

High school students on campus for annual journalism workshop

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

More than 300 high school students are participating in the annual Texas A&M high school communications workshop this week.

The students, representing more than 50 Texas high schools, have been attending lectures and workshops conducted by professional journalists in yearbook, newspaper, news magazine, and photography fields.

Though the workshop is intended to instruct beginners in basic skills, many of the students return year after year, noted Paula LaRoque, workshop director.

Students began the workshop learning tips for writing copy, headlines and dummied pages. But the highlight of the conference is doing actual projects such as yearbook page layouts and newspaper layouts that will be judged by the instructors.

An awards ceremony will be held Friday morning to announce the winners of the competition.

While the students' activities are planned during the day, they are free to take advantage of entertainment on the University in the evening.

Sometimes they make their own entertainment. The annual shaving cream fights and wrapping of rooms in toilet paper are

all part of the students' night life on campus. And the eighteen dorm proctors assigned to the students are charged with keeping the peace.

However, not every bad situation can be avoided. One student tripped and reportedly broke her arm while crossing the campus Sunday night. Nevertheless, she was in high spirits and attended the lectures Monday morning.

Asked how he liked the conference so far, one student said, "Fine, but sitting for three hours can get boring." Another commented that he had attended a communications conference at Southern Methodist University last summer but that "it wasn't anything like this." He thought

that the program offered at A&M was far superior.

The students are being housed in Keathley and Fowler and eat in the MSC cafeteria.

The workshop, sponsored by the Texas A&M Department of Communications, has been held almost every year since the 1950. It is open to students from any high school in Texas. High schools that were represented at last year's workshop and those in large metropolitan areas were notified of the workshop by mail. The workshop was also advertised in Scholastic Editor, a magazine received by almost every high school communications department.



Irving High School student Daisy Dillon inspects a roll of negatives in a photography workshop being held on campus this week as part of the annual Texas A&M High School Communications Workshop.

Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton

Local business competition one factor

(Continued from page 1)

In January 1979 the minimum wage will go up to \$2.90. The minimum wage on campus will go up this September. Clerk I will be paid \$2.90 an hour, a 25-cent raise from the present hourly wage.

The problem again is with the Clerk IIs, Armstrong said. "Their wages will only go up to \$3.12 an hour because the University had to put most of its money for salaries into the bottom salaries to raise them up to the legal minimum wage." Armstrong said she does not anticipate much problem in keeping Clerk III positions filled because their pay will be raised to \$3.82 an hour, which she feels is competitive with the local labor market.

To combat this problem of excessive vacancies, Armstrong and the personnel department have worked out an extensive program to inform people of the jobs that are available on campus.

One service the department offers is the 24-hour Dial-A-Job line that people can call to get a complete listing of positions open on campus in less than three minutes.

This service is especially convenient for people living out of town or for handicapped people because they don't have to make a special trip to the University to find out about these jobs, Armstrong said. She estimated the Dial-A-Job line gets about 2,500 calls per month.

Armstrong also places ads in the local newspapers, on the local radio station and in area papers. The ads are run both in English and Spanish.

"We are trying to recruit all the applicants we can, and we are especially interested in minorities," she said.

One problem with recruiting workers from out of town is that they usually find it is not worthwhile to commute for the salary that is offered, Armstrong added.

Recruitment begins in the Vocational Office Education classes at the local and area high schools. Armstrong visited these schools and gave the typing and math tests to students who were interested.

"Few people who can type at least 40 words per minute or better are turned away," Armstrong said. "If they have the ability to do office work we will do our best to find a place for them."

There is even a typing room in the YMCA that applicants may use free every day from 3-5 p.m. to improve their typing skills.

"We'll go our extra mile to help these people, which in turn benefits us," Armstrong said.

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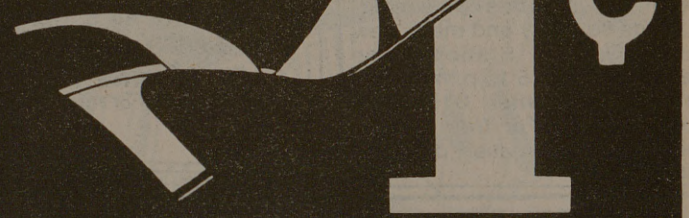
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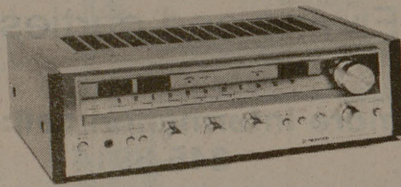
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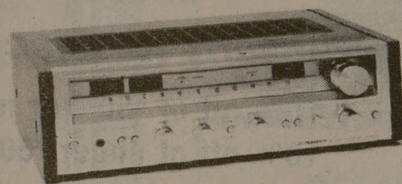


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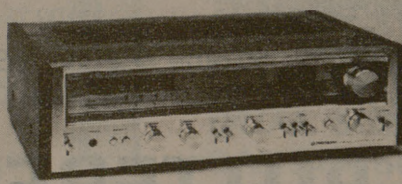


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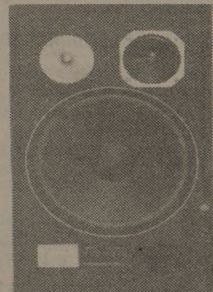


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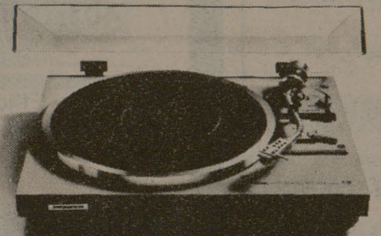


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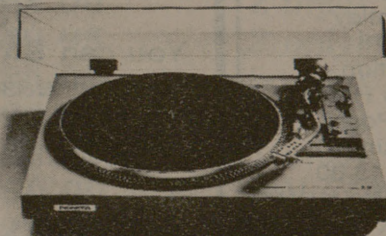


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