

Around town

Aggieland '85 class pictures taken now

Freshmen and sophomores can have their class picture taken now at the Pavilion from 8:30 p.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior, seniors and graduate students can avoid long lines by having their pictures taken now at the Yearbook Associates office at 1700 South Kyle, behind Culpepper Plaza. Don't delay in getting your picture taken.

Big Event job requests accepted now

Job requests are now being accepted from the Bryan-College Station community for projects for the Big Event. Student organizations wishing to volunteer for this 4-hour service project are encouraged to pledge. Deadline for organization pledges is Nov. 1. Job requests will still be accepted after that date. Contact Mark Maniha at 696-5930, or Maritza Pena at 764-0770.

Volleyball registration ends Friday

The Bryan Recreation Division will hold registration for the Fall Co-Rec Volleyball League through Friday. The season will begin on Oct. 29. The cost is \$75 per team. For more information call the Bryan Recreation Division at 822-4457 or come by the office at 203 E. 29th St.

Cheese and butter will be distributed

Free processed cheese and butter will be distributed today from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Lincoln Center in College Station. For more information call 764-3773.

Dallas jail system approaches crisis

United Press International

DALLAS — Increased efficiency by local police agencies and the continued unrest in overcrowded Texas prisons have pushed the Dallas County Jail system to the brink of its capacity, officials said Monday.

During the weekend of Oct. 6, the Dallas County Jail reached the 2,505-inmate limit set by the Texas Commission, Maj. Bob Knowles of the Sheriff's Department said.

"We're at a near-crisis situation," Knowles said. "By the end of November to January, we'll hit a crisis."

Since the Lew Sterrett Justice Center opened in April 1983, the jail population has increased 33 percent. A third of that increase has occurred since August, officials said.

State District Judge James Zimmermann, head of a county task force on jail population, said the entire criminal justice system is backlogged, partly because of the lack of court activity during the Republican National Convention.

The latest jail census, taken at midnight Sunday, showed 642 prisoners awaiting trial on felony charges and 298 pending grand jury action.

Knowles blamed the state penal system for much of the increase since August. He said an increasing number of state prisoners are being housed in county jails to ease over-

crowding in the Texas Department of Corrections.

As of Sunday, 451 of the 2,455 inmates in the county jail were classified as state prisoners. One hundred forty-three were parole violators, 178 were convicted felons awaiting action on subsequent cases and 57 were appealing felony sentences of less than 10 years.

Seventy-three had been returned from TDC on court warrants.

Dallas County transports prisoners to TDC at least twice a week, but Knowles said the return rate for inmates released from TDC is about 70 percent.

"That indicates something is not working," Knowles said. "Whether it's the rehabilitation program or the early release program at TDC, I just don't know."

Knowles conceded that Texas prison officials have their hands full trying to end violence in the prisons.

"At some point in time, the citizens are going to have to decide whether to build more jail space or let them (inmates) out early," he said. "Either way you've got side-effects. It's up to the citizens to decide which course they're going to take."

Deputy Chief John Pempsell of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department said his county's jail also is full.

Alone and Pregnant?

- We discuss all options
- Confidential counseling
- Free pregnancy test

1-800-392-3807



Homes of St. Mark
Houston, Texas
No religious ties

Attention General Studies Freshmen

All First Semester freshmen in General Studies are expected to attend one meeting on "Academic Survival."

Either: Thursday Oct. 25 4:00 P.M. Rudder
Or: Friday Oct. 26 4:00 P.M. 601 Rudder

See you at one of these brief meetings for some helpful hints on scholastic success!

Computer software speaks in Natural English

United Press International

NEW YORK — Microdata Corp. says it teaches computers to communicate in English — a trend the company predicts will be the next big step in software.

"Natural English" is a new software Microdata is peddling to businesses. Properly programmed, it allows employees to communicate with the computer on a much more informal basis, even to the point of misspelling words.

Instead of using a series of technical commands to ask for the salary information of employees, for instance, a clerk could ask the computer "How many people make more than \$20,000?" or "Name the people with salaries over \$20,000." He'd get the correct answers.

"Anyone in the organization can sit down and communicate," Gary Liebl, the California company's chief executive officer, said during a re-

cent New York computer show.

Artificial intelligence systems, sometimes called the Fifth Generation of computers, are the great goal of high-tech companies and top engineers here and abroad. Those systems would be able to interpret information in much the same way a human does, opening up the world of computer use to any literate worker.

"With the advent of artificial intelligence, we can apply those techniques to put the burden on the computer itself to take on responsibility for interpretation," Liebl said.

True artificial intelligence is not here yet. The systems Microdata and a few other companies are developing make the computer friendlier, but still limited in what it can do and how it can be spoken to.

The system on display at the computer show responded readily when asked what Nancy Jones "does" for

the company, but could not answer what her "job" was.

"Artificial intelligence ultimately will lead us to things like sophisticated medical diagnosis, but we have evolution rather than revolution," Liebl said. "We're focusing on the very important first steps."

Programs like Natural English are designed to end the frustration everyone who has ever used a computer feels when the system fails to respond to a command because it's improperly phrased. Use "get" instead of just "g" in some programs, for instance, and the computer will respond with a volley of question marks or the terse "syntax error."

Natural English helps the computer answer when the same question is phrased in a number of different ways, even overlooking some misspellings.

But while programs like Natural English make the end use of the computer easier, there is still the initial set-up process where someone has to figure out all the complicated calculations that will be translated by the computer into English equivalents.

Liebl says the software system, which sells for \$3,000, will be another step toward eliminating bottlenecks that occur within companies because only a limited number of people are capable of dealing with computers.

"Ten years ago, suppliers were saying that within two years every manager would have a computer on his desk," he said.

Liebl said that never happened because many middle-level employees found the systems too hard to master.

Looking for **LOW** and **COMPETITIVE RATES** on your **INSURANCE** needs?

How about on your tires, batteries, gasoline and various other products?

CALL **BRAZOS COUNTY FARM BUREAU** 779-4646

1507 S. College
Bryan, TX

Bright Idea...
INCREDIBLE RENT SPECIAL!
ON 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH
696-9771

ShearClass
"We made it easier to sit here."
Precision Hair Cutting
would like to send you to
Jamaica Mexico Aspen or The Bahamas

The choice might be yours so come by and register to win a free trip for two.

846-4771 505 University Drive East

Hewlett-Packard... For Tough Assignments

Hewlett-Packard calculators...for Science, Engineering, Business, or Finance. They save time and simplify complex problems. How? With built-in functions, programming capability, and time-saving features like dedicated keys. Buy yours today!

- HP-11C Slim-line Advanced Scientific Programmable \$ 67.50
- HP-12C Slim-line Advanced Financial Programmable \$ 108.00
- HP-16C Slim-line Programmable for Computer Science \$ 108.00
- HP-41CV Advanced Programmable Alphanumeric \$ 180.00
- HP-41CX Advanced Programmable Alphanumeric with Extended Functions \$ 243.75

hp HEWLETT PACKARD

Professional Computing

AUTHORIZED HEWLETT-PACKARD DEALER
505 CHURCH STREET COLLEGE STATION
SALE ENDS OCT. 18, 1984

Texas A&M Flying Club

Regular meeting tonight at the airport clubhouse. This meeting is for members and anyone interested in flying. There will be a speaker and refreshments. For further information call 764-7349

7:30 Tonight

PLAY THE SURVIVAL GAME

The Survival Game is chess in the woods. It's a team sport played with men and women from all walks of life ... each carrying a CO² pistol that shoots paint-filled pellets. The object is for your team to find the enemy's flag, hidden somewhere in the woods, and return it to your own flag station - while stopping the enemy from doing the same. And you can stop the enemy with a squeeze of a trigger and a splatter of paint.

COST: \$11.00 Introductory Rate (All Equipment and Safety Goggles Included)
Groups from one to thirty players welcome

RESERVATIONS/INFO. CALL 764-1066

PFI Inc. P.O. Box 9417 College Station, TX 77840