

'Progress' retires doormen

By ANA QUINTANA

"Chalk it up to progress" is the attitude of Phil Blackburn, a library doorman at Texas A&M University after learning he will not be needed next year when the new library addition opens.

Blackburn, a 25-year resident of Bryan, and the six other men who inspect outgoing library materials to insure they have been properly checked out, will be replaced by a new book security system.

Attempts will be made to locate other positions on campus for the doormen, but because they receive special security, it restricts them from working more than part time, and there are not many part-time jobs open, said Dr. Irene Hoadley, director of the library.

The new security system works on an electromagnetic principle. All library materials will be tagged with sensitized (magnetically charged) metal strips called targets. These are detected by a magnetic field at the library's exit. When the material is checked out at the circulation desk, the target will be desensitized. However, if the material is not properly checked out, as the person tries to leave the library the magnetic field will detect it causing the exit turnstile to lock and a buzzer to sound at the circulation desk.

Reference Librarian Charles Smith, the project coordinator for the new addition, said the system is similar to metal detectors in stores and airports and that the targets can be put on just about anything.

Hoadley said the main reasons for adopting the new system are its economic value and increased effectiveness.

It costs approximately \$26-27,000 annually to pay the doormen, whose salaries range from \$2.65 to \$3.06 an hour, depending on how long they have worked there. The book security system will cost roughly \$25,000, according to Smith, plus the price of the targets which cost a few cents apiece.

Because of its impersonality, the new system will catch more offenders, according to Hoadley. "It's hard, on a one-to-one basis, to detain anyone," she said. The system also will create new jobs for the people who have to place the targets at the materials.

According to Hoadley, an average of 13,000 periodicals and other ma-

terials are taken from the library annually. In 1976, a total of 9,259 items was missing. Some 15,580 were missing in 1977. These are the items reported missing from the shelves by students and other librarians in 1977. A waiting period of one year determines if a book is lost and needs to be replaced by the library.

Not having enough time to check the material out and needing it longer than the allotted time, are some of the reasons materials are taken without being checked out, said Smith. The attitude that "I'm the only one using this book" is another.

"Materials show up sometimes when they were accounted lost years before," he added.

Blackburn said students are sometimes preoccupied and forget to check out books. When he catches them with a book, he sends them back to the circulation desk to check it out properly. Some students resent this, he said, but none has ever resisted him physically. He only catches "maybe one or two a week," he said.

Most of the doormen are retirees. It was not a policy to hire the retirees, Hoadley said. "It just happened."

"Our superiors count on us to be punctual and responsible where maybe a student wouldn't be because of classes," said Blackburn.

Blackburn said he heard about the job through a student and applied for it. He said he knows of some other applicants who have been turned down because of the limited number of jobs.

Blackburn is not resentful of the book security system and said he expected it to happen because he knows of other universities that have it. "I will just re-retire," he said.

"In this time of inflation the salary from the job is a welcome supplement," Blackburn said. However, he feels that being up and active is the most important thing and also to be around young people. "If you're around young people, you feel young," he said.

Blackburn likes to greet students as they go past him, but said foreign students are "at times hard to communicate with," but added, "that a smile is understood in all languages."



Fred Norcross, a 10-year veteran as doorman at the University Library, is serving in his last days at that position. His job is being replaced by an electronics sensing system that will detect books that have not been checked out. The new system will be put into operation when the new addition to the library is opened next year.

Battalion photo by Elizabeth Ghio

Ancient Texans traced

Anthropologists at Texas A&M University have established a continuous pattern of life from prehistoric Indians in southwest Texas that dates as far back as 7,200 B.C., making it one of the oldest on record statewide.

Radio-carbon tests on wood, charcoal and other material taken from a cave near Del Rio confirm the dates, says Texas A&M archeologist Dr. Harry Shafer.

Some material from the site suggests man existed there around 10,000 B.C., and latest radiocarbon results show continued habitation of the site since 7,200 B.C.

The Indians, probably all members of an extended family, lived at the site periodically until the 16th Century, explains Shafer.

"This is one of the most consistent

sequences of periodic habitation studied so far," Shafer said.

Shafer and paleobotanist Dr. Vaughn Bryant Jr. have directed excavation and analysis of material from the cave for three years. In that time, the project has received support totaling \$100,000 from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society and Winship Foundation of Corpus Christi.

Excavation has yielded an abundance of preserved plant material (1,500 sacksful) plus 2,000 coprolites (fossilized human feces) examined for what it can tell about early man's diet.

When analysis is finished, the project will provide the clearest picture yet available of the west Texas environment 10,000-12,000 ago and how early man adjusted to it.

RABBITS CAMPERS
MAZDAS BUSES
DAILY RENTALS
We Pick Up & Deliver
BUD WARD
VOLKSWAGEN INC.
693-3311

THE BATTALION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1978
PIPES — CUSTOM BLENDED TOBACCO
CIGARS — DOMESTIC & IMPORTED
Imported Cigarettes
SNUFF AND SPITTOONS
3709 E. 29th St. Town & Country Center Bryan

Portrait Special

One 8x10 Two 5x7s Nine 2x3s
\$24⁹⁵ (a \$33.95 value)

- One person: head & shoulders
- Ages 5 and up • Choice of 6 proofs
- All portraits fully retouched and finished

(Offer good through March 4, 1978)

...University Studio

115 College Main 846-8019

NEW YORK SUB-WAY

Every Day Is
\$\$ DOLLAR DAY \$\$
at the Subway!

Every day one of our
20 varieties of sandwiches will
be on sale for
\$1.00

Ask about
Our
Happy Hour

2 ft. & 4 ft. subs available for your next party
109 Boyett (Next to Campus Theater) 846-8223

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Friday
All Night Fair, 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., MSC
Aggie Players, "A Street Car Named Desire," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Aggie Cinema, Bette Davis Festival, "Jezebel," 8 p.m., Rudder Auditorium and "Hush, Sweet Charlotte," midnight, Rudder Theater

Saturday
Aggie Players, "A Street Car Named Desire," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Aggie Cinema, Bette Davis Festival, "All About Eve," 8 p.m., Rudder Auditorium and "Dark Victory," 10:30 p.m., Rudder Auditorium

Sunday
Texas A&M Sports Car Club, autocross, 9 a.m., Zachry parking lot

Monday
Microbiology, Dr. Fred Rapp on "On-cogenic Properties of Human Cytomegalovirus," 12 noon, 206 Oceanography-Meterology
Women's Leadership Workshop, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 230 MSC
Dance Arts Society, ballet, 7:30 p.m., 266 G. Rolie White Coliseum
MSC Arts Film, "Shoot the Piano Player," 8 p.m., Rudder Theater

Tuesday
Science Career Workshop, sign up by calling 845-1741
Microbiology, Dr. Frank Young on "Impact of Genetic Engineering on Science and Society," 12 noon, 226 Evans Library
Baseball, St. Mary's vs. Texas A&M, 1 p.m., Travis Park

if people keep telling you to quit smoking cigarettes don't listen... they're probably trying to trick you into living

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

PaMar CARPETS

Warehouse Sale
Every Saturday Nine til Noon
Roll ends, remnants & room-sized rugs start at \$19.95
Real Bargains - Most items at cost or below.
1804 Finfeather Road
Bryan
1st Come 1st Served

ALL NIGHT FAIR

FEBRUARY 24-25 7PM TO 3AM
.50 AT THE DOOR OR PRICE PER GAME
MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

JOIN IN THE FUN AND GAMES

PREHISTORIC BOWLING, SPONGE THROW, NAME THATTUNE, PAN FOR GOLD, GONG SHOW, COMPUTER GAMES, SQUIRT GUN, FRISBEE THROW, RING TOSS, DART GAMES, OLD TIME MOVIES, AND MORE!

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

DENIM

Winners Announced at 11:00 P.M.

TRAVEL THRU TIME WITH US
PRIZES AWARDED FOR BEST COSTUME ACCORDING TO THEME

2718281857

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

TI Programmable 57

PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

The TI-57. The super slide-rule that'll get you into programming... fast and easy.

Even if you've never programmed before.

For the student who requires slide-rule functions, the TI-57 delivers an exceptional combination of advanced mathematical and statistical capabilities. From functions such as trig, logs, powers, roots and reciprocals... to mean, variance, standard deviation and much more.

And as long as you're in the market for a super slide-rule calculator, why not buy one that can also put the power, speed and convenience of programming at your disposal?

Programming a calculator simply means giving it a logical set of instructions for accomplishing what you want it to do. Programming enables you to solve lengthy and repetitive problems quickly by substituting new variables into the set of instructions which you have already entered into the machine. The end result is more efficient use of your time in problem-solving.

All this and more is explained in our unique, illustrated, easy-to-follow guidebook, "Making Tracks Into Programming." This 200-page book comes with the TI-57. It contains simple, step-by-step instructions and examples to help you quickly learn to use programming functions to make your problem-solving faster, more accurate and fun.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
...INNOVATORS IN PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED