

Food services begins work on expansion for Commons

By Amy Radcliff
Reporter

The Food Services Department has begun a \$3 million expansion project on the Commons dining facility. The expanded facility is being built to accommodate about 900 more students, residents of the four new residence halls now under construction behind the Commons.

The project was approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents Nov. 5. Construction began the following week.

Lloyd Smith, director of food services, said the project is scheduled for completion in November 1989.

"The Commons will seat about 400 more students at any one time, and those seats turn over about three times each meal," Smith said. "It will give us about 1,200 additional people we can take care of seat-wise."

The east and west wings and the back of the dining facility will be extended. "The total addition on both floors is 14,279 square feet, which is

really not that large considering how much we needed it," Smith said.

When the Commons was built in October 1972, it consisted of only two residence halls. In 1976, the two south dorms were added to the complex.

The Commons dining hall also served some of the Corps of Cadets dormitories and Underwood Hall.

"Expanding the facilities was the only feasible way to accommodate everyone," Smith said. In order to cause students as little

inconvenience as possible, construction in the dining or kitchen areas will not begin until after spring break, Smith said.

"Most of the work that will inconvenience people will be done this summer," he said.

In other campus construction plans, additions to the MSC and a parking garage near G. Rollie White Coliseum are in preliminary planning stages, Smith said.

Video dating service popularity overtakes B-CS singles scene

By Stephanie Stribling
Reporter

Some do it because they are lonely. Some do it because they have a hard time meeting new people. Those who are divorced do it because they have forgotten how. Others do it because it is perceived to be less risky than the alternative.

"It is the use of the increasingly popular video dating service, Singles Connection.

Michele Thompson, manager of Singles Connection in Bryan, said that people use dating services for a variety of reasons.

"A lot of people are lonely or busy," Thompson said. "They don't have time to meet people or don't know how to go about it."

Thompson said that because reports of date rape are on the rise, some people use the service to screen their dates in advance.

"People are getting more selective," she said. "This way they know something about the people they're going to meet. They certainly know what they look like. They know if they smoke, and what they do for a living. It's not like a blind date."

However, Thompson said the most common reason for using a dating service is also the simplest.

"They just want to meet somebody nice," she said.

Many people hold the misconception that people resort to the use of a dating service only in desperation, Thompson said.

"It's not a desperate act," she said. "It's good protection for yourself." She said some women have a more difficult time believing that than men do.

"It's just a bright thing to do, and men see it that way," Thompson said. "Women want to do it, they just don't want to appear desperate. Women would always prefer that

you think they're sitting at home turning down a multitude of dates."

Because of this concern with image, she said, attracting female members to use the video service has been more difficult than attracting male members.

Thompson said the age of the members varies widely, but the majority of members are in their mid-20s to late 30s. The possibility of selecting a date in this age group is significantly better than for those outside the age group.

"If you're a teen-ager, the selection may not be real good, and if you're in your 50s, it may not be real good," Thompson said. "But if you're anywhere in the middle, that is, 20 to 40, then it's good."

For \$50 a month or \$250 a year, applicants can fill out a personal profile form detailing their likes, dislikes, desires and goals. These profiles are placed in a book with two photographs of the applicant. The applicant then must make an appointment to have a three- to five-minute video of themselves made, in which they are asked questions by an interviewer.

The rest is up to individual members, Thompson said, but it the process is usually the same.

"You pick a guy you would like to meet," she said. "He comes in and looks at your video, your pictures and your profile sheet. Both of you have to say yes. If he also agrees, then we exchange your phone numbers."

Thompson said being chosen by a prospective date can be exciting.

"It's a lot of fun when you get a little card in the mail saying you have been selected by another member," Thompson said.

She said that the screening and application procedures at the Singles Connection help ensure that members are serious and discriminating.

"Just the nature of the business is screening," Thompson said. "If you weren't a discriminating individual to start with, why come here?"

In addition to its sophisticated screening procedures, Thompson said, Singles Connection reserves the right to refuse membership to anyone on moral grounds. She gave an example for which such refusal might be necessary: "If a girl has a real hard time with a guy, and it was a big struggle throughout the whole evening, then I don't want him as a member," Thompson said.

She said that no such incidents

have occurred at Singles Connection, which has been in operation about a year.

"No one has ever gone out with someone from here and hated them," Thompson said. "Every now and then they may not go out a second time, but usually they do."

She said that successful dates happen more frequently than unsuccessful ones.

"We have our first couple getting married that met through us," Thompson said.

New copy center owned by students meets A&M needs

By Michelle Sanger
Reporter

Texas A&M students now have an alternative to Northgate copy centers with the recent opening of Copy Corner, which is owned and operated by students.

Nick Bregenzler, vice president of Copy Corner, said plans for the center were designed to provide students with a convenient alternative to other copy centers.

Bregenzler, an A&M senior finance and accounting major, said that before Copy Corner, only two copy centers — both located in Northgate — supplied the copying services students needed.

"Convenience is our big niche," Bregenzler said. "In a demographic study we discovered that over 67 percent of the student population lives closer to our location. No one has ever come into the market to compete with the copy centers in town and the market was ready."

Bregenzler and two other A&M students realized the opportunity to open a copy center, so they raised the money and started their own company, he said.

"Copy Corner, a full service copy center, is owned by Aggies for Aggies with the students' needs in mind," he said.

Copy Corner's prices for typing and binding will be less than its competitors' prices. The copy center will sell class notes during the spring semester, he said.

Larry Hodges, a senior finance major and president of Copy Corner, said the copy center staff is enthusiastic about establishing a good reputation at A&M.

"We want to provide a friendly at-

mosphere and quality service," he said.

Bregenzler said, "Eventually we will have a study room in the back where students can relax or study."

Dennis Averitt, a junior education major, is in charge of production at Copy Corner. Averitt, who has worked for Kinkos and On the Double, is familiar with the mechanics of the machines, Bregenzler said.

The Copy Corner staff will finish printing class notes and setting up the store during Christmas break.

"We're using this month before Christmas to iron out any problems we have and to see how large our market is," Bregenzler said.

Copy Corner is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m.-2 a.m., Friday 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 a.m.

Correction

A story in Tuesday's *Battalion* about the Texas A&M Board of Regents' approval of construction of the proposed University Center contained some incorrect information.

Off Campus Aggies was mentioned as one of the student offices that might be moved to the University Center when construction is complete. The story reported incorrectly that OCA is located in Puryear Hall.

The Off Campus Center, an administratively funded office, is located in Puryear. OCA is located in the Pavilion.

The *Battalion* regrets the error.

Texas A&M cadets set for Austin trip

University News Service

More than 2,100 Texas A&M cadets will parade through downtown Austin Thursday afternoon as part of the traditional Aggie Corps Trip before the University of Texas-Texas A&M Thanksgiving Day football game.

Led by Corps of Cadets Commander Todd Reichert, the parade will include the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry and the 300-member Fighting Texas Aggie Band. The cadets step off at 2 p.m. at Third Street and Congress Avenue and will march up Congress Avenue to the State Capitol Building, where the group will disband.

Maj. Gen. Don O. Daniel, commander of Troop Command of the Texas Army National Guard, will serve as reviewing officer and receive the salutes from the 38 Corps units as they pass the reviewing stand at Seventh Street and Congress Avenue.

Daniel is a 1956 A&M graduate. Aggie Corps Trips date back to 1878, when special trains transported the entire uniformed A&M student body. Early outings were made to the San Jacinto Battlefield for the staging of mock battles. At about the turn of the century, the trips were made to coincide with football contests.

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