

THE BATTALION

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Weis to present new parking plan

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Transportation Services Director Rodney Weis will present a new parking distribution plan to Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates Tuesday. The Student Senate endorsed the proposed plan at its Nov. 19 meeting.

"When Mr. Weis takes (the plan) to Dr. Gates, he has the student body behind him with it," said Jared Janacek, a student senator and freshman general studies major. "It reiterates to Dr. Gates that the students have gone over it and we've analyzed it and critiqued it and we're happy with what we're getting out of it."

The plan is to change how A&M's current parking resources are utilized. There are 34,000 parking spaces, including garages and lots, on campus. Weis said this is adequate, but people have difficulties finding parking because the spaces aren't allocated properly.

Weis' plan proposes that parking gates be

removed, reserved numbered spaces be eliminated or reduced and boundaries be redrawn.

"A lot of students are worried about losing their garage spots," Janacek said, "but I don't really foresee that being a problem because nobody will lose any spots, you just won't have an assigned spot."

In the new plan, people would request where they wanted to park. Faculty would get first pick, then staff, followed by graduate students, seniors and the rest of the student body.

If approved, the plan would be implemented in the fall of 2004. Students would pick their parking choices when registering for fall classes during the spring semester.

People would pick, in order, their top six choices: They could choose any of the garages and/or lots. If a person gets, his third choice, he would remain on the waiting lists for their first and second choices.

People could park anywhere in the lot or garage that their permit is valid in, and there

would be no free parking. Thirty-minute spaces, free event parking and University business permits would be eliminated or reduced.

Weis said there are currently 3,700 permits that allow faculty or staff members to park for free, including University business permits.

"The University permit allows you to come into the Koldus visitor area and park free," he said. "I don't agree with that. Because I'm a University employee and I'm consuming that service, I should have to pay for that as part of my departmental expense."

The number of permits sold for a lot or garage would exceed the number of spaces — a process known as overselling. Lots would be oversold under the direction of TS Associate Director Peter Lange, who Weis said is a nationally recognized oversell expert.

Lange said he is careful about overselling and takes many factors into consideration. First,

PROPOSED PARKING PLAN

TS Director Rodney Weis has proposed a parking plan that will redistribute the University's 34,000 parking spaces to more efficiently serve faculty, staff and students. The plan includes:

- removing parking gates and reserved numbered spaces
- letting faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students request parking locations on campus in order of seniority
- eliminating free parking and reducing 30-minute spaces, free event parking and University business permits
- overselling permits for designated lots and garages



WEIS

GRACIE ARENAS • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR RODNEY WEIS

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Here comes Santa Claus



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Santa, played by College Station resident Dwight McKenzie, advertising editor of The Eagle, waves during the 77th annual Holiday Parade held Sunday afternoon near Texas A&M. Santa's helpers

collected letters from children along the route. The Hollywood-themed parade had 109 entrants and traveled two miles down Texas Avenue in Bryan.

Regents approve new admissions policy

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

Standards for automatic admission into Texas A&M have been raised, allowing the University to consider a larger portion of prospective Aggies on a variety of factors starting in the fall of 2006.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents unanimously approved the new admissions policy for the University at its meeting Friday.

The plan, announced by University President Robert M. Gates at a forum Dec. 3, will not screen students by race or ethnicity, but is aimed at admitting a larger number of minority, low-income and first-generation college students.

The new policies are expected to increase the percentage of A&M's student body that is composed of minority students. Currently, minorities make up only 18 percent of the University's undergraduate population.

"Texas A&M will make new and significant efforts to encourage minority students to apply for admission to the University," Gates said at the Dec. 3 forum. "We want them to know of our interest in having them consider Texas A&M as the place to continue their education."

First-generation college students will also be eligible for a \$5,000

REGENTS' ACTIONS

The Texas A&M Board of Regents took the following actions at its meeting last Thursday and Friday:

Approved University President Robert M. Gates' proposed admissions requirements and policies

Approved a concept for the establishment of a Mexican American / Latino Research Center

Approved a new research division between the Texas Transportation Institute and the George Bush School of Government

Approved funding for the new Robert M. Gates chair in the Bush School

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TEXAS A&M BOARD OF REGENTS

annual scholarships, totaling \$20,000 over four years, if their household income is less than \$40,000.

Regents Chairman Lowry Mays praised the proposal, saying it is "an extremely strong initiative to increase diversity; a remarkable

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Bubba trades comfort for donations

By Joaquin Salcedo
THE BATTALION

While many of the big glass windows of various stores in the Post Oak Mall provide shoppers with an opportunity to take a closer look at what they would like to purchase, some windows will present shoppers with a chance to give.

William "Bubba" Fowler Moore Jr. has been living inside a glass house at the mall since Nov. 3 in an effort to collect \$150,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

The project, called "Bubba-tat for Humanity," is honoring Habitat for Humanity's 15th anniversary in Bryan-College Station. Moore, a local publishing house owner, said he decided

that after years of giving free advertising and publicity it was time to help in a more direct manner.

"I first presented the idea to the local Habitat board," Moore said. "When the Habitat International Office heard about it, they jumped on it. No one had ever done this before."

Habitat for Humanity was founded by Millard Fuller in 1976 and allows people without homes to purchase a home for their families at a reasonable cost.

Trish Burke, executive director of the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity, said the organization does not give away free houses but helps people buy their own homes.

"It takes 400 hours of sweat equity work on other people's houses and

proof that they can pay mortgage, taxes, insurance and still be able to provide for their families before they can qualify to receive a home," Burke said.

Moore has promised to remain in the glass house until he meets his goal of sponsoring five homes for "Bubba-tat." It costs \$60,000 to build a home, but only \$30,000 to sponsor one. Habitat for Humanity has agreed to pay for the rest of each of the homes that Moore gets sponsored.

Moore has raised \$42,000 and is expected to stay another three to four months — much longer than he had anticipated — if donations continue to come in at this rate.

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

W.F. "Bubba Moore" works on publishing his TV Facts magazine from inside his 16x20 ft. Plexiglass house in front of J.C. Penny in Post Oak Mall on Thursday. Moore, who has been locked inside since Nov. 3, hopes to raise \$150,000 for Habitat for Humanity by Christmas.

Institutions struggle to curb spread of computer spam

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

The U.S. Senate recently approved a law that will require the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to create a no-spam registry within six months, but Texas A&M officials are trying to respect students' rights while battling spam.

Under the law, spammers can be sued for up to \$2 million. Fines and jail time are also possible punishments for spammers who send deceptive or

pornographic spam.

Tom Putnam, director of A&M's Computing and Information Services (CIS), said many of the spammers move offshore to defeat the legislation. Putnam said CIS only combats spam by spamtagging, an identification program that allows users to specify what they consider to be spam.

CIS does not otherwise fight spam, Putnam said, because doing so could

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Bush Library hosts 'Holiday in the Rotunda'

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and members of the Bryan-College Station community can celebrate the holiday season at "Holiday in the Rotunda" at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

The festivities, sponsored for the past three years by TXU Communications, will be held in front of the 19-foot Christmas tree in the rotunda of the museum.

"Holiday in the Rotunda" began to inform the community of what the

Bush Library has to offer," said Sharon Merrell, programs coordinator at the Bush Library.

The museum's classroom has been transformed into Santa's workshop, where children will have the opportunity to create their own Christmas tree ornaments. A representative from the Storyteller's Guild will also be on hand to tell Texas Christmas stories to the children.

"We encourage parents to participate in the activities with their children," Merrell said.

"Holiday in the Rotunda" began last week and will continue through

Thursday, Dec. 11. While the program caters primarily to young people, there will be something for guests of all ages. Entertainment this

Tuesday will come from numerous groups from the Bryan-College Station area, including Canticle Bells from United Methodist Church, the Sanctuary Choir and Covenant Praise, third graders from Pebble Creek Elementary singing songs from "Christmas on Candy Lane" and the Brethren Church Choir.

Activities and entertainment are held from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.