

# B-CS students develop computer skills to meet state requirements

by Mary Jo Rummel  
Battalion Reporter

The galactic cruiser travels across the sky on its way home to earth after escaping the dangers of the star fields.

This isn't a preview of the latest science-fiction movie. Nor is it the latest arcade game. It's Galaxy Math — one of the Apple computer programs used by the Lamar School fifth grade classes in Bryan.

Galaxy Math is everyone's favorite for practicing math, according to Johnny Mendez, 11.

When the player quickly and correctly answers the problem, he helps his rocket advance to the home planet. If he misses an equation, his rocket can be blown out of computer space by a drifting star.

Computers have worked their way into the classroom almost as quickly as they have become a part of the home.

Pilot programs have used computers in remedial education drills and practices, and simple programming has been taught in student enrichment programs, but computers are now becoming an integral part of the everyday classroom.

The Texas State Board of Education eventually will require computer literacy as part of the minimum graduation requirements for Texas public high schools. Specific requirements are planned by the Board of Education, but the official definition of computer literacy will not be available until 1984.

During a recent meeting of the Texas Computer Education

Association, members defined computer literacy as "awareness, exposure and use of computer vocabulary and a general knowledge of the disadvantages and advantages of computers," Bryan ISD Computer Education Supervisor Sue Ann Lambert said.

"The purpose of computer classes is to prepare students for the world they will be entering when they graduate," Lambert added.

Matt Medlox, College Station Consolidated High School math teacher, said, "Students should become familiar with the jargon, possibly know at least one (computer) language and get hands-on experience on the machine." Medlox teaches the computer math class at Consolidated.

"They will need to know how to use the software packages that will help them in their job. Most won't be programming themselves," Medlox said.

School districts across the state offer different programs ranging from grade school through high school math and programming classes. But some schools are just beginning to join in the trend toward computers.

The Apple computers are the most popular for the classroom because the system is easy to learn, Lambert said. She added that other systems are used successfully in other school districts.

As part of last month's Bryan School Board resolution for computer literacy by the seventh grade, literacy classes will begin as early as kindergarten in the

lar class instruction, he said.

In conjunction with the gifted and talented program, 23 Consolidated students are learning the LOGO programming language at the University. The students, in turn, will teach experimental peer instruction classes this summer.

Norman W. Naugle, a Texas A&M mathematics professor, teaches the students at the Learning Resources Center in Sterling C. Evans Library.

"LOGO is a good first language to learn because it teaches good programming habits and allows the student creative freedom," Naugle said.

College Station students in office education classes use computer systems in business operations.

The BISD jumped into the computer age in 1971 when data processing classes were first offered to Bryan High students. The terminals were connected to a computer main frame in Houston by telephone lines.

BISD has added 152 microcomputers to the main line computer and word processors in the office education classes, Lambert said. Fifty-six more microcomputers have been ordered for next year. Thirteen of the new computers will go into a lab at Stephen F. Austin Junior High and 15 will go toward a computer lab at Bryan High. The rest of the equipment will be distributed among the other schools in the district.

This is the third year the microcomputers have been in service and the district is getting higher quality software, Lambert said.

Through the use of federal and local funds, the district has invested \$200,840 in the microcomputers and software.

Each classroom at Lamar School in Bryan has three computers, said Beverly Malazzo, a fifth grade teacher at Lamar.

"(The computers) really are a treat for the students," Malazzo said. "It gives them a chance to practice, for instance, their multiplication drills; there are also some decision-making processes built into the programs."

The students aren't afraid of the computers at all, Lambert said.

"I think the video games kind of warmed them up," she said. "I think that, at first, the teachers are more afraid than the students are."

Bryan teachers must have 15 hours of computer training before computers are installed in their classrooms. They are given hands-on experience and are taught how to evaluate the software they will use in their classrooms.

This is the first year Medlox has taught the computer math class.

"The class is an application of what (students) can use, mainly business-related problems," he said.

Several students have machines at home and want to learn more about them, Medlox added.

Most Texas school districts — including Bryan — divide computer classes into three main classifications: computer literacy, which is the history and vocabulary of computers; computer assisted instruction, which utilizes computers for drill and practice in classes such as math, language, arts and science; and specialized classes, such as programming and data processing.

The beginning elementary classes will be set up on a unit system to teach young children computer awareness, history and general advantages and disadvantages.

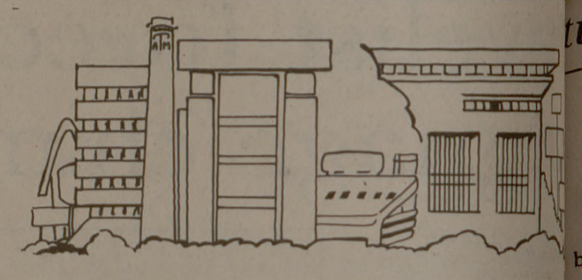
Data processing and vocational office education classes teach students about the equipment students may use when they graduate. Business education classes use computers for accounting, finance and bookkeeping, Lambert said.

Programming classes teach the different languages such as LOGO, BASIC, COBOL and FORTRAN.

The Bryan student enrichment program begins simple programming in the LOGO language as early as eighth grade, Lambert said.

Summer Student Enrichment short courses teach simple programming in the basic language for students entering in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the fall.

"Computers are becoming such a big part of our lives — it is important for our young people to be prepared," Lambert said.



## Around town

### Professor gets Silver Medal Award

Edward J. Romieniec, professor of architecture and environmental design at Texas A&M, has been awarded the Silver Medal from Tau Sigma Delta, the national architecture honor society.

The Silver Medal recognizes outstanding service in the fields of architecture and the allied arts. Romieniec is the first to receive the award from the Texas A&M chapter of Tau Sigma Delta, which is the largest of 27 chapters nationwide.

Romieniec, former dean of the College of Architecture, has taught at Texas A&M for almost 25 years. He has taught at Oklahoma State University and Columbia University.

Eighty-three new members were initiated into the society during the same meeting. To be eligible for membership, a student must be at least a junior and be in the top 20 percent of his class.

### Annual Florida Scramble golf game

The 11th annual alumni, faculty and staff golf tournament, the Florida Scramble, has been scheduled for May 13-14. The entry fee is \$70, which includes a \$35 contribution to the golf team and a \$35 registration fee. The game is sponsored by the Association of Former Students. Registration forms, which must be completed by May 6, are available at the association office in the MSC.

The 36-hole game places entrants in teams of four members. Each team member tees off and then the players decide which ball landed in the best position for the next shot. Each player then places his ball in that position and his next shot. This procedure is followed until someone gets the ball into the hole. The number of strokes used by the person to complete the hole is the team's score for that hole.

A banquet, costing \$15 a person, will be held Friday night for the participants, and a Saturday barbecue will be held on the golf course for \$6.50. Tournament souvenirs and a special women's program also will be available.

### If you have an announcement or item to submit for a column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed Mall or contact Cheryl Burke at 845-2611.

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### Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from April 29 to May 1.

**ARREST:**

- A student for DWI on South Bizzell Street on April 30.

**THEFTS:**

- A 1983 Texas A&M class ring from Hotard Hall.
- Four rear bicycle tires from Moser Hall bicycle rack.

**BURGLARY:**

- Room 201A in the Old University Building. The door was forced open and an Apple II computer terminal, an Epson printer and other equipment was taken.
- A 1981 Datsun 280ZS parked in Cain Hall parking lot, walked on, T-tops were damaged and other damage was done to the body of the car.
- A 1978 Fiat in parking lot had the air let out of its tires.

### Correction

A story in Friday's Battalion incorrectly identified the person who drew the plans for the senior class gift. Jim Vandenberg, who is a student here, designed the eternal flame. Warren Llado, who withdrew the University this semester, drew the construction plans.

The Battalion regrets the error.

### Budget, betting reviewed by House

**United Press International**

AUSTIN — The House this week begins consideration of a two-year, \$30.9 billion budget proposal from the Appropriations Committee. Conspicuous by its absence from the budget is a pay raise for teachers.

Other top legislative issues include an expected House debate on a bill to legalize pari-mutuel horse race wagering and the differences between House and Senate versions of a proposed constitutional amendment that would create a construction fund for schools outside the University of Texas and Texas A&M systems.

Originally, the House voted to appropriate \$75 million to the fund annually, while the Senate wants to spend \$125 million a year. A total of 25 colleges would benefit from the fund.

The \$30.9 billion budget recommendation the Appropriations Committee approved last week carries the same total price tag as that already passed in the Senate but specifies different amounts to different projects.

Neither proposal offers an increase for teachers, said Gov. Mark White's spokesman. They are given a 24 percent raise.

Also, last week the Senate came the first house of the legislature in 50 years to horse racing bill. It would wagering only with appropriate statewide referendum county option elections.

A similar measure has in the House Urban Committee, where eight members pledged earlier in the session to oppose any effort to legalize gambling.

However, at least one member, D-Houston, he may change his mind to allow the measure to pass the House floor.

The bill's House sponsor, Speaker pro tem Hugo Garcia, said he thinks the member House will approve very close vote. But Garcia also said that with just a left in the session, action bill needs to be taken quickly.

and lying on its head, one thousands of years ago but is practiced only in Turkey.