

You can fix it yourself in the MSC

Bicycle repair shop now open

By LINDA SULLIVAN

Get your wheels in gear. A do-it-yourself bicycle repair shop in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) is open now.

The repair shop is located next to the Basement Coffeehouse at the north entrance of the MSC. Students, faculty, staff and their spouses can check out tools from the craft shop free of charge, with a current Texas A&M identification card.

The bike shop is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday. While the craft shop hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The shop was opened with the combined efforts of the MSC Craft Shop and the A&M Wheelmen Club. Karen Zantow, manager of the craft shop said the numerous requests for the service prompted the opening of the shop.

The idea had been in the back of her mind for awhile, she said, "and with the help of MSC Director

Wayne Stark and (former) Associate Director Hal Gaines, we started planning in fall '77."

Money from the MSC facilities fund was used to construct a partition in the mechanical room to protect air conditioning machinery and to form a separate room for the repair shop.

A bicycle stand, used for repairs made off of the ground, a workbench, a vise and a wheel-truing stand for wheel alignments are the only permanent pieces of equipment in the bicycle shop. Other tools are stored in the craft shop.

Todd Kratz, a senior economics major, is responsible for the variety of specialized tools available in the craft shop. Last year as president of the A&M Wheelmen Club, a recreational and service organization for bicycle enthusiasts, Kratz was consulted during the tool selection for the shop. Last fall's campus police bicycle auction produced some of the money for the Wheelmen to purchase tools.

Kratz says the craft shop has

"enough tools to do just about everything that needs to be done to bikes."

Craft shop employee Mike Hodgson says it required "much finagling and extra work" by Zantow and Kratz, but the MSC Bicycle Shop opened Jan. 19. Hodgson says the craft shop lends out certain tools for repair, but does not stock replacement supplies such as tires.

A misconception about the shop has been that people can have someone else service their bicycles there.

"Many think workers are on duty to maintain the bikes, but this is not so," said Zantow. The MSC Bicycle Shop is for those with the skill and knowledge to make their own bicycle adjustments.

As yet, there is no advisory help available in the craft shop concerning repairs, but some members of the Wheelmen plan to train craft shop workers on basic repair techniques for the students' benefit, said secretary-treasurer Harlan Harris.

Praising the new repair shop as

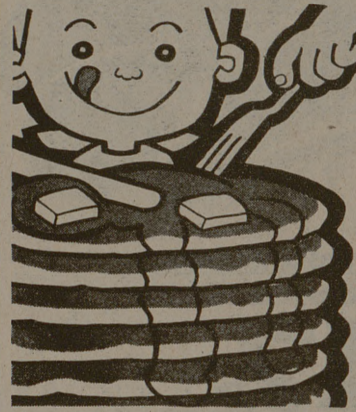
definitely a good thing, Harris said the available tools are extremely convenient and necessary for many repairs.

"If this service was not available, you'd have to buy the tools

elsewhere," he said. "The general price around town to adjust derailleurs and brakes is about \$20," he says, "but with the new shop you can borrow tools and do it for free in 30 minutes."

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

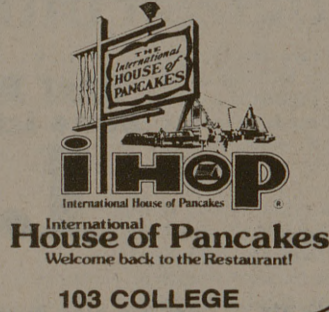
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Lignite source of future energy predicts Texas A&M official

Industrialization along Texas' lignite belt will rival the Ruhr Valley of Germany within the next 25 years, predicts Texas A&M University's new vice president for engineering and non-renewable resources.

Fred Benson, vice president, said that the energy needs of a major segment of industry will attract it to the rich strip of lignite which is 30 to 40 miles wide and runs from San Antonio to Texarkana.

"By the end of this century, so much of American industry will have moved to Texas that parts of the state will be like Germany's Ruhr Valley of the midland area of England around Birmingham," he said.

The bulk of the Texas lignite — one 100 billion tons — is at depths of 200 to 500 feet, too deep to be mined economically at the present time, Benson said. About 10 billion tons is at depths in which strip mining is economical, he added.

"Most of the crumbly, soft coal occurs in fairly thin layers of less than 10 feet," he said. "A 5- or 6-foot seam is considered very good."

Texas is particularly fortunate that the major lignite deposits are not in areas for farming, or in rocky areas, Benson said. Also, the state does not have serious problems with acidic mine water as does strip mining in the North and East.

The Texas A&M divisions which

Benson heads include the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources (CEMR), both of which have major programs devoted to effective utilization of lignite, among various energy-related

projects. One TEES project deals with underground gasification of lignite, eliminating the need for strip mining, while CEMR studies focus on other phases of lignite use, including environmental considerations in strip mining.

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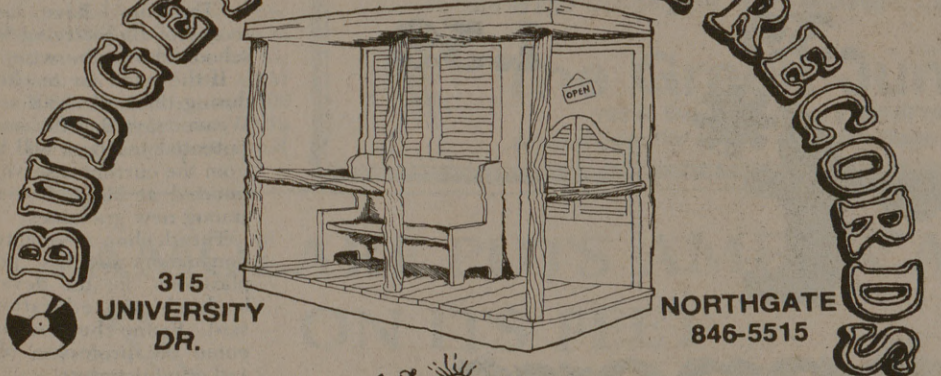
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