



Transit Services hears bus route suggestions

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

The transportation consultant hired by Texas A&M to improve Transit Services said a balance needs to be created between supply and demand of bus service.

Mark McLaren, a partner in SR Beard & Associates, the consultant firm hired by A&M, said the amount of bus service provided should reflect the needs of different routes at different times of the day.

McLaren spoke to a crowd of bus riders, bus drivers, student leaders and apartment owners Monday night.

He told the audience he wanted their comments so that

he could begin formulating a transit plan.

Kimberley Cunningham, a senior community health major, said Transit Services should have more direct routes that don't drive in loops.

Cunningham said she likes the Bonfire and Yell Practice routes, but that she would like to see more direct and shorter routes, such as Wehner Express.

"I love Wehner Express," she said. "I can get there quick and easy."

McLaren said A&M is different because it operates like a small city. He said Transit Services currently has a good system, offers lots of services and serves many people who rely on those services.

McLaren said A&M Transit Services will be a challenge

because students are moving farther from campus as Bryan-College Station expands. He said connecting private shopping centers with private housing will be a goal.

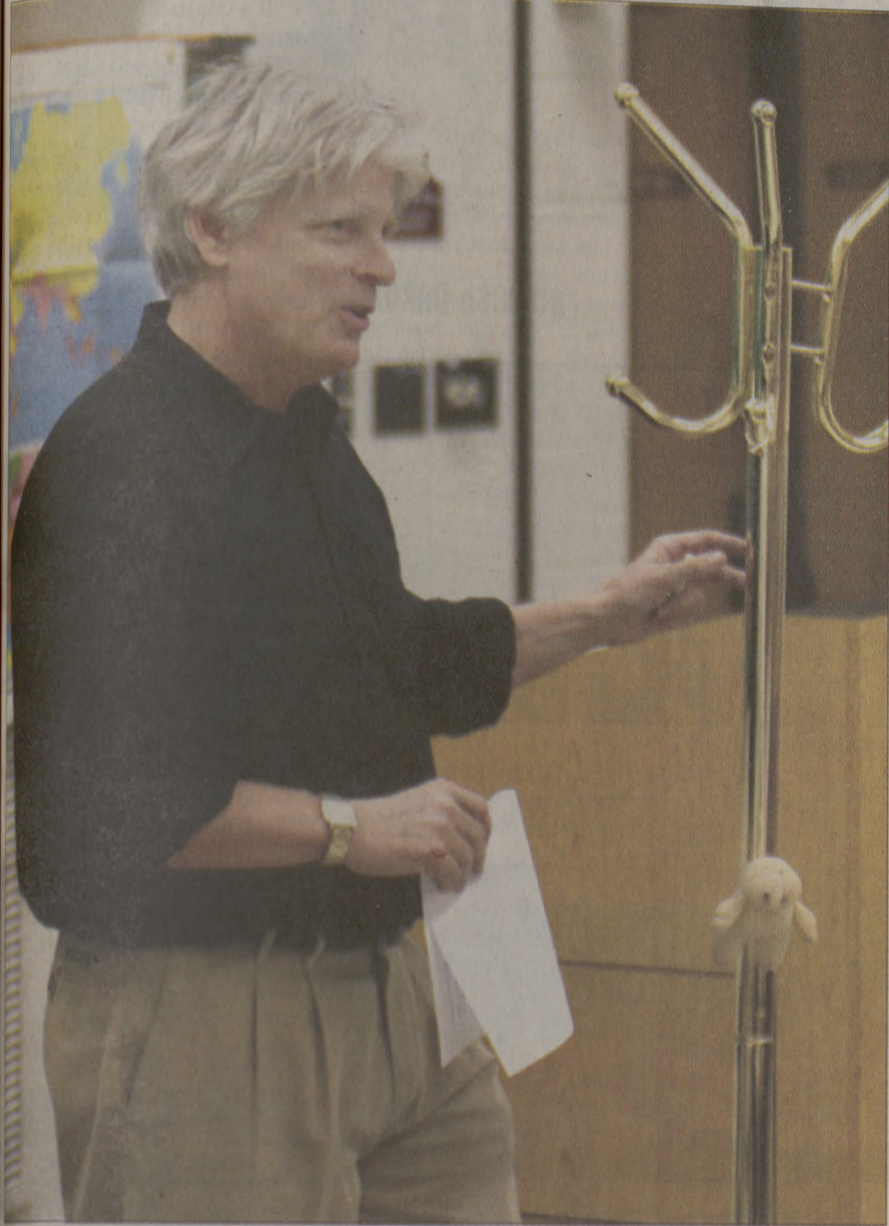
Mike Menchaca, a bus driver and senior agricultural development major, said traffic on Ross Street causes unacceptable delays for buses.

Menchaca said traffic on the street should be limited to University vehicles and delivery trucks between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

He said closing the street to traffic would make the bus routes easier and smoother.

Menchaca said the street has three main bus stops, which should make the travel time of the

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SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Associate Professor of History Robert Resch addresses his afternoon class after the Young Conservatives of Texas placed him on a

list of professors who students should not take. Resch brought what he calls his "shamey," a doll hung from a coat rack, to class Monday.

'Hall of Dishonor'

YCT names profs deemed biased in class

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M chapter of the Young Conservatives of Texas released a "Professor Hall of Dishonor" Friday containing the names of six A&M professors whom YCT deemed are biased in the classroom.

Matthew Maddox, chair of the YCT, said the names of Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Patrick Slattery, Robert Resch, Ernest Obadele-Starks, Linda Parrish and Vaughn Bryant were posted on the YCT Web site as examples of professors who indoctrinate students with their political bias.

"There has been rampant classroom bias in public and private universities for the last several decades," Maddox said. "We decided to have a 'Hall of Dishonor' at A&M because these incidents of bias in the classroom are widely known, and they continue to happen. These professors never had to answer to bias in the classroom."

Maddox said YCT borrowed the idea from the University of Texas YCT chapter that did the same thing last fall. Maddox said YCT decided on these six professors

because they are professors of students in YCT. He said the organization researched the professors and, in some cases, attended classes to get quotes from the professors.

"We have good evidence on these people that these are solid cases of bias," Maddox said.

Bonilla-Silva, a sociology professor, said that because YCT is infamous for its right-wing agenda, he is not surprised that YCT targeted progressive professors. Bonilla-Silva said YCT is fearful that these professors are becoming effective voices of opposition, and that YCT is using intimidation, defamation and racist e-mails to try to run these professors out of town.

"Know that we will not leave town because of you (YCT)," Bonilla-Silva said. "We believe that Texas A&M University, and the Aggies, need to be educated across the board and cannot just take courses with people who share their (YCT) views."

Bonilla-Silva said student evaluations in his classes have been high, and that a majority

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Sasser Worm



-The Sasser worm takes advantage of a flaw in the Microsoft operating system and then randomly looks at other network addresses.

- As a result, the worm creates network traffic making the network run slow.

- It is important to download and apply new security patches and virus protection software updates.

- On-campus residents who have been infected with the worm will be blocked from accessing the network so that it does not spread.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: TOM PUTNAM, DIRECTOR OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Sasser sneaks into Microsoft Windows operating systems

By Jibrán Namji
THE BATTALION

Computer users with Microsoft's Windows XP or Windows 2000 operating systems are the target of a new Internet worm that spreads from computer to computer without user intervention.

The worm, nicknamed Sasser, takes advantage of a flaw within the Microsoft operating systems, which was recently fixed by a patch issued by Microsoft Corporation.

However, due to the fact that many users do not consistently update their security patches and virus protection, many systems are still vulnerable, said Tom Putnam, director of Computing and Information Services.

"Once the worm gets into a machine, it starts randomly looking at other network addresses," Putnam said. "As a result, it creates a lot of network traffic, ultimately making the network really slow."

Sometimes the network becomes so slow that people think the network has gone down, Putnam said.

"This is not a local problem; it's spread all over the world," he said.

Putnam stressed the importance of updating security patches and virus protection software.

"Current Microsoft systems come with some-

thing called Microsoft update," Putnam said. "Every time you log in, it will go and check to see if there's an update. Run it, put it on automatic and when it says there's an update, install it immediately. It's as simple as that."

Putnam said this security update has been out for weeks, and that the worm is spreading only because people have not bothered to install it.

Michael Sconzo, the head security analyst for CIS, said students who live on campus and whose been infected with the worm will be blocked from accessing the network so the worm does not spread.

"It's just amazing how convenient it is to do something (on the Internet) and suddenly have it taken away from you," said Walter O'Bannon, a freshman mechanical engineering major whose computer was recently infected with the virus.

Sconzo said CIS recently installed what are called "magic boxes" in each residence hall and selected departments, which scan the networks for worm traffic. If a worm is detected, the boxes isolate the computers from which the worm originates and blocks them from accessing the network until the worm is removed.

A&M offers free anti-virus software for any A&M student and the software is available at Help Desk Central, or by calling 845-8300.

UT Watch drafts statement of possible illegalities by regents

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Members of the University of Texas Student Government Watch Group have issued a report stating that the UT System Board of Regents may have lobbied for tuition deregulation before it became an issue.

Tuition deregulation for public universities was a topic of discussion during the 78th session of the Texas Legislature.

UT Watch has drafted a report titled "Public Institution - Private Agenda: The University of Texas System's Campaign for Tuition Deregulation," which provides an outline of possible illegalities of the UT System lobbying for tuition deregulation prior to it becoming an issue of consideration.

"UT pushed for deregulation before it was considered by the Legislature and often lobbied in a blatant manner," said Nick Schwellenbach, a UT Watch member.

UT Watch uncovered most of its information through public records, which are open to public viewing under the Texas Open Records Act, Schwellenbach said.

Schwellenbach said the UT System was pushing a political agenda that was unpopu-

Under Watch

Members of the University of Texas Student Government Watch issued a report stating that the UT System Board of Regents lobbied tuition deregulation before it was supposed to.

The report states that UT System officials:

- Met with state legislators
- Made monetary contributions
- Lobbied illegally for tuition deregulation

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: NICK SCHWELLENBACH, UT WATCH MEMBER

lar with students. The system should benefit the students because the government is, by definition, the servant of the people, he said.

"There are laws that limit state agencies'

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Police detain 16 suspected of planning bomb attack on NATO summit in Turkey

By Suzan Fraser
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA, Turkey — Police foiled a suspected al-Qaida-linked plot to bomb a NATO summit in Istanbul next month that President Bush is scheduled to attend, and insisted Monday the city is safe.

Private CNN-Turk television said three of the suspects had been plotting a suicide attack on Bush and other Western leaders at the summit, but officials could not confirm the report.

Authorities detained 16 alleged members of Ansar al-Islam on Thursday in the northwestern province of Bursa, Gov. Oguz Kagan Koksals said. The suspects were also planning to attack a synagogue in Bursa and rob a bank to raise funds, Koksals said.

Prosecutors questioned them Monday and asked a court to press charges of membership in an illegal organization against nine of them, the Anatolia news agency reported. The other seven were released, and it was not clear if they could still face charges.

Nine others were questioned in Istanbul but also were released, officials said.

The crackdown on the group comes amid heightened security in the run-up to the June meeting of NATO alliance leaders, following a series of bombings in Istanbul in November.

More than 60 people were killed when suspected members of a Turkish al-Qaida cell bombed two synagogues, a London-based bank and the British Consulate. Turkish offi-

cial have charged 69 suspects in the bombings. Their trial starts later this month.

Istanbul, which will also host a European song contest this month and a meeting of foreign ministers from Islamic countries in June, is safe, said Gov. Muammer Guler.

"There is no question of a situation that will affect the (NATO) meeting," Guler said. "We have taken every precaution."

The Ansar al-Islam suspects appeared Monday in a court in Bursa, where they could face charges including membership in a terrorist group, possession of explosives, violating gun laws and holding fake identity documents. They were caught after yearlong police surveillance, Koksals said.