## State and Local

# Point plan changes to deter pullouts

By M.K. Pfeifer Reporter

The Aggie Point Account will undergo some drastic changes this fall to discourage students from pulling out of the program, said Lloyd H. Smith, assistant director for the Food Services Department.

"We have a certain group of students that have found that getting on point plan and then getting off of it, is a good way to get money from their parents," he said.

Smith said the changes made by food services and business services are meant to make students take the point plan more seriously.

Originally, students or faculty could start an account with food services for \$150. Students paid full price for food, instead of getting the discount that is offered with the

poard plans To put additional money into the account, the student had to add a minimum of \$50, and bonus points

were given for larger deposits. In the fall, however, it will cost \$250 to start an account and additional deposits must be for at least semester or do away with the point \$100. The large deposit discount has plan altogether. been eliminated.

into the account to keep it active, meal plan program. otherwise the account will expire in Smith said he ass

Smith added that the problem Students must also put a deposit seems to be prevalent in the entire

Smith said he assumes some stutwo semesters and the money in the dents ask for money from their paraccount will revert to food services. ents to get on point plan, then open If a student drops point plan, the an account and close it a few days

"We have a certain group of students that have found that getting on point plan and then getting off of it, is a good way to get money from their parents."

- Lloyd H. Smith, food services assistant director.

money is refunded with a \$50 fee deducted to pay for the charges food services incurred by having the fiscal office process the refund check.

If these changes don't work, Smith said, the administration will raise the fee to withdraw from point plan, make a provision that a student cannot withdraw until the end of the

later without making a transaction. every semester for five years, got on board plan only to drop it without

ever using it," he said. Food services has had the same point plan account opened and closed as many as three times in one

He said food services has about 8,000 active point plan accounts, but the average daily movement of cash through the accounts is only about

He explained that refunding money for meal plans is an accounting nightmare for the fiscal office and food services. The point plan has become a major accounting problem because they have a 35 percent return rate, he said

"In one week at the beginning of the summer semester, we took in \$20,000 and refunded \$7,000," Smith said.

Also, he said, the red tape that the department has to go through is a bureaucratic triumph.

"They have to process, we have to "As an example, the Fiscal Department tracked down a girl who oncile both of our books to make sure (the student) got the check and the account was taken out of our

> "We didn't want (the changes)," Smith said. "It's penalizing everyone else because they're playing games

### the living room and had been smol-

determined. of the one-story frame house, apparently trying to escape the billowing

smoke, Engstrom said. The niece, who also apparently found beside her bed, he said.

might have escaped had precautions been taken.

"Two mistakes they made: One,

Beaumont has had nine fire fatali-

## Northgate parking problems continue

**By Nancy Conces** Reporter

Despite signs warning against illegal parking in the parking lot at Skaggs Alpha Beta, Music Express and Fat Burger, people continue to park there illegally, store managers say.

The lot is across the street from the Zachry Engineering Center on University Drive and is convenient to the Texas A&M campus.

Although the majority of the lot spaces are reserved for Skaggs' patrons, the store director, Oliver Bishop, declined to comment on how Skaggs handles the illegal parking problem.

Music Express manager Carlos Rodriguez says the store uses a tow service to remove cars parked illegally and will warn non-patrons verbally from parking in their reserved spaces.

"It's extremely embarrassing

for a business owner or manager to have a customer come in and complain about walking in the hot sun because they had to find a parking space away from your store," Rodriguez says.

He says he works closely with Fat Burger, the restaurant next door, to regulate people who park illegally in the 12 to 14 spaces reserved for their employees and patrons.

"I don't tow unless I inform them (Fat Burger)," Rodriguez says. "When his spaces are filled, his customers park over here and when mine are full my customers park there.

He says the store used to spend about \$30 a month on spray paint and flyers to warn people about illegal parking, but because the store has reduced the hours it's open this summer, they can't afford the materials

Rodriguez says the store puts warning signs in front of the store during the beginning of semesters because illegal parking is especially bad during that time. But the signs detract from the store,

"Right away the signs present a hostile attitude and that goes completely against the grain of the store," Rodriguez says. "We're really carefree and loose here and we run a clean and effecient business, but we don't want to give the impression of hostility. So, when people who park illegally say they didn't see the signs we try to be nice about it.'

He says illegal parking is a problem in the summer from about 8 a.m. until I p.m., but during the regular school year illegal

parking is an all-day occurrence.
"There's people we see park
here three days in a row," Rodriguez says. "We have to tow these people because they're getting into a habit we can't afford. I feel bad about towing, but some days I just have to, because literally, I don't have any room to park.

Fat Burger manager Moe Ab-del Moaty says about 80 percent of the cars parked in front of the restaurant aren't customer cars.

"We used to come to the restaurant at about 6 a.m. to tell the construction workers not to park

here," Moaty says.

He says he thinks it's better to warn people instead of towing their cars because many of the construction workers and students may be regular lunchtime customers.

Moaty says that although the restaurant put up illegal parking signs about a month ago, the illegal parking problem continues to be serious because there is no real control of the area

### Cyclists to hold anti-nuclear rally at Rudder

Texas bicyclists will travel to the Texas Á&M campus today and will hold a rally at 1 p.m. at Rudder Fountain to protest nu-

clear arms buildup. In addition, members of Brazos Valley Peace Action will attend the rally to discuss connections with nuclear weapons buildup at A&M and Bryan-College Station.

The cyclists are participating in the "Pantex Pilgrimage" in which they ride from Houston to the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Facility north of Amarillo. Pantex is the only final assembly point for nu-clear weapons in the United

This is the third consecutive year the pilgrimage has been made to the Pantex plant. People are traveling by car and bike along various routes to converge on Pantex for a 'Peace Witness' to be held on the site August 6.

## Four killed in Beaumont house fire

BEAUMONT (AP) — A woman and three children died Monday in a house fire that the victims might have survived if smoke detectors had been installed in the residence, authorities said.

Killed were June Droddy, 26, of Beaumont; her 4-year-old daughter, April, and 8-year-old son, Michael; and her niece Cheryl Keith, 14, of nearby Buma, said Justice of the Peace Harold Engstrom.

The fire, which was reported just before 3 a.m., apparently started in

dering for a long time, Engstrom The cause was not immediately

> The mother and her two children were found huddled in the hallway

had tried to get out of the house, was

Fire officials said the victims

they didn't have a smoke detector and two, they hadn't had fire drills or had a second way out," said Jeff McNeel, a fire department spokes-

ties so far this year, compared to the annual average of about four to five.

# LTV renews health care; strike continues

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. (AP) — IV Corp. announced Monday night it had arranged retiree-paid group medical insurance coverage for its pensioners, but a steelworkers union official, anticipating the move, dismissed it as company officials' attempt "to ease their conscience."

Jack Parton, director of District 31 of the United Steelworkers of America, predicted earlier Monday that the strike that has idled an LTV

plant for four days may spread if the corporation fails to restore its insurance benefits to retirees.

"I don't think we're talking weeks or months," he said.

LTV, which filed for protection from its creditors under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code, also operates major steel facilities in Cleveland and Hennepin, Ill. No work stoppages have been reported at either plant.

LTV, in an announcement read by spokeswoman Jolice Pojeta, said Monday night it had made arrangements with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. to offer retiree-paid group medical insurance coverage to the retirees.

The coverage will provide alternatives to the company-paid medical coverage, which LTV is prohibited from continuing after filing July 17 that LTV officials "are trying to ease in bankruptcy court.

The coverage provides benefits retroactive to July 17 for all retirees, surviving spouses and their dependants covered under prior plans, LTV said. Monthly costs for each covered retiree will be \$39 for individuals eligible for Medicare and \$132 for others, it added.

Parton anticipated the announcement and said before it was released tirees at the Indiana Harbor Works.

their conscience.

'They (retirees) don't need LTV to arrange that," Parton said. "If they had money, they'd go out and get it themselves.

Parton's prediction that the strike would spread challenged a warning issued by LTV when the members of Local 1011 began refusing to cross demonstration lines set up by re-

### "I've got a terrible secret. If they only knew what I go through to stay thin."

When the extreme fear of being overweight becomes obsessive, it leads to unusual and harmful eating practices.

Anorexia and Bulimia are eating disorders which are becoming more prevalent. Anorexia, the excessive pursuit of thinness, can result in malnutrition, low blood pressure, loss of hair, irrational thinking and even death. Bulimia, compulsive eating binges followed by the purging of food, can lead to severe dental problems, kidney failure or cardiac

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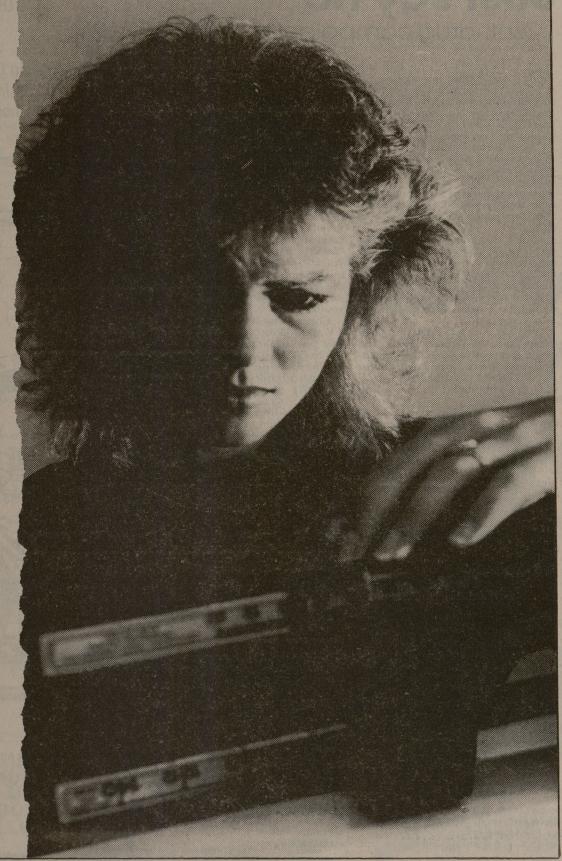
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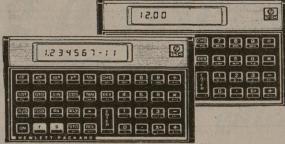
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