

This section was produced by junior high students from the Youth Adventure Program, hosted by Texas A&M last week.

# The Yapper

Second year serving Texas A&M University

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## Students travel here, there and everywhere

By Erin Jacobs  
THE YAPPER

Should you park? Should you ride? Each fall numerous freshmen enter the 5,200 acre Texas A&M campus with a full year of navigating unknown territory ahead of them. They are all faced

with the option of parking at one of the campuses parking garages, with a total of more than 23,725 parking spaces. This may seem like an amazing amount of available parking space, however it's hardly adequate for the 40,000 students and countless faculty and staff who vie for a parking spot on campus every day.

This battle for spaces tends to be a hassle, but if you are willing to take the risk, there

are a few strategies you should follow. First of all, you must be able to verify that you live on campus, because only 25% of the students live on-campus, they have an advantage in acquiring a permit. According to freshman Scott Brooks, getting his permit was not an easy task.

Only after graduates, seniors, juniors, and sophomores are given the option of parking are freshmen able to apply for their permits.

The garages are accessible by a card-key system that is set up when a parking permit is purchased. Another Aggie way to travel is the Texas A&M Transportation Services. Consisting of 21 buses, the on-campus routes of this system provide an option for students to

get where they need to be.

In the true Aggie spirit, each route has its own unique name.

Bonfire, Replant, Yell Practice, Cotton Bowl, Bush School, 12th Man, and Wehner Express provide daily transportation needs. This service is free.

A downside to the transportation system at Texas A&M doesn't seem to be the service itself, but the workers. Senior KathyAnn Sheffield states, "They're just not nice people." Maybe it's the long stressful days of driving students around that might agitate the workers after a while.

Here at Texas A&M University, you are sure to find the Aggie spirit even in its transportation.



CHRIS VERRY • THE YAPPER

## New fish living in the same old dorms

By Lauren A. Montoya  
THE YAPPER

After the answer for "Where do I go to college?" is made, incoming freshmen are faced with the question "Where do I live?"

For many new Fish, dorm life is the best thing for them. Living in dorms is part of "On-Campus Housing."

According to the on campus housing presentation, on campus residents are able to receive better grades and graduate faster.

This is able to be done because of less distractions. Dorm rooms may be very cramped but it becomes a better educational environment. Since the dorms are small there is less cleaning to be done.

"Who is my roommate?" Is another frequently asked question by many new Fish. Even if you have never met your roommate before they can become one of your lifelong friends. Though arguments may occur the best thing to do is go ask your Resident Advisor for help. RA's can assist with roommate problems; help you learn basic information about college, and are also there when you have concerns or

special needs.

Even though students are living on their own that does not mean there are no rules. Since there is little room no candles are allowed.

If a student is leaving their dorm they must lock their dorm up. Students are also not allowed to let strangers into the residence hall. Students may not prop open doors, and guests may not spend the night. For students to have alcohol in the rooms they must be 21 years of age or older.

Arguments between roommates are common. Some issues are excessive noise, borrowing items without permission, study habits, cleanliness, and guests, amongst other things. Even though students may fight, it is always good to demonstrate responsibility, being able to understand each side of the argument, and displaying a valued respect for one another and one another's belongings.

Settling in to a new location with a new roommate is both a time of exhilaration and anticipation. By taking the time to research dorms and the amenities they have to offer, Freshmen can adjust to college life and a new found sense of freedom.

## 007s adjust to life in Aggieland

By Elaine Chen  
THE YAPPER

Most people don't do well at adjusting to an entirely new environment.

Some people are falling behind in their classes and seem to need a little help in whatever classes they're taking. There are many people who just need a little nudge to get them going. A few people might feel like they don't belong here. That's why there's the S.C.S.

S.C.S. is short for Student Counseling Service, it's an organization created to help those who are in need. It's a service that gives help to those who need it and their goal is to help students achieve as much success as possible while at Texas A&M. The S.C.S. website has links for A&M's own special mentors (the A&M Mentors), the Student Counseling Helpline, Learning Skills Services, etc.

Becky Pettit, from the A&M Mentors, stated, "We are a group faculty of staff and administrators; we volunteer

our time to assist students. Basically, they can come to us whenever they need help or when they need someone to talk to."

For those who aren't falling behind classes, there's always clubs and organizations to join. There are sorority and fraternity groups, clubs and the MSC.

Most people adjust to their college life pretty fast. James Anderson, a freshman, remarked that he felt excited because everything's going to be new to him. Marco Valadez '03, Amanda Roe '03, and Cassandra Behr '05 said they all felt pretty welcomed when they first arrived here and that they had no problem adjusting to this place. Behr said, "It felt like home."

When asked what's the difference between high school and college life, Behr and Roe both agreed that they had a lot more freedom and they had to be more independent and responsible. "You have to be more self-reliant in college," explained Jill Selman, a freshman from Lockhart, Tx.

## Aggie Band Tradition goes on

By Shazeb Nayani  
THE YAPPER

The Aggie Band is the largest military marching band in the country. In 1894, there were thirteen members of the Aggie Band. Today, there are over four hundred members.

The band members treat each other like family. They eat together, live together and look out for each other. In the band, members of the senior class wear senior boots and lead the band.

There are twelve senior cadets that are chosen to march in the front row known as the "bugle rank." All of the members of the band practice at least ten hours a week! The Aggie military marching band performs at all football games, parades, and other events.

The Aggie band is known for their motivating patriotic tunes. To be a member of the prestigious Aggie band, you need high school playing and marching experience. The Texas Aggie

Band rehearsals are five days per week from seven a.m. until eight forty-five.

Students of the Aggie Band have a choice of participating in the Texas Aggie Basketball Band, the Aggieland Orchestra, or the University Symphonic and Concert Bands. Aggie Band members receive one academic credit each semester. The Aggie band is the largest military marching band in the country. Incoming Fish have the chance to spend the night with the Corps.

On this night you are required to take a personal interview with one of the band directors. Tai Moultrie played the clarinet in the Aggie band and she is currently in the air force.

She says, "The reason I joined the band is because I like the idea of marching and I know that the band is the heart and soul of the university."

There are forty scholarships given out incoming freshmen. The scholarships are given out based on superior academic performance.

## Aggieland's own little program welcomes students to new home

By Lindsey T. Burns  
THE YAPPER

Every year Texas A&M University has a series of New Student Conferences. Thousands of new freshmen are welcomed to campus and informed about campus life and what to expect. The Conferences usually run smoothly with few problems. Tours run in and out throughout the day, but rarely do student and their families think about what went into making the conference such a hit. What about the people who set up the booths? What about the people giving the tours? Who are they and what do they do?

All of the above can be answered "AOLP" or the Aggie Orientation Leadership Program. What these students do is put together and staff the New Student Conferences. They keep every thing running smoothly and help the new students feel welcome, as freshman Jill Selman '07 said, "Texas A&M has a friendly atmosphere, and when you say

howdy you get a howdy back," this is definitely the case for the New Student Conferences.

Marco Valadez '03, the executive director of AOLP, said "It's important to make sure freshmen have a positive experience. They need to be able to feel like an individual. No matter how many people we see, we try to make everyone feel like they're the first person we've talked to."

AOLP is also one of the few organizations required by the State of Texas. "If we didn't do [The New Student Conference], the professors would have to," remarked Valadez, referring to how important the AOLP is to the university.

From freshmen to transfer students, they are always willing to help. The AOLP is always trying to make new students feel welcomed and have a first-rate stay at Texas A&M. As student Domenic Cusano '04 said, "Texas A&M is one of the most enriching enlightening, and amazing experiences that I've ever had and it never changes."

## Students go broke on textbooks

By Krisina Zuniga  
THE YAPPER

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix isn't the only book on people's mind this summer. Freshmen at Texas A&M are thinking about their new books. Now they'll need lots of them and the books won't come cheap.

Freshmen need to buy books for required classes, like Chemistry, English, Biology, and Math, plus all of their electives. Sometimes books end up costing as much as the tuition for the course.

Many fish rely on used books. "I'm going with used books because you know money is tight," said freshman Tony Wolff about purchasing his books. Used books are about 25% less than regular books.

Used books may be written on or have no difference at all said Melissa Gibson at the bookstore. "We try to buy books that are in good condition." Since many freshmen rely on used books, which are in limited supply, many reserve their books ahead of time. When asked why freshmen reserve their books, Melissa Gibson replied, "They have a better selection of used books."

Students may want to return the books they buy.

"Sometimes because you don't like your professor, the class is too big, or your professor ends up saying you won't need it," said Coleman Martin stating reasons why someone may want to return a book. The return policy at the bookstore is one full week to return your book for a full refund.

When a student is done with their

books at the end of their semester students can take their books back and sell them to the bookstore where they will sell them as used. The bookstore also sells scantrons, supplies, and souvenirs.

For people who need new books, the bookstore's hours of operation are 8:00AM to 6:00PM from Monday through Thursday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM on Friday, 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Saturday, and they are closed on Sunday. Students can pay with cash, check, credit cards and of course, Aggie Bucks.

The bookstore is new and modern this year. One of the things new to the store, to make buying books easier for freshmen, is the booklist for the students is displayed on the internet. Books are shelved in alphabetical order, except for books for English classes because there are so many.

## College 101: Psychology for 'rents

### Parents go back to college to learn the ropes

By Shannon Mullarkey  
THE YAPPER

Happy, happy, happy, crisis, crisis, crisis: the feelings of a distressed Texas A&M Freshman. When entering A&M, the new freshmen may feel overwhelmed with the class work, peer pressure, and independence.

Studies have shown that in their times of need, students rely mostly on their parents. They will always need a crutch to lean on, and parents will always be their first choice.

Adjusting to college life can be difficult and complicated. Besides the sororities, projects, and reports, they will also want to maintain a life outside of school. Parties, relationships, and friends are a

few of their social activities and troubles. Although parents would be their first choice for help when students are unhappy, they can also use the Student Counseling Services.

The Student Counseling Service, also known as SCS, provides confidential and professional counseling to all students regardless of their background. Services provided include: conflict resolution, personal and career counseling, crisis intervention, and testing. However, the students aren't the only ones with concerns. Laura Stafford is worried about her son's "transition from high-school to college."

Because the College classes are so large, it is possible for a student to lose his or her identity. Over-populated classes can result in forgotten students. Other con-

cerns could be about their child's responsibility in budgeting money or time.

As frightening as it may be to send your child away to college, some parents don't seem to be worried. Shari Brown is content with her daughter's safety because of the "friendliness" that she has observed here on the campus. Another reassurance is the opinion of Fred French, who finds Texas A&M a "secure, safe school."

So no matter the student's worries, parents should remember to ask the right questions and provide guidance from a distance. Family and home provide students with an anchor. Maria Ramirez has no concerns for her daughter because, as far as A&M is concerned, she says, "All we've heard is good things."

NEWS

THE BATTALION

youths

who accompanied her pre-Atlantic City casino as er, became hooked, and attends regular sessions of ers Anonymous to state fiction that plunged her six-figure debt. om the first time I actual down at a blackjack table ayed, when I was 18 or was pretty obvious I was rmal," said Sarah, who that her last name be ld." I wouldn't want to ven to go to the but I was a little crazy, it wa into to do." h predicted that gam ill spread among you because of the omni betting options and ility of credit cards.

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read guaranteed adm they are in the top 20 their graduating class. st Governor Jeb Bush

the only governor to it a pre-emptive strike ive action," Bond said. hen President George rried out a pre-emptive

Iraq, the only Presia tion's history to attac which did not threa k us first. Both stas necessary and unwe

DiPietro, a spokesma governor, said minor nt and student achie e rising under the O program.

results speak for the DiPietro said. "Under ernor's leadership at rida, minority studen es and universities a ncing their counterpart states."

also voiced his disp at that neither Presid r his brother attend

conference in Texas meeting in Florida.

House spokesma nzel said Saturday

's busy schedule p from accepting all he receives. The g as unable to atten of a legislative sessio

issue, DiPietro said, while, NAACP preside fume criticized some ocratic candidates fr who are not expecte a Monday forum.

late Saturday, Sen ards of North Caroli eph Lieberman of ut and Repr. Richa of Missouri

ucinich of Ohio we ted to attend. Sen ham of Florida

ary of Massachusetts to appear, along w rmont Gov. Howar ner Illinois Sen. Car

Braun and the Rev.

thwest Pkwy/Tes of neck pain. 11:09 a.m. Maji Holleman/Tes of pain.

4:49 p.m. Theft, 130 e arrest. 5:50 p.m. Runaw

9:19 p.m. Failure to 011 Wellborn. One

10:48 p.m. Driving ense invalid, 51 st Pkwy. One arrest. 11:17 p.m. Liquor law 13 S. College. One

12:59 a.m. Warrant Rock Prairie. 1:31 a.m. Warrant Longmire.

5:45 a.m. Burglary of 501 Eastmark. Taken or stereo.

5:52 a.m. Burglary of n, 4000 University, s, money, personal relry. Also: victim cut to right forearm p.