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## **TANK taps Covington students' creativity for Reds Opening Day**

*Students' designs to decorate Southbank Shuttle for 87th annual parade*

**March 27, 2006** – When the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky wanted to take part in an old tradition this spring, it turned to the young for ideas. The result: TANK's Southbank Shuttle will roll in the 87<sup>th</sup> Findlay Market Opening Day Parade on April 3 wrapped in designs created and constructed by students of Holmes High School in Covington.

The students who are creating the bus decorations for the parade attend classes at Holmes' Chapman Career & Technical Education Center. Choosing the students at Chapman was a natural choice for TANK. TANK and the Holmes Chapman Center are Business Education Success Team partners through the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce B.E.S.T. program.

While the partnership between TANK and Holmes' Chapman is longstanding, the participation in the Cincinnati Reds Opening Day Parade is a first for both. Students at the Chapman Center are designing and building the decorations for the Southbank Shuttle parade "float" at their school with the oversight and assistance of the TANK maintenance staff, who will then assemble the decorations on the bus at the TANK garage.

"The team at TANK is very excited to be part of the Findlay Market Parade for the first time and show our support for the Cincinnati Reds, and we're enjoying working with these creative students from Chapman on the parade float," said Gina Douthat, director of communications and development for TANK.

TANK is inviting the students who are building the "float" to ride the Shuttle in the parade.

**TANK it to Reds games:** Take TANK and avoid traffic and the parking hassles for 2006 Opening Day and all Cincinnati Reds games this season.



The Southbank Shuttle operates along the Covington, Cincinnati, and Newport riverfronts and has a convenient drop-off location near Great American Ball Park. Accessible and prompt service from TANK's Southbank Shuttle is available every 15 minutes and convenient for all games. The Southbank Shuttle costs just \$1.00 a ride. The Shuttle runs until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and has extended hours for special events of 30 minutes past the end of each event.

**-More-**

Parking is available in parking lots and garages and on the street in Covington, Newport and Bellevue near the Southbank Shuttle stops.

For maps, schedules and additional information about TANK or the Southbank Shuttle, call TANK's information line at 859/331-TANK (8265) or log on to [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org).

**Reds Opening Day:** The Findlay Market Opening Day Parade has been a rite of spring in Cincinnati since 1919. The 87th annual parade starts at 11:00 a.m. April 3. The Grand Marshall is Cincinnati Reds Hall of Famer Mario Soto, who was the Reds' starting pitcher on Opening Day five straight years, 1982 through 1986. The parade begins at the Race Street entrance of Findlay Market and proceeds south on Race Street, east on Central Parkway, south on Main Street and east on Fifth Street to Broadway.

For Opening Day, the Reds host the Chicago Cubs with play starting at 2:10 p.m. at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati. At the invitation of the Cincinnati Reds' new owner and chief executive officer Bob Castellini, President George W. Bush will throw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the game. Anticipated street and highway closings in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati and likely parking security restrictions around Great American Ball Park due to the president's visit make TANK an even more attractive alternative for Reds fans wanting to avoid driving and parking hassles on Opening Day.

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