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Eating in Aggieland



By JENNIFER CROSS
THE BATTALION

Students not familiar with the Texas A&M meal-plan system may not only be confused about how their meal plan works, but where the best places are to eat on campus. There are a variety of places to eat, and each one is unique.

Jason Ferguson, a junior anthropology major, bought his first A&M meal plan this year and said he was unsure about how the plan works.

"It's twelve meals a week," he said. "I don't know anything besides that."

On main campus, the dining halls are an obvious choice. The Commons Dining Center is located in the basement of the Commons Residence Hall Complex and offers unlimited servings of daily meal selections, including home-style meals, chicken and mashed potatoes. The Commons also includes pizza, hamburgers and salad every day — all at cost of one meal credit. Students without meal plans also can dine at the Commons for \$4.95 for breakfast, \$5.95 for lunch, \$6.95 for dinner and \$7.95 for dinner

when occasional specialty entrees like steak or chicken cordon bleu are served.

A unique feature at the Commons is the two full-size griddles where a creative student chef can prepare anything from omelettes to specially seasoned hamburgers.

Upstairs, on the main floor, Stone Willy's pizzeria serves some of the best pizza on campus. Next to Stone Willy's, The Common Denominator has a sandwich bar and hamburger combination, and it contains one of the three Chick-fil-A's on campus. The Commons Market also is located on the main level. There, students can buy groceries and school supplies.

Sbisa Dining Hall, located on the north-side of campus, is an all-you-can-eat dining hall with renovations that were completed Spring 2001. The tall ceilings and new facilities have turned the once run-down cafeteria into a place to sample a wide variety of foods with a large group of friends.

Rhonda Kappler, marketing coordinator for the Food Services Department, said Sbisa has an updated atmosphere that students will enjoy.

"Sbisa got a complete new look. It has a

more modern feel but keeping the traditional exterior as well," Kappler said.

Sbisa serves a variety of international foods in addition to the same types of food served at the Commons Dining Center. Beneath Sbisa is the appropriately named Underground Food Court, which features Alonti, an Italian-style sandwich and bar; Se Wrappé, which serves burrito wraps; Chick-fil-A; Ultimate Sensations, a smoothie and ice cream stand; and Whataburger. The Underground Market is located on the west side of Sbisa and is similar to the Commons Market. Besides Sbisa, Bernie's Café Express, recently renovated and modernized dining house that will serve outboard dining. Sbisa, ice cream and a variety of specialty coffees, is located above the Underground.

"[Bernie's] changed to a coffee house look and will be staying open until late at night," Kappler said. The Memorial Student Center (MSC) contains two dining centers, the 12th Man Cafeteria and Hullabaloo Food Court. The 12th Man is located on the first floor and has two sides. The left side consists of home-style food, and the menu varies day to day, serving anything from roasted chicken to nachos. The right side has counter service for barbecue, Chinese food and Mexican food.

Also located in the MSC is Rumours Deli. Here, the sandwiches are unique to Rumours and made fresh. Entertainment offerings are provided during late hours by local musicians. When sandwiches are no longer being served, hot appetizers can satisfy a case of the late-night munchies. Rumours also has a late-night schedule, serving coffee and snacks until 2 a.m., seven days a week.

Scattered throughout the rest of main campus are a number of smaller eateries and coffee shops. Pie Are Square, located in the Civil Engineering Building, has a potato bar as a most unique feature.

On the corner of Ross and Ireland Streets sits an unassuming, little building: the Bus Stop Snack Bar. The breakfast wraps are a quick pick-me-up before an early class, and students with little time for lines can grab a fast meal between classes.

The Zachry Snackery and the Blocker Espresso Bar serve fresh pastries, cold drinks and deli sandwiches. The Blocker Espresso Bar also serves hot gourmet coffees, espresso and cappuccino. When in the mood for a coffee shop atmosphere, nothing beats Poor Yorick's Coffee House, on the first floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. A new addition to the library complex, the modern decor is pleasing as the steaming brew served all day.

A few buildings away, the Pavilion Snack Bar features typical fast food like hamburgers and french fries.

If the day was spent on the golf course, students might try the Golf Course Snack Bar. Weary golfers served year-round at the clubhouse located on the A&M Golf Course.

The Student Recreation Center also has dining options. Time Out Sports Deli offers a variety of both healthy and not-so-healthy foods, and the Original Ultimate Sensation smoothies can be a refreshing way to end a vigorous workout.

On the north side of West Campus, located in the Biochemistry/Biophysics Building, the AgCaFe has a sandwich bar, a section for hot cooked foods and a salad bar. The AgCaFe also contains a Chick-fil-A.

Students with classes in the Bush School of Government and Public Service will not go hungry or thirsty either: the 4th Club serves deli-style foods and gourmet coffees.

Kappler said she recommends students visit the Food Services Department Website at <http://food.tamu.edu> for more information on dining options and nutritional information.

"[The Website] has the different [meal plan] options available and their prices," Kappler said. "It also has all the locations and their Outbound menus."



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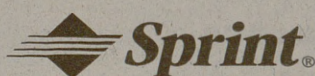
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