

# THE BATTALION

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## Southside Garage Task Force

Transportation Services Director Rodney Weis has enlisted the help of students in planning his proposal to eliminate reserved spaces in the Southside Garage.

- Weis has composed a 14-member task force of Southside Garage permit holders, people on the waiting list, red lot permit holders and commuter students.
- The garage currently serves about 900 students and 120 faculty and staff members.
- More than 500 people are on the waiting list for the garage.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

## TS forms Southside Garage task force

By Natalie Younts  
THE BATTALION

Transportation Services Director Rodney Weis is working with a 14-member task force that will recommend if and when reserved numbered spaces should be eliminated in the Southside Parking Garage.

"We tried to get a cross section of everybody who is currently using the garage or could use it if the policy changed," Weis said.

Weis said his proposed plan to eliminate reserved numbered spaces would allow for the accommodation of more people while still guaranteeing every person with a Southside Garage permit an open space.

Southside Student Senator Logan Renfrow, a member of the task force

and a Southside Garage permit holder, said he believes in Weis' guarantee.

"I think he can do that because he has the proven track record," Renfrow said. "What people don't realize is that people from around the nation were calling him at Georgia Tech and saying 'How can we have the same system at our University?'"

Weis said reserved numbered spaces are inefficient because they sit empty all the time. For example, he said, there were 460 empty spaces in the garage at kick-off time at the last home football game against the University of Kansas.

Currently, the Southside Garage is the only campus garage without visitor parking, but Weis said visitor parking could be implemented if reserved numbered spaces were eliminated.

Weis said the garage has about 900

students, 120 faculty and staff members and more than 500 people waiting for a garage spot.

The Southside Garage Task Force includes representatives for student garage permit holders, faculty and staff garage permit holders, people on the garage waiting list, people who park in red lots by Southside residence halls and commuter students.

Weis said the task force was assembled by picking groups of students who had expressed an interest and randomly picking people from the garage waiting list and from other lots.

"We just kept calling people until they said, 'Yeah, I'm interested, and I'd like to serve,'" Weis said.

Only five of the 14 task force members showed up to the first meeting. There will be a second meeting later this month.

Renfrow said he thinks the plan is a good idea and would alleviate many parking issues, although the Student Senate has not taken a position on the plan yet.

"I personally am waiting to see how other Southside residents react to it so that I can effectively represent them," Renfrow said.

Weis' proposed plan for the Southside Garage is part of the campuswide parking distribution plan for all garages and lots on campus: People would buy a permit for a certain garage or lot, not for a certain space.

"It's going to a place, not a space," he said.

Renfrow said effectively communicating the plan to students will be a major issue, since it is a detailed plan

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## A&M says Parsons' students were aware

By Kim Katopodis  
THE BATTALION

Testimony continued in the civil suit members of the Texas A&M Parsons Mounted Cavalry have brought against the University Monday, as attorney Ronald Hole attempted to discredit evidence compiled by the Department of Student Life in its finding that cavalry members violated hazing rules.

Members of the cavalry are suing A&M for violating their individual rights and denying them adequate access to both case files and witnesses in a hazing trial held by the Department of Student Life last spring.

Jacque Vargas, an A&M Department of Student Life conflict resolution specialist, continued her testimony regarding which acts constitute hazing and which rights were discussed with members of the cavalry in pre-trial hearings. Vargas said the students were informed of rules 24, 26 and 27, which include the student conduct code, student rights and sanctions.

Testimony from Laura Sosh-Lightsy, coordinator of Student Judicial and Mediation Services, followed. Hole questioned Sosh-Lightsy about the

evidence binder to which the cavalry students had access before their trials. The binder included descriptions of videotapes provided to Student Life by other cavalry members.

Hole alleged that the written descriptions of the videotapes may have been inaccurately interpreted. Sosh-Lightsy maintained they were accurate because she saw them. Hole then referred to Sosh-Lightsy and supervisor Michael Collins' notes on the pre-trial hearing of cavalry member Michael Garza.

Collins' notes said Garza felt what they had done was wrong, while Sosh-Lightsy's said Garza "didn't see it as wrong." Hole connected this to his assertion that the videotapes could have been interpreted differently by different people.

Hole also attacked the way in which the Department of Student Life determined which members of the cavalry violated hazing rules.

Sosh-Lightsy said that in the case of cavalry member Drake Prowse, they determined fault by combining information from several different sources. Prowse was the first student to testify in the trial and a member

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## Around we go



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

The Yoyo swing at the carnival off Highway 6 spins riders around Monday night. The carnival is run by Wrights Amusement Parks and usually lasts around three weeks. This is the last week for the fair in College Station area. Based out of Colorado, Wrights Amusement Parks tour Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

## Transfer students can earn admission through BIMS

By Nicole M. Jones  
THE BATTALION

Students from community colleges across Texas can now earn admission to Texas A&M under a new agreement initiated by the Department of Biomedical Science.

The 2+2 Articulation Agreement began for undergraduate transfer students so they would know what courses to take in preparation for entry to the biomedical science program, said F.H. Landis, director of the biomedical science program.

This agreement, which was first signed three years ago, has since involved eight Texas community colleges, Landis said.

The A&M biomedical science department will now admit up to 10 Odessa College students

each year who have taken a designated curriculum and have earned a minimum 3.6 grade point ratio, according to the Odessa American. The required curriculum is heavy on sciences — biology, chemistry and physics — and includes general education requirements. Students will start at the community college level, then enroll at A&M after two years.

Clayton Alred, the vice president for instruction at Odessa College, signed the official agreement on Oct. 24 at a luncheon at A&M. Students and college representatives from other community colleges already participating in the program were present.

Landis said these agreements will not affect other undergraduate students applying to A&M or the biomedical science department, as long as the students are competitive for admission to the University and the program.

## Transfer Student Agreement

A new agreement will grant select Odessa College students admittance into Texas A&M's biomedical science department.

- A&M will admit up to 10 Odessa College students each year.
- A designated curriculum and minimum 3.6 GPR will be required.
- Those eligible will enroll at A&M after two years.

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SOURCE: THE ODESSA AMERICAN

This program benefits community college students because they will not only save money by first attending a more affordable school, but will be taking classes that will transfer to A&M, said Steven Sofge, a biology professor at Odessa College who was key in initiating the agreement. The initiative clarifies the transfer expectations

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## 'CineStudent' offers movie discounts

By Jenna Jones  
THE BATTALION

Cinemark Theaters has teamed up with Texas A&M's Memorial Student Center Film Society this semester to offer students a new blockbuster film each month for a discount rate.

The program, named "CineStudent," sells tickets for \$3 each at the MSC Box Office in Rudder Tower for showings at Cinemark Theaters.

Michael Venner, a senior political science major and CineStudent chair, said the first two showings were completely sold out.

"The event is 100 percent for students and we usually have one CineStudent program a month: the first was 'Once Upon a Time in Mexico' in September and then 'Kill Bill: Volume I' in October," Venner said.

This month's showing is "Matrix Revolutions" on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Tickets will go on sale Nov. 13 at 11 a.m.

A student I.D. must be present for each ticket purchased.

"It's kind of like pulling a sports ticket with a sports pass," Venner said.

After the showings, a survey is issued to each student to vote for the next month's show from a list of 20 different movies coming out, starting the day leading up to the next program.

Becky Ivey, a junior history major and the film society's director of co-programming, said CineStudent is already expanding this month's viewing to the large 233-seat theater from a medium 160-seat theater at Cinemark Theaters.

"It's kind of like pulling a sports ticket with a sports pass."

— Michael Venner  
senior CineStudent chair

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## FBI agents testify in trial of Texas Tech professor

By Betsy Blaney  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK, Texas — An FBI agent testified Monday that at one point he feared a Texas Tech professor was growing plague bacteria like a farmer.

"We don't believe he brought back that much. My fear was he was growing it like a farmer grows hothouse tomatoes," FBI agent Miles Burden told jurors in the federal trial of Dr. Thomas Butler.

Butler faces 69 charges that he smuggled plague samples from Tanzania in April 2002 and illegally transported them in the United States and overseas. Other charges include lying to FBI agents about the missing vials, theft, embezzlement and fraud.

On Jan. 14, Butler reported the vials stolen to police. Within hours, scores of federal agents descended on the city and a frantic search for the vials ensued. President Bush was even briefed about the situation.

The search ended when Butler

gave FBI agents a written statement in which he admitted a "misjudgment" in not telling his supervisor that the vials had been "accidentally destroyed," according to testimony.

Burden said that another agent had spoken with Butler's wife. He said that agent told him that Elisabeth Butler said her husband was dissatisfied with the university and that he wasn't receiving the recognition that he deserved.

"He believed that the people at Texas Tech were trying to sabotage him," Burden said.

Butler, 62, had told agents that disgruntled employees, terrorists or the cleaning crew could have taken the missing vials.

Burden said that "the disgruntled employee might indeed be Butler."

When agents were interviewing Butler before he gave his statement, Butler was involved in a conference call in which he learned that the director of the FBI and the president would be notified of the missing vials.

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