

Northgate parking to be modified

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Aggies seeking to do business at Northgate may soon find it difficult to park as College Station experiences growing pains in the midst of a revitalization project.

Citing safety concerns of pedestrians and bicyclists, parking along College Main will be removed, and other parking spaces will be metered.

"The plan was to remove parking on College Main to make it more bicycle friendly to reduce conflict between bicycles and vehicles," said Jon Mies, fire marshal for the city of College Station.

Mies said he estimates the parking will be removed by May 1, but the timeline has not yet been finalized. The city of College Station will survey merchants in the Northgate district in order to assess the parking needs of each establishment.

Lynn McIlhane, mayor of College Station, said this change is long overdue and is part of a larger project to revitalize and redevelop the Northgate district.

"One of the biggest problems was that people wanted to come up and put a business in [Northgate] but there wasn't any land for parking," McIlhane said.

This problem led to the city's decision to lift the parking requirement ordinance, which requires all new buildings to have a specific amount of parking spaces. Instead, the city made Northgate a special district, in which everything is handled on a case-by-case basis.

"If you look at the overall project, I think that everyone is trying



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION to find a way to work together," McIlhane said. "The goal is to revitalize that area and to make it a place where people feel safe walking and riding their bicycles."

The plan to remove parking came as a result of multiple studies done on the Northgate area since 1992. The city fire marshal's office has been working with the Economic Development Department and Development Services since the original redevelopment of College Avenue was done in 1994.

Each of these studies analyzed aspects of the parking situation at Northgate, but they ultimately offered solutions for managing Northgate parking and enforcing parking regulations. One of the studies recommended the implementation of parking meters.

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Statue dedicated in honor of millennium

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

The Arts Council of Brazos Valley and its Millennium Commission dedicated Tuesday a five tons steel sculpture titled "Eternal Winds," on the corner of Texas Avenue and Walton Road, across from the main entrance to Texas A&M University.

The sculpture was built by Dr. Joe Smith to commemorate the Brazos Valley's Millennium celebration.

"It's an exceptional privilege to have an artist of [Smith's] talent right here in Brazos County," said President-Elect of the Arts Council of Brazos Valley Jerry E. Fox. "Dr. Smith understands the vital role of expression."

Smith concluded the dedication by thanking people who helped him create his sculpture.

"May the eternal winds that propel us into the new millennium be fair," Smith said.

The sculpture is one of the largest public sculptures in Central Texas, standing 25 feet in height, 18 feet in width and 6 feet in depth.

"The sculpture was chosen to represent the millennium because of its size and the idea of time passing," said P. David Romei, executive director of the Arts Council.

"It is so large and a millennium is a large span of time," Romei said. "The form represents time — time is always with us and yet it's fleeting, like the wind."

Romei mentored an Eisenhower Leadership Program team last year. Their task included identifying certain sites that were adaptable for a work of art.

The site's emptiness lent itself to a major work of art, Romei said. The dedication ceremony helped to bring together the four fundamental entities in this area, he said.

"It brought together Texas A&M, Bryan, College Station and the Brazos County," Romei said. "We all came together as an entity."

College Station Mayor Lynn McIlhane spoke at the ceremony along with the mayor of Bryan Lonnie Stabler, Charles Sippal, vice president of physical plant at Texas A&M; and County Commissioner Randy Simms.

Chancellor of Texas A&M University System Lt. General Howard Graves was the keynote speaker for the dedication ceremony.

Art is a way that people of the future will know what the people of our time were like; you learn about a culture by the art they produce, Mayor McIlhane said.

"The sculpture is saying, 'Sail On,' because we have a bright future ahead of us," she said.

The Millennium Commission, chairperson, Carol A. Wagner, presented a representative of First American Bank with a sample of Smith's work.

First American Bank matched the donations made by the cities of College Station and Bryan in order to fund the installation and payment for the sculpture totaling \$30,000.



Dr. Joe Smith of Caldwell speaks to members of the Bryan/College Station community at the dedication of his 25ft tall sculpture, "Eternal Winds" near the main entrance to Texas A&M on Tuesday. Members of the Full House Blues Band (left to right), John Wick, Renn Carson and Donald Childs performed at the dedication.

SBP Candidates discuss solutions for diversity

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

While there is no magic wand to wave that will eliminate the widely perceived intolerance and lack of racial diversity at Texas A&M, the four candidates for student body president said the University can begin to foster a more welcoming atmosphere for minorities.

To do that will require a more sustained effort on the part of students, faculty, and administration, senior marketing major Jeff Schiefelbein said.

"Having a multicultural attitude isn't a project, it's not programming, it's not an organization or a group or an event, it's an attitude, and its 24 hours a day," Schiefelbein said.

To expand the diversity efforts to the entire A&M community, Schiefelbein said he would encourage co-programming between multicultural student groups and regular student groups so

Aggies of different backgrounds could work together and get to know each other outside contrived "diversity" projects.

"I'd like to see GLBTA [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies] and organizations that I'm in work together on projects where their minority status isn't the focus of what we're working on. Diversity can scare people off sometimes; they think they're gonna get lectured," Schiefelbein said. "I think its time we change that attitude by setting common goals, they may include diversity but also other things as well."

Addressing the hostility and harrasment many homosexual

students complain of, Schiefelbein said that although A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen shot down a proposal last semester to include sexual orientation in the non-discrimination clause of the

Student Handbook, a slightly tinkered version of the proposal devised by an advisory committee appointed by Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southernland has a good chance of passing.

"That would be a good step in the right direction. People talk about 'equal rights all the time, but I think a better word for it is 'same rights.' That just means that you're a person and I'm a person, regardless of where we're coming from, and we

deserve the exact same treatment," Schiefelbein said.

Corey Rosenbusch, a junior agricultural development major, said a summer internship in Indonesia taught him how important it is for students to be exposed to different cultures.

"I wish every student on this campus had the opportunity to go overseas and be immersed into a foreign culture. I absolutely loved it because my eyes and my mind were finally exposed to things that you don't get here," Rosenbusch said. "We're a very homogeneous culture here at A&M, and to a lot of people, that's what's attractive. But these students have to realize that although its what makes them comfortable, we're not really being just because what's fair is exposing them to what the real world is like."

While multicultural student groups put on an array of educational and cultural programs, the students that need to be there don't attend, Rosenbusch said. To give otherwise apathetic students a

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2000 STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

Student senate to vote on early registration

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Geoff Ashley, a senior management major, works 17 hours a week for the English Language Institute and depends upon early registration to schedule his classes as to allow him to complete his work schedule.

But if a current proposal from the Faculty Senate's Academic Operations Committee (AOC) is executed, Ashley will have to find a new way to balance his academics and work. The committee has been analyzing an early proposal which could eliminate early registration for student workers and students participating in co-op programs.

The proposal, if approved, will also change the format of early registration for honors students.

A resolution will be voted on at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting to express student disapproval of this action.

"This resolution expresses to the AOC that the student body wants to maintain early registration for student workers, co-op students and honors students," said Brent Spencer, academic affairs chair and a senior microbiology major.

The Computer Access/Instructional Technology Fee Disapproval Bill, which calls for the Board of Regents to not approve the \$1.25 per credit hour fee increase, will also be voted on by the Student Senate in this evening's meeting.

Off-campus Senator David Kessler, a junior English major, said the bill disapproves the broadening of the definition of the Computer Access Fee by changing the title to the Computer Access/Instructional Technology Fee.

"In changing the title of the fee, students are going to see fewer direct benefits, because the University will be able to use the money for things other than maintaining the computer equipment and facilities used by the students," he said.

To be approved, the bill requires a two-thirds vote by the Senate. If passed, the bill will be considered by the Board of Regents at the end of the week.

The Student Senate will also vote on the Proposed Fee Increase for 2000 Approval Bill, which approves of the increase in the International Student Fee, the University Authorized Tuition and the Equipment Access Fee.

Women's achievements recognized at luncheon

BY ANN LOISEL
The Battalion

As a woman in a male-dominated occupation, Jennifer Harris has learned not to worry about others' preconceived notions about her because she is a woman and to overcome them by being great at what she does — leading various aerospace engineering projects to explore Mars.

"There are always obstacles to doing what you want to do ... but certainly, there are no insurmountable obstacles if you love what you do and if you do it passionately," Harris said.

Harris was the keynote speaker for the Women's Week 2000 Awards luncheon on Tuesday and the former flight director of NASA's Mars Pathfinder expedition.

"If you focus, not on the problem of being a woman in a 'man's world,' or being a woman in a 'man's occupation' but on loving what you do, and being great at what you do, you can overcome any challenges," she said.

The luncheon featured Harris as a female role model and honored the four recipients of this year's Women's Week Awards. These were presented at the Bush Presidential Conference Center to women who encourage and promote sensitivity and awareness of women's issues at Texas A&M.

The winners, graduate student Heather Brown, Assistant Director of Engineering Student Programs Jan Rinehart, Associate Professor of Construction Science Nancy Holland, and Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties Janis Stout, all received \$100 U.S. Savings



SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION
Nancy Holland receives the Faculty Award at the Women's Week 2000 luncheon.

Bonds and an award piece at the luncheon. Stout asked to donate her \$100 award to a scholarship for women.

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both took a gamble on programs that appeared to be a sentence to the back pages of all sports sections. In the months each brought to the front pages and night reels.

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