

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Although thunderstorms have clouded the skies, Texas A&M students manage to keep smiles on their faces. These students wait in front of the Harrington Classroom Building until this particular storm lightens up

Computer system to change at A&M continue its Micro Sales Cent

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND Reporter

Every Texas A&M student and faculty member should have access to a computer by the year 2000, said Dr. John Dinkel, new associate profor Computing and Information Systems.

Dinkel spoke at a meeting of the A&M Microcomputer Users Group Thursday and revealed his plans for the University's computer system of

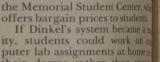
"It's a different computer system of A&M than it was when I first came here four years ago," Dinkel said, 'and I hope that four years from now we can say we have the type of computer system a major university like A&M should have."

Dinkel foresees a computer system that is accessible to everyone.

The current system is only accessible by modems that allow computer owners to telephone into the system. Dinkel says this is unacceptable.

Ideally, Dinkel says he would like to see a computer in every dorm room and on every faculty desk.

He realizes this idea may be a little unrealistic, but he promised that Computing and Information would



puter lab assignments at homen their dorms rather than spend long hours in the computer labs campus. Faculty members would be able

call up large amounts of data m tainable by small computers. Dinkel said he is confident:

the future of computers on car because he has great faith in University's commitment to the gram He gives the University credit

the growth and expansion of a puter awareness.

Dinkel assured the group the is confident of the University's mitment to a modern telecon cations system by the early 1990.

"The University deserves for where we are today," Dinke "and with that in mind we shou look forward to the possibilit

Dinkel said along with the U sitiy's committment he will nee cooperation from all department make the system of real value University.

Skunk tested positive for rabies in CS

A skunk found in the Son wood Valley area of College's tion on Aug. 23 has tested p tive for rabies, Brazos Am Shelter Director Kathy Rid

said Thursday. Although it appears therev no human exposure to the sku Ricker said four dogs are un observation in quarantine.

Rabies is an infectious disa of mammals that is transmit through saliva. Symptoms of virus, which travels through spinal cord to the brain, ind fever, uncontrollable exciten and muscle spasms in the thr

The incubation period for disease ranges from 10 days two years or more. Hum usually contract rabies from bite of a rabid dog,

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A&M offering speech communication degree

By CYNTHIA GAY Staff Writer

From the sixth floor windows of the Blocker Building, the faculty members of the new Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts can survey the class-bound audience below.

And ever since this department attracted by speech and theatrical studies have trooped to the Blocker penthouse to gain a broader per-spective of life at Texas A&M.

Nineteen faculty members are now responsible for 130 students majoring in speech communication and 33 theater arts majors. Last fall the speech communication degree was inaugurated, while the theater specialty has been at A&M since 1977.

Department Head Kurt Ritter, id, "Texas A&M was the only major or minor school in Texas without a degree in speech communication." "We were a unit within the En-

"Texas A&M was the only major or minor school in Texas without a degree in speech communication." - Department Head Kurt Ritter

glish department being nurtured and developed," said Ritter, who came to A&M three years ago. "Getting the degree was simply rounding out the liberal arts curricula. The creation of the department is really a reflection of administrative reality.

Dr. Roger Schultz, director of the-ater arts, added, "It's another indica-tion that Texas A&M is emerging as a university in the true sense of the word.

Expecting to draw about 75 speech communication majors after the first year, Ritter said the sudden swelling of the ranks is partly because of transfer students.

"The level of growth has been quite astonishing," he said. Four years from now, the department

should have between 250 and 300 majors, Ritter predicted, and he hopes to propose a graduate curric-ulum within five years. Both Schultz and Ritter are con-

vinced the department's graduates will have not only communication skills for sale in the job market but also flexible tools that adapt to a variety of occupations.

Addressing his introduction to a theater arts class Wednesday, Schultz told his students, "You need to know how to think and how to respond," and the study of the theater will "make you a better person so you can make the world a better place to live.'

Liberal arts are designed to teach students how to learn, Ritter said, ern University, which surveyed 170

businesses and industrial concerns. adding that students are in a better position to grasp new approaches and new techniques.

'We don't want to give students a false sense of confidence, but we have considerable evidence the liberal arts students have 'excellent track records," Ritter said.

He cited an ongoing 20-year study by AT&T stating that liberal arts majors are initially hired for lower salaries. But over the longer working term at AT&T, liberal arts majors own a higher perch on the corporate ladder. A recent survey of 50 com-panies by the Association of Ameri-can Colleges reports that 97 percent rated communication skills as a "very important" quality for all job applicants.

And why are many qualified ap-plicants rejected by employers? "Ina-bility to communicate" or "Poor communication skills" was the answer from 65 percent of the hiring officers interviewed for the 1980 annual Endicott Report of Northwest-

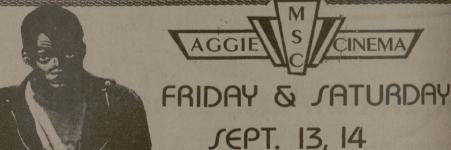
For these reasons, Ritter said one-half of A&M undergraduates take some speech course. Also, 100 percent of students majoring in business or education have a speech class or-namenting their curriculum, along with one-fourth of all engineers. The variety of jobs available to speech communication majors

ranges from marketing, manage-ment, and personnel to teaching, public relations and journalism, Rit-ter said, so the choice is completely up to the individual student.

When prospective theater stu-dents enter Schultz's office, he hands them a sheet of paper that begins: "You want to major in theater!! Well, it might be okay to 'play' for a while, but what are you going to do in the 'real world?'

Schultz then lists 32 ways to earn a living, such as becoming an actor, producer, choreographer, lighting technician, stuntman and teacher.

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"Welcome bac Spuds MacKenzie,

