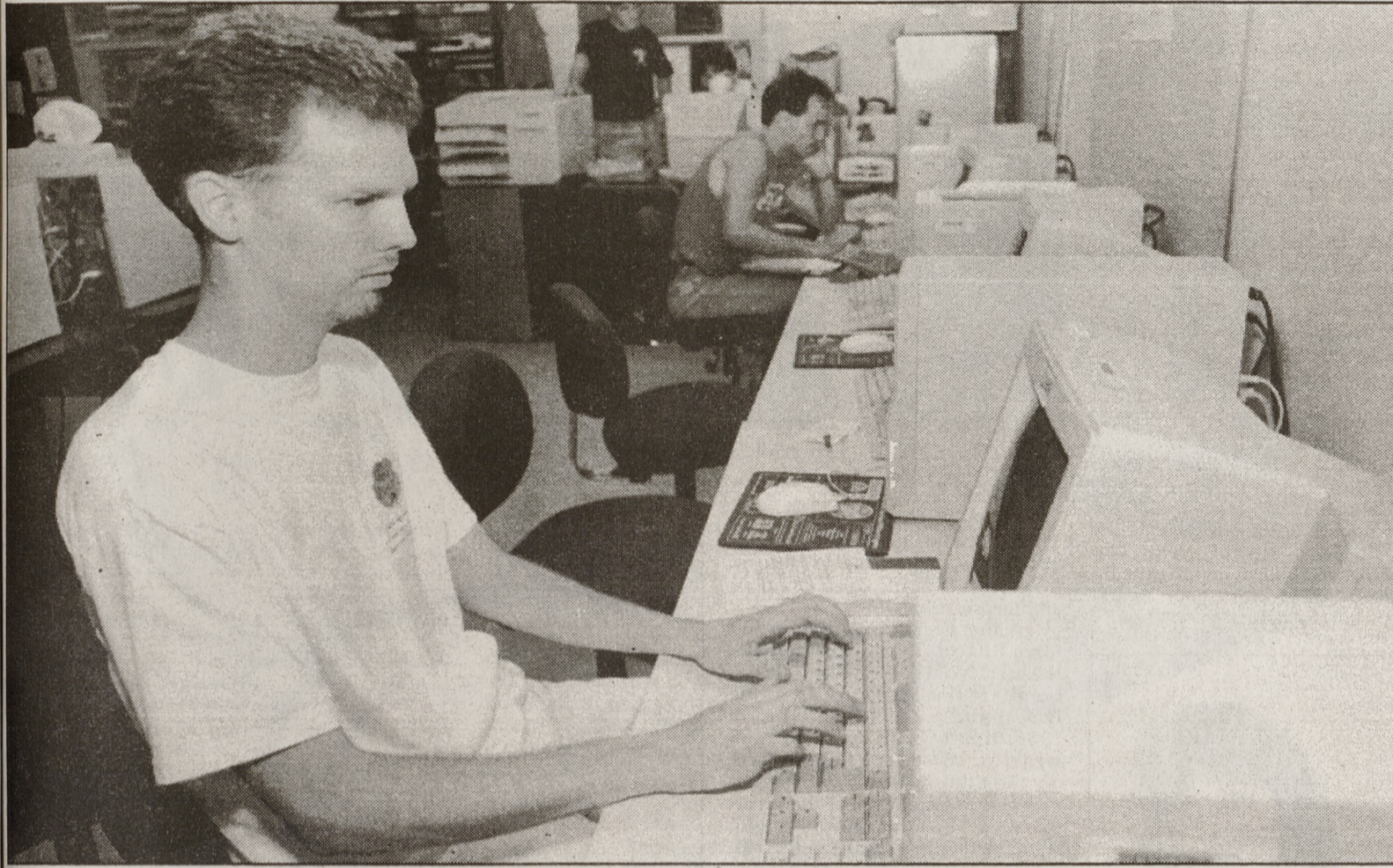


Computers at your service



Barry Gill, a senior accounting major from Garland, works on a personal project in the Teague Computing Center prior to the start of the fall semester. The TCC is open 24 hours a day except on Saturday when they close at midnight.

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Now more than ever, it seems college students must have a computer or have access to one in order to remain competitive. However, the typical student's budget is too tight to splurge on top of the line machinery.

The MicroComputer Center on the A&M campus offers lower prices for A&M students. The center is located in 026 MSC directly below the main check cashing counter.

Brands such as Apple, Macintosh, Dell and Zenith are carried at much lower prices than regular Bryan-College Station area retailers. The retail price of a Macintosh Classic II runs

anywhere from \$999 to \$1,079. The Micro-Computer Center charges \$870.

The Center is a non-profit organization started by Texas A&M in 1985.

"We concentrate on getting the best prices for the students," said Romona Drew, sales manager at the MicroComputer Center.

The MicroComputer Center also carries a variety of software and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Although the MicroComputer Center offers great discounts, some students still may not have the money to buy a computer.

The Learning Resources Department (LRD) located on the sixth floor of Sterling Evans Library has a variety of computers available to Texas A&M students. Brands

available include Macintosh and IBM compatibles. The LRD offers 24 different applications for its computer systems including: word processing, spreadsheets, picture editing, Harvard Graphics, and other advanced programs too expensive for the average student.

"We have special software graphics and things that cost too much for students to buy," said Aaron Brender, student worker in the Learning Resources Department. "You definitely get your money's worth."

The LRD is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. and on Friday 8 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.. Weekend hours are Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

BOOKS, BOOKS

Helpful hints for students braving the textbook market

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students from graduates to freshmen have yet to solve one key mystery in the life of every Aggie. Where is the cheapest most efficient place to buy books in Bryan-College Station?

Purchasing the required books for the average 14 hour class load generally requires a huge amount of cash and can be a stressful, time-consuming process. However, here is some information that might ease the strain on a few students' minds and possibly their budgets — the first thing students should remember when buying books is always ask for used copies. Used books can cost up to 50 percent less than new books. Many retailers will not voluntarily offer used copies so it is up to the student to ask if there are any available.

The second thing to remember is the telephone. Many students forget that they have one and waste hours running from bookstore to bookstore trying to track down a specific book. If a book is difficult to find, students should call the stores and ask about it. Most bookstore employees know a lot about the books for each class. They may know if the book is still in production or if anyone in town has it.

The third and final factor in buying books is the location at which the buyer chooses to purchase them. The odds are that the typical student will have to go more than one place to buy all of his or her required books. After contacting local bookstores and comparing the prices of the new required books for Biology 101, Chemistry 101, and Spanish 101, the price differences were



found to be minimal. The amounts differed a maximum of \$10 from store to store.

Regrettably, there is no one bookstore that is guaranteed to have every student's needs at rock bottom prices. But by following these simple steps, students can make one of the necessary evils of college life as painless as possible.

Wholesale Loose Diamonds

Prices are based on the New York "Rapaport Sheet", a wholesale price guide.

Pear Shape

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
.73	G	Si2/I1	\$2178 ⁰⁰
.71	H	Si2	2250 ⁰⁰
.42	H	VS1	820 ⁰⁰

Oval

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I/J	Si2	\$5800 ⁰⁰
1.09	H	Si1	3631 ⁰⁰
1.03	I/J	Si1/VS2	3512 ⁰⁰
.77	I	Si1/Si2	2267 ⁰⁰
.71	E	Si	2586 ⁰⁰

Marquise Cut

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
1.47	I/J	I1	\$4800 ⁰⁰
.83	D	Si2	3900 ⁰⁰
.75	G	VS1/VVS2	3500 ⁰⁰
.71	F	Si2	2750 ⁰⁰
.62	I	Si2/Si1	1900 ⁰⁰
.61	F	Si1/VS2	2080 ⁰⁰
.58	F	Si1/Si2	1700 ⁰⁰
.46	H	Si1/Si2	1354 ⁰⁰

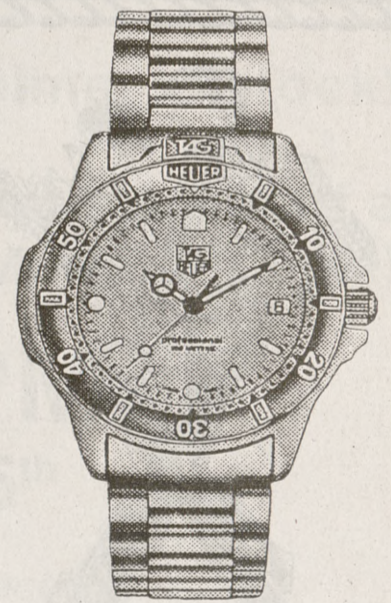
Emerald/Princess

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
1.14	H	VVS2	\$5600 ⁰⁰
.66	H	VVS2	1850 ⁰⁰
.42	H	VVS2	850 ⁰⁰

Round Diamond

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
9.51	K	I1/I2	\$29,500 ⁰⁰
1.64	J	Si1	6600 ⁰⁰
1.37	K	VS1	4795 ⁰⁰
1.12	D	Si2	4500 ⁰⁰
1.03	G	VS1/VVS2	5300 ⁰⁰
.96	E	Si2	3900 ⁰⁰
.96	I/J	Si1	2950 ⁰⁰
.92	I	Si1/Si2	3208 ⁰⁰
.75	E	VS1/VVS2	3475 ⁰⁰
.72	D	Si1	2700 ⁰⁰
.72	G	Si1/Si2	2300 ⁰⁰
.71	G	Si2/I1	1750 ⁰⁰
.52	J	Si1	1108 ⁰⁰
.50	J	VS2	1065 ⁰⁰
.46	J	Si2	980 ⁰⁰

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