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THE BATTALION



Online: See results from last week's poll and vote for this week's poll at www.thebatt.com.

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Transportation Services initiates changes

Parking forum to address transit services changes

Permit registration available

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Transportation Services has initiated a process of change in transit, or bus, operations that will begin with gathering student input and will culminate with changes being implemented in spring 2005. TS will hold an open forum to be hearing student feedback Monday, said TS director Rodney Weis.

"I think we need to look at route efficiency issues," Weis said, "like, 'should we be doing this big loop or should we be running a direct route out somewhere and turn around and come right back in?'"

A transportation consultant company, S&R Beard from Houston, was hired to evaluate the bus routes, the amount of service the buses are providing and the student transportation fee, Weis said. The consultants and TS officials will begin

gathering student input at the open forum from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday in Koldus 110.

Weis said students will be asked, "In the ideal situation, what would transit be doing? What are we doing that you like?" and "What are we not doing that you'd like for us to do?"

Students can say they would like to see a route added somewhere or express any concerns, said Chris Diem, Student Government Association executive vice president and junior political science major.

"(For example), if they don't like the way that the Bush route is going, they think that it's too slow or there's too many stops, or whatever, they can say that," Diem said.

Weis said this is the first in a series of

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THE WHEELS ON THE BUS...

Transportation Services is holding an open forum Monday to hear student feedback on Transit Services operations.

WHEN: Monday, May 3
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Koldus 110



WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Student parking permit registration for the 2004 fall semester is now available on the Transportation Services Web site at transportonline.tamu.edu.

Students can enter the Web site using their NetID and password to request their top six preferred parking locations.

Registration will be open until July 16. Requests are granted based on the parking priority policy, not the order that requests are received, said Rodney Weis, TS director.

Summer permit sales will be available from the TS Web site, transport.tamu.edu, beginning May 10, said June Broughton, TS communications manager. Students will not be able to choose their parking lots for the summer, Broughton said.

Students will be able to order summer resident or commuter permits, which will be shipped within 48 hours. The summer parking system will be the same as the current parking system, she said.

Web permit registration opened Thursday. As of Friday, more than 6,000 students logged on to transportonline.tamu.edu, and 45 percent of those who logged on requested permits, Broughton said.

Students can also find frequently asked questions about the new parking plan and the 2004-05 parking map on the Web site.

Former press secretaries praised by Barbara Bush

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Noelia Rodriguez, and registered Democrat, never thought she would become the press secretary for first lady Laura Bush.

"I was the last person to have expected to get a call for this job from the Bush's," Rodriguez said. "I (was) just excited to meet the Bush's."

The press secretaries of five former first ladies and one serving under the current first lady agree that the position of first lady is one of leadership.

"First ladies work so hard, and they have had a tremendous impact on America," said Liz Carpenter, former press secretary for first lady Bird Johnson.

Carpenter, Rodriguez, Mary Hoyt, Sheila Tate, Anna Perez and Lisa Caputo, hosted by former first lady Barbara Bush, were featured at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex by The William Waldo Cameron Forum on Public Affairs Friday evening.

The forum was a part of the "Year of the Woman," presented by the Bush Library.

Barbara Bush began the evening by introducing the six women and explaining the importance of their job. Bush said the press secretary position under the first lady is a demanding and sometimes stressful job.

"(Press secretaries) are the smartest and quickest thinking women I have ever met," Bush said.

Hoyt, press secretary under former first lady Rosalynn Carter, said that not only did she see leadership in the president, she also saw it in the wives of the presidents, and in the first ladies' press secretaries.

"I found out what it took to be a great leader by looking at the wives of the presidents," Hoyt said. "I see leadership by these women up here who have refused to listen to criticism and opted to be themselves and stay themselves in order to do what it takes."

Tate, press secretary under former first lady Nancy Reagan, said she learned leadership from Reagan's example especially during the time Reagan had to take care of her husband, who is suffering from a chronic illness.

"Leadership is something learned by example. I've seen Nancy rise to any occasion, and her finest hour would have to be when she is taking care of her husband and dealing with his illness," Tate said. "This is a true display of courage."

Perez, press secretary under Barbara Bush, said she learned quickly to stay on Bush's good side. She said to keep her life simple, she was to

See Bush on page 2



Former first lady Barbara Bush meets with other former first ladies' press secretaries at the Annenburg Presidential Conference Center Friday evening. The press secretaries were featured at the William Waldo Cameron Forum on Public Affairs as part of the "Year of the Woman," presented by the George Bush Presidential Library.

Former ambassador celebrates 'Year of the Woman'

By Jeremy Osborne
THE BATTALION

There is no brighter point of light in Houston or the rest of the country than Hushang Ansery, said former President George H.W. Bush.

"I talk about (him) being one of the 'thousand points of light,'" Bush said.

Ansery cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibit, "Barbara Bush: An Extraordinary Journey," in the gallery that now bears his name

Friday evening. Ansery is a former Iranian ambassador to the United States and a trustee of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. He currently resides in Houston.

The "Year of the Woman" was celebrated at the dedication of the Ansery Gallery of American History in the Museum of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on Friday as well.

"We are proud to be a small part of this magnificent institution that represents an important chapter in the history of the greatest nation on

earth and a unique contribution of one of its greatest presidents and first ladies," Ansery said.

Bush said Ansery has given distinguished service to the United States and Iran.

"He (Ansery) loves his original country, Iran, which he serves so nobly, and now he is here and is a true-blue American who has done so much for everybody," Bush said.

The 3,000 square foot Ansery gallery features changing exhibits that range in topics from the Bush presidency to the American presidency and

to general American history.

The current exhibit features photographs, letters to friends and family members Barbara Bush collected while traveling and other memorabilia from her private collection, said Patricia Burchfield, Bush Library curator.

"We brought together all of these things, and seriously mined our own archives and artifact collections at the Bush Library to tell the story of her remarkable life as recounted in her book, 'Barbara Bush: A Memoir,'" Burchfield said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN WILLIS

Company E-2 freshmen arrive at the Texas A&M Animal Science Teaching, Research and Extension Complex after a seven-mile hike through rain and lightning starting

from their Corps dorms Saturday morning. Some 1,700 cadets participated in March to the Brazos, a fund-raising campaign for the Brazos Valley March of Dimes.

Corps members 'March to the Brazos' despite heavy rain, tornado warning

By Rachel Valencia
THE BATTALION

After a two-hour delay due to rain, the Corps of Cadets made the 14-mile trek to the Texas A&M Animal Science Teaching, Research and Extension Complex for the Corps' annual March to the Brazos Saturday.

Although the march was scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., inclement weather delayed the start of the march until 10 a.m. when the rain stopped momentarily.

Aided by University, Bryan and College Station Police Departments and volunteer emergency medics, the Corps made its way from the quadrangle through campus onto Highway 60 toward the animal science complex.

However, the weather didn't let up as a tornado warning stopped the march for about 15 minutes, but the cadets made their way to the complex where the rest of the day was filled with various physical activities, and a barbecue lunch was catered.

It was also the day where senior cadets passed down their positions to the junior class, which led the march back to campus while the seniors rode busses back, said Justin Woods, Corps public relations officer and a senior speech communication major.

Will McAdams, the 2003-04 Corps commander and a senior business administration major, said this year's march was a learning experience for the Corps on how to adapt to adverse conditions.

"We braved the elements against typhoon-like rain," McAdams said. "It was a learning experience, but a good experience as a whole."

Also included in the day's events were two speeches from Stephen Greenwade, Class of 1979, and Brian Hervey, Class of 1992 and a member of the Texas A&M Foundation, said Zach Greenwade, a junior industrial distribution major. Hervey spoke about the purpose behind the cadets' efforts in raising money for the March of Dimes, while Stephen Greenwade, who was a junior when the March to the Brazos was reinstated and combined with the March of Dimes in 1978, related the story to the cadets, Zach Greenwade said.

March of Dimes is a non-profit organization that puts money into researching and saving premature babies, babies with birth defects and those with low birth weight.

This year, the Corps of Cadets raised a total of a little more than \$115,000 for the March of Dimes, while Company E-1 raised the

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