

# Ag college uses computer

by Kimberly Hix  
Battalion Reporter  
Computers could become as familiar to agriculture students as soils and crops.

Computer knowledge will give students an edge in the job market, said Dr. Dwayne Suter, associate dean of the College of Agriculture.

The ability to utilize the computer is recognized as a valuable asset in the agriculture field, Suter said Monday. The computer is a tool to be used in agricultural areas such as production, processing, distribution and management, he added.

Computers also will be used in marketing agricultural products as well as aiding in agribusiness, or off-farm productions, he said.

The agriculture department is establishing computer competency standards and a remedial course is already offered, Suter said.

In the past year the number of agriculture students taking computer courses increased from about 50 in fall 1981 to 1,150 in fall 1982, he said.

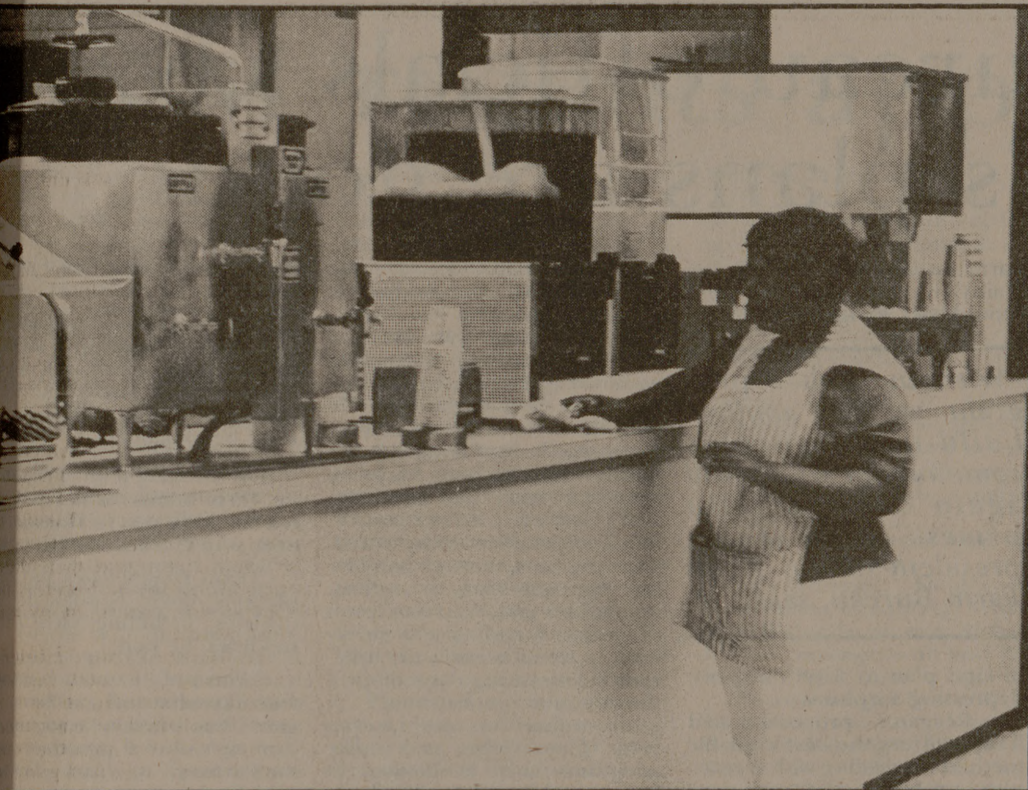
There are 156 microcomputers in the department and the growing number of computers in the department is due to recent cuts in the costs of micro-

computers, Suter said.

Over the next four years the program will cost approximately \$3 million and will satisfy minimal computing equipment needs, he said.

The program will include development of computer instructional materials which allows students to develop computer skills without taking a course, Suter said.

The emphasis is on developing agricultural software, he said. The average program costs \$100,000 to write and test and trained people are needed to fill the jobs.



staff photo by Irene Mees

## Preparing for the customers

Doris Maxey tidies up the snack bar at the renovated pavilion which is now the new center for registration.

The recently-completed pavilion was the site of drop/adds and other semester-opening activity last week.

## Japanese use computers

# Streamlined homes built

United Press International  
HOUSTON — In Japan, it's lapped together on a 440-foot production line, assembled in four hours, welded, painted and packed together with the aid of computers, robots and portable cranes.

And it isn't the latest in a line of spiffy Japanese roadsters. It's home.

"What the Japanese are doing is mind-boggling," Doyle Stuckey, president of the Texas Association of Builders, said during the National Association of Home Builders Convention.

He said the Japanese builders gained lessons from Japanese automakers. They not only have incorporated successful techniques from the car industry — such as robots — but are making extensive use of computers to

keep track of an inventory of more than 300,000 items, ranging from screws to insulation to studs, carpet and wallpapers.

Although Japan has half the number of as many households as the United States, its builders produce nearly the same number of homes per year as U.S. builders. The Japanese accomplish this feat through innovation, marketing, research, government assistance and intervention, Stuckey said.

Sekisui Heim, one of Japan's top builders, produces 85 percent of its one-, two- and three-story homes in the factory, where welding, nailing, cutting and gluing are done on an assembly line.

The homes are priced at \$62,000 in U.S. dollars for a 1,600-square-foot home with

three bedrooms and two baths. Smaller models are available.

"The Japanese buyer, like his U.S. counterpart, selects his own building site and style of house,"

said Miyawaki Mayumi, an architect for Sekisui. "Our construction system is the application of high technology to individual design."

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502 RUDDER

WED. JAN. 26

7:30 p.m.

TOPIC: **BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS**

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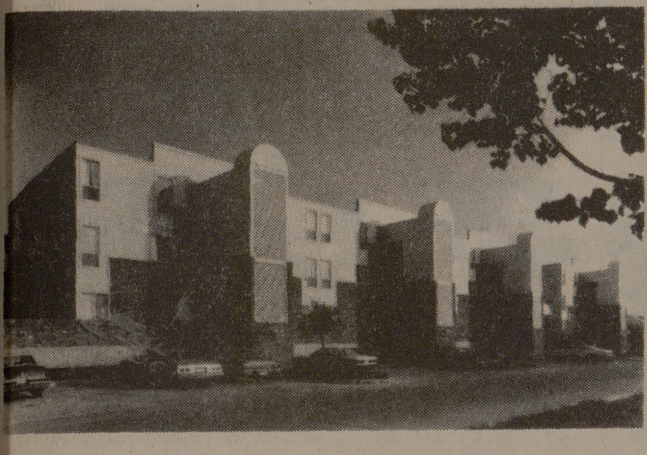
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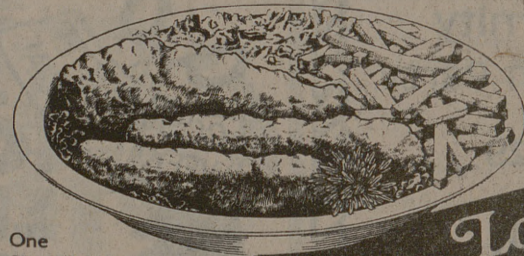
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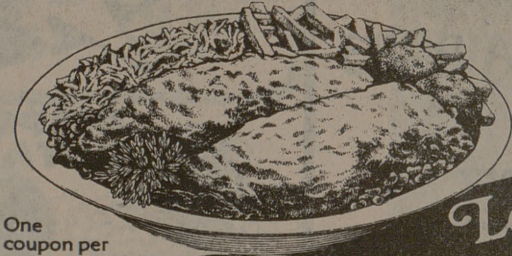
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