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• Ticket to ride
Bicycle parking permits would ease congestion, benefitting all students



Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 95 and a low of 75.

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THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

PTTS to improve bus stops

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

With heat indexes reaching well above 100 degrees, College Station summers can be miserable. While some solutions to the heat involve swimming or working on a tan, very few people classify waiting for a bus in non-shaded, sweltering heat as entertainment.

To answer the complaints of the student body and make life easier for bus riders, Texas A&M plans to construct covered shelters over existing campus bus stops to protect students from high temperatures and inclement weather.

Several of these structures, at the stops at Wehner College of Business Building and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, have already been built and currently provide riders with bench space to rest. Installed lighting also gives students peace of mind when waiting for a bus in the dark.

Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said the lack of funding and the debate concerning changing the location of the railroad have contributed to delays in the construction of other sheltered stops.

"The total cost for each stop, including the shelter, pavement and electrical lighting, will run about \$15,000," Williams said. "When funds become available, we will continue building."

Under state law, he said, A&M is forbidden to use state funds to improve property the University does not own. This law prevents A&M from constructing off-campus stops for apartment residents waiting for campus buses.

While some apartment complexes have nothing more than a pole to designate a bus stop, other complexes have taken a more active role in ensuring comfort for bus riders. Sterling University is following the example set by a few other complexes and is constructing its own covered stop for its residents rather than waiting for one to be built.

Kelli Lawless, assistant manager of Sterling University, said Sterling has already begun building its bus stop shelter.

"Our complex has just now begun building a covered stop with a bench for our residents," she said. "It will be more convenient for them, and we are expecting a very good response."

In an attempt to correct the lack of shelters at off-campus stops, PTTS has joined with the Brazos Transit District to make covered stops available for all off-campus riders.

"The option of working with Brazos Transit allows federal funding to be used for the stops instead of the state's money," Williams said.

John McBeth, general manager of the Brazos Transit District, said plans to construct more than 30 new bus stops are being discussed by the cities of College Station and Bryan, PTTS and Brazos Transit. He said the project will include 12 "pullouts," which is the additional reinforced concrete added to the side of the road to enable buses to pull completely off the road, to serve both city and university buses. Because of the extensive engineering and environmental planning associated

See BUS STOPS on Page 4.

SGA considers bicycle permit proposal

ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

Because fewer parking spaces are available due to construction and the rezoning of the Kyle Field parking lots, thousands of students, like agricultural business graduate student Federico Pochet, rely mainly on their bicycles to provide transportation to and from campus.

Doug Williams, associate director for Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services, (PTTS) says students like Pochet will be required to obtain permits to ride to campus, if a proposal being considered by and Student Government Association (SGA) is approved.

Williams said he hopes to see a permanent system of bike permits established within the next year.

Student Body President and senior political science major Forrest Lane said the new system is intended to benefit students who ride their bikes to campus.

"The proposal between SGA and PTTS encourages student riders to register their bicycles with PTTS."

— Forrest Lane
student body president

"The proposal between SGA and PTTS encourages student riders to register their bicycles with PTTS," Lane said. "This will be helpful if the bike is stolen or lost on campus. This will also ensure enough parking space in the bicycle racks."

Pochet said that despite these endorsements, he believes the system will be controversial.

"I see this proposed system as one that will not be taken lightly," Pochet said. "Many students who ride their bicycles to school have to because parking lots are being closed and parking passes are expensive. Bike riding has always been free."

Williams said the proposal is not intended to punish students who choose to ride to campus.

"Right now the bike system is problematic," Williams said. "Bikes are stolen; bikes are left around campus. PTTS and SGA's plan is to create a system to keep tabs on who is riding to campus. Requiring a bike permit is not to punish the students who ride to campus but, in reality, to benefit and protect them."

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"A bike permit, obtained at a nominal fee, would ensure students who ride to campus benefits which would maintain and embellish the current bike system. This would be done through special projects, such as repairing the bike lanes when needed," Williams said.

See BIKE PERMITS on Page 4.

Flying high



Chris Powell, a senior marketing major, flies his Beechcraft Baron twin-engine airplane over College Station Sunday afternoon. Powell has been flying for three years and has over 425 hours of total flight time.

Area schools lack male teachers

Institutions experience difficulty in recruiting qualified educators

KIM TRIFILIO
The Battalion

Recruiting qualified teachers has become a difficult task for many school districts nationwide, and trying to find men to teach in elementary schools has become an even greater challenge.

Texas A&M's Fall 1999 enrollment figures show only 55 men enrolled in the A&M elementary education programs, compared to the 1,519 women enrolled.

Nancy Self, director of undergraduate advising and student teaching for the College of Education, said there is a concern regarding the shortage of male teachers in elementary schools.

"It has been a problem for years," Self said. "I think what attributes to the lack of male teachers in elementary schools is that men are more content-oriented, so they would rather teach in secondary schools. It also gives them a chance to get involved in athletics."

Self said male teachers also prefer teaching in secondary schools because of the salary difference.

"Teaching in secondary schools allows monetary enhancing," Self said. "There is a limited amount in the pay scale [in elementary] and men think that is not enough to provide for a family. Men think they have to be the breadwinner, and being an elementary school teacher does not provide for that."

"There is a need for more male teachers. However, we do not recruit by gender. We are looking for qualified teachers."

— Sarah Ashburn
Bryan Independent School District superintendent

Dr. Sarah Ashburn, superintendent of the Bryan Independent School District,

said male teachers are in demand, but gender is not a factor in the hiring process.

"There is a need for more male teachers," Ashburn said. "However, we do not recruit by gender. We are looking for qualified teachers."

Melissa Ballard, a junior education major, said there are benefits to having more male teachers in elementary schools.

"Since many children today come from broken homes or single parent families and usually the mother is the single parent of the house, it is good to have men as teachers for role models," Ballard said.

Ashburn said male teachers bring a new atmosphere into the classroom.

"We have two male kindergarten teachers in the district," she said. "They bring a different perspective into the classrooms. They have both been teaching a few years and have been very successful."

See TEACHERS on Page 4.

Families decry stay of execution

HOUSTON (AP) — The families of two murder victims linked to condemned child-killer Ricky Nolen McGinn decry the delay in his execution at a demonstration Saturday.

Gov. George W. Bush granted McGinn a 30-day reprieve June 1 to allow more time for DNA retesting of evidence recovered after the rape and murder of McGinn's 12-year-old stepdaughter.

McGinn had already eaten his last meal and was just 18 minutes away from his scheduled execution by lethal injection for the May 1993 killing when Bush handed down the stay. It was the first time Bush granted a reprieve in an execution, 136 of which have been carried out under his tenure.

About a dozen family members and their supporters accused the presumptive Republican presidential candidate of political opportunism in granting the stay, saying it unnecessarily forced them to revisit the crimes and suffer more grief.

"If you don't put medicine on an open wound, it won't heal. It flares up," said Steve Ray Flanary, Stephanie's father, who pointed out McGinn's stay has already stretched past its intended 30 days.

"It's a win-win case for Gov. Bush," said Richard Rice, an attorney represent-

ing Flanary's father. "It allows him to throw a bone to moderate voters who maybe aren't big on the death penalty and also to throw a bone to death penalty supporters."

Bush's office did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

The family of Christi Jo Eggers, a mentally impaired 19-year-old found raped and beaten to death in a Brownwood cemetery on Nov. 27, 1992, said the execution delay was a blow to them too. Semen found in her body matched McGinn, testing revealed last November.

"I don't care who he gets the needle for, just as long as he gets it," said Mosszell Ham, Eggers' grandmother.

McGinn was already on death row when the Eggers evidence was tested, and thus was never tried for Eggers' killing, Brown County District Attorney Lee Haney said.

"The sheriff's office had pretty much thought from the beginning that he was involved in these other two crimes," Haney said, referring also to the rape-murder of 12-year-old Sherri Newman.

Haney attributed the delay in testing to the fact that other cases took higher priority, and also to recent improvements in genetic testing.

"The DNA testing has advanced tremendously, and it is now where they can make the comparisons they may not have been able to do a few years ago," Haney said.

News in Brief

Lockwood indicted for murder of A&M student Kerry Kujawa

Kenny Wayne Lockwood, the man accused of posing on the Internet as a female Texas A&M prelaw student named "Kelly," was indicted in San Marcos on Wednesday for the murder of Texas A&M student Kerry Kujawa. Kujawa was reported missing by his resident adviser on April 20, after many of Kujawa's friends became concerned about his absence.

Kujawa's disappearance was not reported for two weeks because his friends were receiving emails from someone using "Kelly's" email, and they thought it was Kujawa.

According to *The Bryan-College Station Eagle*, a San Marcos grand jury said there was enough evidence for Lockwood to be charged with the April shooting death of Kujawa.

If convicted, Lockwood faces five to 99 years in prison. According to *The Eagle*, Hays County Sheriff's Department authorities said evidence shows Lockwood probably shot and killed Kujawa between April 7 and 9 in San Antonio, put the body in the trunk of the car and then dumped it west of Dripping Springs.