

Local

Personal computers fun

By GRETCHEN RATLIFF
Battalion Reporter
Once upon a time, before the days of Pac-Man and Space Invaders, computers were prohibitively expensive and only were found at mammoth corporations. But recent decreases in computer prices have made it possible for laymen to take advantage of the computer age.

Personal computers, such as the Apple II, Atari, Radio Shack TRS 80, and Sinclair, can be used for forecasting, word processing,

data base, computer-aided instruction and video games. These computers come with different capabilities and prices, said Paul Shaffer, an independent consultant programmer at Young Electronics.

At \$200, the mail-order Sinclair is one of the least expensive, Shaffer said. The computer, which must be assembled by the owner, has 4,000 characters of memory and can be hooked up to a television, he said.

Radio Shack's TRS 80 costs ab-

out \$400, has 8,000 characters of memory, and is hooked to a cassette, he said. Atari's personal computer, which costs \$500, has 16,000 characters of memory, Shaffer said.

The Apple II computer starts at \$2,000. The computer has 48,000 characters of memory, and it comes with one disk card. Additional cards can be purchased for the Apple II.

The personal computers also can be used for video games. The Atari computer provides games with a four-voice synthesizer and a variety of intense, detailed colors.

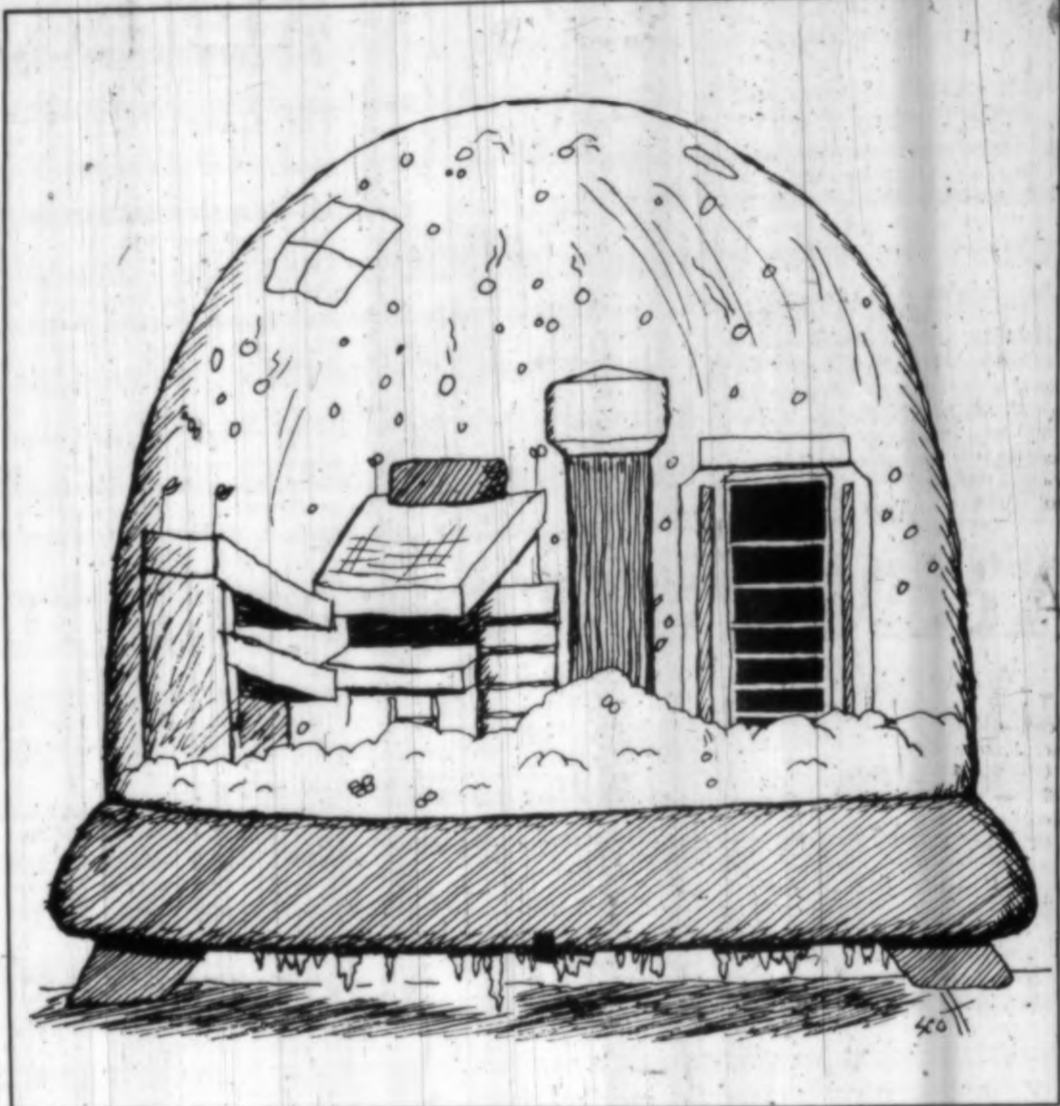
Games for the TRS 80 games come in cassettes and cartridges.

About 40 different games can be played with the TRS 80.

The Apple II computer can be used for more than 400 different games.

Shaffer said personal computers will have the biggest impact in telecommuting. Telecommuting makes it possible for people to work in their home by having their telephone connected to a computer. This is possible with the Atari, Apple II, and TRS 80 computers.

Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, dairy specialist in the Department of Animal Science, said personal computers also can be used as a farm management tool.



Community Education class registration begins

Registration for the winter courses offered through College Station Community Education will be held Tuesday in the A&M Consolidated High School cafeteria.

Registration will begin at 7 p.m. for all College Station residents and at 8 p.m. for all other area residents. Late registration will be Jan. 20 and 21 in the Community Education Office, 109 Timber St.

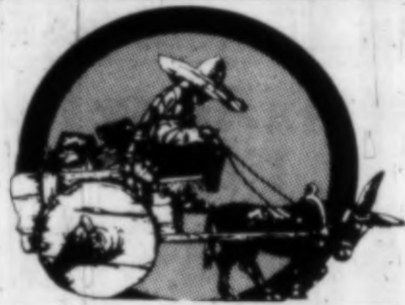
Classes, seminars, and activities offered include courses in arts and crafts, technical, vocational and office skills, and leisure and

personal enrichment; music and dance, and fitness and recreation.

Some of new classes being offered are post-natal exercise, scuba diving, an introduction to massage, prose and poetry writing, and enameled metalware painting.

Also, classes for people wishing to complete their high school equivalency degrees and classes in English as a Second Language will be given free of charge.

For more information, contact the Community Education office at 696-3820.



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Paleness, fatigue, shakes, chills some symptoms of hypothermia

Even if this current cold spell passes, residents should beware of hypothermia — it doesn't have to be freezing for the body temperature disorder to strike.

Hypothermia occurs when the body cannot produce adequate body heat, and body temperature drops abnormally low, says Judith L. Warren, a family-life education specialist in aging. Warren works on the home economics staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Persons with impaired circulation, certain diseases of the veins and arteries, hypothyroidism and those taking phenothiazines, which are used to treat anxiety, depression and nausea, should be particularly cautious, Warren warns.

Hypothermia can occur in temperatures as high 60-65 degrees, she adds, and anyone can be affected.

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR
Anyone who has been in the cold

and has become sick should be watched for the following:

- * Skin is pale and waxy, face may be puffy and swollen,
- * Chills often occur or parts of the body tremble,
- * Person may say he feels warm,
- * He may speak and breath slowly and have difficulty saying words,
- * He may seem confused, forgetful, and cannot understand what you ask him,
- * He may become tired and cannot get up even after resting.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

If anyone shows any of the above signs of hypothermia, do the following:

- * Put him in a warm bed and cover him with layers of blankets,
- * Take off heavy outer layers of clothes and lie close to the person so your body heat will pass to him,
- * Fill hot water bottles with warm water, wrap towels around the bottles and place them on the victim's chest, ankles and feet,
- * Electric blankets may be used, but keep the setting low or they may cause burns,
- * Elevate the person's feet higher than his head — this will help force blood to the head,
- * Keep the person quiet,
- * Do not allow him to drink any alcoholic drinks or take tranquilizers or sleeping pills, and
- * Call a doctor as soon as possible.

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