

'Safety-oriented'

Transit system begins in February

by nancy holten
contributing reporter

The projected birthdate of the Women's Transit System (WTS) is Feb. 13, according to Mary Wyer, outreach coordinator of the Women's Center.

Wyer describes the WTS as a safety-oriented program, "offering free late night transportation for university women."

It is meant to increase mobility and decrease fear, according to Wyer.

"WTS is not a taxi service," she said. "It is for women who would otherwise have to choose between staying home or walking alone."

WTS is patterned after two successful models—a transit system at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, in use since 1973, and a system at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in use since 1974.

The first four-week stage will have WTS making stops and pick-ups only on the immediate campus.

The second four-week stage will expand to

include off-campus university housing. The third stage will include other Pullman areas in the route.

Following each four-week stage the program will be evaluated by the Women's Transit Committee. This committee will be composed of the program's volunteers.

"We want the people who are involved in the program to run the program," Wyer said.

"If the demand for service keeps increasing, we will try and meet the need. The program will consist of volunteers and will run seven days a week from 8 p.m. until midnight," Wyer said.

The WTS office will be located in the campus police office.

Arthur Holtorf, director of the Campus Police Safety Division, said the campus police will provide a vehicle for WTS use. The tab will be picked up by the department, Wyer noted.

Volunteers are needed to fill the driver and dispatcher positions. The drivers must be students, staff or faculty members for insurance purposes and will drive two hour shifts.

These volunteers will be submitted to a training program in coordination with the campus police.

Wyer stated the volunteers will be trained in the proper use of CB radios and a defensive driving course will be required for the drivers.

The volunteers will also be sensitized as to how to react in crisis situations, Wyer said.

An overall coordinator is also being sought to develop specific guidelines for the program. The Women's Center is currently seeking university credit for the work done by this administrator.

The route used in the first four-week stage will be a circle originating at the CUB and ending at Stephenson.

The WTS vehicles will follow the route from the CUB to Streit-Perham, on to the Science Library and then on to Stephenson.

This route will run the first 15 minutes of each hour, Wyer said.

"We will begin small and grow as our demand grows," Wyer said.

Strike official midnight Tuesday

The long-threatened farmers' strike officially was underway as of midnight Tuesday.

The strike, staged by farmers nationwide, is an attempt, according to Congressmen who appeared here last weekend, to focus national attention on the plight of the farmers as the result of low prices for food products they grow.

In support of the strike, several things happened nationwide. First, at midnight, 50 tractors, driven by farmers supporting the farmers' strike, drove past the White House in Washington, D.C.

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Farm issues breed political ramifications

The debate on the nationwide farm strike, supported by area farmers, has led to an early kickoff to the 1978 5th District Congressional race.

Congressman Thomas Foley's (D-Wash.) "ultra liberal voting record" and the discontent among farmers will probably be the major issues in the race, according to Jack Hern, Spokane County Republican Central Committee chairman.

Hern said Foley represents the New York City population and the Eastern states with his liberal stands on homosexuality, abortion and failure to stop the "ever-increasing federal budget deficits."

Hern added, "Foley is definitely not supporting his district well," concerning the plight of the area wheat farmers.

Consequently, two candidates are being mentioned as Republican challengers, Duane Alton, a Spokane tire dealer and Sen. Bob Lewis, as yet an unannounced candidate.

Steve Robinson, staff assistant in Foley's Spokane office, concurred with Hern on the farm problem.

He said it is hard to predict what the issues will be, but certainly American agriculture and

its changing role in American society will be an issue.

Robinson said of Foley's voting record, "The notion of Congressman Foley being 'ultra liberal' is an exaggeration of the facts."

He said an examination of Foley's voting record shows a fairly strong labor legislation record, but it is mostly middle-of-the-road. He added, "He tends more toward compromise rather than conservative or liberal voting."

Frank Mullen, Whitman County Democratic Central Committee chairman, said Foley is articulate and intelligent. He said if a large number of students vote here (in the 5th Congressional District) he should do well.

Mullen also agreed that the agricultural policies will be an issue next year. He said, "If prices (of farm commodities) go up, he'll do better."

He commented when farmers are not doing well, business-wise, they tend to vote against the party in power, regardless of whose fault it is.

Hern concluded that, "The Republican Party in the 5th Congressional District has pulled together and we will be going on to victory in 1978."

Assembly approves bookstore expansion

The ASWSU Assembly voted 14-3 last night to approve a proposal from the Students Book Corporation Board of Directors to expand floorspace in the Bookie by 16,000 square feet.

The proposal was passed after the defeat of a motion to delay until after the Board of Regents approves Services and Activities (S & A) fee increases. If the motion to delay had been passed, expansion approval might have been delayed by several months. Bookie manager David Cooper has previously stated that each month of delay in construction will cost \$10,000 due to rising construction costs.

The approval of the proposal was regarded as one of the most important items on last night's long agenda. Bookie board members in attendance appeared pleased by the approval.

Other business at last night's meeting included a report by the Pullman Chamber of Commerce on their general activities in the community. Bob Smawley, director of the Pullman Chamber, stated that after discussions between the Chamber and Cooper, the Chamber is "not opposed" to Bookie expansion, noting that there are several benefits possible to the community, such as increased sales and increased competition.

Cyril Matthews, chairperson of the Performing Arts Committee, reported on negotiations between his committee and Jim

Crow of the Performing Arts Coliseum regarding a new agreement on coliseum use. He noted that the committee and the coliseum currently split concert profits evenly, and that this, combined with lack of rent from the committee and university athletics does not allow the coliseum to make much money needed for improvement. A new agreement would allow the committee-coliseum relationship to be one of renter rather than of partners.

The Radio Broadcast Committee was appropriated \$2,495 from contingency funds earmarked for it to purchase equipment during Christmas Break. Bill Stewart, committee chairperson, said that several Seattle companies had given low bids on needed equipment and it would be cheaper to pick the equipment up over break than have it delivered. Stewart also mentioned that the committee tentatively has a room reserved for its use on third floor of the CUB and will probably start cable broadcast at the start of next semester.

Joisan Bray, assemblyperson from Regents Hill, stated the four women in her dormitory have been raped this semester, two in the last two weeks, but the information has not been released by university police. Bray felt the police were not fulfilling their duty by withholding information on the rapes.

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