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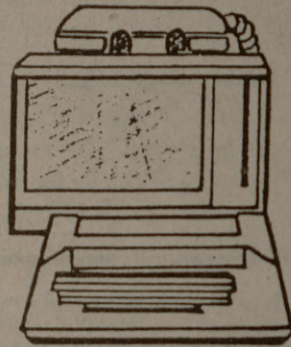
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VALUABLE COUPON

Official: Computer system operates more effectively

New program assists faculty and students

By Chris Caywood-Brennan
Reporter



Students, faculty and staff can now call up campus computers from their homes more efficiently than before and at a fraction of the cost, the assistant director of technical services of the Computer Services Center says.

"The Data Over Voice system is a joint effort between GTE phone company, University Telecommunications and the campus computing centers," George H. "Butch" Kemper says.

The transactions would be much quicker and the telephone could be used for normal calls, even while the user is communicating with a campus computer. However, since this alternative is distance-sensitive (the further from the phone company, the more expensive it is), the big disadvantage to the process is the cost, Kemper says.

The computer terminal data is combined with voice telephone data to allow simultaneous transmission of both without interference.

Equipment has been set up in the phone company office which makes a connection from the residence to the campus computer network, Kemper says.

Traditionally, in order to get such a connection, a modem — a small device which connects a computer to a telephone — was necessary.

There are two disadvantages to the dial-up system, Kemper says. The process is slow and when it is connected to the computer, the telephone cannot receive calls.

The alternative to this process is a direct communication line from the user's phone to the campus network.

A more efficient and less costly system was needed.

"We looked for an alternative to the telephone (because of its slower speed and because it ties up the lines), as opposed to the high cost of a direct line," Kemper says. "We wanted the best of both and that's when we came up with the DOV project."

The interface unit, a modem-like device, is plugged into the telephone line at the user's residence, Kemper says. The telephone and computer are then plugged into the same box. The line goes to GTE's office where there is another box. Another line leaves GTE and goes to the Port Selector Network on campus which

connects to any computer Academic Computer Center or Computer Center.

"DOV is basically a combination of the best features of both computer systems," Kemper says. The advantage of DOV is the old dial-up method, and the phone can be operative even if the system is in use. Also, much less than the direct communication line.

If a person wishes to use the service, he must fill out a form. If the service is available in an area (most College Station area), it is accessible, but it depends on the phone number prefix, this will be granted and service is shortly after that.

At that point, the student gain access to a DOV box. It will be purchased for about \$250.

"I would strongly suggest people make sure they can service before going out and a box," he says.

When the service begins will be an \$8 installation charge a monthly charge of \$15. The user will be billed monthly GTE phone bill.

Kemper says there is no wait of no more than two from the time the request is submitted and the service is made.

The service, financed by City Communications and lished in January, is only the service of its kind offered in university in the United States, he says.

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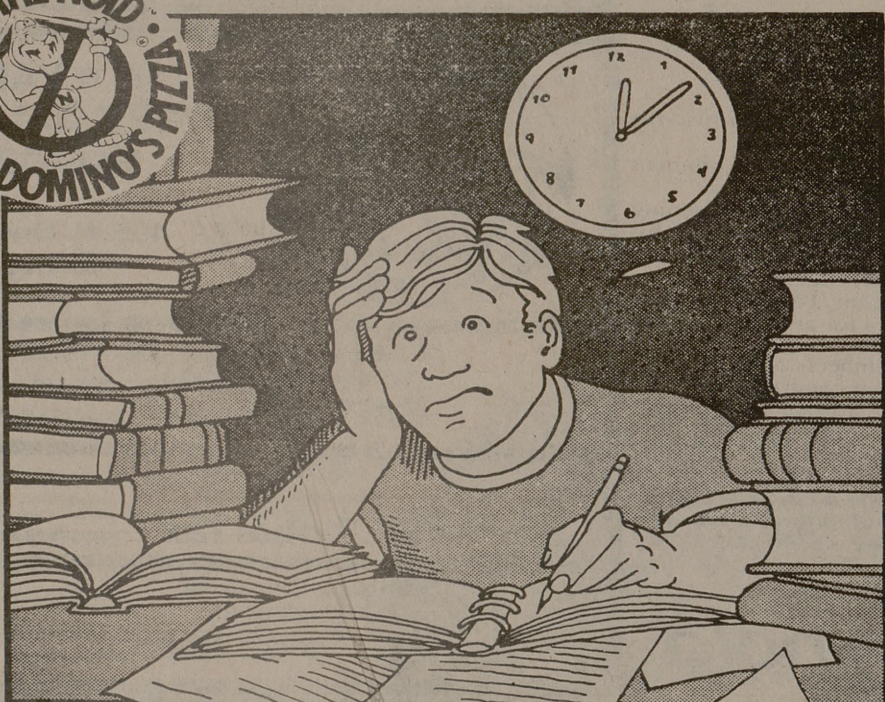
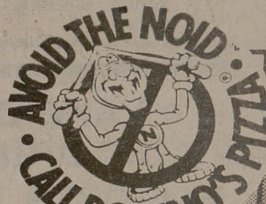
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Houston faces critical shortage of dispatchers; police worried

HOUSTON (AP) — The city is faced with a critical shortage of police dispatchers, and police department officials are seeking more people to handle the calls.

"The officers in the streets are worried about the situation because they're afraid for their safety," said Mike Howard, vice president of the Houston Police Patrolmen's Union.

"The dispatchers are an officer's lifeline, and they've got to be there when we need them," Howard said. Some dispatchers say the operation is so short-staffed, they take two-way radios with them when they go the restroom, the *Houston Post* reported Sunday.

One dispatcher said she recently handled a police chase via two-way radio while she rode in an elevator.

"The sad thing about it is some officers are afraid the only way to have the problem permanently corrected is to have an officer or citizen hurt or killed because of a problem dispatching calls," Howard said.

Don Hollingsworth, the civilian who manages dispatching operations, agrees more dispatchers are needed, but said some problems are being exaggerated by union officials.

Mayor Kathy Whitmire will be asked to relax the hiring freeze so six or more dispatchers can be added to the 150-member department, Hollingsworth said.

A year ago, the *Houston Post* re-

ported as many as 100 calls per day were going unanswered. With a new computer system, only about 12 calls of an estimated 30,000 per week go unanswered, Hollingsworth said.

One of the biggest problems stemming from the shortage is the inability of dispatchers to take their sched-

uled breaks, said dispatcher Scaelf, secretary of the Houston Police Support Personnel Union.

"That really makes the job more stressful," Scaelf said. "You have to sit there and keep stress inside. It's tough."

Soldiers journey to Europe for 'exercise of the decade'

FORT HOOD (AP) — Fort Hood will be a quiet place during September when 28,000 of the post's soldiers go to Europe for combat maneuvers billed as the "exercise of the decade."

Soldiers will begin moving in convoys to Galveston and Beaumont later this year to load equipment on ships destined for West Germany.

The exercise is called RE-FORGER '87 (Return of the Forces To Germany), says Col. Robert S. Fiero III, Corps and Fort Hood operations officer.

"This will be the 19th of the RE-FORGER exercises," he says. "It's being billed as the exercise of the decade because of the magnitude of deploying a corps."

There will be U.S. involvement from within Europe but not nearly to the degree as in the past. Most of

the U.S. troops involved in this exercise will come from the States."

Fiero says that in the past, gades have gone to the east from the United States and of the participating U.S. troops ready have been stationed many.

Fiero says that roughly 40 of the U.S. soldiers involved in exercises will be Army Reserve, primarily combat support and service support units.

"This is a great exercise tostrate the readiness of our component," he adds. "We've heavy reliance on the Reserveponents since we have gone 'One Army' concept of the reliability of our Reserveponent partners."

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