

A&M computer services expands, raises high technology emphasis

By Sherri Roberts
Reporter

As Texas A&M steps forward to meet the rising emphasis placed on high technology in the 1980s, computers are becoming an increasingly visible presence throughout campus. Currently, the Computing Services Center operates 12 computer access locations which are available to all A&M students, faculty and staff.

George "Butch" Kemper, assistant director of technical services at the CSC said the center is always expanding, noting that 105 micro computers are scheduled to be added to the public computer centers, hopefully, by the end of September.

The purchase and installation of these new computers will be financed, in part, by a portion of the \$1.5 million computer access fee revenue allocated to the CSC by the office of the provost and vice president of student affairs, Kemper said.

At \$3 per semester hour, the mandatory registration fee has greatly enhanced the CSC's capability to provide services to students, Dave England, director of the CSC, said.

In addition to the purchase, installation and use of the computers at night, the fee pays for various computer expenses including paper and repairs, England said.

The fee, however, is one which many students question. "I think it's bunk," junior marketing major Todd Jones said. "I use it, but there are majors that may only use it one time, and they're paying for other people's use."

Larry Salerno, a sophomore rec-

reation and parks major, suggested access to the computers should be a fee option, authorizing the payment of the access fee by those students who choose to use the campus computers.

For those A&M students, faculty or staff who would like to use one of the estimated 4,000 micro computers or two mainframes on campus, but avoid doing so because of limited knowledge regarding their use, the Learning Resource and Development Center on the sixth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library offers a series of computer classes once every week.

At a cost of \$35 per course, the LRD teaches 10-hour classes on the Wordstar, Wordperfect and Lotus 1,2,3 programs. In contrast, the six-hour Wordperfect and Lotus 1,2,3 classes offered by Computerland store in College Station cost \$75 per course.

Hal Hall, department head of the LRD, said of the center's 250 programs, Wordstar, Wordperfect, and Lotus 1,2,3 are the most commonly used in the IBM environment, while MacWrite, MacDraw and MacPaint are the popular programs in the Macintosh environment.

Students can make three hour reservations of the center's micro computers up to a week in advance, Hall said.

He added that reservations should be made two to three days ahead of intended use in the months of November and March, and five days ahead in December and May due to a greater demand for the computers during these months.

LOCATION	TYPES OF EQUIPMENT	OPERATING HOURS*
Ground Floor Teague Building 845-8300	IBM 3279, NEC, Genisco, AED 1024 & 512, VT200, ACT-5A terminals; Xerox 9700 laser printers; IBM 1403 printer; Datagraph microfilm printer & duplicator; Versatec & Houston Instruments Plotters; Lasergraphics color plotter & film recorder	M-F 24 hours Sat 9am-7pm Sun 1pm-10pm
Ground Floor Teague Building 845-1385	AED 1024, Genisco G-1000, Tektronix 1014, IBM 3279 & 3192 Graphics terminals; Microtec 300 dpi scanner; IBM XT & Apple Macintosh PCs; MI graphics camera; Numonics digitizer; Versatec plotter; Apple Laserwriter	M-F 8am-12m Sat 8am-7pm Sun 1pm-10pm
Old Cushing Library 845-8415 845-4210	VT 220, Telex 178, ACT-5A, IBM 3279 terminals IBM PCs; Xerox 4050 & QMS Laser & Printronix Printers	M-F 24 hours Sat 9am-7pm Sun 1pm-10pm
1st Floor-Blocker Building 845-0808	Zenith 148, IBM XT, Machintosh, HP150 & TI PCs; ACT-5A, VT100, Mime, IBM 3179 terminals IBM, HP, TI, STC, Apple printers; HP plotters	M-F 7:45am-12m Sat 8am-7pm Sun 1pm-12m
Kieberg Center 845-2842	ACT-5A terminals; Radio Shack Model 1 & 2 PCs; Printronix RJE Printer	M-F 8am-10m Closed Sat Closed Sun
Room 23 Zachery 845-4123	ACT-5A terminals; Printronix RJE printer IBM PC's	M-F 8am-12m Closed Sat Sun 1pm-10pm
Room 12A Zachery 845-1025	VT220 Terminals	M-F 8am-10m Sat 12m-5pm Sun 1pm-10pm
1st Floor Zachery 845-1310	Terminals for accessing SIGMA/SUMMA/Engineering VAX system	M-Th 8am-12m F 8am-10m Sat 9am-10pm Sun Noon-1pm
120 G. Rollie White Coliseum 845-3290	28 Macintoshes, 3 ImageWriter printers and one Laserwriter Printer	8am-5pm Mon Call for access extended hours
Commons	ACT-5A and VT220 terminals	M-Sun 24 hours
Sixth Floor Library 845-2316	IBM, Tandy 1000, TRS-80, Zenith, Apple2E & Macintosh PCs; Apple Laserwriter; VT220 terminals	M-Th 8am-12m F 8am-10m Sat 9am-10pm Sun Noon-1pm
H & FS Building Rm 206	ACT-5A Terminals	M-F 8am-5pm
Basement of Haldenella 845-3781	Apple Macintoshes and one Laserwriter	M-Th 8:30am-3:30pm Fri 8:30am-1pm Sun 5pm-8pm

'Brat' tells overseas tales

By Cindy Milton
Staff Writer

Joe Condrill is a 33-year-old brat. But being a brat has not stopped him from being a success. It has, in fact, made him a success.

Condrill is the editor and publisher of Overseas Brats, a magazine that attracts brats just like him from all over the world.

The magazine has grown to what he calls "an overnight explosion" and a "national movement."

It has attracted nearly 1,000 subscribers since its first publication in 1986.

Condrill defines an Overseas Brat as "anyone who has lived or gone to school overseas within the last 50 to 60 years" as a result of following military parents or parents with international careers. In an Associated Press article published in the *Stars and Stripes*, Condrill is cited as saying that military officials estimate more than 1 million people have gone to American schools overseas since 1946.

Condrill is an Army brat who spent more than half of his life following his globe-trotting father across the world.

"For 19 years I followed Dear Old Dad all over the countryside," he muses. "That was 19 years, 21 homes and 12 schools, including three high schools."

He attended schools in Germany, France, Thailand and Iran, where he graduated from Tehran American School in 1973.

The constant moves and changes in his life allow him

to dip into his past with stories that sound like segments from high-adventure movies.

He vividly and emotionally recalls moving to Thailand when he was 15 years old. He stepped out a plane and into a rude awakening: The reality of the war in Vietnam.

It was July of 1970, he says, and his family was getting off of a commercial Chinese plane in Camran Bay on the easternmost coast of Vietnam. He describes the event as though it happened yesterday:

"I remember stepping off the plane and coming under fire. We were being attacked." Although he and his family made it to shelter safely, the event made its painful scars on Condrill.

"I was shell-shocked. I didn't eat for three days afterward, and I ended up catching malaria.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," he continues, almost breathlessly. "My brother - who's younger than me - thought it was great. Mom was seething, and Dad was saying, 'What did you expect? This is a war.'"

Following this event, Condrill lived in Thailand, where his father was working for the Transportation Corps, a branch of the U.S. Army.

As a volunteer for the American Red Cross, Condrill met wounded soldiers and soon his interests sparked in medicine and counseling.

"You'd see all sorts of things," he remembers. "Psychological shock, amputations... you were there to be friends with them (soldiers)," he said.

Engineers may turn PCBs into salt

By Velia Velez
Reporter

Chemical engineers at Texas A&M are working on a demonstration unit that will turn a toxic chemical into a harmless substance.

Donald Sawyer, distinguished chemistry professor, has developed an electrochemical process which can convert toxic polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB, into table salt and baking soda.

PCBs are used for various industrial applications; they are used as a

fluid in trial applications; they are used as a fluid that will conduct heat and as an insulating material for transformers and capacitors used in electrical power substations of utility companies.

Because of their toxicity, PCBs have not been manufactured in the United States since 1972. The Environmental Protection Agency has had court orders issued to clean up PCBs at utility sites and in soil that has been contaminated by dumping.

PCBs are currently being eliminated by incineration at EPA ap-

proved incineration sites. Fluids and soils containing PCBs are shipped to the incineration facilities to be destroyed; the ashes remain toxic.

The process that Sawyer has developed will allow the destruction of PCBs by an electrochemical process that will break down the PCBs and transform them into the equivalent of table salt and baking soda.

Sawyer said the process involves superoxide ions that are able to react with PCBs. A superoxide ion is the result of adding an electron to a molecule of oxygen.

A&M provides fresh meats to community

By Julie Mitchell
Reporter

Students who are tired of standing in the long lines at ice cream stores should visit one of Texas A&M's best kept secrets.

The A&M Food Science Technology Center on the west campus provides the community with beef, pork, lamb and dairy products while serving as an aid for teaching, research and extension services.

The FSTC Store sells ice cream produced at A&M's creamery on the south side of campus.

Ray Riley, the manager of the FSTC, said the store sells a variety of flavors of ice cream: chocolate chip, vanilla, french silk, chocolate and many other flavors.

Other dairy products the store sells include milk, several types of cheese, eggs, butter, and quark.

Riley said the store sells meat products, and although some of the animals are used for research the meat is still high-quality.

"When we say research animals, it is not anything that is unhealthy because our inspection would not allow this," Riley said. "The meat is state inspected, which is the equivalent of USDA inspection."

Riley said the purpose of the store was to recover the money put into processing animals used for animal science courses, research and extension purposes.

"We are trying to recover the cost of the animals, wrapping materials, boxes, labor and the up-keep of the facilities," said Riley.

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