THE BATTALION

Thursday, January 11, 1962

Modern Languages — A&M's Newest Trend

A&M's teaching activities have a result of the recent upsurge in J. J. Woolket, head of the Deken on an international flavor as foreign language enrollment.



Language Lab Control Panel ... Dr. J. J. Woolket listens to students.

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partment of Modern Languages, said the movement is nation-wide but is especially evident here because the school's large number of engineering and agriculture students are showing a surprising interest in foreign languages. He said there were 433 students

studying foreign languages in 1956. The current semester shows an enrollment of 817, representing 11 to 12 per cent of the college's total enrollment. What's behind the trend? Wool-

ket cites a number of reasons: terested in the study of foreign languages, not only in the high schools but also at technological

More college graduates are seeking and getting employment in

More Americans are traveling College graduates are facing military service overseas. Americans have become more PEANUTS

vitally involved in the over-all international situation.

Jack A. Dabbs, professor in the lepartment, tells of one outstanding example of this trend. "When the first Sputnik went

up, our Russian language enrollment went up, too," he said. Dabbs added that government encouragement and the activities of the Modern Language Associa-

tion of America have had much to do with the upswing in language Woolket said he anticipates that language courses will continue to grow in popularity. He said A&M s considering programs that will better prepare its graduates for foreign service assignments by giving them training in foreign

The department offers four years of Spanish, three years of Russian, three years of German, two years of French, and an intensive course in Bengali for special groups going to East Pakistan on government missions. Eight teachers comprise the faculty, speaking more than a dozen tongues.

Spanish is the most popular language taught here, Woolket said. Enrollment in Spanish classes this semester is 402. The next most popular is German, with 195 students; third, French, 115 students; and fourth, Russian, with 91 stu-

The department head said it would be difficult to say which of the top four languages is the hardest. It's largely a matter of individual ability and attitude, he said. "Many students take Spanish because they have already been exposed to it. This is of great help to them when they begin their study of foreign languages

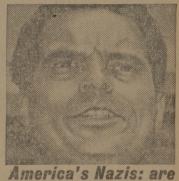


Modern Language Lab Session

each with its own dual-track type recorder

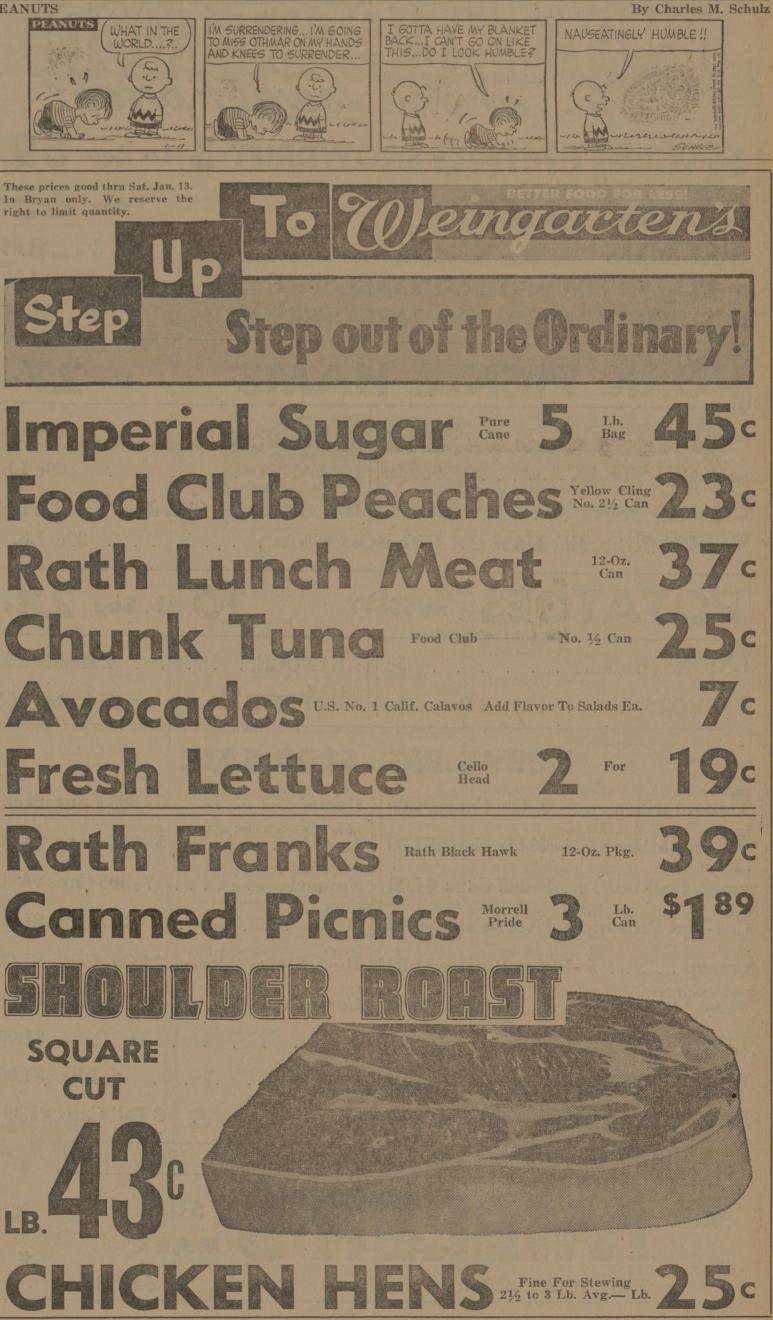
The oral approach is emphasized in the and head set. Students listen to a master Department of Modern Languages' fully tape, speak the words into a microphone equipped laboratory. There are 40 booths, and then hear a playback.

Afghanistan's black, red and green flag shows a mosque, reflecting the nation's Islamic char-



they really a threat? The American Nazi Party is a nest of hatemongers. And it's only one of 1,000 radical right-wing groups. In this week's Post, a U.S. senator speaks out in "Voice of Dissent." He rips into home-grown fascists. And tells why he thinks they're even more dangerous than Reds The Saturday Even





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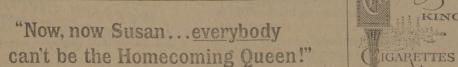
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Both Woolket and Dabbs said they have noted that a good background in Latin is helpful in learning almost any other language. And they have found that the study of any foreign language will improve the student's proficiency in English.

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