

THURSDAY
June 14, 2001
Volume 107 ~ Issue 155
6 pages

News in Brief
Campus

COPICO cards will expire on July 3

Coin-operated copier and printer services will no longer accept COPICO cards as of July 3. University officials urge COPICO card users to extend the balance of their card before then because no refunds or transfers of balances will be given.

IKON copy cards may be purchased at the Copy Center on the first floor of Sterling Commons Library.

OPAS is accepting subscription orders

MSC OPAS is now accepting subscription orders for the 2001-02 season, which will include: *Ragtime; My Fair Lady; Orgy and Bess; Death of a Salesman; Red, White and Tuna;* and others. For additional information, call 845-1661.

Friday last day to Q-drop, withdraw

Friday, June 15, is the last day for students enrolled in first summer-term classes to Q-drop or withdraw from the university. Friday is also the deadline to change pass/fail options for first-term Kinesiology 199 classes.

State

Gas prices decline

DALLAS (AP) — Just in time for the peak summer driving period, gasoline prices have slipped slightly from record levels, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA). The auto club said the average price in Texas for a gallon of self-serve regular has fallen nine cents to \$1.52 per gallon since May. That's just one cent more per gallon than Texas motorists were paying in June 2000.

"Motorists are starting to see some relief at the pumps," said Rose Rougeau, a spokesman for AAA Texas. "Sunday, police didn't have to help with gas prices down."

Motorists in some parts of the state are still paying much more than the statewide average, however. AAA said the highest average prices on Tuesday were \$1.65 per gallon in Dallas, \$1.64 in Fort Worth and \$1.61 in Amarillo.

The lowest average price was \$1.36 per gallon in Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

The national average price was \$1.66 per gallon, AAA said, down six cents from last month. Prices ranged from \$1.46 per gallon in Georgia to \$1.99 in California and Hawaii.

Bus identifying system changed

Off-campus routes given numbers after magnetic signs stolen

Andy Hancock
The Battalion

This summer, student bus riders were introduced to a new system by Texas A&M Bus Operations.

The traditional way of identifying buses with their respective routes was their names that were prominently displayed on the front, side and rear of the bus on magnetic signs. However, because of the theft of signs in the past, and the fact that new buses have been ordered, Bus Operations is trying a new numerical system for labeling and identifying buses.

This has caused confusion among some students when they began seeing numbers and no names.

"I don't like the numbers, I like the names," said junior nuclear engineering major Conard Franz. "The numbers are just too hard to remember."

However, Bus Operations manager, Gary Jackson, said the

numerical system they are testing will apply mainly to off-campus routes.

"The problem is that it is convenient for students to steal the signs because they are easily accessible," Jackson said. "We replace almost all of them, but they

"The problem is that it is convenient for students to steal the signs because they are easily accessible."

— Gary Jackson
Bus Operations manager

are expensive. And at the end of the school year, they tend to disappear — and that is a reason we are trying the new numerical system to keep costs down and make things simpler."

The new on-campus buses will have electronic, scrolling signs on the front and sides of the bus, and the first four letters of each bus' name will be displayed on the back.

The off-campus buses will have their traditional in-window signs on the front of each bus with numbers on the side and back of the bus in order to represent each bus on a particular route.

The new numeric system is intended to make traveling easier.

In addition to the labeling changes for the buses, many buses will be running changed or slightly altered routes because of the major construction of the underground tunnel and parking garage across from the Student Recreation Center. The construction is slated to begin this fall at the intersection of Wellborn Road and Joe Routt Boulevard.

See BUSES on Page 2.



Andrea Bell, a sophomore general studies major, drives a bus on an afternoon route.

Steady hands



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

April Millaway, a graduate student in student affairs, administration and higher education, works on a piece of clay at an area business. Millaway is working the clay into a flower pot.

Community colleges, BIMS make a deal

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

While much of the University is preparing for the TEAM Blinn pilot program to begin this fall, the Biomedical Science Department (BIMS) is preparing to begin its own transfer program.

The BIMS department has signed agreements with two Texas community colleges, Northeast Texas Community College-Dallas (NTCC) and Palo Alto College-San Antonio (PAC). The agreement will allow students who meet all the requirements for the agreement to make an easier transition from the community colleges into Texas A&M upper-level BIMS.

"The articulation agreement with NTCC and Palo Alto allows for a smooth transition into our biomedical science program by outlining the exact class requirements for these transfer students," said Dr. F.H. Landis, director of the Biomedical Science Department.

The program begins this fall at both community colleges, and the first group of transfer students are expected to arrive at the A&M campus in Fall 2003. To be eligible for automatic transfer into the BIMS program students at both NTCC and PAC must complete the approved degree plan with a cumulative grade-point ratio of 3.6 or higher and make no lower than a B in all common body of knowledge science and math courses.

"Partnerships in education are one key to providing opportunities for our high-achieving students," said Dr. Dean Adams, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), which houses BIMS. "The College of Vet Medicine is pleased to join Northeast Texas Community College and Palo Alto in offering this opportunity to students in the Dallas and San Antonio areas."

Deborah Cooper, communications specialist for the CVM, said that although only two community colleges have signed, negotiations are pending with eight others.

"The community colleges are chosen based on the geographic regions and their academic standards," Cooper said.

Although the faculty and staff are excited to see the transfer program begin, some students from the BIMS department feel differently.

Several BIMS majors contacted by *The Battalion* said it was unfair that students would be able to get into the program without having to take some of the courses at A&M. They said certain classes are more difficult and comprehensive when taught at A&M.

The students did not wish to be identified.

Although the BIMS agreements are similar to that of the TEAM Blinn program, Cooper said the programs are in no way related.

Girl locked in closet was to be adopted

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas couple said they are devastated that the girl they tried to adopt eight years ago was locked in a closet and starved while living with her biological mother.

Bill and Sabrina Kavanaugh, who live near Canton, said they were family friends of Barbara Catherine Atkinson and took custody of her baby, Lauren Calhoun, the day she was born, April 13, 1993.

Bill Kavanaugh said the last time they saw Lauren was on her second birthday when they lost their battle to adopt her.

He also said they would like to regain custody of the girl, who was rescued Monday night after being kept in a 4-by-8-foot closet littered with human waste and soiled clothing.

Couple says mother decided to keep her baby

"I would love to pick her up today," he told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

The couple had initiated a private adoption when Atkinson changed her mind eight months later. Over the next year, the couple and Atkinson were embroiled in a legal battle before an Ellis County judge returned Lauren to her birth mother.

"She said she wanted her back, that she made a mistake, that she loved her," Sabrina Kavanaugh told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW tearfully on Wednesday, as she held baby pictures of Lauren.

Child Protective Services (CPS) spokesman Marleigh Meisner said CPS

was not involved in the adoption proceedings but would consider placing Lauren with the Kavanaughs.

"We would be interested in speaking with them and a judge will make a final decision as to where these children will be," she told the Associated Press.

Police say Lauren had been locked in the closet for at least four months with barely any food. Five other children taken from the home were not malnourished but are being evaluated by CPS and medical personnel.

The girl — who weighed only 25 pounds — was in serious but stable condition Wednesday at Children's Medical Center of Dallas after surgery, where she

was being treated for malnutrition and other injuries. Officials said the child's skin was peeling on her back and buttocks, her teeth were broken, and her stomach was bloated.

Citing the girl's right to privacy, Meisner declined to specify the nature of the surgery or say if the girl's life remains in danger. The girl will be hospitalized for an extended period.

"Most of the time when we see cases that are this horrific, the victims don't survive," Meisner said.

Police said Lauren was 3 feet tall, when a child her age should be about a foot taller and weigh twice as much.

Atkinson, 30, is being held on a

See GIRL on Page 2.

INSIDE

Aggielife

• Atlantis, Disney filmmakers spend four years recreating the culture of Atlantis

Opinion

• Prosecute sexual harassment equally, regardless of the victim's gender

Battalion News Radio: 57 p.m. KAMU 90.9

www.thebatt.com