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TOMORROW

# Students find Outbound Dining helpful

By KATY LINEBERGER  
Staff writer

The Department of Food Services take-out meal program, "Outbound Dining," is gaining popularity among Aggies on the go.

"It's been a big success," said Deborah Ropp, facility manager at Sbisal Dining Hall. "We're glad students are enjoying it."

Ropp said over 1,100 students per week are taking advantage of the service which started this semester at the Commons.

On Wednesday, a sophomore geology major, said the service is convenient for students who live on campus.

"If you have a late class or you

have to go somewhere, you can pop in and grab something to eat," he said. "It's really easy."

Christa Ballard, a freshman international studies major, said she gets take-out meals from Sbisal when she is in a hurry.

"It's the only way I've been able to use all the meals in my meal plan," she said.

Ropp said the service is targeted to meal plan customers, but cash and Aggie Bucks are also accepted.

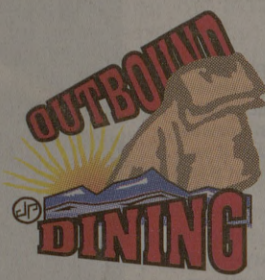
Amanda Arriaga, a freshman business major, said the program helps students with meal plans use their meals.

"It's more economical than using Aggie Bucks to buy food at the Underground," she said.

Customers can choose from four meal options: soup and salad, entree

dessert and a drink.

"I think it's good they have diverse



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Christa Ballard  
freshman international studies major

salad, ham or turkey sandwich or one of the day's four entrees, Ropp said. Meals also include side dishes,

stuff," Day said. "More or less whatever you can get in the sit-down dining you can get here."

Ropp said the program originated from student requests for an alternative to cafeteria-style meals.

"We knew that we wanted to do something to accommodate students," Ropp said.

Ropp said a committee was formed that researched the cost effectiveness and menu items for the service. Construction was necessary at Sbisal to create an outside entry and separate area for the take-out meals, while no changes were required at the Commons, she said.

"I think everything in this world is more mobile," she said. "With students traveling around between main and West campus, it's more convenient, particularly at lunch."

Ropp said very few problems have arisen with the take-out meals, only a few requests for more menu variety and substitutions. She said the department encourages student responses through comment cards.

A committee will be formed this summer to address student concerns and research possible menu changes and their cost effectiveness, she said.

Outbound Dining is available weekdays for lunch and dinner at the same hours of operation as the cafeterias. The Sbisal entrance is located by Bernie's Pizza, and take-out at the Commons uses the same facility as the cafeteria.

There, students leave their ID cards, go get their food and return to pick up their IDs, Ropp said.

## Anchors away



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Tom Lang, visiting from Ohio, studies the USS San Jacinto exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library. Bush was stationed on the USS San Jacinto during World War II.

## A&M remembers Texas legislator

By RACHEL DAWLEY  
Staff writer

Texas A&M archives often highlight historical figures like Earl Rudder, Sul Ross and E. King Gill. There is another, less famous man, whose efforts helped bring about the creation of the University.

Matthew Gaines rose from a life of slavery to become a prominent member of the 12th Texas Senate. He faced constant challenges as one of Texas' first black legislators and was eventually removed from Congress.

Before these political challenges ended his career in the legislature, Gaines supported the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, establishing the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas more than 120 years ago.

Gaines was born into slavery in August of 1840 in Louisiana. His hatred of slavery led him to become a minister to other slaves. He attempted to escape from slavery numerous times but was always returned.

After emancipation, Gaines returned to the Brazos River Valley where he was once a slave of Christopher Columbus Hearne. He soon established himself as a preacher and a politician.

In 1869, Gaines was elected to the Texas Senate, earning a reputation for protecting the newly-won rights of black Texans. He addressed the issues of public education, prison reform and protection of black voters.

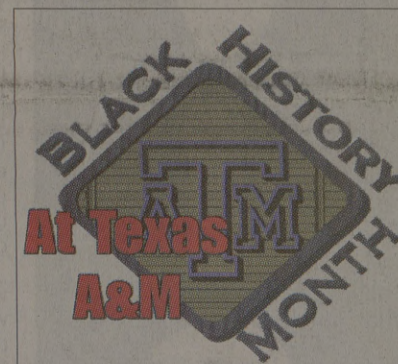
Dr. Dale Baum, an associate professor of history and author of several articles concerning Gaines and the 12th legislature, said Gaines supported the legislation to meet the deadline for the federal Morrill Land-Grant College Act.

Before the Civil War, most Southerners were opposed to the idea of using the proceeds from the sales of federal land to establish "agricultural and mechanical arts" colleges. The land-grant proposals were denounced because of the racist mindset of many Southerners of the time

and their feared loss of the black labor force.

The work of black lawmakers in the 12th Legislature prompted the Senate to establish the first state public institution of higher learning, Baum said.

"During this period, the [Edmund J.] Davis Administration and the Texas legislature did more for public education than any governor or legislature that had preceded them," he said. "Gaines, along with all the black members of the legislature, had a majestic reverence for education, viewing it as a key to the advancement of their race."



The 1871 bill to establish the Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas allowed state officials to segregate white and black students, but obligated them to establish another federally supported land-grant school for blacks. A&M's sister school, Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, was formed.

"Gaines' progressive and egalitarian investment in 1871 in the future of education laid the essential foundations for the building of the modern-day Texas A&M University, which we proudly hail today as the first state institution of higher learning in Texas," Baum said. "Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M are today the only two tangible achievements of

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## U.N. inspectors ready for return to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Weapons experts, not diplomats, will take charge of deciding when to hunt for hidden Iraqi biological and chemical arms, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told uneasy senators Tuesday.

She promised to work with the U.N. inspectors commission to clear up "ambiguities" in the deal U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan struck with President Saddam Hussein and "to close any possible loopholes."

Projecting caution about the accord, the administration said it would insist on a "quick test"

of Saddam's promise to expose all sites, some of which have never been opened, to U.N. inspectors.

"We have to be watching very closely," President Clinton said.

Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, returned from New York Tuesday and joined Clinton's other national security advisers at the White House to go over the Iraq agreement. White House spokesperson Mike McCurry said it was "largely a technical discussion." The president was to be briefed about the

meeting afterward.

At the Pentagon, officials announced that Clinton had signed an order authorizing the call up of 500 members of the National Guard and Reserve in support of the Gulf deployments.

Defense Secretary William Cohen announced Sunday he requested the move, which makes available for up to 270 days specialists such as Navy harbor surveillance troops, Coast Guard port security forces, Army chemical detection forces and Air Force Special Operations C-130 air crews.

## Study: antidepressants not linked to defects

CHICAGO (AP) — Three widely used antidepressants — Prozac, Paxil and Zoloft — do not appear to cause birth defects, a study found.

The findings, based on data from nine medical centers in the United States and Canada, agree with research in animals and with previous studies of Prozac among pregnant women.

An expert not associated with the research said the findings are reassuring, but because the study looked at only 267 expectant mothers, it was too small to establish that the drugs are safe during pregnancy.

Because it is unethical to test drugs on pregnant women, Prozac went on the market in 1988, Zoloft in 1991 and Paxil in 1992 without anyone knowing their effects on unborn babies.

The latest study was published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Because more than half of all pregnancies are unplanned and an estimated 8 percent to 20 percent of all women suffer from depression, fetal safety is a primary concern," wrote the researchers, led by Nathalie Kulin of the University of Toronto.

The drugs also are used to treat panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and bulimia.

The researchers studied 267 women who had been taking one of the three drugs when they learned of their pregnancies, and 267 pregnant women who were not exposed to anything known to cause birth defects.

In the antidepressant group, 222 live births occurred and nine babies had major physical defects, a rate of 4.1 percent. In the comparison group, 235 live births occurred and nine babies had major defects, a rate of 3.8 percent. The difference in rates was so small that it could have been caused by chance, the researchers said.

## Future dim for Florida rescuers

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Rescuers with dogs searched the piney woods near a tornado-devastated campground Tuesday for the bodies of people blown away when a swarm of tornadoes strafed central Florida.

At least 38 people were killed and hundreds of homes and businesses were destroyed Monday. Seven people were still missing Tuesday, some from the Ponderosa Park Campground.

As hope of finding more survivors faded, searchers began yelling to the two dogs, "Go find Fred!" — the signal for the black Labrador and Weimaraner to find bodies hidden in the underbrush surrounding the campground.

"Search!" — the command to find survivors — could no longer be heard.

"There's nothing in there," said Lt. Mark Bogush of the Tampa Fire-Rescue Canine Unit. "They don't want to shut that door of hope, but this is basically a cleanup."

Rescuers picked through the mass of twisted metal, shattered glass and splintered lumber the day after six to 10 El Niño-driven twisters tore through central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico. Monday's tornadoes, packing 260 mph winds, were the state's deadliest on record, killing more than Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The weather service issued warnings 20 to 30 minutes before the tornadoes hit, but it did little good. "When people are sleeping there's no way of getting the message out," said Terry Faber, University of Miami meteorology researcher.

Divers combing the creek behind a home in Sanford found the body of 21-year-old Penny Louise Hall. Also killed when the twisters hit their house were her parents, Debra and Edward Hall, and her fiance, 23-year-

### Recent storms in Florida

The state has been hard hit by Mother Nature in the 1990s, as shown by this ranking of insured losses from storms.



Storm	Year	Insured loss
Hurricane Andrew	1992	\$16-billion
Hurricane Opal	1995	\$1.3-billion
(Unnamed storm)	1993	\$620-million
Orlando-Jacksonville hail storm	1992	\$613-million
Hurricane Erin	1995	\$350-million
Windstorm (unnamed)	1995	\$75-million
New Smyrna Beach tornado	1997	\$35-million

Source: Florida Insurance Council, industry estimates

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times via AP

old Kevin Taylor.

Only her 5-year-old daughter, Ashley, survived. She was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Elsewhere in Sanford, 40 miles north of Orlando, the putrid stench of a rotting pig carcass alongside a driveway hung heavily in the air over a 10-acre farm. Chickens, pigs, a horse and a cow with a broken leg wandered about in a daze.

Freddie Padgett of the town of Geneva near Daytona Beach recounted wearing a life jacket to bed — his habit whenever storms approach.

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online

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