

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Tuesday, September 28, 2004

PAGE BY JULIE BONE

Yeeeeeahh ... if you could get me that TS report

In light of recent rocky TS-Aggie relations, Weis says students need understanding

By Jimmy Hissong
THE BATTALION

A lone figure trudges mile after mile, bombarded with the rays of an unrelenting sun. As her boots well on smoldering asphalt, she pauses to quench the thirst with a swift sip from a hipside water bottle. Armed only with a badge, a citation printer and a duty to uphold regulation, the Transportation Services employee pauses to acknowledge her surroundings. The jeers from a crew of boisterous individuals are a verbal reminder that her tale is a long way from the pages of a misunderstood Western desperado.

"Every one of us has experienced some sort of negative attitude from a student," said a parking attendant for TS who wished to remain unidentified. "We're just out here trying to do a job. We aren't out to get anyone."

With the issuance of nearly 30,000 citations annually in previous years, Texas A&M TS is a visible entity on campus. TS does not keep a record of the number of complaints it receives, but the Mail Call section of The Battalion was flooded with parking-related submissions from unsatisfied students the first weeks of the fall semester. But some man thinks there are better days ahead.

"Negative opinions regarding TS and this year's new parking plan carried by students could be attributed to a lack of understanding," said Rod Weis, director for TS.

While TS employees may believe that in the past two years they have shed the old Parking, Transit and Transportation Services image immortalized in yellow block letters on navy blue shirts, the recent instatement of a number of new parking policies and bus route alterations has put them back in the limelight.

"I don't really see what was wrong with the old system," said Austin Sheen, a junior finance major, during his daily walk from Sbis dining hall to his car at Reed Arena.

Sheen said that even though a number of routes run from near Sbis to Reed Arena, by the time he waits for a bus, it's much quicker for him to walk.

Aided by familiarity with an old and arguably outdated parking system, Sheen joined the ranks of students questioning TS' motives for the new system.



ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ - THE BATTALION



EVAN O'CONNELL - THE BATTALION

Left: Director of TS Rod Weis answered questions at a parking forum in early September on campus. Above: Empty spaces are a rare find in PA 100, around Reed Arena,

which serves as an overflow lot for any permit holder. "It's important for the customers of (TS) to understand the challenges we face," Weis said in a recent interview.

Even those who inhabit the gray area between TS employment and student classification have questioned some of the aspects of the new parking plan. A TS student worker who wished to remain unidentified was skeptical of Weis' plan at first.

"For the first two weeks of school, I couldn't park anywhere near Bus Ops, even though I worked there," she said.

In Fall 1999, students at the Georgia Institute of Technology approached their director of parking services, Weis, with similar questions and complaints. Parking fees and citation fines had risen to reflect increased debt resulting from the construction of parking decks and maintenance costs to preserve those facilities. Unaware of the necessity for the increase, annoyed students addressed Weis with inflated tuition statements, said Allen Corry, associate director of parking for Georgia Tech.

"Once new parking procedures and policies were understood and explained to the community, the changes that were implemented were well received," Corry said.

A&M's previous campus parking plan, in which students and faculty had the option to park in any of several open lots, was essentially scrapped when the new plan took effect this fall. After identifying parking preferences over the Internet, students and faculty were issued permits indicating a specific designated parking lot. A single lot, PA 100 (near Reed Arena) now serves students and faculty as an optional overflow region when their designated lot is full.

Complaints regarding the parking plan and bus services have not fallen on deaf ears.

"Many of the comments and complaints we received at Georgia Tech are the same that we are receiving here," Weis said. "We are out there count-

ing and gathering data four to five times a day."

Since classes began this semester, TS has made steps to modify its parking plan to accommodate more students and faculty. Twice, students on the waiting list have been given the opportunity to trade their parking permit for a more preferable one.

"We moved 2,200 students (to their desired lots) a week earlier than anticipated," Weis said.

Weis said he and TS intend to continue developing the parking plan throughout the semester.

"This is an incremental plan," he said. "Physicists have been working on that time and space thing, but we still can't blast any lot with 3,000 extra cars."

As TS continues to reshape parking at A&M with its plan, the woes of at least one student has been alleviated.

"After a little while, some changes were made,"

See Plan on page 4

Join these Aggies in DALLAS!



Here are just a few of the 157 Texas A&M University alumni currently studying at Dallas Seminary.

"We've had a blast while becoming better equipped for ministry."



DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TRAINING you can trust... LEADERS you can follow

toll-free 866-DTS-WORD
www.dts.edu

Dr. Stephen Braden
Dr. Steven Higginbotham
Dr. David Demien
Dr. Anna Damann
Dr. Ken Hillner

Our Family Wants To Meet Your Family!

BRAZOS PHYSICIANS GROUP
Family Centered Care For All Ages

Dr. Chris Imperial
Lucy Young, R.N., C.S., N.P.C.
Dr. George Molhaney

2210 29th Street in Bryan • 821-6300 1512 Holleman in College Station • 693-3313

Now Delivering Until 3AM!

601 University (Northgate)
846-3600
Open until 3 AM!

Gig 'em!

Proud Sponsor Of
Texas A&M Athletics and
The 12th Man Rewards Program!

Look for us at your favorite Sporting events!

<p>1100 Harvey Rd. 764-7272 Lobby Open until 10 PM</p> <p>1740 Rock Prairie 680-0508 Lobby Open until 10 PM</p>	<p>Order Online! www.papajohns.com</p> <p>PARTY PACK 4 Large 1 Topping Pizza's ONLY \$27.99</p>	<p>MONDAY MADNESS CONTINUES ON! 1 Large 1 Topping Pizza! ONLY \$5.99 Monday Only! Pick-Up Only</p> <p>Late Night Special! 1 Large 1 Topping Only \$ 6.99 Pick-up or Delivery 10PM - Midnight</p> <p>Northgate Lunch Special! Any Slice and A Drink! Only \$2.99 Add an Additional Slice Only \$1.50</p>
---	--	---

\$1 WELLS

\$1 MARGARITAS

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

MONDAY... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, \$1 OFF ALL BEERS, \$2 OFF ALL SHAKERS., \$2 QUESO, QUARTER WINGS

TUESDAY... LADIES NIGHT, LADIES 1/2 OFF ANY ENTRÉE, \$2 TUACARITAS, LIVE MUSIC WITH CHAD BOYD

WEDNESDAY... KARAOKE, \$5 NACHOS, \$5 CHEESE ENCHILADAS, \$2.00 IMPORTS

THURSDAY... GUYS NIGHT OUT, GUYS \$4 LOOSE BURGERS, \$1.50 LONGNECKS, LIVE MUSIC WITH J GOODIN & COMPANY

FRIDAY... MARGARITA MADNESS, \$2 ROCKS RITAS, \$6 SHAKERS, \$10 PITCHERS

SATURDAY... COLLEGE GAME DAY, \$3 BBQ CHIC OR PORK TACOS, \$3 LONG DOGS, \$1.50 DOMESTICS

SUNDAY... NFL GAME DAY, \$1 OFF ALL BEERS, \$2 OFF ALL SHAKERS, \$2 QUESO, \$5 PIZZAS

"HOME OF THE \$1 DRINKS"
979-680-0600