AGGIELIFE

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

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

By Jimmy Hissong

E BATTAI

Alone figure trudges mile after mile, bombarded ith the rays of an unrelenting sun. As her boots well on smoldering asphalt, she pauses to quench he thirst with a swift sip from a hipside water tle. Armed only with a badge, a citation printer nd a duty to uphold regulation, the Transportaon Services employee pauses to acknowledge her oundings. The jeers from a crew of boisterous dividuals are a verbal reminder that her tale is a ng way from the pages of a misunderstood West-

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

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

"Negative opinions regarding TS and this year" ew parking plan carried by students could be atributed to a lack of understanding," said Rod Weis,

While TS employees may believe that in the ast two years they have shed the old Parking, ransit and Transportation Services image immorlized in yellow block letters on navy blue shirts, e recent instatement of a number of new parkg policies and bus route alterations has put them

"Idon't really see what was wrong with the old em," said Austin Sheen, a junior finance major, uring his daily walk from Sbisa dining hall to his

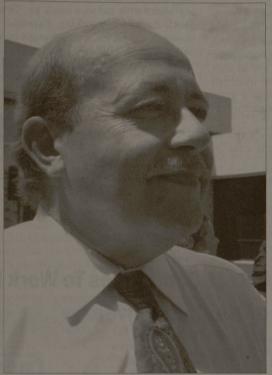
from near Sbisa to Reed Arena, by the time he hits for a bus, it's much quicker for him to walk. Aided by familiarity with an old and arguably outdated parking system, Sheen joined the ranks of students questioning TS' motives for

nat will sta ational con "he said.

pying

igns

Grill



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 Weis, with similar questions and comreflect 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.



parking forum in early September on campus. Above: Empty spaces are a rare find in PA 100, around Reed Arena,

"It's important for the customers of (TS) to understand the challenges we face," Weis said in a recent interview.

"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 counting 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)

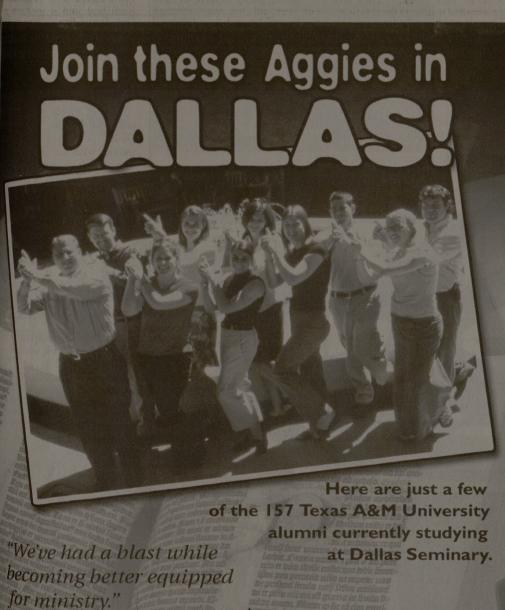
a week earlier than anticipated," Weis said. Weis said he and TS intend to continue developing the parking plan throughout the semester.

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

After a little while, some changes were made,"

See Plan on page 4



THEOLOGICAL

SEMINARY

LEADERS you can follow

toll-free 866-DTS-WORD

www.dts.edu

TRAINING you can trust...





Now Delivering Until 3AM!

601 University (Northgate) 846-3600

1100 Harvey Rd.

764-7272 Lobby Open until 10 PM 1740 Rock Prairie 680-0508

Order Online! www.papajohns.com

PARTY PACK 4 Large 1 Topping Pizza's **ONLY \$27.99**

Look for us at your favorite Sporting events!

MONDAY MADNESS CONTINUES ON! 1 Large 1 Topping Pizza! **ONLY \$5.99**

Monday Only! Pick-Up Only

Late Night Special! 1 Large 1 Topping

Northgate Lunch Special! Any Slice and A Drink! Only \$2.99 Add an Additional Slice Only \$1.50

\$1 WELLS MARGARITAS

Only \$ 6.99

Pick-up or Delivery

10PM - Midnight

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

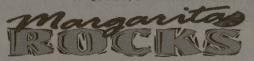
MONDAY... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, \$1 OFF ALL BEERS, \$2 OFF ALL SHAKERS,, \$2 QUESO, QUARTER WINGS TUESDAY...LADIES NIGHT, LADIES ½ OFF ANY ENTRÉE, \$2 TUACARITAS, LIVE MUSIC WITH CHAD BOYD

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

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

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



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