

## LET THE CRAMMING BEGIN

On- and off-campus establishments provide longer hours, freebies for students during finals

BY KELLY PREISER  
The Battalion

The semester is finally drawing to a close, but before students can bid farewell to this semester's classes, they have to prepare for what most students consider the most dreaded event of the year — finals.

Late nights — or all-nighters — midnight pizza delivery and coffee breaks are just a few of the things students have to look forward to as finals near.

While the outlook may seem grim, many college Station and Texas A&M institutions are doing what they can to ease the load on students. These institutions and student workers are working together to make finals run as smoothly as possible.

Sweet Eugene's, a local coffee house, is one of many establishments offering its customers extra service during finals.

"We will be open 24 hours the Thursday before finals, [and] Sunday and Monday," said Iron Brown, manager and co-owner of Sweet Eugene's.

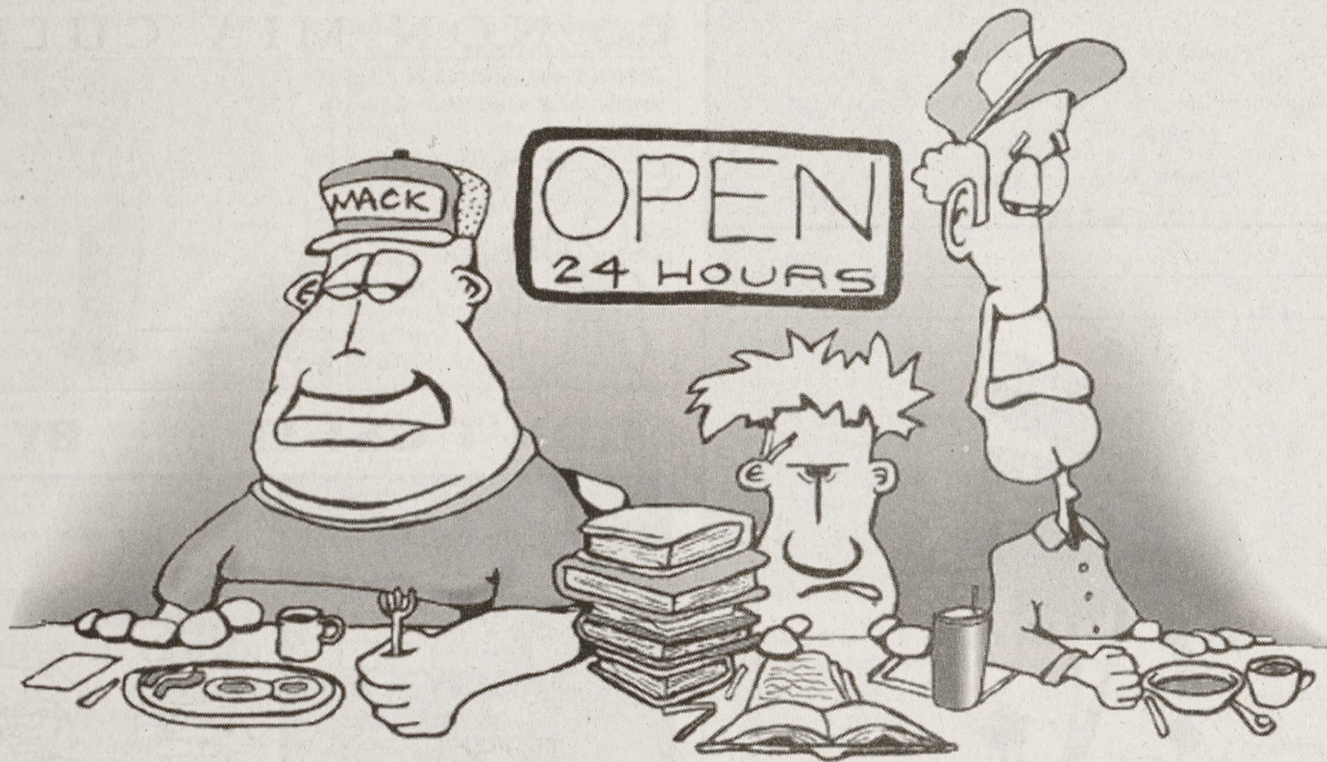
Brown said that about 90 percent of his staff students, so he understands that students need a break.

"They're [students] the reason we're here. We know they're going through a hard time and will pull all night. Coffee is a great stimulant, so this is the perfect place for the students to hang out. It's a great atmosphere to get away. Plus, they're good people, they deserve to have this type of stuff done for them," Brown said.

He said there are many reasons behind the decision to change business hours.

"We want to show the students we love them and that we care. Not too many places are open at late, so students don't have too many places to go. We try to give them a little alternative," Brown said.

For anyone who does not have access to an off-campus location or who may want to escape the silent atmosphere of the 24-hours of quiet time



MATT ROY/THE BATTALION

in the dorms, there are also several facilities on-campus that are doing special things for Aggies preparing for finals.

The Commons Dining Center, for example, will be open until 2 a.m. as a study hall and will offer coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice.

"This offers the students a quiet place for them to study and a new environment to go to and get away from the dorms," said Cedric Payton, manager of the Commons Dining Center.

Payton mentioned a few reasons why it is important to do things like this for students.

"Of course, to help bring up their [grade point average] and help make A&M the best. But also, students without meal plans can come in for free and have a nice place to study," Payton said.

The Department of Food Services is also co-sponsoring Sterling C. Evans and the West Campus Libraries' efforts to provide students with free coffee and hot chocolate.

On May 2, there will be a "Fiesta Finale" which will be held in Duncan Dining center at lunch and the MSC and Commons Dining Centers at dinner.

The "Fiesta Finale" will feature 'Bevo' piñatas, fiesta-type food and fiesta decorations.

"We didn't get to bash the Bevos last semester around Thanksgiving time when we usually do it, so we're going to do it for finals. We'll let the students bash them, sort of like a 'beat the hell out of finals' thing," said Annette Ely, a food services employee and a sophomore management information systems major.

Rhonda Kappler, marketing coordinator for the Department of Food Services said there are other events that are planned to ease students into finals.

"Sunday, May 7, we're holding a 'Pancake and Pajama Party' from 9 to 11 p.m. There will be complimentary pancakes and beverages during study time," Kappler said.

He said on May 8, exam survival kits containing snacks, will be handed out at lunch at all three dining centers.

Student workers are also adjusting their schedules in preparation of finals. It can be difficult for student workers to balance work and school while getting ready for finals.

"I think I'm going to have to go to work until 5 [p.m.] then come home and take a break and spend the rest of the night studying," said Sylvia Wagner, who works at the Graduate Office of the Department of Chemistry and is a junior agricultural economics major.

"It can be really hard if you have more than one final on the same day. You have to learn how to balance your time and get used to staying up late," Wagner said.

"My managers are really good about letting us off when we need to study. If I ever need off during the day or anything, they're fine with it, all I have to do is ask," Wagner said.

Andrew Saunders, a senior history major who works at the Texas A&M Bookstore in the Memorial Student Center said he and other bookstore employees will have to work more hours than usual during finals week because of book buy-back.

"We are expected to work more hours, but the bookstore works really well with our schedules. I think I'm going to have to make it through this with a lack of sleep, and I'm sure most of my studying will be done at night," Saunders said.

Student workers, from both on- and off-campus institutions and University staff are working together to make the transition into the hectic week of finals as easy as possible.

"I just hope I pass all my classes," Wagner said.

Because on- and off-campus establishments are making efforts to accommodate students schedules, passing finals should be the only worry left in their minds.

## HEY AGGS!

### Guidelines for Low-Risk Alcohol Use.

**0**  
ZERO DRINKS = LOWEST RISK

**1**  
WOMEN: No more than one standard drink a day.

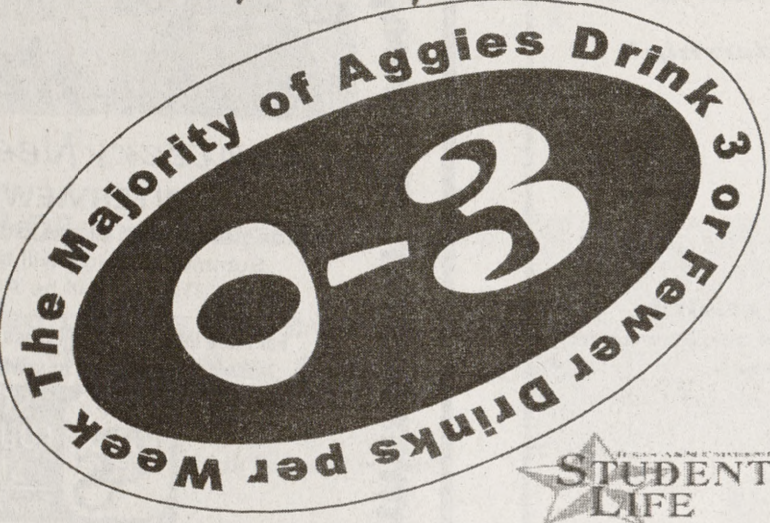
**2**  
MEN: No more than two standard drinks a day.

Standard drink is:  
12 ounces of regular beer (5% alcohol)  
1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits (40% alcohol)  
5 ounces of wine (12% alcohol)

It's always okay not to drink.

### Things to do before finals:

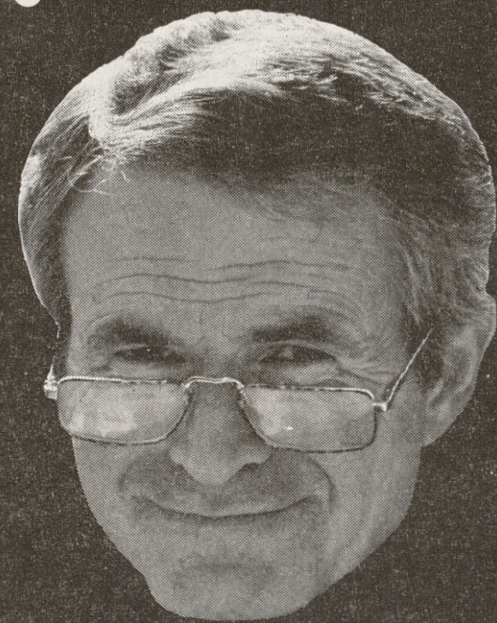
- ✓ STUDY, STUDY, STUDY
- ✓ Eat healthy foods, avoiding too much sugar and caffeine (including over the counter stimulants-vivarin, no-doze)
- ✓ Get plenty of rest!!!
- ✓ Eliminate alcohol and other mood altering drugs-they upset normal sleep, lower concentration, and decrease memory ability



STUDENT LIFE

Data from June, 1998 CORE survey on a random sample of 861 students  
\*Guidelines from FACE, Truth and Clarity on Alcohol

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