

Change to RTS service debated

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This year the Student Government Association (SGA) replaced the student shuttle with the Regional Transit Service (RTS) in an effort to save money. However, some students feel that this option is not safe or convenient to use.

College students often place importance on flexibility and value, which is what SGA was aiming for when they made the switch to RTS as students' official transportation provider.

The shuttle was only available for use on Saturday and Sunday, while RTS is available for use every day of the week.

One reason for the switch was to lower costs.

"It has saved SGA money," Director of Student Services Jim Kennedy said. "The school has taken on the cost and we've been able to do more club sponsorships and take on more services in general."

However, not everybody is pleased with this change.

Lyndi Hall, new multimedia coordinator for the Student Activities Board (SAB) has not had a pleasant experience with RTS.

"Students do not have a six-hour time slot in their days to take the bus to Wegmans and back," she said. "The bus system not only is very time consuming, but the drivers have never been pleasant or in any way helpful."

"I will never take the RTS bus again and would not suggest it to anyone. There are sketchy people on the bus and I felt very insecure and felt my safety could have been at risk," she

said.

Kennedy believes there could be a great experience in riding the bus especially for those who are not from Rochester.

"It is a different experience from those who are not from the city," he said. "There is a lot of diversity. On the same bus, you'll find both businessmen taking the bus to work as well as others who have no other way to get around."

Students can pick up an all-day pass from the bookstore, Campus Center desk or the SGA office in the Campus Center. A bus stop is located on the road in front of Keough Hall.

In addition, RTS has more times available.

"RTS can tie back to the idea that it's flexible. It is flexible for the students who do not have a car on campus," Kennedy said.

Kennedy also mentioned that the shuttle was costing SGA \$450 each weekend.

Despite these costs, Hall believes that SGA should bring back the student shuttle.

"I think that SGA should continue their own shuttle and discontinue use of RTS," she said. "It is not the safest thing for students, especially if they don't know how to use the bus system. They could end up stranded in the middle of the city with no clue how to get back, which has happened to a friend in the past."

Hall had no bad experiences with the former shuttle and offered suggestions on what could be done to improve the situation.

"On campus, I have used the shuttle and have always had good experienc-



The RTS bus stop moved from the front loop of Kearney to the road in front of Keough Hall this year. As the campus shifts from the use of a shuttle to RTS, students have expressed concerns about the safety of the bus and its usability.

Boris Sapozhnikov

es. Sometimes the wait can be lengthy, but that is understandable since there is only one van," Hall said. "We could have a shuttle system running back and forth to Wegmans or the regular bus system on weekends like they used to have. One reason I chose to come here was because of the shuttle. It was a turnoff when it was no longer

offered."

Hall felt as if she was trapped on campus when the switch occurred.

"I felt stranded on campus and wasn't going to risk my life taking the city bus system which I had no clue about and nobody on campus was helpful on how to use the bus or understand the system," she said.

"Something should be done and we should continue to have our own shuttle on campus, but should also have a shuttle for off campus. SGA should investigate this more and if possible make some changes," she said.

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