

Editorial

A good deal

The TAMU Student Government has once again begun promotion of the Student Purchase Program which will begin this fall.

Under the provisions of the program, local merchants offer discounts to TAMU students. All a student need do is provide proof that he is enrolled at TAMU. The sponsoring merchants are free to offer as high a discount as they feel they can afford.

For both parties, the SPP offers clear-cut advantages. For the merchants, especially those in downtown Bryan, the program offers the hope of increased business. Local merchants also should find the SPP a valuable tool for bettering student/community relations. Students often have complained to us of the high-handed tactics of local businessmen. The SPP might just be the way to overcome this image.

For the students, the SPP offers increased savings. Also, by patronizing the sponsoring merchants TAMU students would exert pressure on non-sponsoring businesses to either join the program or lower prices.

The Student Purchase Program is a good deal for everybody. We encourage both local businessmen and the students of TAMU to participate.

Editor's notes

Another crisis

The American people are facing another crisis.

The Texas State Attorney General's office has reported that home-canning lids are now in short supply at both the state and national level.

A shortage of home-canning lids? Don't think too lightly of the matter.

Both the Texas State Attorney General's Consumer Protection and Antitrust Divisions are looking into the matter. In addition, the United States House of Representatives subcommittee on small business has been holding hearings on the shortage.

If you still don't think that a shortage of home-canning lids is important, you're wrong. Both the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department are also conducting investigations into the shortage and its causes.

The findings of these groups indicate that hoarding is a major cause of the shortage. Hopefully those hoarding the lids will have enough of them.

Hoarders however, should be discrete about it. The Federal and State agencies seem to be serious about the matter.

Back problems?

The Loss Prevention Service of the Dodson Insurance group out of Kansas City, Mo. has said that back problems are costing employers untold dollars in production losses.

For those interested in keeping those untold dollars to a minimum, the company suggests the following when lifting a heavy object.

Grasp the object to avoid sharp edges or other hazards. If you find the load is too big or too bulky to lift by yourself, always get help. Stand close to the object with one foot alongside and one behind it, making sure you have firm footing. Next, using the sit-down position, keep your back as straight as you can without being stiff or off balance. Tuck in the chin to keep the head and neck in a straight line. Then take a firm grip, reaching around the object and using the full palm to hold it. As you straighten your legs, keep elbows close to the body and hold the load against you as much as possible to help distribute the weight and reduce the strain. Let the load down by reversing the above. If you must turn, remember to do so with your feet, rather than by twisting your hips or shoulders.

It might be advisable to clip this article for future reference.

Scientist says recycling may be waste solution

Dr. Kirk Brown, TAMU soil scientist, says the solution for rural and urban waste is to recycle as much of the trash as possible.

He said several cities have found that they can profitably remove metal from garbage. Others are using the remaining material as a source of energy.

Brown said that in nature, much of the waste falls on the soil where it decomposes. Soil is the medium in which nature disposes of most of her waste.

"Soil-based disposal is presently being done on a limited scale," Brown said. "Some cities are shredding their garbage and removing the iron and steel by means of a magnet. The salvage metal often pays for the shredding operation."

"The waste is then plowed into the soil where it rapidly decomposes," he said. "After one or two years, the same soil can accept another application. Such applications can continue until heavy met-

als like mercury, zinc, copper, and lead build up in the soil.

"Similarly, sewage sludge can be spread on the soil," Brown said. "Yearly application rates must be limited by the amount of nitrogen in the sludge. But, again, the long term use of the land will be regulated by heavy metal buildup."

Sewage plant waste and the liquid waste from many industrial plants can be spread on the land by conventional irrigation. However the applications must be scheduled so

that runoff and erosion problems aren't created. A complete cover of growing plants for most of the year is desirable.

"Soil as a waste disposal medium uses much less energy than conventional disposal methods and can cut our fuel consumption," Brown said. "The soil acts as a biological incinerator and needs no input of fossil fuel. And since materials are covered with only a shallow layer of soil, the expense of digging pits is avoided."

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Ivins takes post as commander of TAMU naval unit

Marine Corps Col. M. H. "Jack" Ivins Jr. has been installed as a professor of naval science at TAMU.

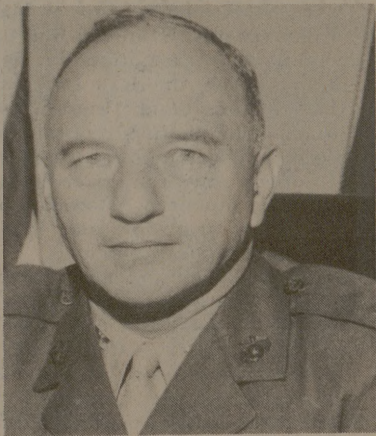
Col. Ivins assumed command of the Naval ROTC unit here in mid-July. As ranking officer in the detachment, he holds responsibility to the U. S. Marine Corps, Navy and TAMU for officer-production activities.

Ivins joins Army Col. Thomas R. Parsons and Air Force Col. Robert L. Elkins in similar duties. Parsons also is commandant of cadets.

Ivins, 47, has served in Vietnam, Germany, Korea and numerous stateside assignments. He just completed a 2½-year tour as head of the IG inspection team at Marine Corps Headquarters. It took him throughout the world.

Ivins succeeds Col. Clarence E. Hogan, now 1st Marine Division operations officer at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A native of Chambersburg, Pa., Ivins holds degrees in economics and educational administration. They were awarded by Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., and Boston University.



Col. M. H. "Jack" Ivins Jr.

The Battalion

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