

Local

# Automatic banking delayed by Planning Committee

By CATHERINE J. THOMAS

**Battalion Reporter**  
First Federal Bank of Austin has an idea that will let Aggies do their banking on-campus with an automatic teller located in the Memorial Student Center.

First Federal has already installed automatic tellers at several College Station banks and would like to install one in the MSC.

The possibility of having an on-campus automatic teller was the topic of discussion at the March meeting of the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

However, the Planning and Building Committee set aside the issue for discussion at a future meeting when more information will be available.

Even if an automatic teller were to be placed in the MSC, the controller of the Fiscal Department said he doubted it would ever replace human cashiers.

"They (the cashiers) are there to take your fees, cash paychecks and receive deposits from different departments," Robert Smith, controller of the University Fiscal Department, said.

If the regents later approve the

installation of an on-campus automatic teller, the University National Bank would be willing to service it, Bill McGuire, a teller at that bank, said.

Smith said, however, if automatic tellers were installed on campus, the Fiscal Department would not necessarily be able to cut back on the number of cashiers it employs because of the other services that the cashiers provide.

"We're not looking to get out of the cashier service — it's valuable," he said. "It's a service for the students, faculty and staff."

Smith said the Fiscal Department has six full-time tellers, four at the Coke Building and two at Rudder Tower. There is also a head cashier who is in charge of the vault, balancing and supervision.

Virginia Arnold, MSC Main Desk manager, said she has 11 students working part time, two full-time desk clerks, two full-time cashiers and a part-time cashier.

Arnold said she doesn't know if she would cut back on the number of students employed at the MSC Main Desk if an automatic teller was installed on campus.

The tellers serve many purposes besides check cashing, Arnold said. They also answer the

telephone, run the lost and found, help with the hotel, give change, issue keys for the camera club and

the sailing club, give refunds and do notaries, she said. Arnold said during the last fiscal

year the MSC tellers cashed 510,788 checks, amounting to \$8.73 million. The ANYTIME teller could lighten that load as it has lightened the workload at University National Bank.

McGuire said the ANYTIME teller has lightened the bank's workload because it is a lot faster. But some people prefer a human teller for split deposits and other transactions that require explanations, he said.

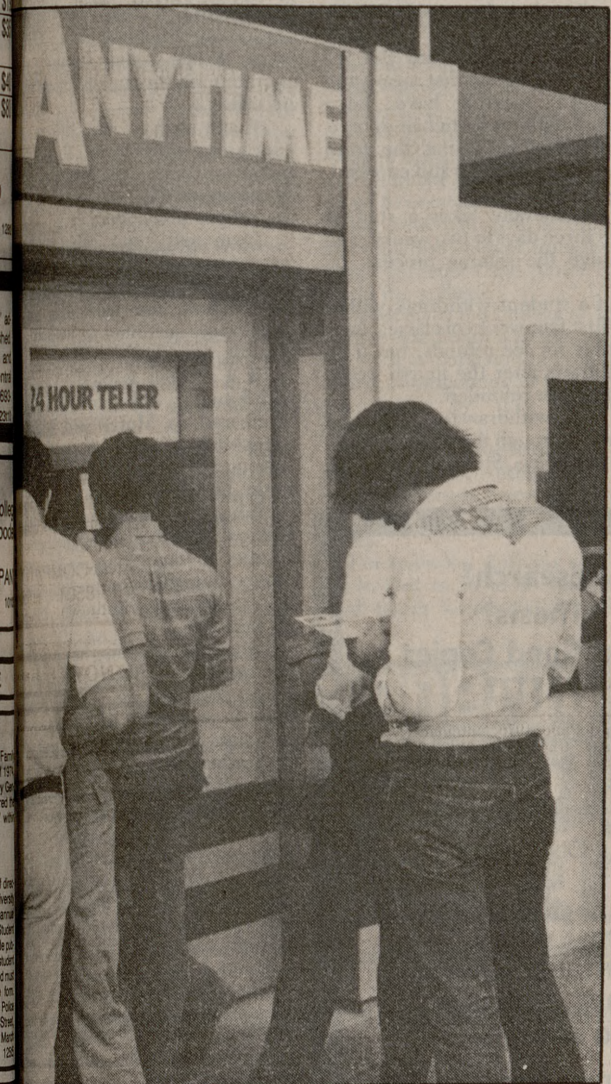
Since University National Bank installed its ANYTIME banking system, the bank has actually had

to add cashiers, rather than dismiss any, because some of the former tellers now work with the ANYTIME machine, McGuire said. The ANYTIME machine has a rental fee of about \$60,000, he said.

First Federal already has plans to install an automatic teller at Skaggs Alpha Beta. The bank is presently waiting to sign a contract to install an ANYTIME machine that will cut down on the grocery store's own check cashing, McGuire said.



Friday means pay day and long lines at the Coke Building. Hundreds of students, faculty and staff form lines at the check cashing stations at Coke and Rudder Tower.



Automatic tellers, like the ANYTIME teller at the University National Bank, attract customers because of their 24-hour service.

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