

## University to install new computer system

By Mark Smith  
THE BATTALION

Networking on Texas A&M University's computer system will become much faster and more reliable in the next few months, said the director of computing and information services Wednesday.

The network, which now uses the Ethernet system, will be completely switched to a system built by the Office of Computing and Information Services. The new network will be based on the Fiber Distributed Data Interface media, or FDDI.

"The (old) network had basically just grown out of control and exceeded all of its capacities," said Dr. Dave Safford, director of computing and information services. "This project, which is about halfway done now, is a complete rebuild of the system."

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-Dr. Dave Safford,  
director of computing and information

Dr. Willis Marti, director of computing services for the computer science department, said the improvements will aid students and faculty because it will operate smoother and faster.

"It (the new network) will effectively relieve congestion," he said. "It's like expanding Texas Avenue to six lanes."

The installation of the network is being set up parallel to the existing system. Some of the network services have already been switched over to the new system.

The new network will be 10 times faster than the old system and will also provide for a more stable and reliable network.

"In the past, if a single building lost electrical power, then the whole campus network went down," Safford said.

The new system proved its reliability when the Zachry Computing Center, one of the main campus computing centers, lost power several weeks ago with no effect to the network.

"That was an actual stress test to the system," Safford said.

The network provides a number of access services to students and faculty. Electronic mail is the most popular service, Safford said, followed by news and file transfer. News is a service where subscribers can read stories about a particular subject area they are interested in.

Marti said he receives more than 100 messages by E-mail everyday. "It's a lot easier to exchange E-mail than to play telephone tag," he said.

The network also has access to a number of databases that run through a system called Gopher. Through the Gopher system, a user can view the policies and procedures and see the calendar of events for the University.

Marti said by using the resource utility on the network, students and faculty can access lists of documents at Sterling C. Evans Library as well as several other libraries around the state. Students can also see copies of documents instead of just the bibliographic information.

## A&M Christian organizations unite students

Aggies For Christ recognized by A&M after 26 years

By Jan Higginbotham  
THE BATTALION

Aggies For Christ (AFC), a non-denominational Christian organization at Texas A&M University, offers students of any background, even those who don't attend church regularly, a chance to hang out with other students in a relaxed Christian atmosphere.

Katie Beauchamp, a member of AFC, said the new club cannot be considered an organization but instead a "group of people with a common goal."

"We want to provide a place for students who want a Christian influence, but wouldn't necessarily go to church," Beauchamp said.

"Everyone and anyone is welcome," she said. "There are no restrictions and no boundaries. This is a real diverse group of

See AFC/Page 11



Students from various campus Christian organizations prayed around the Academic Plaza flag pole Wednesday. Christians from around the country gathered at 7 a.m. and noon to pray for the world.

## Freshmen gain leadership skills through student groups

By Jacqueline Mason  
THE BATTALION

Four Texas A&M University student organizations are preparing freshmen not just for their first year of college, but also for the rest of their college careers.

Sonya Masten, a counselor for Aggies Leaders of Tomorrow (A.L.O.T.), said she likes to pinpoint freshmen and let them know exactly what A&M has to offer.

"It gets them ready to take over A&M," she said.

Other associations exclusively offered to freshmen include freshmen Leaders in Progress (F.L.I.P.), Student Government's freshmen Programs (Fish Aids) and the Aggie Fish Club.

Aggie Fish Club, created in the spring of 1992,

is the newest of the freshmen organizations.

"The purpose of Aggie Fish Club is to create a group of freshmen dedicated to leadership training, group strength and unity," said Aggie Fish Club Director Steven Mathews.

The group distinguishes itself from other freshmen organizations by emphasizing broad-based leadership training, he said.

The other groups teach students leadership skills for particular positions, Mathews said.

Marisa Baie, a former Fish Aid, said Fish Aids get the upper-hand on Student Government activities.

Fish Aids are required to work three hours a week in the Student Government office and join another Student Government group such as Big Event or Muster.

One disadvantage is that the freshmen Programs cannot choose more than 40 Fish Aids,

she said.

"Only 40 freshmen get picked," she said. "There are usually about 300 applicants."

Likewise, the other freshmen groups limit the number of members.

Masten said A.L.O.T., which prepares students for positions in the MSC, has decreased the number of members from 100 to 56 to enable the group members to get to know each other better.

Mathews said in big groups, students tend to lose their motivation and drop out. "We start out with 50 freshmen and we want to end with 50 freshmen."

Through organized meetings and social retreats and activities, members create relationships they will keep through their college years.

"It's like we are all best friends," Mathews said.

## Golden Key National Honor Society

Campus Awareness Information Booths:

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 15 - MSC Hallway

Thursday, Sept. 16 - Zachry Lobby

Friday, Sept. 17 - Blocker Lobby

First Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 21st

8:30 pm Rudder 402

For More Information:

Call Chris Mason at 847-0879

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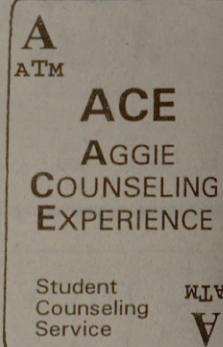
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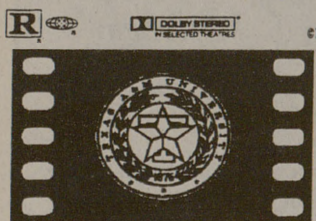
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Deven Jackson, DETAILS MAGAZINE



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MSC Box Office 845-1234

Film Society Hotline 847-8478

MSC Student Programs Office 845-1515

A Memorial Student Center Student Programs Committee

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Attention all classes:  
From Sept. 6 to Oct. 8  
just \$1 gets your shot in  
the 1994 AGGIELAND yearbook.

Pictures are being taken at A R Photography, located at 707 Texas Avenue S. near Taco Cabana, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 693-8183.

If you did not purchase your shot in the Aggeland during tele-registration, it can be purchased in 230 RDMC. Yearbooks can be purchased in 015 RDMC.

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