

THE BATTALION

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CAMPUSWIDE COMPUTER PROBLEMS

Computer and Web sites across campus are having access problems.

Viruses from sources within the firewall have slowed computers.

Optical cable to Dallas cut on Sept. 15.

A router failed, cutting off open access labs, neo.tamu.edu and WebCT.

The newly installed Windows XP increased login times.



SETH FREEMAN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: CIS

Bad router downs A&M network

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

A router in the Teague Building machine room went down Sunday night and caused open-access labs and major network sites such as neo.tamu.edu and webct.tamu.edu to be inaccessible on and off until around 5 p.m. Monday.

Campus residents continued to experience internet outages as late as Tuesday night.

Marc Mojica, a senior computer engineering major, said he faced problems getting his resume to the Career Center through its online registration Monday.

"There was a deadline of 12 a.m., and I was worried that I would not get it in on time," he said. "I needed to

get it in so I can get an interview with companies."

Mojica said he understands that everyone accessing the network at the same time can cause problems.

"(The network) is never going to run perfectly," he said. "The best you can hope for is that it works when you need it."

Mojica said he knew a lot of people who were having problems with the network.

"Perhaps they should create a backup e-mail system," he said. "Otherwise, you are going to have problems if you cannot get to neo."

Computing Information Services Director Tom Putnam said the equipment failure was an unforeseen problem.

"The router stopped working correctly," he said. "Basically, it was out of our control."

Putnam said the router first failed Sunday evening

and was repaired. But, when the router failed again Monday morning, the CIS networking staff decided to replace the malfunctioning equipment.

"We thought we had fixed it," he said. "We had (the new router) installed in about two and a half hours once we decided to replace it."

CIS Associate Director of Networking Willis Marti said the whole system appeared to fail between 10 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Monday. Though it only took until around 12:30 p.m. to fix it, there were backup problems that made those Web sites and the labs inaccessible until around 5 p.m.

"If you were up at 8 a.m. you may have been lucky enough to get access," he said.

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Gates, Weis to speak at Student Senate

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

Director of Transportation Services Rodney Weis and Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates are slated to speak tonight at the second Student Senate meeting of the semester in the open governance room of Koldus.

Gates attends two Student Senate meetings every semester, and said his time will be strictly a question-and-answer session open to the senators.

Weis, who was scheduled to speak at the first Senate meeting Sept. 10 but did not show, is first on the agenda.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, TS sent out an e-mail about changing the rules for permits in Southside Garage.

At the Sept. 10 Senate meeting, about 20 students signed up to express their concerns about the e-mail and changes to Weis directly. Due to his absence, they were turned away before the meeting began.

Last Wednesday, Sept. 17, the Residence Hall Association unanimously passed a resolution against changing the allotment of parking spaces in the

Southside garage.

Michael Vargo, a sophomore business major and president of Appelt Hall Council, introduced the RHA resolution and has organized a petition. He said he expects RHA members to make an appearance at the Senate meeting to show their unhappiness with the proposed changes.

"From going through the halls, I know a lot of people are going to be there," Vargo said.

After the RHA meeting last week, Vargo expanded the petition to allow time for it to circulate among members of the Corps of Cadets and Northside residents. Once more signatures have been collected, he intends to present the petition to Weis.

"He can see how many people are opposed to it for himself," he said.

On Friday, Sept. 19, Weis sent a second e-mail to Southside permit holders assuring students that any proposed changes would not go into effect until next fall when permits would be reissued.

Student Senate will also consider a resolution in support of the current system of assigned

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Circle of life



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi perform the Sema ceremony representing the human being's spiritual journey in Rudder Theater at Texas A&M Tuesday evening. In the symbolism of the Sema ritual, ego is represented

by the wide, white skirt. Whirling right to left with arms open, the right hand is directed toward the sky and the left hand is turned toward the earth, embracing all humanity with love.

Democrats fight redistricting bill on Senate floor

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The showdown has begun. After a 45-day boycott of the Texas Legislature this summer by Senate Democrats, the debate over congressional redistricting was in high gear in the Texas Senate on Tuesday.

Democrats pledged not to let the Republican-backed effort to redraw the state's congressional lines out of the chamber without a fight, even though they admit they do not have the numbers to block the bill.

Republicans have a 19-12 advantage in the chamber and it takes a simple majority to get a bill approved. Democrats want to keep the existing districts.

"We already have a legal plan in place," said Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville. "There is no legal requirement to change plans again in 2003."

Without the strength to block the bill, Democrats tried to delay passage by giving lengthy speeches, peppering the map's author, Republican Sen. Todd Staples of Palestine, with questions and trying parliamentary maneuvers to postpone debate. Republicans, for the most part, sat quietly and listened.

Republicans, who rule the Texas House and Senate and occupy each statewide-elected office, say that the state should have more Republicans representing it in "Washington. Democrats have a 17-15 advantage in the Texas congressional delegation.

The map the Senate was debating was approved by the Senate Jurisprudence Committee last week. Republicans say that under it, the GOP could pick up between three and five seats.

Staples presented the GOP plan to the full Senate as a "fair and balanced" proposal that protects minority rights under the federal Voting Rights Act.

But Democrats were quick to criticize.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, told Staples that the

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Electrical problem causes brief evacuation

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

The Chemistry Building was evacuated Tuesday around noon due to an electrical disturbance in the basement of the building.

"Smoke was showing in the basement," said Donny Ramirez, a firefighter for the College Station Fire Department.

Fred Rapezyk, CSFD Battalion Chief, said that although there was smoke, there was no fire. "A compressor locked up, and the belt started burning," Rapezyk said. "That caused the smoke."

Sarah Swineford, a sophomore biology major, was looking for a classroom in the building when she smelled a strong smoky odor.

"I thought it was just someone smoking or an experiment, until it filled up the whole stairwell," Swineford said.

Les Swick, director of facilities

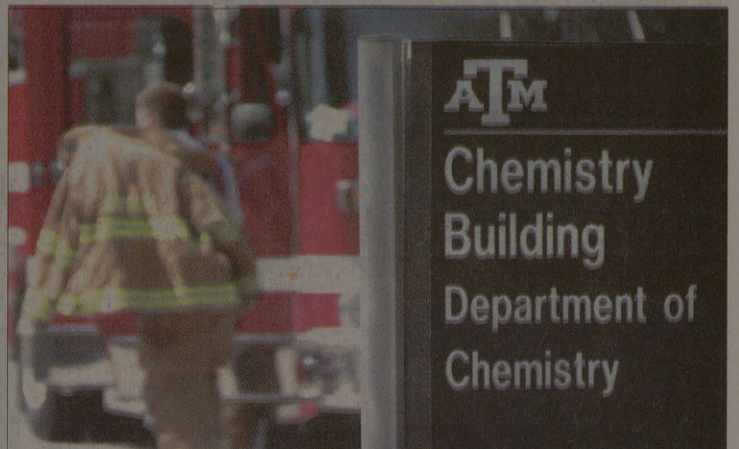
for the Physical Plant, said the air compressor is used to provide controlled air for experiments.

The malfunctioning compressor had improper belts installed on it, which slipped off of the motors and began to burn from the friction. This is what generated the smoke, but the circuit breaker activated and shut the compressor down before a fire could begin, Swick said.

The automatic fire alarm alerted police and firemen to the scene. Bryan and College Station emergency personnel were dispatched.

He said Bryan and College Station have a reciprocal program in place for this sort of situation. College Station units were responding to a structure fire at the time of the incident, so Bryan units were the first to arrive. College Station units arrived shortly afterward.

James Rainer, assistant financial manager for the department of Environmental Health and



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Firemen outside the Chemistry Building Tuesday prepare to check out the building's basement where smoke was reportedly seen.

Safety, said the Chemistry Building has an increased potential for fires and accidents because of the research and exposure to chemicals in the building.

However, Rainer said, the risk is no greater than any other building on campus, and that this occurrence was no cause for alarm.

"It was a non-event," Rainer said.

Mentorship focus of State of University address

By Justin Smith
THE BATTALION

Student Body President Matt Josefy will focus on mentorship, communication and student empowerment in his State of the University address today at 5:30 p.m. in the Stark Galleries.

"The State of the University address was started to give students, administration and faculty a chance to hear from the president where he can communicate future plans and current successes," Josefy said.

The No. 1 priority for student government this year will be to encourage mentorship across the University, Josefy said.

Josefy said he will be encouraging three types of mentoring. He said he will promote

mentoring between upperclassmen and freshmen, faculty and students, and matching former students with current students to attempt to build networks students can use when they graduate.

Josefy said he will address student empowerment through increased student participation in University affairs.

"We have placed dozens of students on different committees around the University to represent the students' interests," Josefy said.

Josefy also said he will stress the importance of communication. The idea is to inform students about what is going on around campus



JOSEFY

so students can form opinions and participate, Josefy said.

"The name of this is 'Aggie Matters,' and we are reaching out to the students in a variety of ways," he said.

Student government communicates with the students through e-mail, surveys and FAQ pages on its Web site.

Josefy said everyone is welcome at the address, and it will be a good chance for students to meet faculty and administration as well as A&M's student leadership. The Student Senate and judicial court will also be in attendance.

Kerri Ward, speaker pro tempore of the Student Senate and a sophomore marketing major, said she will be introducing student senators to the student body.