

Night-time magic

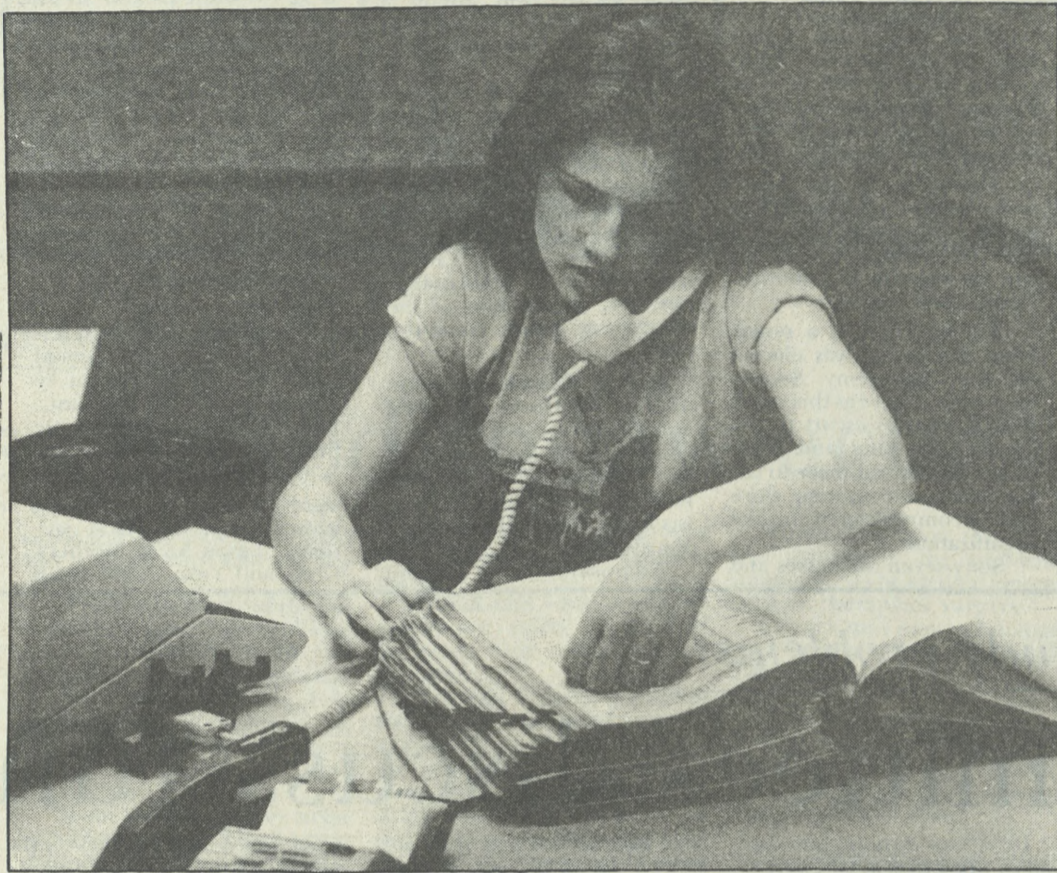
Nocturnal physical plant workers keep A&M operating

Editor's note: This is second in a five-part series on people who aren't vampires, but come out and work mainly at night.

by Johna Jo Maurer

Battalion Staff

It may seem like magic — clean offices, classrooms and buildings, around-the-clock emergency telephone assistance and heating, cooling and electrical power — but the magic is



Centrex operator Teresa Hanson, a freshman biomedical science major from Dallas, handles a late-night information call.

photo by Gabriel Elliott

the work of physical plant workers in the wee hours of the night. Every morning, students and instructors begin their day in the many classrooms and offices cleaned nightly by the nearly 250 custodial employees of the University physical plant.

Cornola Moore, custodial leader in the Sterling C. Evans Library, has been on the night shift since she began working for the University in 1955. Because she needs her days free to get things done, Moore prefers a night-time job. Her family also works at night, so their work schedules coincide.

Moore supervises the activities of about 23 other custodial workers, and said she is close

friends with the people she works with.

Margarette Bray, a custodial worker in the Coke Building, will complete 35 years with the University Saturday — the last 18 of them on the overnight shift.

She also prefers to work nights so she can be at home during the day.

Cleaning isn't the only night-time duty of the physical plant. Emergencies can happen any time of the day or night, and many of them fall right into the lap of Centrex.

The Centrex radio room takes on-campus emergency calls and dispatches help by radio. Centrex also handles all campus information calls and the student locator 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

A Centrex operator for six years, Mary Anderson chose to work nights because her family needs her at home during the day.

She sleeps from 5 p.m. until she comes in for her midnight to 8 a.m. shift. She says that is all the sleep she needs.

Anderson says she stays busy during the day with PTA, Cub Scout groups and activities she may not be able to take part in if she worked during the day.

Julie Smalley, another Centrex radio room operator, also works from midnight until 8 a.m. Her usual schedule is 4 p.m. until midnight, but she has

been filling in for a vacationing operator for the past month. She likes the late-night shift, she said, because she can spend more time with her family during the day.

Her job includes taking check-in calls from the Corps of Cadets guard room each hour, answering trouble calls from dormitories and taking reports of campus maintenance problems and power outages.

She keeps a log of every call she receives, so jobs that can be handled during the day will be assigned to the appropriate personnel.

While some employees prefer late night shifts, others are on rotating day and night schedules.

The campus power plant is

staffed by a five-man night crew. The shifts are rotated every six weeks, so the men don't get stuck permanently on the graveyard shift, William E. Holland, associate director of utilities at Texas A&M, said.

The night crew is made up of a chief operator, two assistant operators — one to watch over the electrical generators and one to watch the chilled-water system — a fireman for the boilers and an apprentice power plant worker.

They are responsible for the smooth performance of the complicated boilers, generators and air conditioners in the power plant during the night.

Wednesday: Not all students party at night; some work.

Funding requests approved by Council

by Johna Jo Maurer

Battalion Staff

The MSC Council Monday approved three funding proposals from MSC committees and denied one request. The requests will be sent to the enrichment fund board of directors for its consideration.

The enrichment fund is a supplemental fund established by a group of former students. Its purpose is to aid in the development of new MSC programs.

Any proposals intended for the enrichment fund board of director's consideration must be approved by the Council.

The MSC Awards Banquet Committee requests an enrichment fund subsidy to cover a \$982 deficit. This will be used to cover the cost of plaques ordered for the banquet and will preclude charging students a higher price for tickets. Kirk Kelley, council vice president of student development, said.

MSC Basement Committee is

requesting enrichment funds in order to purchase curtains and build a cage to house sound equipment for its "Rumours" facility in the MSC.

Poor acoustics have been a problem in Rumours, a committee spokesman told council members. By hanging curtains over the glass doors and behind the stage area, acoustics would be improved.

Council President Doug Dedeker was opposed to approving the Basement Committee's proposal because he said he felt it would be better to ask the enrichment fund board of directors to help the committee raise funds rather than subsidize them. He said it was illogical to channel more funds into a facility not operating at 100 percent efficiency.

The MSC Spring Leadership Committee requested enrichment fund subsidy of a \$2,253 deficit. Dedeker said the committee will try to raise these funds by the fall semester, but is

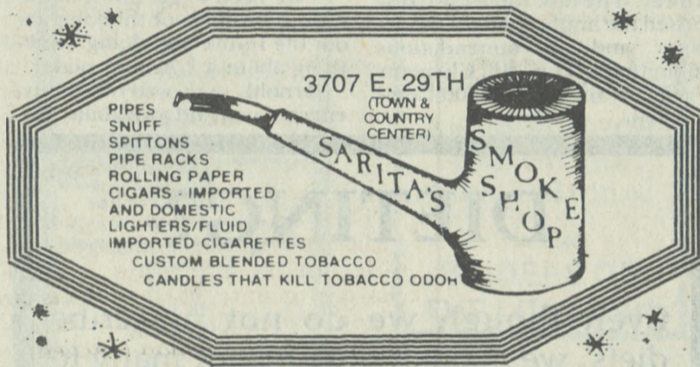
asking for enrichment funds to cover any amount not generated.

The Council did not approve the MSC MBA/Law Day Committee proposal asking for an enrichment fund subsidy of \$1,054.48 to cover losses sustained at this year's program. Low attendance and ineffective advertising were reasons for the loss, Dedeker said.

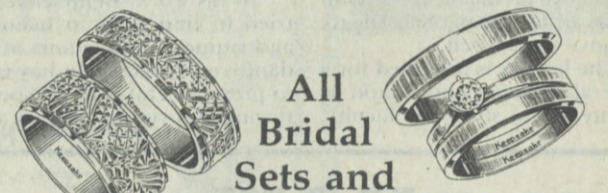
Dedeker expressed concern over asking for enrichment funds to cover an unsuccessful program. The enrichment fund is not intended to bail out a committee, and he recommended the Council not approve this proposal.

Two committee chairmen, two projects chairmen and a Council director were appointed, completing the installation of new officers for MSC Council programs and projects.

April 3 will be the effective date of transition to next year's Council.



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Former Air Force POW to talk on Vietnam at 7:30

Col. John Stavast, a Vietnam War veteran, will speak about his experiences as a prisoner of war tonight at 7:30 in 302 Rudder.

Stavast, a U.S. Air Force officer, was shot down over North Vietnam in the late 1960s while on an information gathering mission. He spent five years

in the "Hanoi Hilton," a prisoner-of-war compound. Stavast was released in 1973 at the end of the war.

The lecture is sponsored by the Young Conservatives at Texas A&M University.

Stavast also will discuss what the United States learned from the war, the war's effect on

southeast Asia's future and Central America's political situation.

Stavast will answer questions from the audience after the lecture.

Stavast, who has spoken at other Southwest college campuses, retired from the Air Force last year and lives in Austin.

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