## The Battalion

Community Section E

Monday, August 29, 1988

## A&M provides CS with economic lifeline

Student spending provides city with over \$110 million

By Jackie Feldman

When Texas A&M students leave e summer, the city experiences a rastic change in the flow of money. The latest study done by A&M's Office of Public Information found at A&M contributed \$365.7 milon to the local economy in 1986. udents spent \$110.6 million with he majority going for rent, utilities, and clothing. When students cave College Station, they take their ney with them.

Store owners and managers know is. During school vacations, they a substantial drop in business d profits.

Students make up 70 percent of business at DoubleDave's Pizzaorks on South Jersey Street, store nager Tom Jondahl said.

"More students than families eat izza regularly," he said. "When the udents leave for the summer, we se about 40 percent of our busi-

Jondahl said the reason business loss not drop by 70 percent is be-ause the family business increases.

"Families like to eat here more in e summer because they don't have fight the traffic," he said, "but also

ecause during the summer the tore is quieter and less crowded." Jondahl said the amount of free ne during the summer is the big-

st change from the school year. "During the school year, it doesn't eem like we have enough time to prepare the food," Jondahl said. During the summer, we have too nuch time to sit around because there are less people and less to do."

Larry Medearis, manager of the College Station Kroger, also realizes students contribute to his business.

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Kroger's business and profits increase 20 percent during the school When Texas A&M students leave summer, the city experiences a stic change in the flow of money.

Medearis said, "During the summer our business slows down considerably. In the summer the flow of customers is steadier and easier to

Northgate experiences a notice-able lull in business during the sum-

Chicken in Northgate said a different type of crowd gathers there during the summer.

"Blue-coller workers, such as construction workers, come to the Chicken when the students leave for the summer," Ganter said.

Despite this summer crowd, the Chicken is only half-full on Fridays and Saturdays, the Chicken's busiest

days during the school year.

Ganter said he prepares for the drop in business by building up a "nest egg" during the school year.

Medearis said he makes adjust-

ments to the business drop by hiring less people and giving his employees

Medearis said, "During the summer, expenses go up. We employ a lot less people and use a lot less hours. We try to become better operators during the summer as far as wages and expenses go.'

Businesses such as restaurants, liquor stores, record stores and apartments are also hit hard during the

summer. Ray Knotek, manager of Bennigan's, said his business loses \$5,000 to \$10,000 a week in liquor sales when the students go home for the



Photo by Jay Janner

Workers begin construction of a Taco Cabana restaurant on Texas Avenue. Texas A&M pumps millions of dollars into the Bryan-College Station economy, including money for restaurants and retail establishments.

Dave Dean, manager of Dave's Liquor store, said his store loses over 50 percent of its keg sales and 30 percent of its hard liquor sales. Packaged beer sales do increase, however, because of the summer heat.

Jill Love, manager of Hasting's Books and Records on South Texas Avenue, said her store loses 20 percent of its business and has little

need to reorder merchandise. Apartment complexes rent only

one-half to three-quarters of their of the profits made during the units. These units are rented at school year, when students and visilower rates, while their maintenance and utilities costs stay the same.

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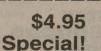


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