

Parking to be changed for science convention

Spaces surrounding Reed Arena relocated to Post Oak Mall

By SOMMER BUNCE
The Battalion

More than 1,000 commuter parking spaces will be closed by Friday as 5,000 science teachers converge on the Texas A&M campus for the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST).

Parking lots surrounding Reed Arena will be reserved for CAST members Friday and 19 buses will be pulled out of regular service to accommodate the conference, said Angela Newman, Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) communications specialist.

Lot 101, a new lot, will remain closed to students until next week. Lot 102S (regularly a student parking lot) will be closed to student parking Thursday and Friday.

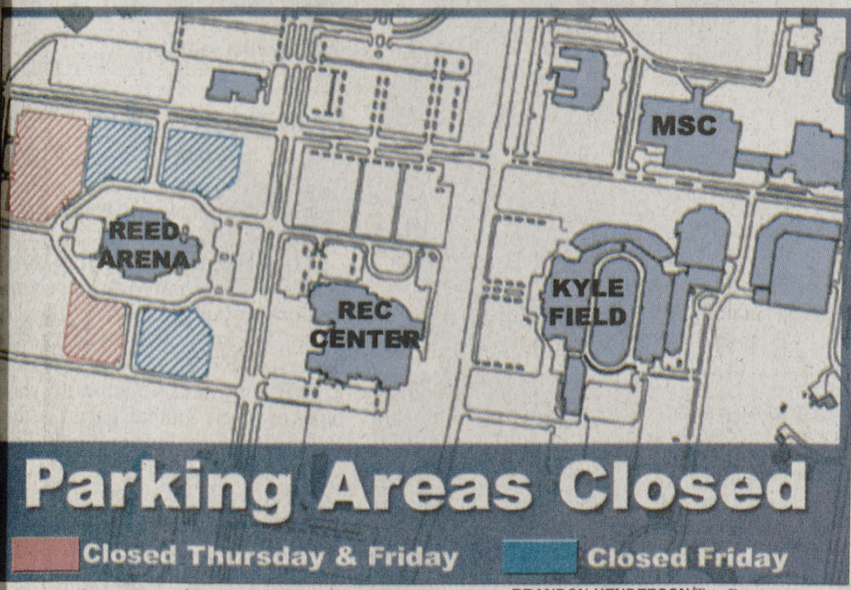
In addition, lots 101, 102N, 102W and 102E will be closed Friday as more conference participants arrive. Lots 56, 61, 63, 97, 103, 104 and the Zachry lot will remain open, said Doug Williams, PTTS associate director. Friday's lot closures will be a "major ordeal" for students and PTTS alike, Newman said. Students are directed to carpool to campus or park at Post Oak Mall in the J.C. Penney parking lot. Nine shuttles from Coach USA of Houston were chartered by PTTS and will run non-stop routes between the mall and three sites on campus from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Clark Street on the west side of the Memorial Student Center (MSC), the Wehner Building and the water tower on Ashbury Street.

All off-campus buses will be free both days, but because of the conference's use of buses, Newman said, PTTS cannot guarantee regular operation of the buses, nor the frequency of the routes.

All lots not closed off will be functional for blue commuter parking, Newman said.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen invited the conference to the campus, said PTTS Director Tom Williams, and A&M students, faculty and staff must accommodate the conference as a guest.

CAST, which is geared toward science teachers, hosts more than 600 short courses, including field



Parking Areas Closed

Closed Thursday & Friday (Red)
Closed Friday (Blue)

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Judo trip



KEVIN BURNS/THE BATTALION

Jim Jagers, a freshman general studies major, gets thrown by Roy Carniato, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, at the Texas A&M Judo team practice. The team will compete at the Go Shitaba Memorial Judo competition Saturday at the Student Recreation Center.

Students begin petition to alter Bonfire's future

By ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Concerned that a hallowed tradition will turn into a hollow gesture, a group of students is circulating a petition urging Texas A&M administrators to reconsider the limitations placed on future Aggie Bonfires.

The petition is protesting the elimination of "cut," limited student involvement and leadership in building Bonfire, and the two-year hiatus of the tradition.

According to parameters set by A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, when Bonfire resumes in 2002, it will be built with pre-cut lumber under the close supervision of a professional engineer.

"In talking to other students, I found that most don't support an off-campus bonfire, but they don't support Bowen's restrictions either," said Becky Bartschmid, a petition organizer and sophomore journalism major. "But so far, the administration isn't listening, and the Student Senate hasn't really spoken for the students."

The petition was initiated and already has 300 signatures, Bartschmid said. What most concerns petition supporters is that Bonfire built under the new restrictions will offer few opportunities for student involvement and leadership. Without cut, the teamwork and camaraderie that characterized past Bonfires will be lost, they said.

"One person can't cut down a tree and carry it out of the woods," said Suzanne Hill, a junior meteorology major. "Everyone has to work together, and when you get worn out, you rely on each other for motivation. It's just a great bonding experience, and you make so many friends."

"I found that most [students] don't support an off-campus bonfire, but they don't support Bowen's restrictions, either."

— Becky Bartschmid
petition organizer and sophomore journalism major

Petition supporters also assert that one year should be sufficient time to plan a safe Bonfire, and that waiting until 2002 would threaten the tradition's future.

"We need to have more supervision, but cut had nothing to do with why Bonfire fell," Bartschmid said. "The restrictions seem intended to let Bonfire die quietly and gradually, because student enthusiasm for it will disappear."

Bowen defended his decision and said that, while his plan allows for some flexibility regarding the implementation of the new rules, the basic tenets of the petition are unlikely to change.

"I wouldn't rule it out for any future Bonfires, but we just can't go back to how it used to be. We spent a lot of time getting the facts on the table before reaching this decision," Bowen said.

Student Body President Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, said that because most of the injuries and accidents in the history of Bonfire occurred during cut, its elimination is justified. Instead of challenging the decision, students should try to come up with new ways to participate in a scaled-back Bonfire, Lane said.

"But we need to think outside the box and think of new and creative ways for students to participate without cut," Lane said.

Students are able to use laptops with modems in class. Teachers are now able to instruct with multimedia presentations, including PowerPoint.

Technological advances take over college classes

By ELIZABETH RAINES
The Battalion

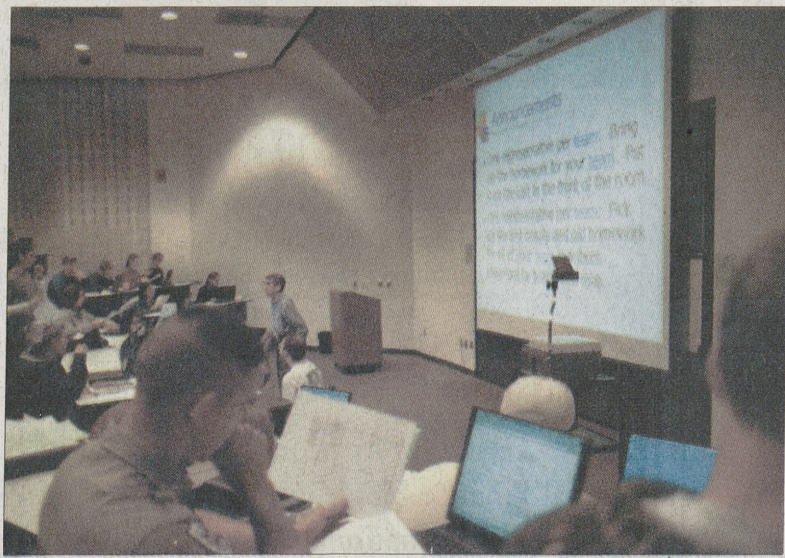
Although some professors still prefer a blackboard and chalk, many have moved their classrooms into the information age by posting a syllabus, class notes, practice exams or grades on the Internet.

"I put notes and practice exams on the Web because it is an easy way to distribute a lot of material to individual students," said Mike Nelson, an economics professor, adding that Texas A&M provides professors with space on the TAMU server to post supplements in their classes.

The attempt to reach students has led professors in the colleges of agriculture and life sciences, business and liberal arts to use Web Course Tool version 3.0 Test Server for TAMU (WebCT) for their classes.

Students in these classes receive a user name and password to log into WebCT, where professors have supplements for their classes, including practice problems, homework help, grades and classroom discussions.

"I use the WebCT for my ag leadership class and it has been pretty helpful," said Tara Sherrod, a junior agricultural development major. "Although they have had a few problems with the server crashing



KEVIN BURNS/THE BATTALION

Students are able to use laptops with modems in class. Teachers are now able to instruct with multimedia presentations, including PowerPoint.

Tech SGA pres apologizes for vandalism

In response to the vandalism on the side of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building after the Texas A&M-Texas Tech football game, the Tech Student Government Association president wrote an apology letter to the students of A&M.

Dear Texas A&M Students:

It was very disheartening to learn that, following the Texas A&M victory against Texas Tech University on Sept. 30, some Red Raider fans took it upon themselves to spray paint a handful of Double Ts on your campus's buildings. This type of behavior is certainly not representative of the great relationship and tremendous respect that exists between Texas Tech and Texas A&M.

On behalf of the Texas Tech student body, I would like to extend a sincere apology to you and your fellow Aggies for the actions taken by a few individuals. Their decision to deface your campus's buildings following the football game between Texas A&M and Texas Tech is a gross misrepresentation of the students at Texas Tech.

Football contests and other sporting events between two outstanding universities such as ours are always something to look forward to. The high level of competition and the tremendous display of sportsmanship that occur between the athletes representing our universities are admirable and should be embraced by athletes and fans alike.

May this be the only time that some individuals decide to break the bonds of good sportsmanship and fellowship held between Aggies and Red Raiders.

In the future, we hope to extend to you the same warm Texas hospitality that you showed us during the Texas Tech vs. Texas A&M game.

Best wishes,
Andrew Schoppe
SGA President

Smithsonian plane exhibit lands at Stark Gallery

By MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. receives thousands of visitors each year, but not many people can say that the Smithsonian has come to visit them. Residents of Bryan-College Station are among the few.

Beginning today, the J. Wayne Stark University Center Gallery in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) is hosting "On Miniature Wings," an exhibit about the history of air flight.

The Smithsonian Museum is being renovated, requiring the collection to be moved and providing this opportunity for the Stark Gallery.

"This is a permanent collection in the National Air and Space Museum in the Smithsonian," said Beverly Wagner, administrative secretary of University Art Collections. "While work is being done on the Smithsonian, some things that are not usually shipped are on exhibit."

"On Miniature Wings" depicts the history of the airplane using replicas. Wagner said replicas are built exactly to scale in contrast to models that are simply miniatures. The process can take anywhere from 45 minutes to months.

Cathy Hastdet, curator of the Stark Gallery, said that all sorts of replicas will be shown in the exhibit.

"All of the replicas are really neat," she said. "One is a United Airlines model used for advertising purposes. We have replicas that fly and replicas built just to look at, as well as recognition models, which were used in WWII to teach pilots to identify planes by silhouette. We also have wind tunnel models that are used for testing in wind tunnels, and they are all made by hand by master model-makers."

See PLANES on Page 6.



Smithsonian airplane models will be on display in the J. Wayne Stark University Center Gallery until Dec. 9.