

# Library to try extended hours next spring

By PAM COLEMAN  
Reporter

It's 1 a.m. on a weeknight and you've been at the library for several hours. Your books are scattered around, papers are everywhere, and you're in deep concentration as the last round of warning bells go off. The lights suddenly go out. You are surrounded in darkness as you struggle to collect your books. Why doesn't the library stay open just a few hours later?

Student Government seems to think there is a need for extended hours in the Sterling C. Evans Library, and Tom Urban, the Vice-President of Academic Affairs for Student Government, is doing something about it.

Operating hours in the Sterling C. Evans Library now are 12 noon to 1 a.m. Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday.

"I've had a lot of complaints from people," Urban said. "It's sort of a frustrating feeling when you go to the library hoping it's going to be open and it's not open until noon. You might want to do some work late at night and the library is already closed."

Urban and a Student Government committee proposed new library hours that will go into effect, at least temporarily, the week before midterms next semester.

The hours will be Sunday 9 a.m.

to 3 a.m., Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 3 a.m., Friday 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., said Evelyn King, assistant director of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

"We will do it," King said. "It just hasn't been announced to all the staff yet."

The cost involved in having longer library hours is not a major factor, King said. The problem involves finding staff to stay the late hours.

The service desk will be closed late at night just as it is during the extended hours for finals week, King said. Only the building will be open, which cuts out the need for service desk workers, she said.

Urban conducted a random survey of students to determine if the library would be used late at night and early in the morning.

"I had people on my committee go out and ask their constituents how they felt," Urban said. "Everyone's pretty happy about it (the new hours). They're real pleased."

The possibility of 24-hour library hours was discussed at the time the poll was conducted, Urban said.

"When we researched it with our informal polls, it just seemed that between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. people wouldn't use it," Urban said.

Urban, however, would like to see 24-hour library hours in the future.

King said the question of adequate usage is the library's main concern.

If the library is not used enough, the



Crowds of people visit the library this week

Photo by ANTHONY CASPER

extended hours will end, she said.

"If the traffic is great enough, they (the extended hours) will be kept," King said. "We have no special numbers in mind."

Urban also said it was important that the extended hours be utilized.

"They had, in the past, opened the library early on Saturdays and Sundays and they would have two, three, or maybe four people in the library during the early hours," Urban said. "That's why they moved them up."

The response from students has

been positive. Jana Ahlfinger, a student government senator representing Krueger, Briggs and Spence halls, said the students she has talked with agree that the library should be opened late at night.

Student Government pushed for longer library hours on a trial basis early in November, but the plan failed, Urban said.

This time, however, the proposed new hours have been approved and will go into effect the week before

midterms, Urban said.

"The main thing that's going to be different about this proposal is that we're really going to have to advertise it," Urban said. "A lot of people are used to the old hours and they really need to know about the new hours. If we don't use these new hours they'll take them away."

To advertise the change advertisements will be placed in The Battalion, and fliers and public service announcements will be posted, Urban said.

# Anorexia, bulimia film shown

By ADA FAY WOOD  
Reporter

Anorexia nervosa and bulimia are the fastest spreading psychosomatic diseases today. About 10 percent of all reported cases result in death.

The film "I Don't Have to Hide," shown Wednesday in the Medical Sciences Building, dealt with this disease.

It was sponsored by the Medicine and Society Forum and the Learning Resources Center of the Department of Humanities in the College of Medicine.

"We try to bring a wide variety of topics to everyone, not just medical students," Dr. Don Self said.

Self, professor of medical ethics in the Department of Humanities, said he started the forum in January, because he wanted to expose medical students to more of the social problems of the world.

"They get scientific aspects of subjects everyday in class," Self said. "I wanted them to get it from a different angle."

The social issues of anorexia, starving the body, and bulimia, an obsessive need to eat, were presented in Wednesday's film with a counseling center format. The film concentrated on one girl's problem with bulimia.

People suffering from these two diseases usually are described as intelligent people who drive themselves hard. About 95 percent of the victims are women, the film said. It also said that anorexia and bulimia are the fastest spreading psychosomatic diseases. Of the victims, 30 percent regain their health, 30 percent get worse and worse, 30 percent experience no change, and 10 percent of the victims die.

The symptoms of the two diseases normally can be seen in childhood behavior patterns. A child usually hides his inner feelings by being quiet, introverted and striving to be the "perfect" child, the film said.

Coming to terms with life in general and believing in their own self worth are the main problems for the victims of anorexia and bulimia, it said.

Previous topics or films, presented by the Medicine and Society Forum included: rape, aging, business advertising's image of women, and the medical consequences of nuclear war.

Everyone is welcome and there is no admission, Self said.

# Jesters, minstrels entertain at Madrigal Dinners



Photo by DEAN SAITO

A juggler shows his talent at the Madrigal Dinners.

By ANN CERVENKA  
Staff Writer

"The path ahead may be undying, but at the end you will be finding pleasures of good cheer," the jester said as the audience entered the banquet hall in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Jesters, jugglers, minstrels and instrumentalists entertained an enthusiastic audience at the fourth annual MSC Madrigal Dinners Wednesday night.

Sponsored by the MSC Madrigal Dinner Committee, the program is like a medieval Christmas party to bring in the Yuletide season, Chairman Tracie Woods said.

The characters speak with an English accent and are dressed in medieval costumes, colored

tights, feathered hats and bright robes.

Michelle Dortch, a minstrel, said the performances help get the cast into the Christmas spirit.

"We get to play with the audience and flirt a little," she said.

Audience involvement is essential to the program. "The audience participates because it is fun and because we make them participate," Dortch said.

Several of the characters are not Texas A&M students. Jason Reynolds, 13, and Melane Reynolds, 10, children of MSC Director Jim Reynolds, have been involved for three years.

"It takes a lot of time, but it's fun," Jason said.

The two were dressed as pages. "We mostly introduce ourselves

and talk with the people," Melane said.

Before entering the banquet hall, the jester informed the guests of the Rules of Courtesy:

"Ye must enter the hall with the spirit of Christmas. Ye should not pick thy teeth at the table with a knife, straw or stick. Ye must not stuff thy mouth or make a pig of thyself."

During dinner, the instrumentalists, minstrels and jugglers continued with the entertainment.

After dinner, the royalty at the head table sang madrigal Christmas songs to the audience.

MSC Madrigal Dinners are continuing at 6:30 p.m. through Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are available in the MSC Box Office.

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