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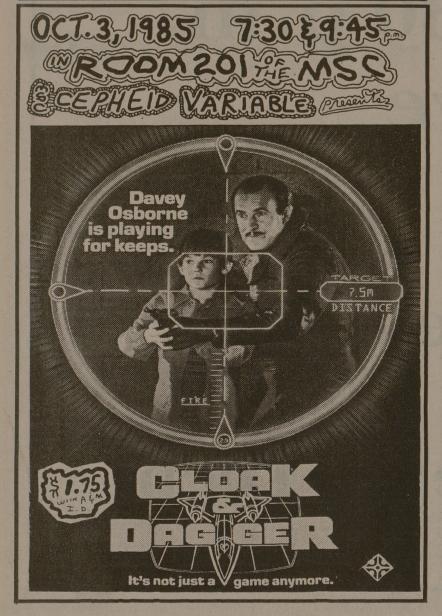
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Electronics may make books obsolete

Humanities adjusting to computers

By CHRISTI DAUGHERTY

Reporter

Sometime in the near future entire libraries will be stored on disks instead of in books, and students will learn almost entirely from comouters, Dr. Joseph Raben said Wednesday.

Raben, a former professor emeritus at Queens University in New York and a founding editor of such publications as "Computers and the Social Sciences" and "Computers and Translation", spoke about the use of computers in the fields of

The presentation was sponsored by Sterling C. Evans Library, the College of Liberal Arts and the computer science department.
Raben, who had first researched

the possibility of using computers for humanities work in the 1960s, said that at the time computers were enormous and difficult to use. In fact, use was restricted almost

entirely to mathematicians and computer scientists, he said.
"There were all kinds of complications involved in using computers

then that seemed calculated to confirm the strong belief that humanists had nothing to do with computers," Raben said.

Even the idea of putting words into computers seemed far-fetched at that time, he said, but since then, the idea of computers and humanities working together has become much less outlandish. The microcomputer has made it all more

"I am personally convinced that the microcomputer revolution may be the most important event in the

PANHANDLE — When residents

in this historic Texas Panhandle rail-

road town learned the Santa Fe rail-

road planned to do away with its old depot here, they asked to be allowed to give the building a new lease on

Several possiblities were considered for the maroon brick building that had played a major part in the

it," City Manager Larry Gilley says.

We were also thinking about moving city hall. It was small, and we needed more room. The current city hall at that time was about half the

The museum was interested in

town's growth.

"I am personally convinced that the microcomputer revolution may be the most important event in the history of the human species."

- Author Dr. Joseph Raben

history of the human species," he

The changes that have occurred since the invention of the micro-computer are just an indication of changes that will radically alter the way people live, Raben said.

Books, for instance, have become outdated, he said. They are too delicate and too scarce a commodity for the uses for which they are

A library can only have a certain number of books on hand, yet there are unlimited numbers of people who need them.

Information changes very quickly, Raben added, and books become obsolete in short amounts of time because their very nature makes it difficult to alter them to keep up with the times.

librarian told me that books which are needed for a certain class may be checked out a hundred times in a semester," he said. "By the end of that semester the book has literally been worn to pieces.'

The solution to these problems is to have all the books people could possibly need on a computer, Ra-ben said.

size of the train depot."

After mulling over the possibility of making the old depot into city hall, Panhandle city officials ap-

proached the company.
"Santa Fe leased the building to us

on an annual non-billable lease," Gil-

ley said. "It's still their property, but company officials said they had no

City hall moved into train depot

"The actual computer, the wires

and micro-chips, is not touched by human hands and is not in that way destroyable," he said.

Instead of getting only the infor-mation that other humans consider important through sources such as encyclopedias, people can get all the information in existence on a certain subject, Raben said. Then they can decide what is important to them. Thus, human error is less

He emphasized that he doesn't suggest people sit in front of a computer each time they want to read a book, or that they take the computer on vacation with them to read while lying on the beach.

Instead, he said, this advance-ment would help researchers or people who have a particular inter-est in literature or history.

Raben said he used computers in this way when researching the influences of writers upon other writ-

"I wanted to know how often and where Milton's name was mentioned within 10 or 20 words of Shelley's name," he said.

What would take the average hu-

man being years to research puter can discover in min

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ben said. Besides helping speed search process, com much more informati

average person could re "I believe that discs ar continue to get larger Raben said. "The last m

tion I heard was 2.5 m of information on one However, he said, componly will influence how we also how we learn.

Raben said that com give students the indivi tion that a classroom sim allow. Already studer ing a great deal from their

"Students are saying to can teach themselves fase at a terminal than they are: class," he said.

If a student learns s computer will teach him a level. If he learns more qu computer will teach a speed. This is virtually in a class of 30 people, who taught at the same page

The use of computers certainly alter the way lives and learns, he said, a involved in humanitites in leave their old prejudits computers behind, and an inevitable.

Yell pract at the Gro

to get students geared up la Texas A&M-Texas Texas

their support for the team by attending yell pr 7 p.m. tonight at the Grove

Midnight yell practice held in Buddy Holly Park bock Friday, located on side of the university there, take the university from Loop 289.

for the one in Panhandle decreased. But the decision was finally made

to close the depot, and Santa Fe filed a request with the Texas Railroad Commission to do away with it. When city officials in Panhandle

received a copy of the official notification, they began to consider what could be done to save the building.

So the work began to change an old-time train depot into a city hall

The depot had a long history in this town. Trains stopped here in the early part of the century to deliver supplies for the nearby boom town that could fit the needs of a modern, bustling town but still keep the flavor of the original building. It became a \$26,000 renovation project, a figure which does not include air of Borger, where the goods were transferred by vehicles or horse-drawn wagons. Eventually Santa Fe

Two yell practices will be

Students who can't atte game in Lubbock can sil

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