



Registrar's office moves off campus

By Luke Jackson
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University Office of the Registrar informed students via e-mail last Friday that it had moved to an off-campus location on Texas Avenue and that a shuttle bus will provide transportation to the office from campus.

The Office of the Registrar, formerly located in Heaton Hall, deals with student information, class schedules and transcripts.

As part of A&M's Faculty Reinvestment Plan, which aims to hire 447 new professors tenure or tenure track by the fall of 2008, the Office of the Registrar was moved off campus for the purpose of creating room.

"In order to make room for others on campus, we've moved off campus in order to make space," said Registrar Donald D. Carter. "For example, the College of Education's staff was given some of Heaton Hall after we moved out."

Transportation is an issue on many Aggies' minds concerning the new move.

"I'm not in favor. It's a hassle to move around on and off campus," said Megan Makarenko, a junior engineering technology major. "I don't think it's a big deal overall, (but it might be) for people doing things their first week of school," she said.

A shuttle bus labeled "Metro Centre" was assigned to take students to the new office.

"I don't think it will be too bad as long as my

friends without cars can catch the shuttle," said Travis Allen, a freshman meteorology major.

Students can catch the bus at the Asbury bus stop Monday through Friday every 30 minutes between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Internet accessibility played a role in student reaction to the news.

"If you can still handle a lot of school business online, then it shouldn't be a big problem," said counseling psychology graduate student, Karlen Moore. "Almost all registrar business can be handled through the University Web site."

Carter said the move caused some confusion initially in May, which was to be expected.

"Complaints have dropped off since then," Carter said.

Registration Relocation

The Office of the Registrar has now moved off campus to:

Metro Centre at
3833 S. Texas Ave

Web Site:
www.tamu.edu/registrar

Phone: (979) 845-1184

Metro Centre shuttle available
at the Asbury bus stop

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SOURCE: WWW.TAMU.EDU/REGISTRAR

Sexual assault reports increase, but still low

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

In the past two weeks, the College Station Police Department has released four reports of sexual assaults, the most recent of which occurred Monday and involved a 15-year-old girl.

A sexual assault is any sexual activity without consent and is a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, according to the College Station Police Department.

Reports of sexual assault started to increase during the summer months, but are now diminishing, said Melanie Scarpace, coordinator of volunteers for the Brazos County Rape Crisis.

"We have a noticeable increase in calls when students are back, but it could be just because we have more people in town," Scarpace said.

Sgt. Allan Baron of the University Police Department said there is no real trend in sexual assaults in the area because the number of assaults that are reported is still low, despite the recent increase.

"One trend is that 80 to 95 percent of rapes on college campuses are committed by someone the victim knows," Baron said.

Many groups statewide have come together to research sexual assaults and help those who are in need and want to talk.

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assaults (TAASA), along with the Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute and the Texas School of Social Work, conducted a statewide study and found that one in five women and one in 20 men have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

The numbers only include those assaults that were reported, but there are still many that are not, said Chris Lippincott, public affairs director for TAASA.

"The number one best safety tip that we tell people is to be aware of your surroundings. Trust your instincts, and go with your gut."

— Melanie Scarpace
Brazos County Rape Crisis
coordinator of volunteers

"Only about 18 percent have been reported to law enforcement," Lippincott said. "I think that it is difficult to say that there is an increase or decrease of the prevalence of violence in the state, but what I have seen anecdotally is that there is an increase in people talking about it."

There are various organizations that are available for victims to turn to including local rape crisis centers, support groups and others like TAASA.

"More and more people are interested in accessing services, and that is a real positive thing," Lippincott said. "Not all Texans, not even half, know there are services available to them."

Scarpace said there are many tips that can help someone avoid being sexually assaulted.

"The number one best safety tip that we tell people is to be aware of your surroundings," Scarpace said. "Trust your instincts, and go with your gut."

There is no one specific thing that can guarantee that a person won't be sexually assaulted, but people can help minimize

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EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Two dipterans, *plecia nearctica* commonly known as Love Bugs, mate on a crape myrtle in Bryan on Monday afternoon. The Love Bugs, which originated in Central America, spend five to seven months maturing and then emerge twice a year to mate.

Love Bugs swarm the Brazos Valley

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

Over the last week, Brazos Valley residents have been forced to share their home with a new invader: The double-headed insect *Plecia nearctica*, also known as the Love Bug or March Fly, which has settled in the area for mating season.

The term "Love Bug" is a misnomer, said Roger E. Gold of Texas A&M's center for urban and structural entomology. The insects are actually made up of two animals that are classified in the same order, Diptera, as the common housefly.

Each Love Bug unit is made up of a male mating with a larger female. Adult bugs only have an adult stage of a few hours, Gold said.

The young Love Bugs favor

wet climates such as roadside ditches where they feed on detritus, or decaying plant matter.

Gold said the swarm is made up of more than one generation of the creatures.

"We happen to be having a banner year for these things," Gold said. "Since it was such a wet summer, it's been absolutely horrendous."

Gold said that although they are a nuisance, the bugs are an integral part of the food chain.

"They're very innocuous," Gold said. "But if you don't scrape them off your truck, they have a chemical in them that will eat through your paint."

Gold said there is not an effective method of controlling the bugs.

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The 11th Plague



Love Bugs
(*Plecia Nearctica*)

- Attracted to exhaust fumes, heat and vibration
- Mating swarms last 4 weeks
- Can infiltrate engines and cause overheating
- No effective way to control them

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SOURCE: UNIV. OF FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Republicans assail Kerry on convention's opening day

By David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Republicans belittled Democratic Sen. John Kerry as a shift-in-the-wind campaigner unworthy of the White House on Monday, opening their national convention four miles from Ground Zero of America's worst terrorist attack. "We need George Bush more than ever," said former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

"We need a leader with the experience to make the tough decisions and the resolve to stick with them," agreed Sen. John McCain of Arizona. He called the invasion of Iraq "necessary, achievable and noble."

The president, locked in a tight race for re-election, campaigned in New Hampshire and Michigan. But he triggered an instant campaign stir that muddled the convention's

carefully scripted message when he told an interviewer he doubted victory is possible in the war on terror.

"I don't think you can win it. But I think you can create the conditions that those who use terror as a tool are less acceptable in parts of the world," Bush said on NBC. Kerry responded that the struggle was "absolutely" winnable and Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards said Bush's remark amounted to a concession of defeat in the war that terrorists launched in 2001.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan hastened to clarify the president's remarks, saying Bush meant the war was not a conventional one, and neither would be its ending.

There was no misunderstanding Giuliani's meaning as the former mayor recalled the

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Task force investigations suspended by DA Turner

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates released a statement Monday night stating that the Presidential Task Force, which has the duty of investigating maintenance and safety procedures at the University Apartments where a fire occurred on July 31, will suspend its investigations at the request of Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner.

Turner contacted the A&M University System Office of General Counsel on Aug. 26 to request that all documents relating to the University Apartments not be released, pending the completion of a criminal investigation by the District Attorney's office.

Gates said the task force would commence and complete its review within 30 days of clearance from Turner.

Neither Gates nor Turner could be reached for comment.

"The University will comply with Mr. Turner's request," Gates said. "When I am informed by the District Attorney that we may proceed, it is still my intention that the task force commence and complete its review within 30 days."

Campus master plan wins design awards

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's campus master plan, which was drafted last spring, has recently won two awards for design excellence. The plan, which was approved by the Board of Regents in July, provides guidelines and a layout for how the 5,200-acre campus will be developed over the next 50 years.

The plan won the Campus Planning Award from the Boston Society of Architects and a 2004 design award from the Texas Society of Architects.

Carl Gromatzky, the principal for Barnes, Trovatzky, Kosarek Architect and a key consultant who worked on the campus master plan, said the A&M plan was one of 11 winners selected from a

pool of nearly 300 entries for the design award, and that it is rare for a master plan to win this award.

"It's not a small achievement," Gromatzky said. "I think it validates the plan, as people from architectural communities saw that it had value."

Gromatzky said the plan has also been chosen for presentation to the Society of University and Planning on Oct. 25. Gromatzky said this presentation will allow other universities to view and study A&M's plan as an example of a ground-breaking master plan.

Mary Miller, the associate vice president of administration and the chair for the campus master plan steering committee, said the recognition is exciting and unprecedented. Miller said the plan, which took three years to develop, was probably awarded because it is so extensive.

"It is so comprehensive and because it looks so far into the future, it's a much more complete plan than you would expect from a university," Miller said.

The plan, which caused some controversy when it was released in the spring 2004 semester, includes four components: It is a long-range plan with ideas for the next 50 years, it outlines what buildings should look like, it features a landscaping plan for open spaces and it details the process for how to develop the campus for the future.

Miller said the plan is the physical representation of Vision 20/20, and the theme of the plan is connectivity. Miller said the University will use this master plan to connect West Campus and Main Campus into one.

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