

Aggie Bucks office moves to Sbis

By Carrie Miura

THE BATTALION

The Aggie Bucks program has moved from the Food Services Department to the Fiscal Department this semester in order to launch a new system that will expand the program.

As a result, the Aggie Bucks office has moved from the Underground near Sbis dining center to the Pavilion.

Tom Taylor, assistant vice president of finance and administration, said the administration is discontinuing the use of the food services system because it was not equipped to handle the program's expansion.

"The real issue is that the old system was limited in the identification card readers and lines," Taylor said. "Now, with the new widespread application, we can provide more services to the students."

In addition to all on-campus dining facilities, Aggie Bucks can currently be used at the A&M golf course, the A&M Dairy Creamery and the MSC Bookstore.

And, after a request by Student Government, the

University Center Garage is now accepting Aggie Bucks.

The Fiscal Department is implementing more services to accommodate the students' needs, Taylor said. "These services are things students really want on campus," he said. "We are continually looking for ways for improvement and efficiency."

Next spring, students will be able to use Aggie Bucks to purchase items from vending machines and to pay for copies from copy machines.

Fiscal Department officials said they are uncertain about the specific buildings where the machines will be located. They said they anticipate that the machines will be placed in several buildings, including the Evans Library.

Taylor said the card readers are already ordered and will be tested for two months so any problems can be worked out.

Dale Witenhafer, Aggie Buck administrator, said he knows of few complaints about the Aggie Bucks office moving.

"So far, we have had real positive comments from both the students and their parents," he said.

University, city strive for better relationship

By Mark Smith

THE BATTALION

Monthly meetings between Texas A&M University Interim President E. Dean Gage and members of the College Station City Council are going well and are creating an open environment for discussion, officials said.

"I think we've got a good start going," said Larry Ringer, mayor of College Station. "We've had some good discussions about what was generally going on and talking about some ideas we have going on about some projects in the future."

Part of the breakfast discussions have revolved around a joint effort by the University and the city of College Station to expand Texas Avenue, which is scheduled to begin next summer. Those discussions have centered on the aesthetics of the project and how the University can help with the landscaping.

The talks began in August after College Station and the University disagreed about the free firefight-

ing service the city provides to A&M. Then problems arose when College Station officials wanted to put a new fire station at Easterwood Airport.

"We've talked about putting a fire station out at the airport," Ringer said. "Since that will serve almost exclusively University property, the council felt it would be appropriate for the University to fund the construction operation of that station."

Since the monthly meetings started, officials of the University and the city have met to resolve the situation with the fire station.

The officials included in the meetings said both sides have learned the importance of the University and the city keeping in contact.

"One help that has come out of the meetings is a greater awareness," Ringer said. "We need to know what is happening at the University, and the University needs to know what is happening in terms of city long-range planning."

Gage said some of the Univer-

sity's long-range plans could be discussed using a town-hall type format. Such meetings help to continue the open and trusting communication process that has been established, he said.

One example of the type of project, Gage said, that could be discussed in this format would be a motel/hotel convention center built somewhere in the community or on campus.

"We're not going to build it, but there have been some discussions as to whether to let a company provide or meet that space on campus," Gage said.

"We're going to have town hall meetings on those types of things."

No decisions have come out of the meetings between the University and the city, but officials said the meetings are still needed.

"What we're doing is just talking about where we're going," Ringer said.

"It's been good because he's gotten to know council members, and we've gotten to know President Gage and his staff."

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



Chris Colloway, with the City of College Station electrical department, works on the community Christmas tree Tuesday at the intersection of Texas Avenue and University Drive.

Steve Howard/SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

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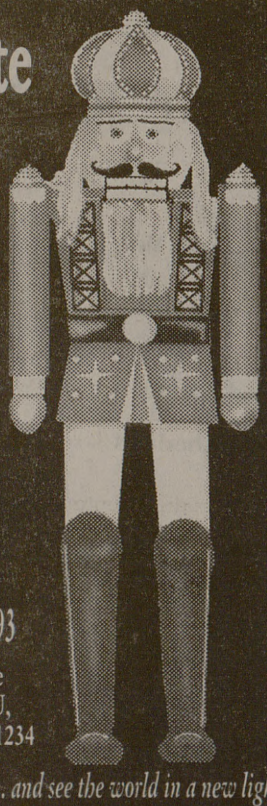
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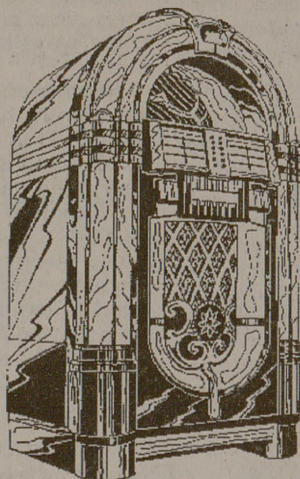
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