

# 'Candy Man' does more than just refill machines



Photo by Sam B. Myers

The 'candy man', Dave Sigbornson, gives some candy to James Snedden, 7, of College Station.

By Kristin Czarnik  
Reporter

Dave Sigbornson, known as the "Candy Man," has been making Aggies happy by filling the candy machines at Texas A&M for the past 14 years.

Sigbornson, who has worked for Coca-Cola 21 years, is in charge of filling 43 machines in buildings from the Blocker Building to Krueger Hall.

Sigbornson says since some machines are used more than others, he does not fill all of them every day.

"Some you do every day, some you do only once a week, some twice a week and some three times a week," Sigbornson says. "The ones that have a big volume are the ones you've got to do everyday, like the Library, Blocker and the Commons."

Sigbornson says he likes his job because he has met many students and professors. He sometimes carries candy around in his pockets and gives it to people he sees.

"I might see a woman with a little girl and if I have some candy I'll give her some," Sigbornson says.

It is Sigbornson's friendly actions — rather than the fact that he fills candy machines — that has gained him popularity.

"Most of the time you get to know people because you see them all the time, like most of them over at Blocker in the theater arts," Sigbornson says. "One girl gave me a Texas A&M baseball cap that says 'Dave the Candy Man' on it."

"She gave me that as a going-away present when she graduated."

Sigbornson says he cuts articles and pictures about students out of newspapers and holds on to them.

"If you can spend five minutes to cut a picture out and give it to somebody, it makes them happy," Sigbornson says. "When they get to be a senior they will come up to me and say, 'Dave do you have a program from so and so play that I was in?' and I'll give it to them."

Sigbornson says he's been a season

ticket member for the last 13 years and has gone to most of the theater arts productions.

"Every year we give Dave season tickets numbers one and two because he is such a good advertisement for us," Theater Arts Manager Brenda Wentworth says. "He comes in every day and gives us candy. I even bought a candy dish to put the candy in."

Sigbornson is also known to most of the women on the volleyball, softball and tennis teams, he says.

"I'll go to their games sometimes and have a bag of lollipops or bubble gum and give each one of them something," Sigbornson says. "The coaches even know me too."

Sigbornson says most of the people he meets will see him at the candy machines and stop to say hello.

"Even if people have known me for years, they still call me the 'Candy Man' because they don't know my real name," Sigbornson says.

## Minority education lawsuit unreasonable, officials say

AUSTIN (AP) — State officials said Thursday that a lawsuit alleging inadequate higher education opportunities for Mexican-Americans in Texas may be asking for more than is reasonable.

"I don't know of any constitutional requirement to have a law school every 50 miles along the interstate," Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said.

"People have to travel to where the quality programs are offered," said Kenneth Ashworth, state commissioner of higher education.

"Otherwise we are going to dilute our resources to such an extent that we would ensure that we had mediocrity and underfunded programs all over the state," he said.

Ashworth is one of the many state officials named as defendants in the lawsuit filed Wednesday in Brownsville by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The suit says the state does not spend enough money

on higher education for Mexican Americans. Among the specific complaints is the lack of graduate and professional programs in state universities in South Texas.

Ashworth said there is "no question that in time we need to put more education opportunity and more facilities and more programs in South Texas."

But he said it is wrong to say there is a total lack of higher education opportunity in South Texas. He cited the medical, dental and other professional schools added to the University of Texas at San Antonio since 1969.

"The question is, 'How do you define South Texas?'" he said. "Some of the groups are saying South Texas ends south of San Antonio."

But at a Thursday news conference announcing the lawsuit, Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, said, "South Texas is seriously underserved in the area of higher education."

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