

OPINION

What the library needs

Better library facilities a must

This is the third in a three-part series on what the library needs.

Charles Schultz
Guest Columnist

Twice in the past twenty years Texas A&M has planned and completed additions to its library. In both cases its plans were much too small. Perhaps when expansion is planned a third time A&M will plan for the future.

If we are to have a Class A undergraduate library of 4 million volumes by the year 2000, perhaps we should plan and build a structure to house 6 million volumes.

The Evans Library has a capacity of 2 million volumes. At the current rate of growth, it will be full in six to seven years. With the accelerated growth from supplemental funds needed to become a Class A undergraduate library by the year 2000, it could be filled to capacity much sooner. If we started adding 170,000 volumes a year, the library would reach capacity in three years.

A remote storage facility for the library is included in the University's long-range building program, but it certainly is not planned to have the capacity to hold the type of growth the Evans Library needs to have to become a Class A undergraduate library by the year 2000.

The remote storage facility

will be a warehouse where infrequently used materials will be housed. When a user needs something from the storage facility, that material will have to be transferred back to the Evans Library temporarily while it is used and then returned. Such transfers can never be made on an immediate demand basis but on a scheduled basis such as once a day or every other day.

Although the Evans Library still has space to add materials for a few years, all units of the library are severely overcrowded in work space. University regulations provide that each faculty member should have an office of 150 square feet. Less than 25 percent of the library faculty members have offices. Most of the other 75 percent have barely enough space for a small desk and a chair, and they are jammed together in open spaces.

The situation for classified staff is even worse. They are jammed together worse than sardines in a can. This overcrowding is the result of inadequate planning and is not the fault of the library.

In the mid 1970s, when the second expansion of the library was being planned, the library staff prepared a program of requirements that would have allowed expansion. When the University decided that what the library had requested would cost \$23 million, it reduced the structure by more than half, allowing

the library only \$10 million for the building.

The Evans Library is also severely short in seating for students and carrels for faculty and graduate students. What seating is available for students is very closely jammed together.

Considering the growth in enrollment since 1979 and the hundreds of chairs that have been destroyed and not replaced in the past five years, it is likely that the library is short of the recommended seating by as many as 3,000 seats.

The 600 carrels are far fewer than needed even though each one is assigned to two people.

At a library function a few years ago, an administrator of the University expressed concern over the constant need of libraries for more space. He expressed the fear that the day would come when the entire earth would be covered with library buildings.

A prominent Texas humorist who heard the remark replied that being covered with libraries was a far better fate than most people were predicting for the earth. Because the Evans Library occupies only two or three of the 5,000 acres of the A&M campus, there is certainly ample space for a much larger library building.

In previous columns I have identified people needs of \$2 to \$2.25 million per year and materials and equipment needs of \$4.5 million per year. This leaves \$3.25 million per year to be devoted to facilities.

Over 15 years this amounts to nearly \$49 million, which does not seem an unreasonable amount for an institution of the size and diversity of Texas A&M to pay for a first class library building. A couple of years ago UT-El Paso announced plans for a \$28 million library. Certainly A&M can justify nearly twice that amount.

If a library is truly the heart of an academic institution, as many educators have stated for centuries, then it is the library which pumps the life-blood of learning throughout the campus. Thus to assure a high quality of learning, a university must have a healthy, strong heart in the form of a first class library.

The Evans Library's needs in people, materials, equipment, and space are indeed large. Greatness does not come easily or cheaply. If it did, everyone would be great, and greatness would be meaningless. Certainly Texas A&M realizes this. Hopefully it will decide to make the commitment needed to make the Evans Library a Class A undergraduate library by the year 2000. Just at the athletic teams and the academic units strive to be included among the coveted top ten, the Evans Library reaches for the same goal. With a firm commitment from the university administration, the Evans Library can make it.

Charles Schultz is the University Archivist for Texas A&M.

The ever-popular art of flirting: more than just playing around

The best days to do it are Thursday and Sunday, according to Glamour Magazine.

Teri Balog & Nancy Jumper
Guest Columnists

Thursday because everyone is getting ready for the weekend.

Sunday because everyone is winding down and thinking about what they did during the weekend.

What, you ask, is best on these two days?

Why, of course — FLIRTING.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, "a flirt is a person who plays at love."

Our definition of a flirt means someone who has perfected the art of making someone feel special during a short period of time.

Thursday night at the Chicken, a girl with hazel eyes rars in on an innocent hunk. She

catches his blue eyes with a smile and gives him a wink. The vibes are felt by both. They move through the crowd, like in the movies, slowly approaching the target.

She smiles, giggles and with big wide eyes begins the conversation. She moves closer and begins to slightly invade his space by touching him.

In her own way, she asks him questions about himself (we all like to talk about ourselves), she uses his name (we all like the sound of our own names) and compliments him, thus making him feel special.

What are the keys to successful flirting?

- girls: fluttering eye lashes.
- guys: a direct look.
- Both sexes: A good laugh.
- A great listener.
- Good body language.
- Smelling delicious.

- Smiles.
- Asking questions.
- Sharing common interests.
- Knows how to make one person feel as if he/she is the only person in the room.

Different people have their own way of dealing with the issue of flirting.

Some people stick with good friends, some branch out to their friends' friends and some blaze out into the unknown, seeking new adventures.

Some engineering majors think that it's great to have a girl flirt with them. An economics major even suggested that more girls need to flirt more often.

If this is so, why the old tale about you can't fall in love with a flirt?

A friend was once told, "she was the perfect girl to take home to meet Mom. However, she was a flirt and you can't trust a flirt."

Various definitions of flirting are:

- to seduce.
- to allure.
- to entice.
- to tempt.
- to bait.
- to lure.
- to tease.

There is a difference between a tease and a flirt. Yet, we were advised it's a thin line.

Flirting is fun, healthy and therapeutic.

Always remember that flirting can be learned, practiced and always perfected, but it is important to be yourself and let it flow naturally.

However, just because a person flirts doesn't mean that he or she is not capable of giving their heart to one lucky person. Ye who can capture a butterfly can keep a flirt.

Teri Balog and Nancy Jumper are senior journalism majors.

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