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The Battalion

Tuesday, July 27, 1993

Librarians train to teach data retrieval systems

By J. FRANK HERNANDEZ

The Battalion

As the nature of library science has changed, Texas A&M librarians are being trained in the latest computer programs and data retrieval systems to provide easy access to information for A&M students and faculty.

Systems and programs such as Word-Perfect, CD-ROM databases, MS-DOS technology, NOTIS and microfiche are standard in today's libraries.

For example, Texas A&M's Sterling C. Evans library requires a master's degree in library science for beginning positions such as reference or catalog librarian.

The librarians then receive in-house training on the various library databases including NOTIS, the major system.

Evans Library's "Future Library Scenes" pamphlet predicts information systems and computer networking will serve the individual needs of students, researchers, professors and administrators.

According to the pamphlet, "An undergraduate student is studying Shakespeare.

Computer facilities allow greater student access

As all reserve materials have been converted to electronic format, still in her dorm she reads the analysis of Macbeth."

Information systems will link business affiliates and practitioners with library resources through notebook computers and voice and video connections, the pamphlet predict.

"There are as many as 20 different databases in reference alone," Sterling C. Evans acting director Mary Lou Goodyear said.

Jane Dodd, senior business reference librarian for the Evans library, said librarians at the R. C. Barclay Reference Retailing Resources Center will have at least a master's degree in library science and may have a second master's.

"They will probably have a business or science background," she said.

The Barclay Center is scheduled to open June 1, 1994 and will house 36 work stations with business and agricultural databases, Dodd said.

For example, students and faculty will

be able to access LEXIS/NEXIS, an on-line database located in Ohio, which searches business, news, trade and law publications in the U.S. and abroad, she said.

Students and faculty will also be able to access bibliographic databases that contain articles and information on corporations.

"They will be able to get information about products, markets and industries," Dodd said.

Each librarian in the Barclay Center will learn all of the databases to ensure they can teach people how to use each system, she said.

"It will be our job to help the students and faculty make some sense of the systems," she said.

David Alsbrook, acting director of the Bush Presidential Materials Project, said the George Bush Presidential Library will eventually have eight to 10 archivists trained in-house to serve researchers' needs.

At the presidential library, the term archivist is used, but the duties are similar

in nature to that of a librarian, Warren Finch, archivist for the George Bush Presidential Library, said.

He said there are a number of different databases that must be learned by archivists, such as C-Trak and the gift, photo, presidential remarks and Vice-Presidential databases.

C-Trak is the main system from the White House. It is a tracking system that began with the Carter Administration and houses all correspondence, memos and office files from the Bush Administration.

Finch said that currently only the Reagan and Bush presidential libraries use the C-Trak system, which limits the places to learn the system.

"You either learn this database working in records in the White House or working for one of the libraries," he said.

Finch said the presidential library's future includes a photo system allowing researchers to search an actual document, view it on screen and print out a full color copy.

"Our job is to make the presidential records available to researchers. They write the actual history," he said.

State representative faces drug charge

Jury to decide fate of lawmaker

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McALLEN — A federal prosecutor said Monday that actions and inactions by state Rep. Sergio Munoz proved he was involved in a plot to steal about 700 pounds of marijuana from a police locker.

But the Palmview Democrat's defense attorney told a jury that the government's case depended solely on three men of the "lowest character."

A jury began deliberating over the fate of the 41-year-old freshman lawmaker, who faced up to 80 years in federal prison if convicted of intent to distribute and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana.

"No matter how smart that he thinks he is, I don't believe that he can pull the wool over your eyes," Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Leonard told the jury in closing arguments.

Leonard accused Munoz, a Palmview municipal judge at the time, of plotting with three oth-

ers in April 1992 to steal the seized marijuana before it was scheduled to be destroyed and switch it with alfalfa.

The three co-conspirators all have pleaded guilty. They testified during the weeklong trial that Munoz participated in their plans.

But defense attorney Kyle Welch attacked the credibility of the co-conspirators: Ramiro Vela, 60, former Palmview mayor pro tem; Rodolfo Rodriguez, 57, a former city police commissioner, and Rolando Rodriguez-Llanas, 34, a Palmview businessman.

"They understand that there is only one way out. And their only way out was to give the government something else, to give them someone else," Welch said, referring to a plea bargain the three struck to testify against Munoz.

Leonard defended the witnesses, saying: "They don't have much to gain. They are still going to prison."

According to testimony, Vela and Rodolfo Rodriguez approached former Palmview Police Chief Alfredo Garza Jr. about

switching the marijuana.

Garza informed an anti-drug task force and agreed to record several conversations, including some with Munoz, during the week that the scheme was discussed.

Garza delivered the marijuana on April 13, 1992, outside Rodriguez-Llanas's business, and the three were arrested.

Munoz, who was not at the scene of the transaction, was arrested 11 months later once the three implicated him.

Welch told the jury that it would have been easy for Garza to record incriminating statements from Munoz if Munoz had been involved.

The tapes didn't prove he was part of the conspiracy, but rather showed that he tried to stop his friends from carrying it out, Welch contended.

"The government is here asking you to disbelieve what you heard on the tapes and believe these men who slid into this court and told this story," Welch said.

"These are men of the lowest character."

Official audit reveals funds misspent at Stephen F. Austin

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Stephen F. Austin State University officials have taken funds that could have been spent on education and used them for athletic programs, according to a state audit released Monday.

The report also cited questionable expenses, such as purchases that appeared to sidestep bidding procedures, a lavish mobile telephone system used by university police, and payments for championship athletics rings.

State auditors urged the school to "establish priorities which are in alignment with its primary mission to serve as an educational, intellectual, and cultural resource for the people of Texas."

Stephen F. Austin State, located in Nacogdoches, has an enrollment of nearly 13,000.

The school has hired a new president and vice president for fiscal affairs, auditors noted, saying that the newcomers would have a chance to change the institution's priorities.

Stephen F. Austin State officials did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press.

School administrators responded to auditors, saying that the university was increasing academic and classroom expenditures by \$500,000, and wasn't trying to circumvent bidding procedures.

The school also defended the police mobile phones, and said it had taken a "major stride" toward implementing fiscal guidelines for academics and athletics.

"We agree that our primary mission is education, intellectual and cultural," the school responded in the audit.

The audit, which has been given to state leaders, describes a school that neglected educational needs to divert more than \$1.4 million from other revenue sources into athletics.

Crime Stoppers

DPS seeks hit-and-run offender

On Saturday, May 8, 1993 between the hours of 9 p.m. and midnight a felony failure to stop and render aid accident occurred on FM 1179 one-fourth mile north of Bryan. The victim Christopher Green was killed in a hit-and-run accident.

The vehicle involved could be a pickup truck or a recreational-type vehicle with side mirrors. The only evidence at the scene was broken mirror glass and an orange reflector.

This week the Texas Department of Public Safety and Brazos County Crime Stoppers need your help to identify the person(s) responsible for this failure to stop and render aid. If you have any information call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call you will be given a special coded number to protect your identity.

If your information leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash.

Lone Star state looks at dry July

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — It's like living in a sauna — from dawn until, well, dawn.

From Dallas to Austin, San Antonio to Brownsville, rain-starved Texans are eying the sky for any hint of rainfall. But the humidity hasn't gone away.

For most cities along Interstate 35, it's been a month since it has rained. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the last rainfall was June 25. That was the tail end of a storm that knocked out power to more than 20,000 homes and produced a rainout at a Texas Rangers-Oakland A's game.

But not even a trace of rain has touched the area since, says Roland Nunez, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"People complained about that (June) rain so much that maybe they were hoping too much for dry weather," Nunez says.

If no rain falls by Saturday, July will be the first

month since November 1903 in which there has been no precipitation in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Nunez says that's one record that's likely to be tied, if not broken.

"The trend right now ... looks like the likelihood of any precipitation will be nil," he said.

Further south, the forecast looks like much of the same.

The last measurable rainfall in San Antonio was June 26, though the city had a trace of rain June 29 and July 1, says Dan Sobien, a weather service meteorologist there.

Sobien says the dry weather isn't completely unusual for Texas summers, something most residents in the Lone Star state already know.

"This is pretty much a dry season, and even though it's a little unusual to go this long without rain, it's not out of the question," he said.

San Antonio also is flirting with record-breaking dryness. The last time the city had only a trace of rain in the month of July was in 1984, and before that, 1944, Sobien said.

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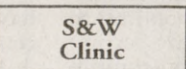
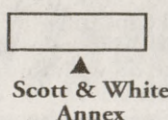
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