

## Memorial honoring veterans to be built

By ELIZABETH RAINES  
The Battalion

All veterans in the Brazos Valley who fought during 20th century American wars will be honored with a memorial to be built in College Station.

"The idea for the project began about three or four years ago amongst the veterans of Brazos Valley when we realized that there was a void here in Brazos County for honoring all the veterans," said Dr. Craig Carter, president of the Memorial for all Veterans of Brazos County.

The memorial will have a central sculpture with walkways leading to different pavilions containing information about each of the wars in which the United States fought. The 11-acre Veterans Park and Athletic Complex will be located one mile east of Highway 6, between Harvey Road and University Drive.

"We are not going to have soldiers holding guns or army tanks in our sculpture," said committee chairman P. David Romei. "It is not going to be violent. Ultimately, giving one's life for one's country involves violence, but the end result is ensured peace for the rest of us."

Three artists, Robert J. Eccleston of Schuyler Falls, N.Y.; Lawrence Noble of Crestline, Calif.; and Robert Shure of Woburn, Mass., are competing to design the sculpture. Each artist will present a model of his sculpture in late April to the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial design committee. The committee will display the models at Post Oak Mall to receive public comments. The chosen artist and sculpture will be announced on May 28.

The memorial board estimates the memorial will cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000 and that the entire park and athletic complex will cost \$350,000 more. The city of College Station, the city of Bryan and the Brazos County Commissioners Court have each donated \$50,000 to the memorial. The veterans hope to get the rest of the money through fund raising.

"We want to make everyone understand that this project belongs to everyone in Brazos Valley," said committee chairwoman Lynn Stuart. "We want to make sure everyone has input and we would like for everybody to help make this project successful."

Once the design is chosen, the memorial board will complete a request for proposals from construction firms. The design committee will consider all proposals and make a recommendation

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## Bus referendum voting begins

### Bus Ops' \$12,000 campaign used to garner student support on fee

By BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

The Bus Operations division of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) has spent approximately \$12,000 of student fees since January on the campaign initiative for the Transportation Fee Referendum. Students will determine the fee's fate by voting today and Wednesday.

Gary Jackson, manager of Bus Operations, said final numbers are not available yet, but he estimates expenditures of \$12,000. He said it was a bargain, considering the in-house labor and technology used for the campaign. Jackson and two other employees designed most of the marketing strategy, he said.

Jackson said between \$10,000 and \$12,000 was budgeted for the campaign and promotion.

"If we could operate the way we are operating now, then we

wouldn't have put such a big push on this," Jackson said. "I feel like this is an important measure to pass for the future of the

**"If I didn't (think the advertising is justified), we wouldn't be doing all this."**

— Gary Jackson  
manager of Bus Operations

University and Bus Operations."

Bus Operations has advertised on Bryan-College Station radio stations, in *The Battalion*, on sandwich boards on campus and with banners in the Memorial Student Center. In addition, Bus Operations gave away pro-referendum T-shirts to students and used its employees to distribute

fliers and positive information about the fee.

Last week, Bus Operations gave away pizza and T-shirts to students at Rudder Fountain. Jackson said the bus drivers are tuning the bus radios to stations Bus Operations is advertising on.

All of Bus Operations' operating income comes from student fees, and Jackson said he thinks the importance of the referendum justified spending students' money to solicit their votes.

"If I didn't (think the advertising is justified), we wouldn't be doing all this," Jackson said.

Tom Williams, director of PTTS, said advertising by Bus Operations is not unusual. If Bus Operations had not been promoting the fee, it would have been advertising bus-pass sales, Williams said.

Advertising is not a budgeted expense for Bus Operations, but

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STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Bus Operations spent approximately \$12,000 on its campaign to gather student support for the transportation fee. The proposed fee would add \$50 a semester for the spring and fall and \$25 for each summer session, to each student's bill. It would eliminate the cost of a bus pass.

Gary Jackson, manager of Bus Operations, said the fee would permit Bus Operations to upgrade its aging fleet of buses in a phase-out plan over the next 10 years. But, more importantly, Jackson said, the fee would be used to prevent Bus Operations from drowning in increasing maintenance and operations costs, which have risen steadily in the past 10 years.

Jackson said the students are not at a crossroads with this vote, because Bus Operations has the resources to operate on a limited level with its current amount of funding. But, he said, the end of Bus Operations as students know it is within sight if the referendum is not passed.

"The bottom line is, we need new buses," Jackson said.

Jackson said that, in the past 10 years, Bus Operations has seen a steady decline in bus-pass sales, but PTTS has seen an increase in parking-pass sales. The relationship is almost one-for-one, Jackson said.

"The demand for parking has been, in at least the last five years, greater than it has been for

more transportation," Jackson said. "So, the University and the administration have tried to meet that demand by building more parking lots."

That practice cannot continue, Williams said. "[Students] have to realize that a bus system is the key to our future," Williams said. "We can't keep building parking spaces."

Jackson said, if students want to improve the current level of service, the referendum must be passed.

"Service is about as good as we can get it and pay for it at the same time," Jackson said. "We can't increase frequency or add any more routes — we just don't have the funds to do it."

If the referendum does not pass, Bus Operations will be forced to decrease service so it can meet its budget, he said.

Williams said the Transportation Fee is the

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## TRANSPORTATION Fee

Voting Locations:

- 1 **MSC**  
Feb. 20 - 21  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 2 **Rec Center**  
Feb. 20 - 21  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 3 **www.vote.tamu.edu**  
Continuous Voting  
9 a.m. Feb. 20 through  
5 p.m. Feb. 21

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

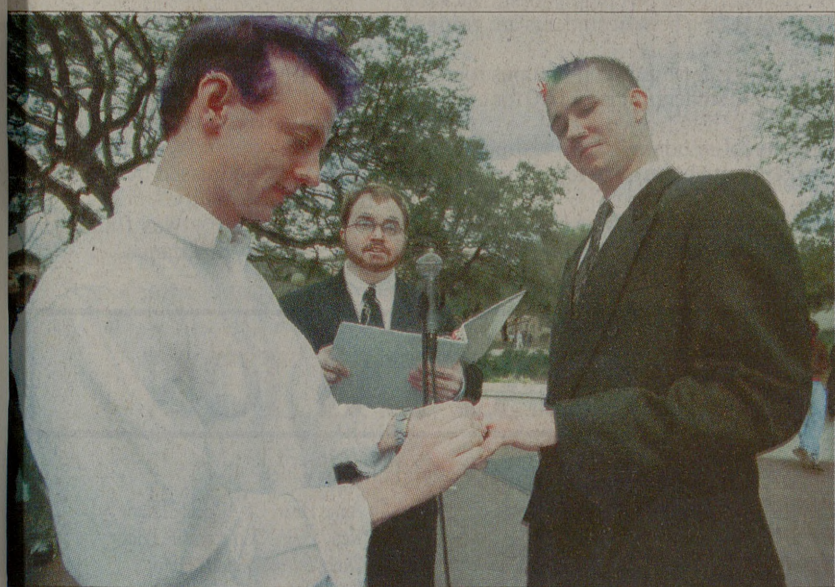
## Aggies to determine Bus Operations' fate by voting on proposal

By BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

The students of Texas A&M will determine the future of campus transportation today and tomorrow as they vote on the Transportation Fee Referendum. The outcome of the election could ultimately determine the fate of Bus Operations.

The Transportation Fee Referendum, if passed by the student body and approved by the Board of Regents, would mandate a \$50-per-semester fee that would be charged to all students. During the summer, the fee would be \$25 per session. The fee would eliminate the need to purchase a bus pass because all students would be able to ride on- and off-campus buses.

"The end of [Bus Operations] being Aggie owned is in sight" if the referendum does not pass, said Tom Williams, director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS). "If Aggies want complete control (over routes and service), we have the opportunity to continue that."



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Jason Cato, a senior philosophy major, puts a ring on Marcus Wilkerson, a sophomore general studies major, during a same-sex mock marriage in front of Rudder Fountain Monday. The wedding was sponsored by Queer Aggies and NOW.

## Same-sex weddings held at MSC

### Students get married in symbolic ceremony to draw attention to cause

By BRANDIE LIFFICK  
The Battalion

To the sounds of Pachelbel's Canon and the "Wedding March", one female couple and one male couple were symbolically married to protest the legal prohibition of same-sex marriages.

The ceremonies, held Monday at Rudder Fountain, were sponsored by Queer Aggies and the Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Both groups were on hand to distribute information, answer questions and present a petition opposing a bill filed in the Texas Legislature that would prevent the state from legally recog-

nizing same-sex unions performed in other states. Currently,

**"It is my sincere hope that eventually the state will recognize civil marriages between same-sex partners."**

— Rev. Jason Bennett  
Universal Light Church minister

Vermont allows homosexual couples to enter into civil unions.

According to the petition, the Texas bill is "discriminatory and vi-

olates the full faith and credit clause of the United States Constitution."

The bill proposes that the state of Texas not recognize same-sex marriages nor the "benefits and responsibilities as are granted to the spouses of a marriage."

"I think it's really important getting the word out about the government and its own hypocrisy," said Terrell Rabb, a junior political science major. "This is symbolic of how things could be if the government does what is constitutionally right."

The Rev. Jason Bennett, an ordained minister in the Universal Light Church, presided over the ceremony.

"It is my sincere hope that even-

tually the state will recognize civil marriages between same-sex partners," Bennett said. "It is in my opinion that the state has no need to bar them from the right to marry and all the privileges that it entails."

According to Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), not being able to legally marry means that same-sex couples do not have the right to spousal immigration benefits, legal status with their partner's children or the right to make medical decisions for their partner.

"We are trying to create awareness of the rights that are denied to gay and lesbian couples because

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## Residence halls join forces to increase alcohol awareness

By DAVID JOHNSON  
The Battalion

Texas A&M residence halls are teaming up Wednesday and Thursday to host "Party House," an interactive program that addresses decision-making in alcohol-related situations. Groups of 10 to 15 people will be led through seven rooms in Spence-Briggs and Walton halls that will deal with alcohol-related issues. Anyone from A&M and the Bryan-

College Station area is welcome to attend, said Walton Hall Director, Tony Andenoro.

The program will begin Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Spence-Briggs Hall with a stereotypical college party scene, complete with a live DJ, block lights and root-beer kegs.

Inside Spence-Briggs Hall groups will be led by a student facilitator on a 30-40 minute tour through seven rooms.

The goal of the program is to "provide a realistic perspective on college and alcohol and how those play together, positively and negatively, and to help the participants make their own decisions after the evening," said Tricia Schwery, Spence-Briggs hall director.

The first four rooms will portray alcohol-related scenarios that students might encounter in real life. Some of the rooms will show the

harmful effects of alcohol and situations in which a lack of awareness can have dangerous consequences, and other rooms will show situations in which alcohol is responsibly consumed, Schwery said. The scenarios are interactive and performed to encourage positive, more educated decision-making, Andenoro said.

University Police Department (UPD) officers and Alcohol and Drug Education Program (ADEP) officials

will facilitate two rooms. They will perform a mock arrest and discuss the legal consequences associated with minor in possession charges (MIP), driving while intoxicated (DWI) charges and driving under the influence (DUI) charges. Schwery said the latter portion of the program was added because many residents are unaware of the laws and consequences surrounding these violations.

Beer goggles, glasses designed to

simulate intoxication, will be worn by participants while UPD officers give sobriety tests, Schwery said.

Schwery said the last room is a memorial to alcohol-related deaths. Pictures of deceased students from A&M and around the country will be on display, and poems dedicated to accident victims will be read. Stories from family members of the deceased will be read to show that this

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