

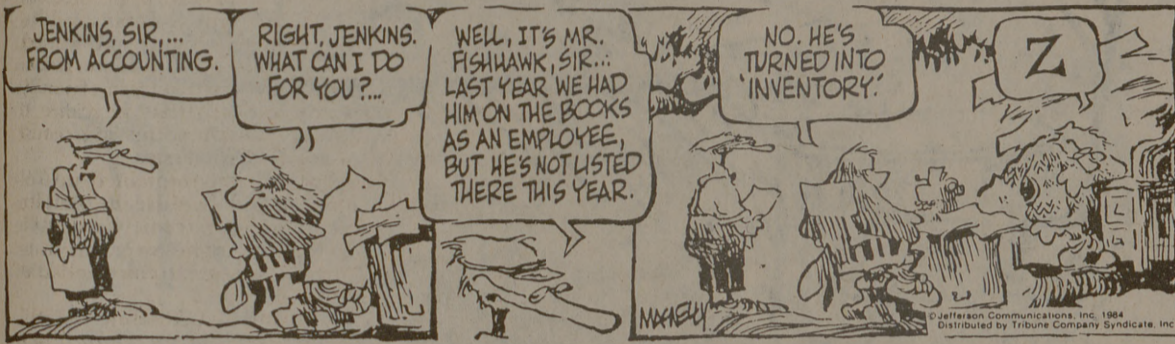
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Bulkfood

Consumers can see what they're getting

By BRITTANY MILLHOLLAND  
Reporter

Some consumers today are choosing to buy foods such as dried fruit, cereal, coffee beans and popcorn in bulk. This growing trend has led food retailers to ask for help from the Food and Drug Administration in applying sanitation laws in their handling of bulk food, says Marilyn Haggard, a Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service food and nutrition specialist.

"The objective in providing guidelines for bulk food sales is to control potential health problems such as the spread of communicable disease, outbreaks of foodborne illness and unintentional contamination of food," Haggard said. Haggard said the FDA completed

guidelines for handling bulk food in supermarkets earlier this year, and the effects are now being seen in the grocery stores.

FDA ordinance states that bulk food should be dispensed from containers with tight-fitting individual covers. The containers must be easily removable from the display unit for servicing, unless they can be cleaned in place without contaminating the food.

Each container should be no deeper than 18 inches and its opening should be at least 30 inches above the floor in order to avoid contamination, Haggard said.

In order to avoid manual contact between food and customers, the rules require the use of mechanical dispensing devices such as gravity

fed units, manual dispensers like tongs and scoops, or wrapping and sacking products.

Selling food in bulk still carries the obligation of providing product information. Each container should display either a counter card or manufacturer's label stating the name of the product and its ingredients in order of predominance.

Although the guidelines only call for voluntary compliance, Haggard said most reputable retailers will want to comply with the rules.

"Consumers have gotten more sophisticated, we expect clean stores and clean products," Haggard said.

Buying food in bulk "allows consumers to see what they're getting and to choose the specific amount they need," Haggard said.

MSC to acution lost, found items Wednesday

The Memorial Student Center Lost and Found Committee is sponsoring an auction of items from all campus lost and found collections. The cash-only auction will be in the MSC Main Lounge on October 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The auctioned items will consist of calculators, men's and women's watches, gold and costume jewelry, umbrellas and clothes. All items to be auctioned have been in the lost and found for at least six months.

Chairman of the MSC Lost and

Found Committee, Bruce Cameron, said he expects this auction to be successful. The lost-and found usually has more items after the summer months, because people just don't come back to get their things, he said.

Senate leaders to visit student clubs, meetings

By KATHI COOK  
Reporter

Project Visibility — an effort by the Student Senate to contact more students and get their opinions — will be re-implemented through senators attending various student club meetings, said Eric Thode, speaker pro tempore.

The project, suggested last year by Diane Baumbach, speaker of the Senate, will focus on the constituents of the Memorial Student Center, Off-Campus Aggies and the Residence Hall Association.

"In order to work with constituents before, senators had to stand on corners and bus stops and ask people questions about issues," Baumbach said. "They hated doing it, but talking with constituents is one of the most important things we do. I think this way gets more people involved and we've gotten a lot of good feedback from it."

Several student clubs have been asked to participate with the senate in keeping the constituents informed about the senate's activities. The replies will be divided, according to the number of members, into two categories for the 86 senators attention.

"A club will either have a senator attend their meetings regularly or have a senator visit one meeting to speak to the club about who they can contact with their input," Thode said.

Thode said some students just don't know who to talk to.

"We figured everyone belongs to some sort of club, so now we can hear other problems besides bicycles and parking that the University is already looking into," Thode said.

The visiting senators will read minutes of the bills, ask for suggestions or criticism and answer any questions from the members, Thode said.

"If the senator can't answer the question, he will get back to them at the next meeting and answer it then," he said. "We want people to know us and know that they can call 845-3051 anytime they have a question."

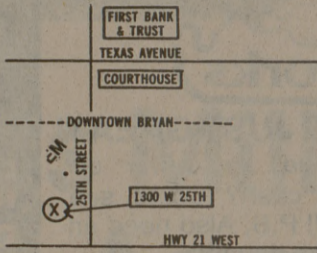
Senators have begun visiting residence halls and various club meetings that have responded such as the Business Student Council, the International Student Association and Lambda Sigma. The senators have discussed issues in the senate committees such as obtaining change machines for the north side of campus and extending the sidewalk running from the Reed McDonald Building to the Blocker Building. Banking policies and student checking account fees in local banks are also being analyzed, Thode said.

Stephanie Ackles, senator for Haas, Hobby, McFadden and Neeley Halls, said the project has helped her in covering her constituents and getting their opinions on issues.

He said he wanted to stress that any items with full names on them immediately go to the campus police station and the owner is notified. The money from this auction will go to the MSC Christmas Committee for Christmas decorations.

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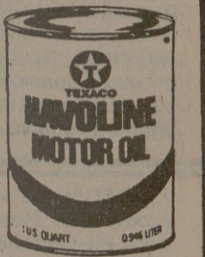
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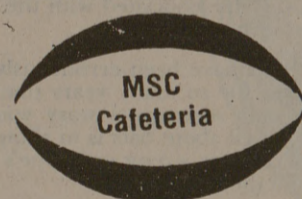
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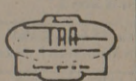
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**TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL**  
Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/Chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

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