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 1100 Carter Creek Parkway, Bryan  
 823-8073

Dr. Robert Leslie, Pastor  
 Rev. John McGarey, Associate Pastor

**SUNDAY:**  
 Church School at 9:30AM  
 College Class at 9:30AM  
 (Bus from TAMU Krueger/Dunn 9:10AM Northgate 9:15AM)  
 Jr. and Sr. High Youth Meeting at 5:00 p.m.  
 Nursery; All Events

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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 computers, 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 humanities.

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 humanities 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 micro-computer has made it all more probable.

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*"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 said.

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Books, for instance, have become outdated, he said.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 needed.

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.

"A 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, Raben said.

"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 information 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 possible.

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 advancement would help researchers or people who have a particular interest in literature or history.

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

"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, a computer can discover in minutes, Raben said.

Besides helping speed the search process, computers can provide much more information than an average person could read in a lifetime, he said.

"I believe that discs are going to continue to get larger and larger," Raben said. "The last marketing I heard was 2.5 million bytes of information on one disc."

However, he said, computers only will influence how we learn, also how we learn.

Raben said that computers give students the individualization that a classroom simply cannot allow. Already students are getting a great deal from their computers.

"Students are saying they can teach themselves faster at a terminal than they can in class," he said.

If a student learns about a computer will teach him at his own level. If he learns more about a computer will teach at a faster speed. This is virtually true in a class of 30 people, where he is taught at the same pace, Raben said.

The use of computers will certainly alter the way we live and learn, he said, and will leave their old prejudices behind, and make them inevitable.

**City hall moved into train depot**

Associated Press

PANHANDLE — When residents in this historic Texas Panhandle railroad town learned the Santa Fe railroad planned to do away with its old depot here, they asked to be allowed to give the building a new lease on life.

Several possibilities were considered for the maroon brick building that had played a major part in the town's growth.

"The museum was interested in 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

size of the train depot."

After mulling over the possibility of making the old depot into city hall, Panhandle city officials approached the company.

"Santa Fe leased the building to us on an annual non-billable lease," Gilley said. "It's still their property, but company officials said they had no future need for it."

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 of Borger, where the goods were transferred by vehicles or horse-drawn wagons. Eventually Santa Fe put a station in Borger, and the need

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 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 conditioning.

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