



A FAMILIAR SIGHT—The Memorial Student Center may not be the geographical center of the campus, but it is the activity center. Everything a student could want is found somewhere in the big, modern MSC.

A&M Students, Community Use MSC For 'Living Room'

Student Activities Complete College

There are those who say that 'book-larnin' is only half of a college education—the other half is the extracurricular activities and other things you do at college.

A&M's student activities department, headed by W. L. Penberthy, is concerned with almost everything that happens on the campus and doesn't involve books.

All clubs, military units, dormitories, and classes plan their activities and dances with the help of the student activities department.

The department also sponsors Town Hall, the theater program that brings classical and semi-classical performances to the campus; Guian hall, which shows first-rate movies at low prices; and concessions, which operates candy and soft drink machines in the dormitories.

A tentative schedule for this year's Town Hall offers Marge and Gower Champion and the Voices of Walter Schuman, the Caine Mutiny Court Martial Trial, twin-pianists Whitmore and Lowe, a male

quarter, a musical comedy, and a Texas symphony orchestra.

To make it easier and cheaper for the student to participate in these activities, all of them, except organizational dances, are included in a student activity fee.

The fee is \$21.90 a semester, payable when you register. The fee is optional, but if you buy separate tickets for each thing the cost is more than double.

A break down of the activity fee is as follows:

Athletics, \$8; Battalion newspaper, \$4.50; AggieLand yearbook, \$5; choice of student publication magazine, \$80; Town Hall, \$2.60; Great Issues and Recital series, \$1.

The Great Issues series is a lecture series bring big-name speakers, and the Recital series features classical music. Both are sponsored by the Memorial Student Center.

In the athletic ticket are included all intercollegiate athletic contests sponsored by the A&M athletic department.

Center Offers Variety Of Committee Programs

The living room of Texas A&M is the Memorial Student Center, a spacious, modern building located just south of the main drill field.

Popularly known as the MSC, it has been serving the college and the community since 1950. It is the gathering place for all campus groups and is run by the students.

The Center contains under one roof bowling alleys, game rooms, shops, club meeting rooms, guest rooms, a browsing library, record playing rooms, a piano room, and television lounges.

Besides a regular dining room, the MSC has a fountain room for coffee, snacks, or cafeteria lunches.

Mail Service Available Two Places

While at A&M, you will get all your mail through a post office box.

There are two post offices on the campus: one at the North Gate area, and one in the Memorial Student Center. Get your box early, and get it at the post office that will be closest to your dormitory.

The college has a special delivery service, and special delivery letters should have your dormitory and room number on them.

To ship packages or footlockers to school before you come, address them to yourself, Texas A&M College Station, and send them by rail. You can then pick them up at the railroad station.

For emergencies, there is a telegraph office in the Memorial Student Center which receives telegrams at any hour of the day or night. You can also send telegrams there.

The MSC also operates a long distance telephone service.

All incoming long distance calls come through the housing office, where messengers are on duty day and night to get the person being called.

Fish Pick Officers At Mid-Year

Each class at A&M elects its own class officers to speak for the class and to handle plans for the class's dance and other functions.

The freshman class will elect officers about mid-way through the year, when everyone has gotten to know his class mates.

The MSC invites all incoming freshmen to sign up for the various committees and activities. There's something to suit the tastes of everyone, so read on and take your pick.

House Committee

The House Committee begins its year with an Open House for freshmen. Throughout the year it sponsors student-faculty coffees, decorating parties for special holidays, and, for Mother's Day, a large reception for all Aggies and their Moms.

Dance Committee

One of the activities most widely participated in is the dance classes sponsored by the dance committee of the MSC. Instruction is given in all types of ballroom dancing. The committee also sponsors Rue Pinalle, A&M's version of a French night-club.

Music Committee

This group selects music to be played over the MSC's loud speaker system, and records for the record playing rooms. The committee sponsors musical programs and the inter-collegiate talent show.

Art Gallery

All art exhibits in the MSC throughout the year are planned by the Art Gallery committee. The committee also sponsors free art lessons in all medias.

Crafts Committee

All students, amateurs and masters, are invited to join the Crafts committee and use the various facilities of the craft shop.

Radio Committee

The Radio committee has as its members "Ham" operators and others interested in radio. Members of the committee can work with the sets or just sit and shoot the bull about the latest rig.

Camera Club

Amateur photographers who join the Camera club have available to them fully equipped darkrooms, contests, and instruction in photography. The Camera club sponsors outstanding photography exhibits in the Center.

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FSA Aids School Projects

The Association of Former Students is a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of aiding, in every way possible, A&M and of providing a means to maintain lasting friendships made on the campus.

As entering freshmen, you will automatically become members of the Association and your name will be added to the rolls upon graduation or leaving the college.

There is no such thing as an Aggie—once an Aggie, always an Aggie.

To give an idea of the scope of the organization, there are some

28,000 A&M men on its rolls—75.4 percent of these reside in Texas, 20.2 per cent in other states and 4.4 per cent located in foreign countries. A&M men are in every state in the union, and in foreign nations throughout the world. A&M men reside in more than 3,000 cities and towns in the U.S.

Supervising the campus office of the Association, which is located in the west wing of the Memorial Student Center and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is J. B. (Dick) Hervey, class of 1942. His job as the Executive Secretary of the Former Student's Association is to coordinate the activities of the 180 active A&M clubs throughout the nation; publish a monthly newspaper, The Texas Aggie, which contains news of the Association, the campus, and the activities of all former students; plan and execute class reunions, keep individual biographies of all former students up-to-date; and do his best to fulfill all requests which A&M men might make of the Association.

The Student Loan Fund, under the administration of Lonnie B. Locke, class of 1922, is another most worthwhile activity about which little is known except by the boys who receive needed financial assistance year in and year out. At present, there is a large sum on hand to lend to worthy students. It is interesting to note that in the last five year, \$235,000 has been loaned to students. This amount represents 4,815 individual loans. The loss on unpaid loans is under one percent.

Perhaps the most important phase of the Association program however, is the Development Fund which provides money for many valuable worthwhile projects which the college needs but for which other funds are not available. Through the Development Fund,

the Former Student's Association has given to the College such things as \$234,000 in bonds for the construction of the Memorial Student Center; \$50,000 for the Gold Star Fund to aid in the education of sons and daughters of A&M men killed in both WW II and the Korean campaign; \$100,000 for the establishment of the Opportunity Award scholarships, and \$60,000 for the Endowed Scholarship Trust fund.

Student Labor Has Part-Time Jobs

No one looks down on the boy who is working his way through school at A&M. They can't; there are too many of them doing it.

The college operates a student labor office to make it easier for the students to get jobs. If you are interested in earning part of your expenses, write the student labor office now for information—the jobs go fast.

The address is Student Labor Office, Texas A&M, College Station. But first a word of warning: The college discourages students from trying to take too much part-time work their first year.

This doesn't mean that they won't help you get a job; it just means that they know the first year you are going to need more time to study and get adjusted to college life.

The college also suggests that no one try to earn more than half of their expenses. Getting a college education is a full-time job.

Almost all the student labor positions are on the campus. There

are no big industries or other labor markets around Bryan to hire students.

The usual wage for student labor is 60 cents an hour, but if you have a special skill, you can get a job at the prevailing wage for that skill.

Types of work open to students include laboratory assistants, metal and wood shop work, clerical, stenographic, landscape gardening, drafting, library work, farm work and livestock handling, janitor work, compiling reports and statistical data, and the famous "Sbisa volunteers," the student dining hall waiters.

You have to be in good scholastic standing to get a student labor job, and ordinarily only those students who actually need help in getting through school are considered for jobs.

Work assignments are based primarily on need and sincerity of purpose.

And, finally, get your application in early.

Student Senate Serves As Voice

The Student Senate, A&M's student government, serves as a voice for the students and as an executive group for them.

It is composed of representatives from each class and dormitory, both military and civilian, elected in the spring general elections. The vice-president of the freshman class is the representative for the first-year men.

Meeting monthly, the Senate discusses and votes on matters of student life, campus improvements, and other facets of the school.

Their action, which is reviewed by the student affairs department, takes the form of a recommendation to the college authority concerned with that particular item.

Lost and Found Has Two Offices

There are two lost and found offices on the Campus.

One is operated by the Campus Security Office, on the first floor of Goodwin hall.

The other, less well-known, is in the Memorial Student Center. You can ask about lost articles at the main desk.

Dances Brighten Year at A&M

A&M has many dances throughout the year, with one reserved especially for the freshman, the Fish Ball.

On football game weekends when the game is at College Station, there is an All-College dance in spacious Sbisa hall, with a name band playing.

During the spring, the various campus and corps groups have dances— the regimental balls, the class balls, and various club functions.

The big one for military students is the annual Military Ball, and there is a civilian ball planned for civilian students.

The Freshman Ball goes about mid-way through the spring semester, and it is for the freshmen only.

The legend around the campus says that the prettiest girls always come to the Fish-Ball, and it seems to be true.

The freshman class, through its class officers, does all the planning for their dance.

Dating Is About the Same, But

Few Local Girls; You Have To Bring One In

By KERSTIN EKFEIT
Battalion Woman's Editor

At a coeducational college a date is a pretty routine affair, not much different from a date back home. You ask a girl about a week in advance, she accepts, you pick her up at her dorm, you bring her back by curfew time. But at A&M the situation is slightly different and merits some attention. Here's the set-up:

The College Station-Bryan area boasts an all-male military college with more than 5,000 students, an air base with some 3,000 personnel, and a military prep school with an enrollment of about 1,000.

Besides the two cities also have, besides a business college, two high schools, and in these institutions are Girls. The only problem is to find a way (preferably respectable) to meet them.

The easiest method is to go to church. The local churches are loaded with young women who are only too happy to extend a wel-

come to a homeless Aggie. And nothing surpasses this in respectability. The girl can tell her parents, "He's an Aggie, but it's all right—I met him at church."

Another good way to get a date is to have a car (i.e., anything with four wheels and a motor). Once your buddies find out that you have a means of transportation, you will be swamped with offers of blind dates. With no effort at all on your part, you can have a date any night.

Other Ways

There are other good ways to meet the few fair females of the community. Some of these ways are, in brief, working on the various committees of the Memorial Student Center, visiting professors who have daughters between the ages of 12 and 25, enrolling in the MSC dancing classes (this is a dandy, incidentally), attending community functions, hanging around the doors of the high schools at 3:30 in the afternoon, and hav-

ing friends or relatives in Brazos county.

Once you've met a girl, the actual date is simple as pie. Any advice you may need on the subject can be found in an etiquette book or an advice to the lovelorn column.

So let's consider another facet of the dating problem at A&M. Supposing that another guy made it to the phone book first, and you're without a date for the big game and all-college dance afterward. Do not despair; you can import a girl from out-of-town. Most dates for big weekends are gotten this way.

The procedure here is a little more complicated. The first thing to do is to invite the girl—at least three weeks in advance. Your letter should be casual. It won't be the last one you will write to her about this particular week-end, so you can save the vital statistics for the follow-up.

Just be sure to mention what the occasion is, when you expect her to

come, and how long you want her to stay.

Ten days later you will get a letter saying that she'd love to come. The delay doesn't bother you; you made all the arrangements before you asked her, knowing that if she declined the invitation you could always get someone else.

Your next move is to write a letter of information, a delicate composition which must tell her everything she needs to know without giving her the impression that you doubt her sophistication. In this letter be sure to say:

How to get to A&M and when. It's all right to let her look up the train schedules, but it's safer to tell her what train to take out of what station at what time arriving where, when.

It's nice, especially if she's new at this, to find out which of her school mates are coming down for the week-end, so that she'll have a wing to tuck herself under if she wants one.

How to find you when she ar-

ives. You'll meet her at the station if she comes by train or bus. If she comes by car, arrange a specific place and time for you to meet her. (The MSC is a good spot—it's easy to find and has comfortable chairs to sit in while you wait.)

What to Wear

What you two will do when she arrives. This clues her as to what to wear for the trip. She'll want to know if she's going to have a chance to change her clothes or if she'll go directly to a party.

Where she will stay. The suave move is to billet her in the MSC, but chances are 999 to one that the place is booked up solid until June 5, 1957. So if neither of you have friends around College Station, you'll either keep her in one of the Bryan hotels or else see the housing office for a list of rooms for rent. (These are in the homes of local families and are usually very inexpensive.)

Be precise not only about the name, address, and telephone num-

ber of the spot (emergency information), but also about the kind of place it is. Whether it's an adjoining-bath or a cold-dormitory type of stopover spot makes a difference in her packing.

And then what. You don't have to spell this out quite as carefully as you've planned it; the whole idea is to coach her on what to wear where. You should be direct about the big events—tell her if the dance is formal or the picnic calls for jeans.

If you don't tell her everything she wants to know, she'll either guess (and guess wrong) or play it safe in her little "basic black" that she can dress up or down.

Make the plans for the weekend with at least one other classmate, because the secret of college-week-ending is to be with a crowd. Unless you and she are exceptionally crazy about each other's company, to be alone together on a college week-end is to be lonely and left out.

The way to avoid it is to plan in advance with your friends. Don't

leave anything to the girls; nothing will dismay them more than to have to speak up about what they'd like to do.

Expense Is On You

As for expenses, they're all on you—from the moment your date arrives to the moment she leaves the campus. You pay for her room, usually in advance. If you have put her up with local friends where there is no question of paying for the lodging, you give the hostess a bread-and-butter present, and you pay for your date's meals.

The only thing she pays for is her transportation. If she brings a car and turns it over to you, you might fill the tank for excursions during the week-end, but you wouldn't pay for her to-and-fro gas any more than you'd send her her railroad ticket.

To sum up the whole mess, your career at A&M need not be a series of stag parties. There are women around—they're harder to find here than at Denton, for instance, but they exist.