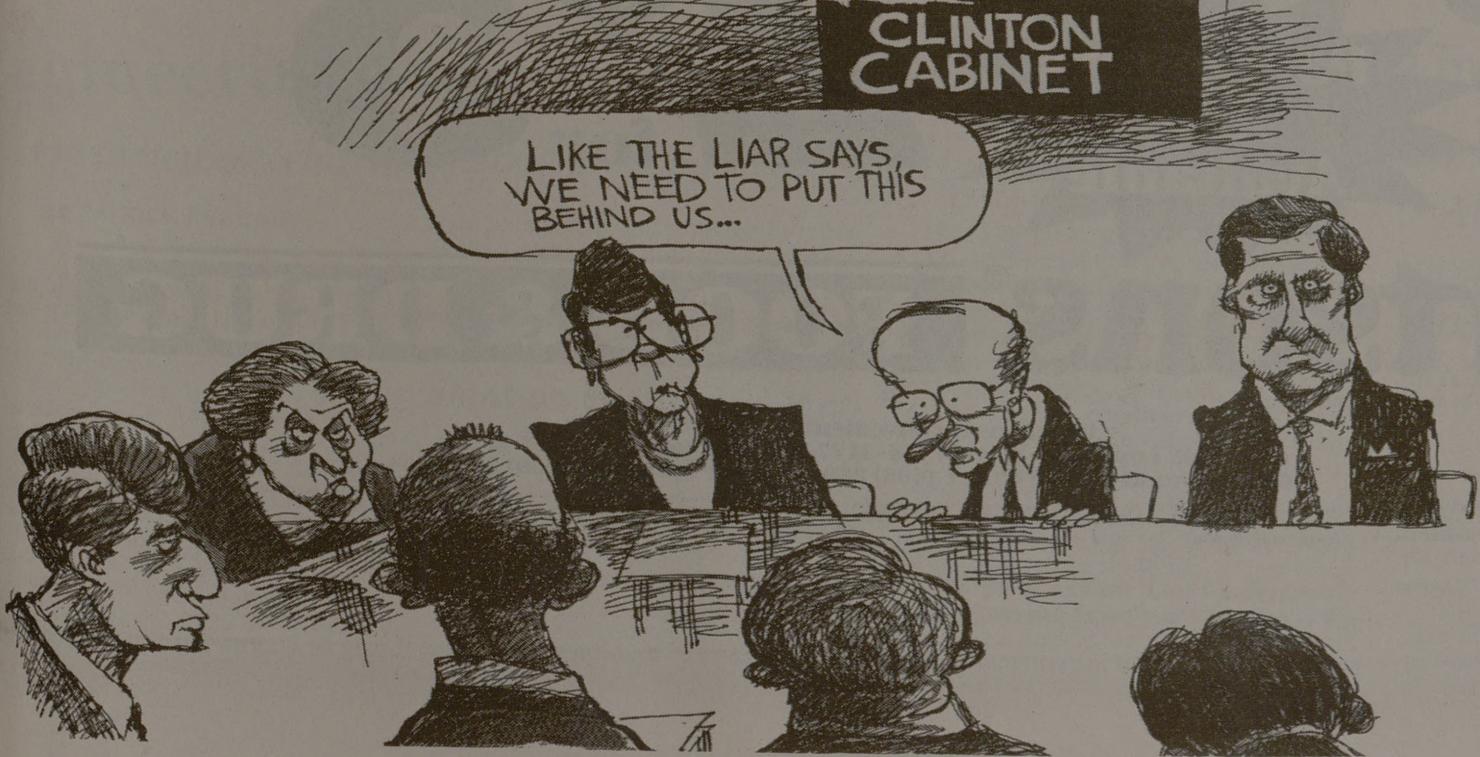
ANDREW BAILEY

list could go on, but why repeat what everyone always hears? What about the list that no one ever mentions before a freshman arrives on campus? In a nutshell, our predisposed idea of college is a four to six year, seven for Tommy Boy, time of fun that will lead to a job. But ideas change when theory meets reality. Someone must prepare the excited incoming crop for the down sides of college. Not to crash the party, but with freedom and independence comes a very vulgar word to 18-year olds: responsibility. Responsibility is the word that marks the head of the trail to adulthood, a path that must be traveled in order to grow up. In high school, for a majority of young people, there is no reason to act responsibly in the sense that an adult does. Mom wakes you up every morning to get ready for a day of school that mainly constitutes of talking and taking naps rather than studying. At the end of the day, you go back to the home, food, utilities and bed that parents paid for. College is when students start to appreciate the things that, for most people, had been given to them in the past. Epiphany is a good word to describe the emotion of freshmen when their parents final-

ly leave them at their new home. They are finally on their own, as they had wished, but parts of their freedom are short lived. Suddenly they have to take care of things like waking up every morning, actually having to study, doing laundry, paying bills that hopefully get in on time, shopping for food and cooking it, dealing with numerous roommate conflicts and even cleaning a toilet for probably the first time is no fun. For many, it is shocking to realize that all of those old words of wisdom from parents are true. Welcome to the "best years of your lives" in the "real world." Basically, the conundrum of college is the freedom and responsibility that paradoxically come together in a mixed message package. As the song says, take the good, freedom and the bad, responsibility and enjoy the facts of college. Take heart though. As the years progress, even upperclassmen still have problems co-existing with the good and the bad. So it is not necessarily a freshmen problem, it is one that we all must solve to be successful college students.

Andrew Bailey is a junior political science major.

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



CLINTON CABINET

LIKE THE LIAR SAYS, WE NEED TO PUT THIS BEHIND US...

Mail Call

New bus stops are nice improvement

I often hear gripes and complaints around campus. Rarely do I have or give complaints. Texas A&M has so much positive to offer that if we were to say thanks for it all, we would have no time left to complain. Besides, I chose to attend A&M because of all it has to offer, as I am sure most students did. Today, I noticed something simple that I feel grateful for. The new covered bus stops and sidewalks at the Bush School. I have heard many complaints about the lack of bus stops and sidewalks and it bothered me that students routinely trampled the grass instead of walking

down the drive. That is no longer a problem. Thanks to those of you responsible for that small detail that made my day. Beautiful work.

Kim Walsh
Class of '98

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