

CARPOOL VS. TAXI CABS



•PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GUY ROGERS AND CHAD ADAMS•

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

Bryan-College Station taxi companies blaming Caring Aggies 'R' Protecting Our Lives (CARPOOL), a free service for Texas A&M students, for a decline in their weekend business.

Balaoe Yemme, University Taxi owner and a former student, said CARPOOL is negatively affecting his business. "Beside Easterwood Airport, Northgate is our No. 2 spot for our clientele," he said. "One thing if CARPOOL would limit services to only A&M students, but it fears the volunteers are picking up anyone from clubs, not just students." Yemme said CARPOOL gives students a sense of security. "We want boys and girls to be responsible citizens for the future, but here, with this program, we are saying, 'Here's a free ride after getting drunk,'" he said. "What kind of education are we giving students?" Jeff Schiefelbein, the service's founder and chair and a senior management ma-

major, said CARPOOL began in September with the intent of providing a free service to students who need rides home from local bars, clubs and parties. "CARPOOL has a staff of 142 student volunteers and a total of eight vehicles, each consisting of two volunteer drivers, one male and one female," he said. Schiefelbein said the program is intended to help students who may be stranded at a party, students who are inebriated, who do not want to drive home with someone who is drunk or feel as if they are driving drowsy. He said the service is a comfortable and sure way of arriving home safely. Yemme said the focus is not whether students feel more comfortable riding home with CARPOOL volunteers. "Of course, if anyone is giving you something for free, you're going to feel comfortable in accepting it," he said. "This program [CARPOOL] is giving students the wrong impression, especially over the subject of drinking. Students need to control themselves and act responsibly and not depend on a free ride home." Schiefelbein said, that in one instance, CARPOOL gave 131 people rides within

two and a half hours, something that is impossible for cab companies. "This is not a negative reflection on any company by any means, but in order to accomplish a [feat such] as this, one needs manpower and vehicles," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of this program. The volunteer work can be physically draining, but the volunteers thoroughly enjoy this rewarding effort. This program has nothing

and lessens their responsibility for those students who leave the premises drunk. "If a student does not have a means to get home and has the money available to get drunk, then the student should also have enough money to find a way home," he said. "University Taxi has been in service for 10 years. We have three vehicles at Northgate every night, and now our company cannot compete with the free rides offered by CARPOOL, therefore we are losing a large amount of business." Stephanie Billings, a bartender at Fitzwilly's Bar and Grill, said bartenders are regulated by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), and CARPOOL does not influence bartenders to serve more alcohol, which is against regulations. "Our job as a bartender is to determine who is and who isn't legal to drink," she said. "You have to be TABC-certified to be a bartender. We have to know serving limits." Billings said CARPOOL is a beneficial program needed in a college town, where people tend to drink alcohol. Angela Winkler, CARPOOL adviser and Class of '95, said the program received start-up funding from the Association of Former Students.

"The money which supports our program is not student-fee money," she said. "CARPOOL is a student-run program, where the volunteers love doing service for other students." Winkler said CARPOOL helps keep students and the surrounding roads safe, lowering the risk of drunk or drowsy driving. "CARPOOL is a wonderful program," she said. "We do not drive anyone to parties or bars, only to their homes. One can ask the questions [in response to the taxi companies complaints], 'Do contractors get upset at Habitat for Humanity for building a house?' or 'Do lawn management get upset with Big Event for clearing out brush?'" Schiefelbein said it would be advantageous for CARPOOL and taxi businesses to work together. "Using taxi cabs is never discouraged by any of our volunteers," he said. "There are always ways to work with the taxi companies, possibly putting their numbers on our answering machine during the week for additional services to the students."

"Our company cannot compete with the free rides offered by CARPOOL."

— Balaoe Yemme
University Taxi owner

to do with numbers but with helping people arrive home safely."
Yemme said surrounding clubs and bars support CARPOOL because it increases sales

SEE CARPOOL ON PAGE 2.

Rec-sports fee hike may be put to vote

Student Government Association to decide if measures are to appear on spring ballot

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The recreational-sports fee cap may double, from \$50 to \$100 per semester, if students approve the increase in a referendum next spring. Dennis Corrington, recreation-sports director, said the plan, which is still in its preliminary stages, would, with approval from the Student Government Association, put the fee-cap increase and actual fee raise on the ballot for next semester's student-governor elections. "The increase would not take effect before Fall 2001, however, because raising fee caps requires approval from the State Legislature," Corrington said a fee of at least \$125 is needed to cover unexpected costs for equipment replacement and building depreciation of the Student Recreation Center. "The cardiovascular equipment has a four-year life cycle," he said. "So treadmills and Stairmasters that were brand-new when the building opened in 1995 need to be replaced."

Also, he said money needs to be set aside for high-cost maintenance replacements over the next few years, including a new roof, air-conditioning system and swimming-pool filtering system. "We didn't budget well enough when we planned for this building," Corrington said. With 25 percent more users than originally projected, A&M has the busiest student recreational center in the country, he said. Student Body President Will Hurd, a senior computer science major, said a Student Government Association committee is studying the issue and will make a recommendation in three weeks whether a fee increase should be placed on the ballot. "Raising the fee is one option, but we're also looking at other funding possibilities," he said. Corrington said new legislation also will allow the department to increase the sports fee in increments of 10 percent or less without approval by a student referendum. "We need the flexibility to



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION
Beth Perdue, a junior accounting major, works out at the Student Recreation Center Wednesday.

make an allowance for inflation or unexpected costs without having to do a student referendum every time," Corrington said. He said the fee cap may be as high as \$125, because all Texas A&M University System schools must abide by the cap, and some schools with smaller enrollments may need a higher fee to maintain their facilities. Corrington said, the requested fee increase also may be higher than \$63 if improvements needed to intramural sports fields are included.

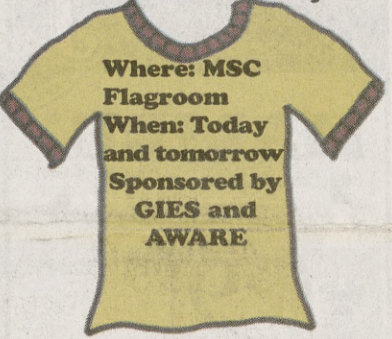
Clothesline Project helps viewers see impact of violence

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

A visual display bearing witness to domestic violence and violence against women can be seen today and tomorrow in the MSC Flagroom. Shaun Travers, Gender Issues Education Services (GIES) coordinator, said the Clothesline Project is coordinated by Aggies Working for a Rape-Free Environment (AWARE), GIES staff and volunteers to raise campus awareness of domestic violence. "The Clothesline Project hits home visually, taking the viewer a step further towards comprehending the sheer numbers and powerful impact domestic violence against women has on our society," Travers said. The Clothesline Project was began in 1990 by the Cape Cod Massachusetts Women's Agenda in answer to statistics compiled by the Maryland Men's Anti-Rape Resource Center. Statistics from the Maryland Men's Anti-Rape Resource Center showed during the Vietnam War, 16 years, 51,000 women in the United States were murdered by their husbands or

lovers compared to the 58,000 U.S. soldier who perished in the war. When the group visited the Vietnam Memorial, they asked themselves where their wall was. The answer they got was "nowhere." The group says their war has not ended. Rachel Carsey-Harper, a member of the Cape Cod Massachusetts Women's Agenda, started the program so women could speak out about the wrongs made against them. Travers said the purpose of the Clothesline project is three-fold: it bears witness to the survivors as well as the victims of domestic violence and violence against women aids the healing process for people who have lost a loved one, and to educate, document and raise awareness of domestic violence and violence against women on campus. The clothesline holds T-shirts created by victims, their friends and others who want to support awareness. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular victim's experiences. Travers said volunteers from Phoebe's Home, a local domestic-violence shelter, as well as individual

The Clothesline Project



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

victims and women's residence halls have brought shirts to display. Bethany Waldron, a senior speech communication major, said she volunteered because it is a unique way to get the message across to the campus. "I feel this is a very worthwhile thing to do," she said. "This is different. People are tired of hearing statistics. This way we can hear the victim's story and voice. It is all very moving." "Violence happens more than we think," she said. "As a campus, we need to come together and not turn our heads the other way. It is also very important to know men are victims, too. It is a common misconception this only happens to women and children." Travers said survivors of violence are often trapped in silence about their experiences, but the Clothesline Project shatters the silence. Waldron said it is important victims speak out. "Whether they talk to the police or not, they need to speak to someone," she said. "It will be more destructive to keep it bottled up."

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Batt Radio
•Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 pm, for details on a judge who plead guilty to a trespassing.
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Governor speaks on struggles

BY DIANE XAVIER
The Battalion

For Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, being elected was not the happiest moment of his gubernatorial role, because being a Republican in a largely Democratic state caused him to be confronted with many hostilities. His secretary of state refused to let him occupy his office until the 60th day of his tenure. "I had the door shut in my face for 59 days after my victory," Huckabee said. "When I finally got through, I had that pressure to produce and make a difference for the people." Huckabee, the fourth Republican in history to be elected governor of Arkansas, spoke on the need for members of government to take a more personal and moral role in governing to a full house in Rudder Auditorium last night. Huckabee said the goal of government is to make a difference in people's



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION
Mike Huckabee, governor of Arkansas, speaks Wednesday night on government in America in Rudder Auditorium.

lives, to facilitate rather than complicate the establishment. "America doesn't need great politicians but is in desperate need of good models with great principles," he said. "Being a governor, you come across a lot of people who tell you that they want taxes cut, crime eliminated and welfare ended. What they don't realize is that these problems don't get solved overnight. It takes a long process and a lot of hard work from everyone to achieve this."

Huckabee said one of the reasons crime, welfare and tax burdens are still issues is because of man's egotistical motives. "We are, by nature, selfish as human beings," he said. "Sin is an 'I' problem. Our selfishness is innate and very much a core of us. Many times, we have this attitude of 'If it only helps me or doesn't hurt me, than I'm for it.' Once we start

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A&M to honor longtime staff

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

Texas A&M University and the Association of Former Students will recognize faculty and staff who have given 20 to 50 years of service to the University with award pins in the Years of Service Awards Program tonight at 10 in Rudder Theater. Susan Irza, human resources director, said the program will recognize 264 faculty and staff members. The pins contain four garnets for 20 years, one diamond for 25 years, one diamond and one garnet for 30 years, one diamond and two garnets for 35 years, one diamond and three garnets for 40 years, one diamond and four garnets for 45 years and two diamonds for 50 years. Eligibility for the award is based on service to A&M. According to the human resources department, "eligible recipients must be employed at least 50 percent of the time, some portion of which must be with Texas A&M University, and the employee is considered to be a 'University employee.'" Jackie Caruso, associate director of human resources, said the program is designed to "recognize the many contributions of these individuals in their service to Texas A&M." A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said the Years of Service

SEE STAFF ON PAGE 2.

Britain opens files on WWII
LONDON (AP) — Britain will open the assassination of German Marshal Erwin Rommel, the World War II general known as "the Desert Fox," but balked at releasing the plan would likely be the murder of the focus.

Other significant factors in the waning state of Axis fortunes in North Africa and the "retaliation," the files said Rommel became a military hero after leading Germany's paratroopers into battle against British forces in Libya in February 1941. Rommel killed himself after being implicated in a plot to kill Hitler in July 1944 and being offered a chance of taking poison or standing with threats hanging over his head.

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