

Tiger Patrol shuttle bus finally a reality

by Eugenia Bayada

The idea for the Tiger Patrol Shuttle Bus came about when Executive Vice President Tiffany Jay was visiting a friend at the University of Waterloo. Whilst waiting in the university's parking lot, she observed a van which was part of a "home safety" program...

The Tiger Patrol Shuttle Bus idea was used as part of Tiffany Jay's pre-election campaign. Now, a few short months later, that promise has become a reality, despite the initial "it's not going to work" reaction faced by Jay.

The object of this program is to supplement the existing Tiger Patrol — that is, to assist in getting the students safely off campus in the evenings. The Shuttle Bus will run a set route along major route-ways used by students.

The Shuttle Bus is basically modelled on the aforementioned van. Advantages of this is that problems faced by the University of Waterloo could be ironed out before they occurred, such as those concerning maintenance and lease.

The van was donated to the DSU by Halifax Chrysler Dodge, whose president, Robert Lundrigan, expressed a personal interest in this service for the community. The benefits of lease as opposed to purchase include the maintenance of the van, which will be taken care of by Halifax

Chrysler.

Ideally, students won't pay any amount of the costs, as funding of the van and program relies solely on sponsorship. If worse came to worst, students could be required to pay a small fee towards the costs and a levy may be considered in the future.

The hours of the van will be solid and will centre around academic hours — after all, academics are why students are here. These times can not be extended to accommodate the hours of the Grawood. In an effort to get people to be more responsible, students should take the responsibility of getting home safely for social purposes into their own hands.

Although there is no charge to use the Shuttle Bus, students will be required to show their university ID in order to board it. People will be refused onto the bus under certain circumstances, and there are definite policies regarding intoxicated students and other difficult situations, each of which would be dealt with case by case.

Disadvantages of the Shuttle Bus include the fact that it is not equipped to take wheelchairs. The only option available right now is to use an existing taxi service. This matter must be dealt with separately and is an area of concern which is being looked into more closely.

In addition to the usual training undergone by the Tiger Patrol foot



PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

patrols, potential drivers of the van took part in a two-day training session. This required them to take both a written and a road test, application for a Class 4 (chauffeur's) license and a medical examination.

The van will follow a particular route in the north and south areas of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The service will undergo several evaluations to continuously meet the needs of students at Dalhousie.

As the van is under lease, the Shuttle Bus will definitely be operating for the next year. Getting a lease for successive years depends on the success of the program, and other vehicle companies have al-

ready expressed an interest in this.

Not enough students using the van does not necessarily mean that the service will be discontinued. After all, how does one define "enough" students? As the Tiger Patrol says, "one walk is better than no walk"; getting at least one person home safely is a sign of success.

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