

# A&M becomes first to implement GTE's SmartPark network in region

By Todd Swearingen  
Of The Battalion Staff

A formal agreement between Texas A&M University and GTE Southwest was reached in August, making the A&M Research Park the first in the region to implement GTE's SmartPark telecommunications network.

"College Station is an ideal site for research-related businesses," Texas A&M President William H. Mobley said. "The park's proximity to the University and the ability to provide advanced communications services to our tenants will be a key factor in the success of the park."

SmartPark was developed in 1985 by GTE California to specifically manage the diverse telecommunication needs of large real estate developments such as business, industrial, and research parks.

The system utilizes a fiber optic

node to provide highly specialized services to their customers, and can be expanded without retrofitting equipment or inconveniencing the customer with enormous time delays.

There are 22 SmartPark networks currently in operation at business parks located in California, Florida, Indiana, North Carolina and Washington.

"One important advantage of SmartPark, in addition to providing enhanced telecommunications capabilities, is that it is targeted to meet a customer's needs today, as well as in the future," GTE Southwest Area Coordinator for Communications Wanda Nicols said.

"SmartPark enables GTE to provide cost-effective service to heavy communications users in a centralized location," recently retired GTE Southwest President E.L. "Buddy" Langley stated in a press release. "GTE Southwest is pleased to team

with a high technology facility like the Research Park for the introduction of SmartPark to the Southwest."

"The partnership we have formed with Texas A&M University Research Park provides an excellent opportunity for GTE Southwest to demonstrate our sophisticated capabilities in voice, data, and video communications," Langley said.

A&M and GTE will cooperate in marketing the new system in order to attract tenants and encourage further development of the park. Present tenants of the 434-acre facility include the Granada Corporation, a biotechnology firm; the Offshore Technology Research Center of the National Science Foundation; and the National Training Center for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.

A fourth building was recently dedicated and will be used to conduct research in deep oceanic oil drilling.

# Aggies Abroad sets up trip to London

By Mia B. Moody  
Of The Battalion Staff

Aggies who don't believe they can afford to take a trip to London might be wrong. The Aggies Abroad Club, a group that helps its members make affordable trips overseas, has arranged a special trip to London during Christmas break.

Dr. John Groth, a professor in the finance department, said the trip will include an all day bus tour of the Netherlands including a visit to the famous wholesale flower auction, the open air-markets and a look at some diamond cutters at work.

"The trip should cost \$829 or less," Groth said. "This will include air fare from Houston to Amsterdam, Amsterdam to London, and return flights. It will also include six nights in a hotel, transfers, tour of the Netherlands, breakfast and the 15 percent value tax."

Groth suggests that students look around if they want to take trips but don't believe they can afford them.

He said they can usually find deals on air fare and on hotel accommodations in magazines.

Groth said students interested in the trip to London should contact Jim Reichle at 696-1944 or Kari Groth at 693-5702. A \$100 deposit is due immediately and a full payment is due by November 24.

## PARTHENON

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# THURSDAY

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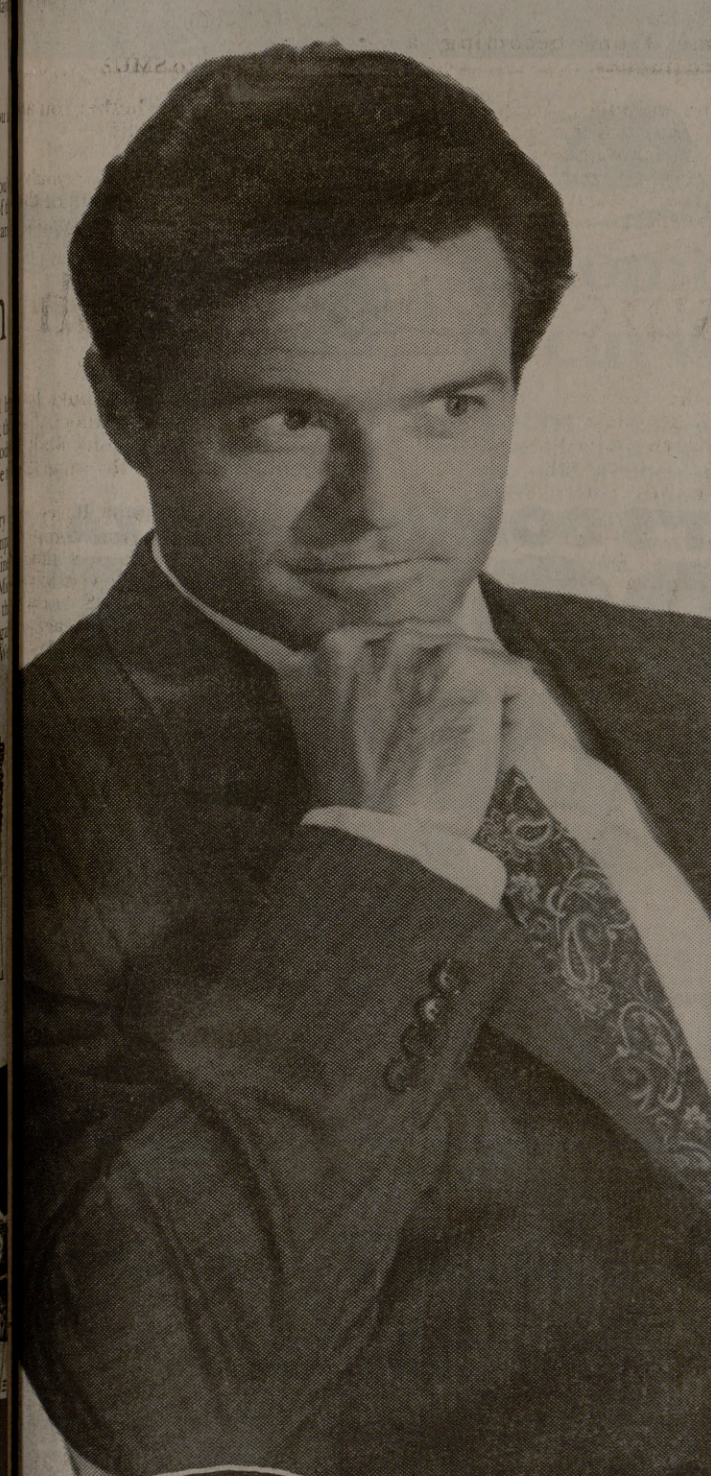
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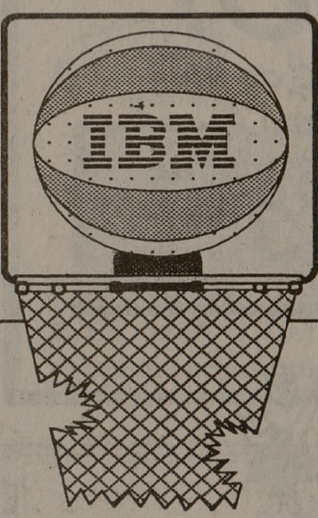
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Registration will open September 5th and close September 19th at the Micro Computer Center from 9:00a.m. - 6:00p.m. Look for registration tables at Sbis Dining Hall the 12th - 14th. Registration fee - \$15 per team.



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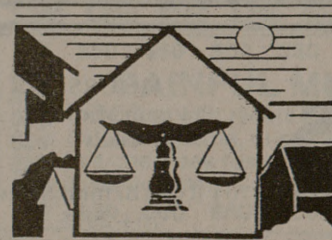
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