

State and Local

A&M directional signs made to point the way

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

Results of a project started last spring to erect directional signs in the Texas A&M grounds are becoming evident. Some signs already have been put up, and many more will be installed within the next four to six weeks, says Gene Ray, director of Grounds Maintenance. "The intent of the plan is to name major buildings correctly and in a consistent manner to help people to find their way around campus easier," he says. Ray says the project is 40 percent complete. "We've done a lot of work which hasn't shown yet," he says. "It's a big job to check with the gas, phone, electric, water and other companies to clear the areas where the posts are planned." When the project is complete, about 300 new signs giving directions, building names and parking lot information will be put up around campus. Some signs identifying buildings will be replaced to keep the lettering consistent throughout the university. "We will also erect locator-type

signs in the major pedestrian parts of campus and in the dormitory areas to help parents find the halls," Ray says. "These will be 'you are here' maps, oriented as you look at them." Ray says he thinks people will like the new signs. "They're more personalized, since each has an 'ATM' logo," he says. "There will be a lot of them, but they're necessary for such a big campus." Ray says he expects the project to enter a second phase. "It's such an encompassing job," he says. "We'll have to keep up with new buildings." The next phase of the project also will include signs giving directions from the periphery of campus to the interior. In other parts of campus, advances are being made in parking area construction, says Tom Williams, director of Parking Transit and Traffic. The Northside Parking Garage will open Jan. 1, 1989, with 1,280 student parking spaces. Faculty and staff have claimed the remaining 416 spaces.

Professor: Soviet math education stronger than America's average

By Sharon Maberry
Staff Writer

The average Soviet Union citizen has a stronger background in math and science than the average American citizen, a Texas A&M associate history professor says. "Their society worships science and math in a way we don't," Dr. Chester Dunning says. The Soviets place a greater emphasis on math and science earlier than Americans do, Dunning says. Soviet children are tested on technical studies, and those who show talent are encouraged to focus on science and math throughout the rest of their education. A technical education gives Soviets an opportunity to raise their socio-economic status, he says. "A clear way for Soviet peasants to escape (poverty) is through math and science," Dunning says. At least 1 million technical workers are involved in basic research in the Soviet Union, more than twice as many as in the United States. "However, it is dangerous to say that just because they have more (basic researchers) they are better," Dunning says. The basic training of a technical worker differs between the United States and the Soviet Union, he says. Many Soviet researchers have the equivalent of a technical school education, he says, unlike American researchers, who receive broad training. "Our 450,000 are better trained than their 1,000,000," Dunning says. "The Russian results (in basic research) are negligibly better. They are strong in areas that rely on older technology. It is much more likely that the American scientist will be receiving the great accolades. Look who's winning the Nobel Prize." Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith, A&M assistant professor of history, says that Soviets are traditionally strong in math and theoretical science. However, the Russian strength in those areas is matched by a weakness

in some applied sciences like computer hardware. "Soviets have fewer computers of lesser capability (than Americans)," Coopersmith says. "The Soviet education is in a general period of reform now. They particularly acknowledge a need to catch up in computer education." "Soviet prowess in theoretical science is in part because of a lack of equipment (for the study of practical science). Soviets have a different style of teaching because their environment is different. But Soviet engineers can be every bit as ingenious as American engineers." "Soviet engineers tend to be more specialized. They also lack the support services that American engineers have, such as secretarial services. Most Soviet engineers can't hand something to their secretaries to type. There are fewer American engineers, but they are usually more efficient." A large gap exists between the best schools and the average schools in the Soviet Union, Coopersmith says. "The best schools produce some of the finest students in the world in math and some sciences," he says. "Russia is a very centralized country. There are excellent resources for the center, but the outlying areas tend to be shortchanged. Moscow and Leningrad tend to have the best facilities, the best universities and the best students." "Math and science competence is a serious economic issue, not just with Soviets, but with the entire world. We live in a society that's dependent on numeracy (a Mongol word for literacy)." "There is an alternative view that says all the 'smarts' will be in the computer so people won't need a sense of numbers or even literacy. In that case, you'll see a split in society emerging between those who can use numbers and those who can't." "I think the issue is real, but it's other countries we should view as economic competitors. Our major

scientific threat comes not from the Soviet Union, but from Japan and soon, probably Korea. "As a society, we do need to have more training in the sciences and math, but also in the social sciences and humanities. We need to understand the differences between Soviet, Japanese and American educations, because these are real differences that reflect those cultures."

Science and math requirements for some majors at A&M have decreased over the years. According to the 1938-39 A&M course catalog, education majors were required to take 13 credit hours of science (biology, geology and chemistry), and six hours of math. In the 1988-89 catalog, only eight hours of science electives and three hours of math are required for the same major.

Local Briefs

Mobley will address Faculty Senate

Texas A&M President William H. Mobley and the deans of the Texas A&M academic colleges are scheduled to attend a reception with faculty senators before the Sept. 12 Faculty Senate meeting. Mobley is also scheduled to address the senators at the meeting.

Social Security office will relocate

Beginning Sept. 12, the Brazos County Social Security office will be located in the Carter Creek Center in Bryan, located at 4021 E. 29th Street, Suite 114. Office personnel request that customers hold their calls until after the move is complete, if possible.

Free computer demonstrations offered

Apple Computer Inc. will offer Texas A&M faculty and staff free participatory demonstrations of the Macintosh computer on Sept. 13 and 16 in Room 120A of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Those interested may choose to attend any of the following sessions: Sept. 13: 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.: Hypercard, a database system. 10:30 a.m.-noon: Desktop Publishing. Attendance at each session is limited. Reservations may be made by calling (713) 682-3200.

In Advance

Four-member panel to discuss banking

The College of Business Administration is sponsoring a Bank Career Day Thursday, September 8 at the Memorial Student Center. The program begins at 2 p.m. with opening remarks from Dr. Gary Trennepohl, who is head of the Finance Department at Texas A&M. The keynote address will be given by Don Hawk, vice presi-

dent of Texas Commerce Bancshares/Chemical Bank in Houston. Hawk will speak on the opportunities available today in banking. A four member panel discussion will be held at 2:30 p.m. Panelists will speak on a variety of topics ranging from getting that first job to the last 25 years in banking.

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2.04	\$6,950	\$14,000	.64	795	1,500
2.01	5,250	11,000	.63	795	1,500
1.78	4,965	10,000	.62	795	1,500
1.61	5,325	11,500	.60	795	1,500
1.51	3,875	7,000	.58	850	1,600
1.43	5,550	12,000	.57	795	1,500
1.24 w/GIA report	2,500	5,000	.56	695	1,400
1.18	2,325	4,600	.55	795	1,500
1.17	2,750	5,000	.55	895	1,700
1.11	2,350	4,600	.53	595	1,000
1.11	3,950	8,000	.53	695	1,400
1.09	2,195	4,000	.53	795	1,500
1.09	2,750	5,000	.52	875	1,600
1.09	3,850	7,000	.52	795	1,500
1.05 w/GIA report	2,950	2,950	.51	795	1,500
1.04	2,150	4,000	.50	695	1,300
1.03	2,195	4,000	.50	695	1,300
1.03	3,595	7,000	.50	795	1,500
1.01	1,495	3,000	.48	695	1,400
1.01	1,895	4,000	.47	695	1,400
1.01	3,495	7,000	.47	695	1,400
1.01	2,185	4,200	.46	650	1,200
.95	2,395	4,600	.45	595	1,100
.93	1,595	3,000	.44	595	1,100
.92	1,850	4,000	.44	495	1,000
.92	1,650	3,200	.43	575	1,200
.91	3,195	6,000	.39	275	500
.90	1,750	3,100	.37	375	600
.89	1,350	2,600	.36	335	600
.89	895	1,700	.34	335	600
.88	1,340	2,600	.33	275	500
.85	1,685	3,000	.30	335	600
.84	2,150	4,000	.24	210	400
.83	1,595	3,000	.21	165	300
.81	1,025	4,000	.22	185	400
.80	985	2,000	.21	215	400
.77	1,075	1,800	.19	165	300
.77	950	2,000	.18	155	300
.75	1,135	1,900	.16	118	200
.75	1,375	2,200	.15	111	200
.75	1,395	2,600	.14	95	180
.74	1,480	2,800	.12	78	140
.73	1,495	2,800	.10	63	120
.73	1,125	2,200	.09	55	110
.72	1,395	2,600	.08	48	90
.71	1,395	2,700	.07	45	90
.71	1,395	2,700	.06	41	80
.71	1,050	2,100	.05	35	70
.70	1,395	2,700	.04	30	60
.70	795	1,400	.03	14.95	30
.68	995	1,800	.02	10.95	30

EMERALD	Our Price	Compare
2.16	\$6,795	\$13,000
1.37	4,850	8,900
.73	1,850	3,200
.41	595	1,100
.38	495	900

DIAMONDS for Aggie Rings



.05	\$35
.10	\$63
.21	\$165

\$15 mounting \$25 with your own diamond

HEART SHAPE	Our Price	Compare at
.90	\$1,890	\$3,600
.75	1,590	3,000
.58	1,375	2,600
.51	1,395	2,600

OVAL	Our Price	Compare at
2.12	\$8,075	\$16,000
1.61	5,875	11,000
1.23	2,250	5,000
1.23	2,250	5,000
1.18	2,250	\$4,500
.95	1,850	4,000
.70	1,395	2,780
.65	1,195	2,390
.63	895	1,600
.62	1,275	2,400
.58	1,195	2,000
.58	995	1,800
.57	1,225	1,400
.53	1,225	1,400
.51	1,095	2,200
.50	1,050	2,000
.41	795	1,400
.28	312	600
.10	105	200

PEAR SHAPE	Our Price	Compare at
1.75	\$5,425	\$11,000
1.43	3,780	7,000
1.24	4,285	8,000
1.21	2,375	4,600
1.13	2,295	4,500
1.04	2,495	4,800
1.01	2,675	5,200
.93	2,095	4,000
.82	1,590	3,000
.64	1,295	2,400
.65	895	1,600
.62	1,395	2,700
.59	795	1,500
.60	1,150	2,200
.58	995	1,900
.52	665	1,200
.45	325	600
.10	95	200

MARQUISE	Our Price	Compare at
2.04	\$11,875	\$23,000
1.56	4,775	6,500
1.10	3,275	5,300
1.05	2,675	4,900
1.02	2,275	3,900
1.01	1,275	2,200
.89	1,750	3,300
.89	1,795	3,590
.82	1,575	2,900
.79	1,895	3,600
.74	795	1,500
.72	1,650	3,300
.70	1,795	3,300
.70	1,250	2,400
.61	975	1,800
.55	850	1,700
.55	895	1,800
.51	950	1,900
.50	895	1,800
.50	825	1,600
.49	795	1,500
.47	795	1,300
.41	650	1,300
.35	495	900
.25	250	500
.23	275	500
.18	195	400
.11	110	200

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