

Back to school

Businesses, local organizations prepare for the back-to-school rush

Students are ready to return to A&M after the summer vacation

By ELIZABETH MULDOON
THE BATTALION

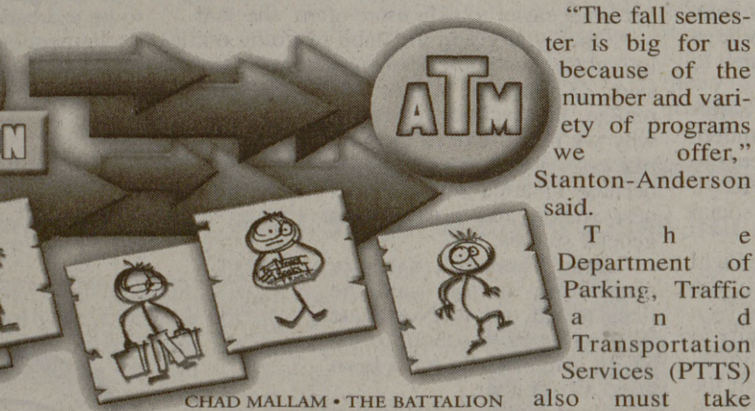
campus handle the surge of students returning to B-CS? Angela Stanton-Anderson, advertising manager for the Student Recreation Center, said the transition from summer to fall at the Rec Center is a

According to Stanton-Anderson, on a busy day during the fall semester, the Rec Center could have as many as 5,000 visitors. During the summer, the number of visitors is less than half that.

During the summer months in Aggieland, there is virtually no traffic, no lines to get into bars and always a place to park in the Zachry parking area. Sounds like a dream, right? Well, unfortunately, all dreams must come to an end and so must summer in College Station.

As June and July fade into distant memories, mid-August arrives and thousands of new and returning students arrive in droves in College Station for a new school year.

But what happens when the population of a city doubles in just a few days? How does the



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smooth one.

"We are set up to handle a large number of students and staff," Stanton-Anderson said. "We hire more staff in the fall semester to accommodate the large number of visitors."

The Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) also must take

measures to ensure a smooth transition from the summer to the fall semester.

"We try as best we can to accommodate everyone," said PTTS Associate Director

See RUSH on page 5A.

By JENNIFER DENTON
THE BATTALION

When Mike Shaw, a junior mechanical engineering major, returned home from A&M for the summer, he walked into his bedroom, dropped his luggage and was shocked to see the decor had been altered. Once a sports fan's haven filled with pennants and trophies, Shaw's room had been redecorated by his mother to include flowers and lace. Surveying the damage of his revamped room, he soon realized his decor was not the only thing that had changed.

For Shaw, summer brought hard work and long hours and failed to include the Aggie spirit he had become accustomed to the previous year.

"I missed Aggie camaraderie," he said. "There was always an excuse to join

together and just be Aggies."

Ashley Peterson, a sophomore psychology major, shared a similar experience when she went home for the summer and found herself distanced from the Aggie spirit.

"I missed the family atmosphere," Peterson said. "I [also] love football and always miss it."

Students are not the only ones suffering from the summer drought of the University's spirit.

Although Jacque Outland, senior office assistant of the Collection Management Department in the Sterling C. Evans Library Annex, worked on campus during the summer and said she missed the usual atmosphere of Aggieland.

"When the students are gone, it is not the same as the regular sessions," Outland said. "It feels like something is missing, and I always look forward to their return."

In addition to withdrawal from the spirit of traditions, many students find an even larger void when faced with separation from friends, roommates and significant others.

"I missed dorm life and someone to always hang out with," Peterson said. "I tried to keep in touch with friends constantly, but talking was not enough."

Making new friends and having roommates is a given in college, but finding a romantic companion is not always as predictable.

Although finding the perfect guy or girl is a definite boost to one's dating life, nobody thinks about how much a close relationship will be missed over the summer. Peterson, who spent the summer in her hometown while her boyfriend stayed in College Station, said the separation was difficult.

See TRANSITION on page 5A.

Ask Aggie

Ask Aggie is a student advice column. Send questions to askaggie@thebatt.com and read next week to find out where the pennies from Sul Ross's feet go.

Dear Aggie,

How can I meet people at A&M? I am a shy freshman who lives off campus. What can I do to get involved?

Signed,
Wallflower, Class of 2005

Dear Wallflower,

It is hard to meet people when you first come to a new school, especially one as large as A&M. There are many ways for students to get involved. There are over 700 organizations on this campus. Think of what your interests are and most likely there is a club related to it. This is a great way to meet people

who you have things in common with.

The Memorial Student Center will host an open house for student organizations Sunday, Sept. 2 from 2 to 6 p.m. where students can meet people and sign up for clubs they are interested in.

Off-campus freshman can get involved in Off-Campus Aggies, an organization that plans activities for off-campus students.

There are several organizations strictly for

freshman also such as Aggie Fish Club, Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow or Fish Aides.

If you have chosen a major, look into joining an organization related to it where you can meet people with similar interests while also beefing up your resume.

Another option is to find classmates to study with.

If all else fails, the bus drivers are pretty nice.

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Texas A&M University has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to all qualified individuals without regard to any subgroup classification or stereotype.

Empowering Yourself Group

Mondays 1:30 - 3:00 PM
A group for women and men with sexual molestation in their past. Identifying and exploring aftereffects of abuse will be the focus. Dealing with relationships, building self-esteem, and gaining power are emphasized.

Facilitators: Robert Carter & Nancy Welch

Women's Issues Group

Mondays 2:00 - 3:30 PM
Come together with other women and work on becoming the woman you've always wanted to be. Improve your self-confidence, assertiveness, and relationships by sharing and processing with other women with similar issues.

Facilitators: Mary Ann Covey & Lori Tagger

Multicultural Issues & Relationships Group

Mondays 4:30 - 6:30 PM
The purpose of this group is to increase awareness of multicultural issues and improve communication and self-confidence when dealing with multicultural relationships. Group topics may include, but are not limited to, cultural shock; cultural, religious, and social differences; and bi-cultural/multicultural relationship issues. This group is open to all students.

Facilitators: Gisela Lin & Bai-Yin Chen

Biofeedback Workshop

Mondays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
One-session workshops that give an introduction to relaxation techniques, including how biofeedback aids in relaxation. Individual follow-up consultation is available.

Facilitator: Steve Wilson

Conflict & Loss in Relationships Group

Mondays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
This group is for students who are currently or have previously experienced conflict in interpersonal or romantic relationships, or who have recently experienced a loss of a meaningful relationship.

Facilitator: Brian Williams

Anxiety Group

Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 PM
An interpersonal group for students who suffer from general or social anxieties. Students will be able to work on the impact of anxieties in their lives, as well as explore the interpersonal meanings of anxiety symptoms.

Facilitator: Carlos Orozco

FALL 2001 GROUPS

Academic SURVIVAL Series

Tuesdays 3:45 - 5:15 PM
Need some help surviving the academic transition from high school to college? It's not too late to get prepared to meet the ULTIMATE CHALLENGE...ACADEMIC SURVIVAL! Before the "tribal council votes you off", attend this Tuesday series from 3:45 - 5:15pm beginning October 2 and ending November 27. Screening before September 28 is required for participation.

Facilitator: Patti Collins

Older Than Traditional Age Group

Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Group participants are typically 25 years old and above. Each member is asked to demonstrate his/her commitment to the group through regular attendance and active participation. Group psychotherapy is utilized to assist older than traditional group members in dealing with such issues as anxiety, depression, motivation, and isolation. This group works to create a safe environment in which each member is free to create on his or her unique concerns.

Facilitators: Robert Carter & Debbie Rabinowitz

Interpersonal Growth & Exploration Group

Tuesdays (Group 1) 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Wednesdays (Group 2) 3:00 - 4:30 PM
This psychotherapy group is for students who desire to live more authentically with themselves and relate more genuinely with others. Group members will be helped to explore self-limiting life patterns and share themselves with others through honest self-disclosure in a safe, supportive atmosphere.

Facilitators: Ron Lutz & Tom Burdinski (Group 1)
Ron Lutz & Nancy Welch (Group 2)

Dissertation/Thesis Support Group

Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
This group is for graduate students who are struggling with the process of writing a thesis or dissertation. Group topics include issues of competence, procrastination, anxiety, goal-setting, and bureaucratic struggles.

Facilitators: Brian Williams & Debbie Rabinowitz

Academics Anonymous

Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Motivated to improve your academic performance but find it difficult to be consistent in your efforts? Join this 9 week support group on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm beginning September 12 and ending November 7. Not only will you learn effective study strategies, but you will also get support from others. Topics may include procrastination and building academic confidence. Screening before September 10 is required for participation.

Facilitator: Patti Collins

Non-Traditional Women's Group

Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
This therapy group for women 23+ allows each member to enter the group with her own unique issues and share, process, and problem-solve within a group context. This group can help individuals who are wanting to develop healthier ways of dealing with the stress of school and work, relationships, personal problems and family issues. When we begin to talk more honestly with others, we can often find new ways to deal with the problems we face.

Facilitator: Amanda Samson

Career Exploration Group

Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30 PM
This is a 6-week group beginning on October 11, 2001. It is designed to teach participants how to make decisions. Group participants will identify their interests, skills, work values and personality characteristics; research the job market and occupation. An initial appointment with a career counselor is required.

Facilitator: Michele Amerson

Eating Concerns & Body Image Issues Group

Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30 PM
The purpose of this group is to provide information and support for those who are trying to overcome an eating disorder. Group will also discuss topics related to eating concerns such as the development of trusting relationships, expression of feelings, and management of stress. An individual meeting with a group leader prior to attendance at group is required.

Facilitators: Debbie Rabinowitz & Amanda Samson