

## New library system may improve service

by Joe Sloan

Battalion Reporter

Shorter lines and more efficient service may be in store for library users when the new checkout system at Sterling C. Evans Library begins operation, Systems Project Coordinator Tim Saito said.

The new system may be ready by late June, Saito said.

The system, an Eclipse S/250, will use a scanner method instead of the hole punch method of the current IBM 1030 system. Library users no longer will have holes punched in their I.D. cards, but instead will be given sticker labels.

The current system became operational in 1966, and its age has caused problems.

"It's very close to being worn out," Saito said.

Card readers lose align-

ment, brushes clog and sometimes weather affects communication between the library terminal and the Data Processing Center, he said.

The scanner system will be self-contained and will not require a link to the DPC. This should result in fewer malfunctions, Saito said.

But if the system does go down, checkout information can be recorded onto a cassette tape. Temporary checkout cards will not be filled out as is done now, he said.

Since punch cards cannot be used with the scanner system, about 1 million books will have to be labeled with special numbers before it can begin operation, Nancy Douglas, acting head of the library's processing division, said.

Unlike the scanner computers grocery stores use, this

system reads numbers instead of bar codes. Library employees will have to label each book individually. The process should take about two weeks, Douglas said.

After the system is fully operational and the initial problems are worked out, operation should require fewer people than the current system does, Saito said.

The new system cost \$475,000. Evans Library is one of 40 libraries equipped with the system.

"This system was selected with expansion in mind," Saito said.

The library will be using the new system for book checkouts only at first, but it is hoped that the computer can later be expanded to include financial and other library functions, he said.

## Aggies gain job experience working Houston stock show

by Brenda C. Davidson

Battalion Reporter

The experience students gain working at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will help them find and keep jobs after they graduate, an associate animal science professor says.

Each spring, students in the College of Agriculture tabulate scores, present awards and assist with judging contests in the rodeo, which lasts this year from Feb. 24 to March 10. Agricultural journalism majors write press releases and cover the show during those two weeks.

Some students are paid minimum wage, while others work without pay. Students have to pay for meals, lodging and transportation.

But the money is not as important as the experience they are getting, Dr. Harold W. Franke said. Working at the rodeo gives the student an

opportunity to help himself while he helps others, he said. Students learn to deal with people better while working closely with the contestants and the staff, a skill which will be invaluable throughout their careers, he said.

Students also can gain experience in their fields of study, said Elizabeth Williamson, senior secretary to the dean of the College of Agriculture.

Students are excused from classes on the days they work at the show. Some work two weeks; others work only a few days.

"It's a good way to establish contacts in the agricultural industry," Jim Harris, Collegiate Future Farmers of America president, said.

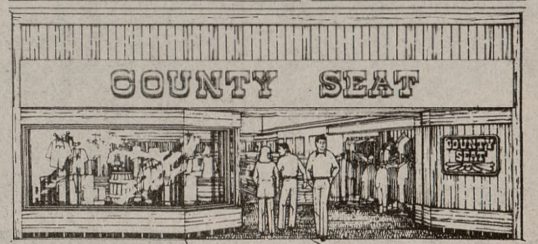
Before students work at the livestock show and rodeo, Franke said, he stresses to them how important their representa-

tion is to the show and the University.

"I have worked for the University since 1953, and we've

sent students to Houston every year," Franke says. "We wouldn't still be doing it if we didn't think it was a good thing."

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## Overseas travel loans have Friday deadline

by Susan Talbot

Battalion Reporter

Interest-free loans for overseas travel and study are being granted to eligible Texas A&M students through the MSC Travel Committee.

Interested students must turn in their loan applications by Friday in 216 MSC.

Applicants will appear before an interview board, which will make the final decision on granting the loan, Lorraine Lacey, Chairman of the Overseas Loan Fund, said.

The interview board consists of a member of the MSC Finance Council, the Travel Com-

mittee adviser and two Travel Committee members.

The loans have no set amount or limit to the number available.

"Students usually receive approximately \$500," Lacey said.

Loan repayment terms usually are decided by each student, and no interest is attached to the

loan.

Money for the loans comes from proceeds from the showing of "We've Never Been Licked," a film made on the Texas A&M campus in the 1940s. The film still is shown on campus several times during the year. Funding also comes from private donations.

## Dates to Remember

The following are noteworthy dates for the spring semester:

•Friday — last day for dropping courses with no penalty (Q-drop).

•March 8 — mid-semester grade reports.

•March 15-21 — spring break.

•May 7 — last day of spring semester classes. Commencement.

•May 8 — Commencement and Final Review.

•May 10 — first day of spring semester examinations.

•May 14 — last day of spring semester examinations.

## Philosophy of science to be topic

by Sheila Frazier

Battalion Reporter

Dr. Dudley Shapere, from the University of Maryland, will speak on "Modern Science and the Philosophical Tradition" at 7 p.m. Thursday in 510 Rudder.

Shapere was invited to speak at Texas A&M University by the Philosophy Department. Shapere, a native Texan, received his doctorate at Harvard University, has taught at the Universities of Chicago and Illinois and currently is chairman of the Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science.

Shapere has written two books: "Galileo — A Philosophical Study" and "Philosophical Problems of Science."



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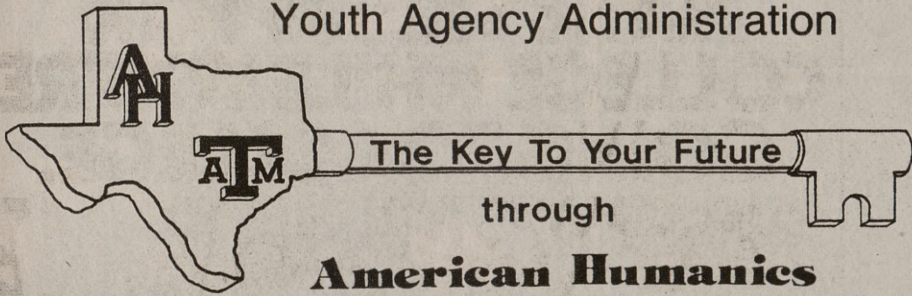
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## SUMMER JOBS



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## CAMP DAY