



staff photo by Jorge Casari

Mary Jane Garcia, of the University Mail Service, operates one of the new mail computers as Gaston Clary

observes. The new computers will automatically record a department's account, amount mailed and charge.

Computer aids A&M mail

by Pamela Haisler
Battalion Reporter

A microcomputer system and a 4-foot print-out have replaced about 30 sheets of paper normally used by the University Mail Service to account for daily mailing charges to departments.

John Stanislaw, manager of the mail service, said the new system automatically records a department's account number, the amount mailed and the charges, which are then printed out on a tape.

"We were using a system where our personnel metered the mail and wrote down the charges to each account," he said. "These charges were then totaled up, and the departments sent the bills at the end of the month."

Stanislaw said the mailing process took about five days to complete, but with the new system it takes two days.

"The terminals are important to the whole University in that they will help save labor costs," he said. "Although the system will cut down on human error, we are still monitoring it to work out any bugs."

The mail service has one main unit with a printer and two remote terminals which have been

in operation about two weeks, Stanislaw said.

"I expect the system to pay for itself in about 11 months," he said. "The amount of mail being processed is growing at a rate of 15 percent per year. These new machines will help us do our work faster and more accurately, so we won't have to hire more employees."

With the new system, finding information for a department with a special mailing address and how much it will cost to mail will be easier, Stanislaw said.

A system implemented by North Texas State University two years ago is similar to the computerized billing system for the University.

"Texas A&M hasn't used a computer billing system until now because of the large volume of mail that we have," Stanislaw said. "The computers are a fairly recent development and, until now, they weren't advanced enough to handle a large volume of mail."

He said the microcomputer system was bought for about \$10,000 from Pitney Bowes, a corporation in Connecticut that sells mail processing equipment.

The mail service has about 500 University accounts and

processes from \$3,000 to \$4,000 in mail costs daily and \$1.2 million a year, Stanislaw said.

Although the new computer system can help the mail service process mail faster, departments can help too, he said.

"Departments can insure their mail will be sent out the same day it is mailed if they will put a note on the bundle of mail with their account number or

write the account number on the envelopes," Stanislaw said. "They can also follow the correct mailing procedures outlined in the University policies and procedures manual."

Stanislaw said that next year he hopes the mail service can buy an electronic scale that automatically weighs mail, puts a stamp on it and charges it to the correct account.

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Bouncer shot in cocaine raid

United Press International
HOUSTON — A bouncer charged with aggravated assault on a narcotics officer remained hospitalized following a raid on a bar which police said was operated by the same people who ran a club where Houston Oiler Reg Stenrick was arrested.

"It looks like the place just got set up and moved to a new location," Narcotics Lt. Wiley McAfee said Wednesday.

Percival Weldon Smith, 36, was shot by plainclothes Officer Blair during a raid on the Sportsman's Lodge No. 1008 Tuesday night as he reportedly reached for the officer's gun.

Smith, charged with assault on a police officer, remained in a serious but stable condition at Hermann Hospital.

Police also filed drug charges against a woman who police said dispensed cocaine through a slot

in the Sportsman's Lodge's inner steel door. The woman, identified as Antoinette Shelton Brown, 32, was free on bond on a similar charge when arrested.

Investigators said the operators of the club were the same people who ran the Sportsman's Lodge No. 1014, where Stenrick, 31, was arrested Jan. 12 and charged with cocaine possession. Stenrick has pleaded innocent to the charge.

The original club was closed Tuesday night, but police said the new club was better protected against police.

Police raided the club where undercover officers previously had made several cocaine buys.

Police said Blair shot the club bouncer after the man reached for the pistol of plainclothes Narcotics Officer Willis Sneed, who had bought cocaine in the club.

Reptilian visitors rattle House floor

United Press International
AUSTIN — The hisses and rattles in the Texas House Thursday didn't come entirely from the gallery or displeased lawmakers.

Members of the Sweetwater County Jaycees, in Austin to promote an upcoming "rattlesnake roundup," visited House Speaker Gib Lewis and brought along a box full of irate rattlers.

With Speaker Pro Tem Hugo Arango, Rep. Steven Carriker,

D-Roby, and Lewis looking on, the Jaycees released one of the snakes on the floor of the House.

Although the snakes had been kept cool in order to calm their tempers, the first rattler out of the box hissed and rattled loudly as the politicians reluctantly held it for photographers.

The Jaycees then headed for the governor's office, where they planned to show off the snakes to Gov. Mark White.

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