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MATH 151	9-12 PM	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	
BUSINESS		MON Sep 29	TUE Sep 30	WED Oct 1	THU Oct 2
BANA 303 (Dr. Buffa)	4-6 PM	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	
ACCT 209/229	6-8 PM	CH 3-6 EXAM PROBS	CH 3-6 EXAM PROBS	CH 7	CH 7 CONT.
ACCT 230	8-10 PM	TIGER PART 1	TIGER PART 2	TIGER PART 1	TIGER PART 2
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4 THE BATTALION LIFESTYLES

Serve some up Dining on campus provides culinary alternative

By STEPHEN WELLS
Staff writer

Some Aggies hold the stereotype that freshmen do not know anything. They do not know how to study, what classes they can skip or the notion that the weekends begin on Thursdays.

But like freshmen, all Aggies must decide where to eat no matter how long they have been here.

The first choice Aggies have for eating is the "dining on campus is fun" option. Many Aggies have gone this route and found the meal plan worth their while.

Todd Macek, a freshman history major, has his own ideas about the good and the bad of dining on campus.

"The best thing about eating on campus is the buffet style," Macek said. "You just keep going back."

"I would say the worst thing is that you've got to go walk to the dining hall. You

can't just sit in your room and watch the game."

Jill Jeffries, a freshman English major, and her roommate Missy Burchfield, a freshman animal science major, are ambivalent about eating at the dining halls.

"You have a lot of choices," Jeffries said. "But you don't necessarily want to eat them all. The turkey is good, though."

Her roommate is more neutral in her assessment. "Considering they're preparing food for the masses, it's not that bad," Burchfield said.

The urban myths about campus food have been circulating for years.

"No, no scare stories (to share)," Jeffries said. "We haven't had anything that tastes really bad, but they should do something about that rubbery chicken stuff."

"We go for the food that's not cooked," Burchfield said. "It's salad and baked

potatoes for us every day."

Sometimes, students will walk out of the dining halls with a chicken sandwich or two stuffed into a pocket for later, but some of this year's freshman class are a little more honest than their predecessors.

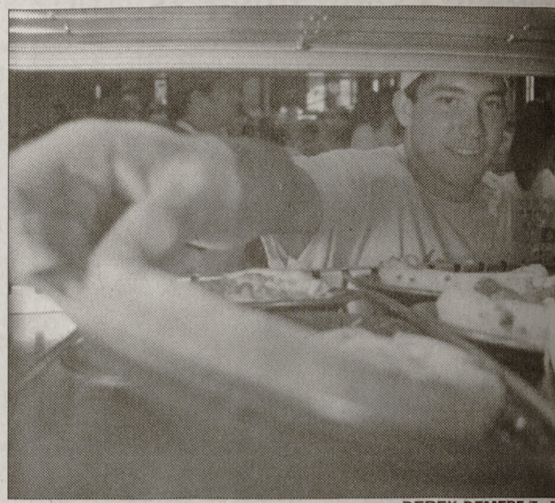
"I don't steal," Macek said. "I've got enough food in the dorm room — snack stuff. I do walk out drinking a soda sometimes. Is that stealing?"

Other than the dining halls, students generally have two other options. They can order food out or suck it up and attempt to cook at home.

"Eating out for me — you get to pick what you eat," Macek said. "There's more variety."

"It's more expensive than a meal plan and cuts into the cigarette fund. But at least you can be lazy and eat pizza rolls in your room."

Jeffries said she and her roommate have not ordered out yet.



DEREK DEMERE/The Staff
Ramsey Parr, a sophomore kinesiology major, dines at the dining hall.

"We go to Northgate," she said.

"We also go to Underground every Friday," Burchfield said.

Mel Bartlett, a junior agricultural economics major, said eating out is the most efficient way to eat for a student on the go.

"When you go to school full time and live off campus and have to work a full week, you don't have the time to cook," Bartlett said. "I usually just eat at work since I'm there until late at night anyway."

On-campus and off-

campus students also have different motivations for cooking their own food.

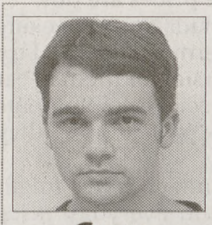
"We just made a meal on Sunday," Burchfield said. "We cooked pasta, chicken and bought one of those premixed salads."

Todd Macek has a more defeatist attitude. "All I have in my refrigerator is Kool-Aid and cubes," Macek said. "I go shopping. When I cook in my dorm room, it's ramen noodles."

So, when their tummies are rumbling, Aggies can choose ways to satisfy their hunger.

Dorms act as nursing homes for the young

I distinctly remember the ersatz aroma of the nursing home, an eclectic cornucopia of floor wax, urinal soaps and aging flesh that pasted itself thick about my nose and throat.



CHRIS MARTIN
columnist

Visiting the nursing home may be a gallant service to the sagging, but closer inspection reveals an oracle to the able.

Frequent visits to the nursing home have taught me that every cold-fish handshake and oatmeal-encrusted lip quiver is like a voice from the wilderness, shouting, "For the love of God, my boy, don't ever grow old!"

Childhood memories fade into a scene from the present day. The setting is College Campus, USA, where the rusting colors of summer signal the return of new life to the dormitories.

When I lived in grand old Aston Hall (motto: 91 percent crab free!) my freshman year, I tasted the spry zing of freedom and youth for the first couple of days. But as the days

rolled by, a familiar old flavor crept into my mouth.

It was the pungent bouquet of institutional living. I was no longer an unfettered visitor, singing Christmas carols and passing out watered-down Kool-Aid. I was an inmate, locked away in a colossal concrete cage.

I had seen the truth, but it didn't set me free. Living on campus is nothing more than a cleverly disguised nursing home designed for the peace of mind of parents everywhere.

Think about it for a minute. The physical similarities are obvious.

You go from the comfort and luxury of home life, where the water is always hot and the towels are always snugly soft, to being carted off by supposed loved ones to exile in a sterile, concrete block box.

The room is shared by two roommates. One is usually smarmy and dangerously attractive, like myself, and the other typically possesses a virtual Chex mix of psychotic personalities.

Limited mobility is one of the trademarks of on-campus and nursing home life. There's always a big locked door at the entrance that keeps the bad people out of the dorms and the good people in the nursing home.

Nursing home travel is usually

limited to the strength of two bony arms propelling a wheelchair. This gives residents the freedom to slowly creep down to the dining hall, until they either fall asleep, forget they are hungry or miss the last call for creamed corn.

Dormitory travel is usually limited to the strength of two bony legs propelling a body forward from parking one's car in Fish Lot.

Another odd similarity between living in the dorm and the nursing home is the abundance of unnecessary exposed flesh.

sarily exposed flesh.

It seems people in the nursing home honestly could care less about their naked bodies. I guess being bathed, dipped and clipped twice a day by overweight orderlies just sucks the dignity right out of you.

Years of my life have been stripped away by accidental glances through those standard-issue miumuus.

And by no surprise, guys in the dorm also share this affection for partial group nudity, stemming from the belief that passing fems will instinctively hurl themselves at their itty-bitty thigh pimples.

Years of my life have been stripped away by accidental glances at a my roommate giving me the old "one-eyed stare" through those standard issue boxers.

Now you know the truth. Yes, ginia, living on campus is a diabolic exercise in social engineering. But perhaps there is a silver lining to that gray cloud. Perhaps an exchange system could be established between Southside and our sister campus at the Fallen Arches Residential Castle. Pills, blackouts and drooling — they won't be wasted on the young anymore.

Chris Martin is a senior journalism major.



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