



Weis explains proposed student parking plan

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Transportation Services Director Rodney Weis explained to students that residential priority parking areas will not be oversold initially, and other student parking areas will only be slightly oversold in an open presentation Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Rudder Theater.

The plan is currently being considered by administrators and will be implemented in the fall if approved.

Jennifer Richard, a junior engineering major, said she was skeptical about the plan at first, but that after attending the presentation, she felt posi-

tive about it.

"I just had this conception that they were out to get us," Richard said. "Now I feel like this is a really good idea."

Weis said many students have the conception that TS is working against them. He said much of the mistrust was formed during previous TS administrations.

"Students don't trust us," he said. "This is going to be a great opportunity to earn trust."

Weis said TS will earn students' trust by keeping its promises. Weis guaranteed that every student will find a spot in their assigned lot. He said that if there wasn't an available spot, it would be because people without valid

permits in that lot were parked there.

Weis said that if a student couldn't find a space in his lot, he should call Transportation Services. After calling, the student could park in an alternate lot and not receive a citation. TS officers would come check the situation and tow vehicles without valid permits in the area.

Jimmy Gatica, a sophomore engineering technology major, said he liked the plan.

"We have such a bad system right now, and it's time for change," he said. "We can only improve right now. It really can't get any worse."

Gatica said he liked that the plan was priority-based.

"If you've been here for a while, you've

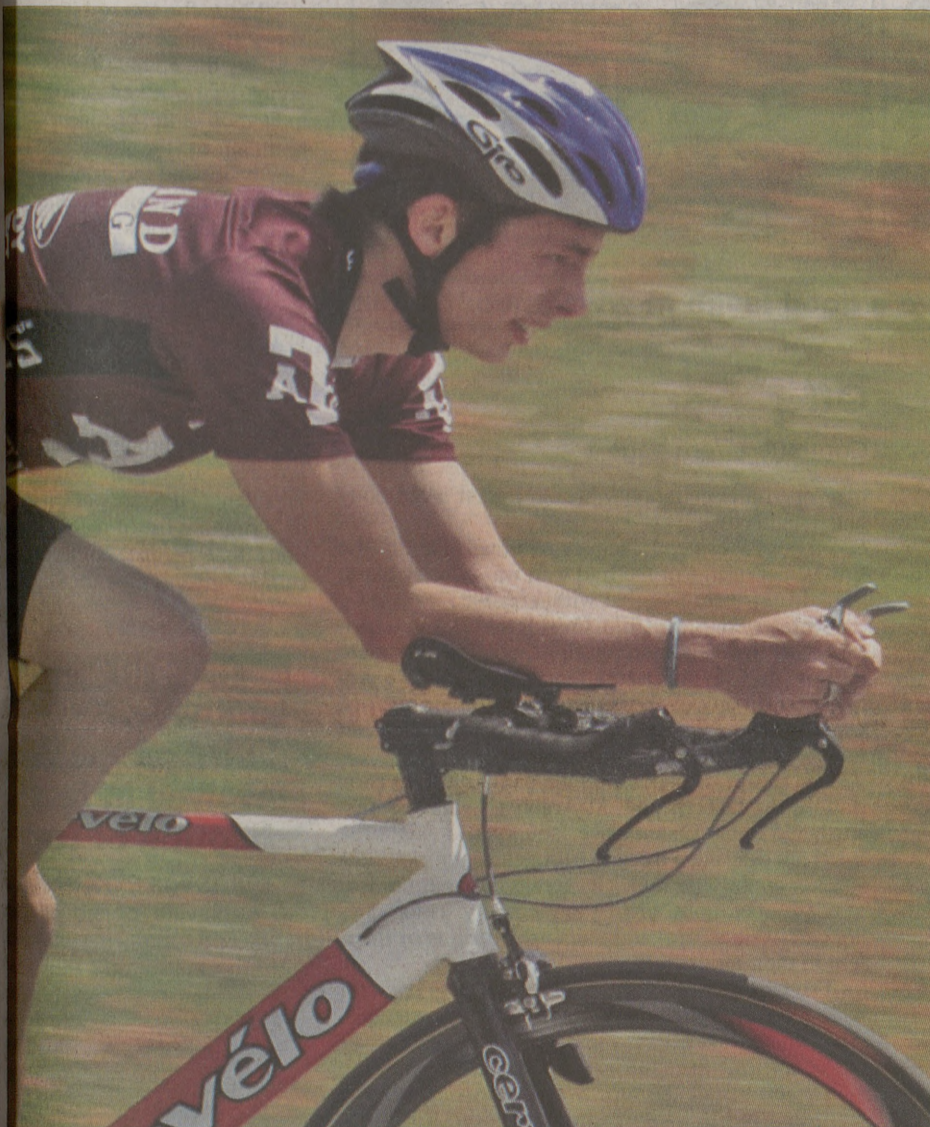
earned the right to park close," he said. "It's almost like waiting to get your Aggie Ring, waiting to get those 95 hours."

Gatica said one of his favorite features of the plan is the parking area that surrounds three-fourths of Reed Arena. The area will be named PA100, and any valid permit holder could park there any time.

Gatica said he rarely goes to the Student Recreation Center because he can't park there with his red permit, but that he could park there under the new plan.

Richard said she also liked the priority system. "It sucks if you're a freshman," she said, "but so does registration."

Going the distance



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Junior wildlife and fisheries science major Jason Ballard rides his bike on Turkey Creek Road Thursday afternoon. Ballard is a member of the

A&M triathlon team and is training for the national triathlon meet this summer.

Student runs for City Council

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION

When students decide to work while attending school, many consider waiting tables or working as a cashier, not rezoning and establishing ordinances.

Senior political science major Dustin Crawford has chosen an atypical student occupation as he is currently running for a seat on the College Station City Council.

"(The City Council) affects students' lives everyday," Crawford said.

Crawford said the main reason he is running for City Council is to have student representation on the council.

"Right now the lowest age on the city council is 32, and the average age of College Station residents is 21.9," Crawford said. "(The average resident) needed representation."

Crawford, 22, said there is an added benefit of having a student on the City Council.

"Basically, it gives (the City Council) the opportunity to see things from a student's perspective," Crawford said. "Instead of having to go ask a student a question they would have a student right there."

A native of Carthage, Texas, and member of Company F-2 in the Corps of Cadets, Crawford said he will not graduate until May 2005. Crawford said he will stay busy his last year in school, especially if he is elected to the City Council.

"I've juggled a job, the Corps and schoolwork so I'm used to staying busy," Crawford said.

Crawford's company commander, senior civil engineering major Dane Plumley, said Crawford's ability and willingness to learn what's going on in the community is commendable.

"He's not doing this just for kicks," Plumley said. "He devotes himself anywhere he has interest, and he seems to really be interested in this."

Crawford said increased traffic is his biggest concern with the city of College Station.

"Traffic is going to be a big thing in the future,

VOTE early

Early Voting
for City
Council
Elections:

April 28 to May 10

Election Day: May 15

Ballots can be cast at College
Station City Hall and Post Oak Mall

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: DUSTIN CRAWFORD, CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

and decisions need to be made as a whole," Crawford said. "We need to have a solution."

Crawford said he believes he has a good chance of winning if he gets students to go out and vote.

"About 4,000 people voted in the last city council elections," Crawford said. "If I can get 1,500 to 2,000 students to go out and vote then I can do pretty well."

Political science undergraduate adviser Gary Halter, former College Station mayor and city councilman, said students who have run for city government positions in the past have not done well.

"Getting student votes is not an easy thing to do," Halter said. "The only times students usually vote is for presidential elections."

Halter said another disadvantage for Crawford is that the elections are held after the end of the semester.

Crawford said the best way to get student votes is to emphasize and encourage early voting. This year's early voting is April 28 to May 10, and ballots can be cast at College Station City Hall and Post Oak Mall. Election day is May 15.

Commencement speakers scheduled for each college

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

Kate Marple is one of 5,300 students who will receive their bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees at 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, after four years at Texas A&M.

"I am excited and nervous about graduating," said Kate Marple, a senior communication major.

"It will be hard leaving behind what you are comfortable with, but at the same time anything is possible, and that is a neat feeling."

President Robert M. Gates announced that the four commencement speakers will be George J. Tenet, U.S. director of Central Intelligence; Vance D. Coffman, CEO and chairman of Lockheed Martin Corporation; former student body president and former Regent Fred McClure, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney; and Martha Loudder, A&M's Faculty Senate speaker.

Gates said Coffman will speak at 9 a.m. Friday, May 14 to students receiving degrees from the Dwight Look

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Graduation Speakers



Vance D. Coffman
CEO and Chairman
of Lockheed Martin
Corporation

Friday, May 14
9 a.m. ceremony



George J. Tenet
U.S. Director of
Central Intelligence

Friday, May 14
2 p.m. ceremony



Martha Loudder
Texas A&M
Faculty Senate
Speaker

Friday, May 14
7 p.m. ceremony



Fred McClure
Former Student
Body President
and former Regent

Saturday, May 15
9 a.m. ceremony

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: SHERAN RILEY, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT GATES

European nations reject truce offer from bin Laden

By Jill Lawless
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — Key European nations, including Iraq war opponents Germany and France, vigorously rejected a truce offer purportedly from Osama bin Laden on Thursday, saying there could be no negotiating with his al-Qaida terrorist network.

Many saw the audiotaped offer as an attempt to drive a wedge between the United States and its European allies, and one analyst said it might contain a message to militants to hold back on attacks against Europe.

The tape, which the CIA said is likely to an authentic recording of bin Laden, was broadcast on Arab TV stations offering "a truce ... to any country which does not carry out an onslaught against Muslims or interfere in their affairs."

In Italy, a nation shocked by the killing of an Italian civilian captured by militants in Iraq, Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said it was "unthinkable that we

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Safety dispatchers honored at safety week

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

At 2:40 p.m. on Nov. 5, 2001, a 911 call was received with a crying woman on the other end. Her 13-month-old baby had a seizure and was no longer breathing. Experienced telecommunications operator Morris Carillo instructed the woman, over the phone, to tilt the baby's head back, put one hand under her neck, check the airway and give two puffs of air. The next thing Carillo heard was the sound of a baby crying.

"As long as she's crying, that's good," Carillo said.

Though ambulance crews had been en route since the emergency call came in, Carillo stayed on the phone during the 11 minutes it took for EMS to get to the scene. The baby was fine.

This week, April 12-18, is National

Public Safety Telecommunications Week, honoring the men and women who serve as public safety dispatchers and help millions of people in need across the country.

"This week is meant to recognize the people who really are the first on the scene, and because they work behind the scenes, we want them to know that they're appreciated," said Zeta Fail,

communications manager for College Station Police-Fire Communications. These individuals help save count-

"We've delivered babies, administered CPR and stabilized trauma victims — all over the phone."

— Zeta Fail
communications manager
for CSPFC

less lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment and providing moral support to citizens everywhere, Fail said.

"We've delivered babies, administered CPR and stabilized trauma victims — all over the phone," Fail said.

Morris Carillo said the job has made him grow up faster than he thought he would.

"I started this job when I was 21 years old, and anyone who has worked in a police or emergency capacity can tell you that what goes on at work definitely affects you at home," Carillo

said. "You can't help but take home some

See Safety on page 2A