

MSC Bookstore undergoing face-lift

by Kathleen A. Wakefield
Battalion Reporter

The present renovation of the Memorial Student Center Bookstore may be somewhat of an inconvenience for students buying their spring semester supplies, but when the work is done it will be worth it, the manager says. The 2,000-square-foot selling space that the \$80,000 project will add has been desperately needed, Howard DeHart, bookstore manager, said. The renovation also will ease the student traffic flow and cut down on thefts, DeHart said. A major change, which brought about a portion of the increased space, was the redesign of the bookstore's entrance and exit. The original entrance

and exit were separated by pay lockers and consumed too much space, DeHart said.

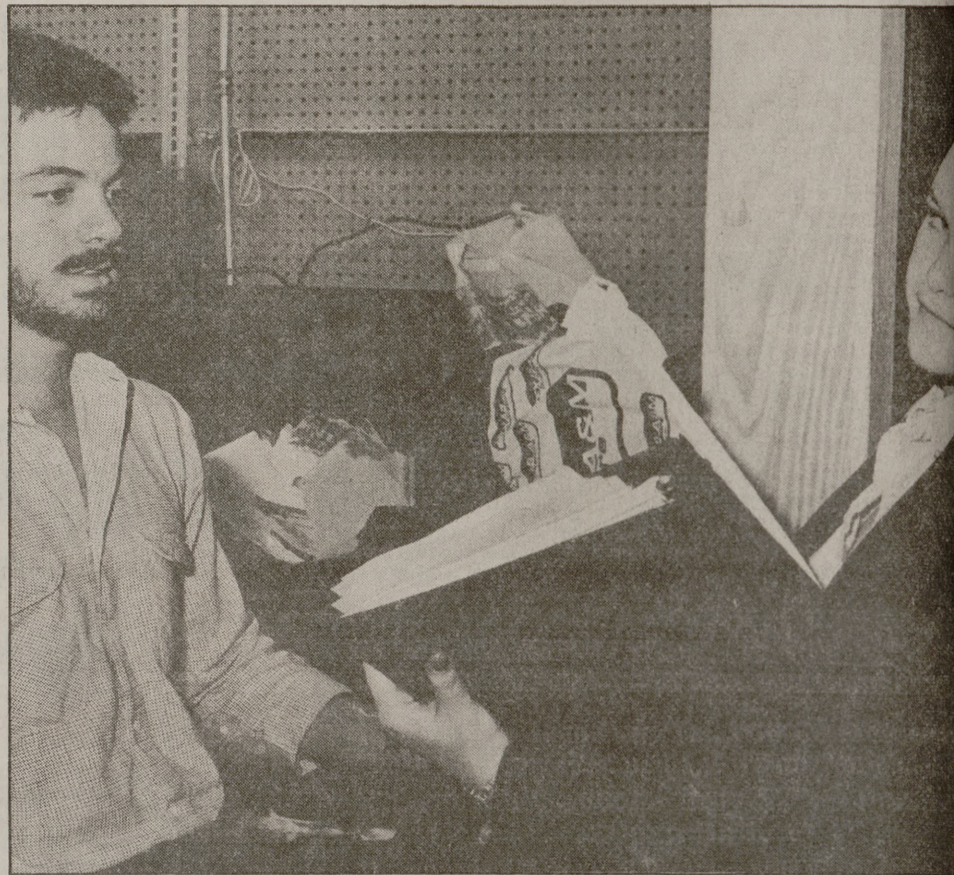
"The lockers were not being utilized like they were supposed to, and they constantly presented problems," he said. The solution was to eliminate the lockers, move the candy store and combine the bookstore's entrance and exit.

Because of the removal of the lockers, the store added a book drop. Students entering the bookstore leave their books at the drop and receive a numbered coupon as a claim check for them.

"Theft has gotten so high that a system like this had to be devised," DeHart said. He added that dropping off books should take less than a minute.

The bookstore offices have been located behind the candy store and the clothing stock has been liquidated also to increase the amount of space.

The renovation, which began Dec. 14, is scheduled for completion April 1. Construction, which is running three weeks ahead of schedule, has been halted until Wednesday when the spring semester buying rush is expected to be over.



Cheryl Bennett, a junior meteorology major from Kansas City, Kan., surrenders her books to Wayne Grabein, a freshman petroleum engineering major from Houston, at the book drop in the newly renovated MSC Bookstore.

staff photo by Colin...

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Housing office says dorm rooms for rent

by Suzanne Hemby
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M Housing Office is looking for students to fill empty spaces in both male and female dormitories.

Dena Todd, supervisor of housing services, said there are about 150 vacancies for men and about 200 vacancies for women. The Housing Office has assigned rooms to everyone who

applied for spring housing and is now taking applications for walk-ons. Walk-ons are students who did not receive a room assignment, but would be willing to move on campus if a space opens.

"We will begin assigning those (walk-ons) Friday at 1 p.m.," Todd said. "We will fill as many spaces as we possibly can in this manner, though we don't

expect to fill all of the spaces.

Todd said vacancies are common in the spring because people sign a year lease on apartment, and therefore move on campus in the spring.

The increase in apartment blocks also caused an expected rise in vacancies last semester. When an apartment block is issued, students dropped from the University

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