

has a different opinion. "I think they should be said. "A textbook is just another product on the market and it should be taxed as such. Junior environmental department major Andy Smith has mixed feelings on the subject. "On the outset, it seems like a good idea that you can get behind the most part — it is so much money that it is mostly just for the hair when you could be looking at other ways to help students," Smith said.

- Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on a shooting in Hearne.
- Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.

• Groff, Potter select first Aggie equestrian head coach

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Weather:

Sunny with a high of 99 and a low of 74.

THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Amendments expected to increase crime stats

JOSEPH PLEASANT
The Battalion

When Patrick Matthews, a freshman petroleum engineering major, decided to attend Texas A&M, he heard stories about crime on campus. "I have a friend that goes to A&M and he tells me about the different crimes that happen there," Matthews said. "It made me think about bringing my car." Matthews said going to a school with a good academic reputation is worth the risk of crime. "If it is a really good school, I don't think the area could be that bad because that would affect the performance of students," Matthews said.

Know Act, universities are required to submit a set of crime statistics to the Department of Education with the purpose of giving prospective students an accurate picture of crime on campus.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998 is an amendment to the Students Right to Know Act that holds universities responsible for reporting crimes adjacent to campus when reporting to the department.

Sgt. Allan Baron of the A&M University Police Department (UPD) crime prevention unit, said the amendments will cause an increase in the number of incidents reported to the Education Department for A&M.

"With adding more area to cover with our

"We are going to see an increase, because now, for instance, we have to include crime that occurs on Interstate 35 in our crime statistics because it runs adjacent to campus."

— Silas Griggs
University of Texas police department

crime statistics, we will see an increase in our numbers," Baron said.

Baron said that, in the past, A&M has had fewer weapons possession and drug offenses. However, Baron said, A&M usually has a higher number of alcohol offenses than the University of Texas (UT).

"Alcohol offenses, as defined by the [Department of Education] report, do not include driving-while-intoxicated offenses, but do include minors in possession," Baron said.

Baron also said A&M has not seen an increase in offenses as a direct result of these amendments.

"Right now we have not seen a real substantial increase, but that could change tomorrow," Baron said.

Capt. Silas Griggs, of the University of Texas-Austin (UT) police department said the Education Department has changed the criteria for reporting campus crime statistics.

Griggs said the amendment requires schools to count crimes committed on streets and sidewalks adjoining campus and off-campus property owned by student associations, such as fraternity houses.

"We are going to see an increase, because now, for instance, we have to include crime that occurs on Interstate 35 in our crime statistics because it runs adjacent to campus," Griggs said.

The statistics are separated into categories including incidents of murder, forcible or nonforcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault and burglary.

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Protesting animal cruelty



Jennifer Gentry, a senior English major, and Liz Hudson, a junior accounting major, protest animal cruelty at the opening night of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at Reed Arena on Monday.

Parking violations plague campuses

MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

At least once during their college career, most Aggies have returned to their vehicles to find a yellow envelope containing a Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) ticket on their windshield.

Woody Isenhart, manager of customer service for PTTS, said most students do not read the copies of the rules and regulations given to them when they receive their permits but "all of the students ticketed are usually aware that they were violating parking regulations when they receive a citation."

Departments of parking and transportation at Big 12 universities are self-supporting, and like those of other Big 12 universities, Texas A&M's PTTS is a self-supporting auxiliary department. It collects money from three sources: visitor income; permits sold to faculty, staff, and students; and parking tickets.

"Our income stream is very stable," Isenhart said. "Parking tickets are at about \$2 million per year for the past 12 years."

Isenhart said PTTS uses its money primarily to fund the parking garages' debt.

Thomas Williams, director of PTTS, said one explanation for the occurrence of parking violations is that students want to park closer to their classes.

"We know we have enough spaces to satisfy existing demand; they are just not always where students would like them to be," Williams said.

Other Big 12 universities have similar problems with students parking in unauthorized spaces.

Donna Hultine, assistant director of parking at the University of Kansas (KU), said that during the 1999 fiscal year almost 60,000 tickets were written.

Parking meter violations, the biggest source of violations on the KU campus made, up \$24,500 of KU's \$2.6 million revenue for 1999.

Hultine said the most common explanation for violations is that students will park in specific faculty and staff lots that are also restricted later in the evening without knowing these lots are restricted.

"Generally an invalid permit or wrong zone permit is a \$20 ticket," Hultine said. "A meter ticket is \$5, and you can get more than one per day."

The Department of Traffic and Parking Services at Texas Tech University issues about 45,000 tickets during the year.

Gail Wolfe, director of traffic and parking services at Tech, said these tickets are issued for a number of reasons. She said some of the

most common violations are parking in no-parking zones, parking without a permit, parking in a handicapped zone and parking in service drives.

"Our only sources of revenue are parking tickets and the sale of parking permits," Wolfe said. "Our income for 1999 was about \$2 million. We are implementing a lot of major changes in our parking system. We're having a parking master plan looked at by parking consultants; we're looking at building garages. We are also reconfiguring some parking lots because most of our parking places for faculty and staff are reserved spaces — one person per space — and that's a poor utilization of space."

A&M will build a new parking garage near the Student Recreation Center. Construction is scheduled to begin Nov. 13.

"This garage is going to be the best thing that's happened to students in a long time," A&M's Isenhart said. "Right now we have about 1,600 resident students waiting to get into garages. The new garage will have about 3,500 spaces and will satisfy a lot of desires of the students, and it's going to give us a great place to focus our visitor conferences. It should be completed in about 18 months."

Isenhart said that the changes occurring in the parking and transportation system at A&M will benefit students and make their commute to class easier and more pleasant. But he also said that, at times, his can be a "thankless job."

Hultine and Wolfe both say they have had similar experiences with dissatisfied students at their universities.

"You will find similarities on all campuses," Hultine said. "People are used to parking wherever they want to. We get a lot of complaints about how overcrowded parking is."

Day added to orientation

Freshman Welcome Day helps freshmen adapt to campus

JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

In August 1999, the Department of Residence Life announced a new program to be added to freshman orientation. Last year, the program was added to the Wednesday before classes began and was officially named Freshman Welcome Day in Aggieland. Krystle Henry, a freshman psychology major, will move to Texas A&M campus this fall, and she knows that the volunteers for the Freshman Welcome Day will make her moving experience much easier.

"Having students there to help me move in and answer my questions that are familiar with the campus is going to be much appreciated by me and my family," Henry said.

Though other campuses throughout Texas have dedicated days for freshmen to move into their dorms, few schools have

programs as involved as A&M's new program.

The day was created to help ac-

"Having students there to help me move in and answer my questions that are familiar with the campus is going to be much appreciated by me and my family."

— Krystle Henry
freshman psychology major

climate freshmen to campus, get them settled into their dorm rooms and ease the traffic problem that occurs each year when students come back to campus, said Laura Balkum, graduate assistant in the Department of Residence Life and a finance graduate student.

"Aug. 23 will be Freshman Welcome Day this year," Balkum said. "On that day, student volunteers will be available at the dorms to assist students and their families with the moving of their belongings. There will be two tents set up as a headquarters for Freshman Welcome Day: one at the Northside dorms and one at Southside dorms. In these tents, families will be able to get water and information they need to help them with parking and anything else they may need."

Dr. Ron Sasse, director of the

See FRESHMEN on Page 4.

News in Brief Accident claims lives of two Aggies

Texas A&M University students Besty Varughese and Sunita Prasannan were killed Friday in a car accident near Richland in Navarro County. Varughese, 21, and Sunita, 19, were traveling to Mesquite for the weekend when Varughese lost control of the 1993 Ford Probe he was driving and collided with a vehicle driven by Rex Doss, 37, of Groesbeck, Texas.

A Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson said Varughese was driving north on State Highway 14 when the vehicle swerved onto the right shoulder. The car then crossed traffic into the southbound lane, crossing in front of the 1988 Mercedes driven by Doss. Doss then swerved to the right but was unable to avoid the collision. Both vehicles came to rest in a ditch next to the southbound lane.

Varughese and Prasannan were pronounced dead at the scene. Doss was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas with stomach and back injuries. A hospital spokesperson said he was released Saturday.

Both Varughese, a junior electrical engineering major, and Prasannan, a sophomore general studies major, will be included in the Sept. 5 Silver Taps ceremony.

**Big 12 Universities
PARKING STATISTICS**

Texas A&M University 1999

- \$8 million total revenue
- \$1.9 million parking violations/ fines
- \$4 million permit revenue
- \$2 million visitors parking

Kansas University 1999

- \$2.6 million total revenue
- \$24,500 parking meter violations

Texas Tech 1999

- \$2 million total revenue
- 45,000 tickets issued a year

RUBEN DELUNA/ THE BATTALION