Tubularman

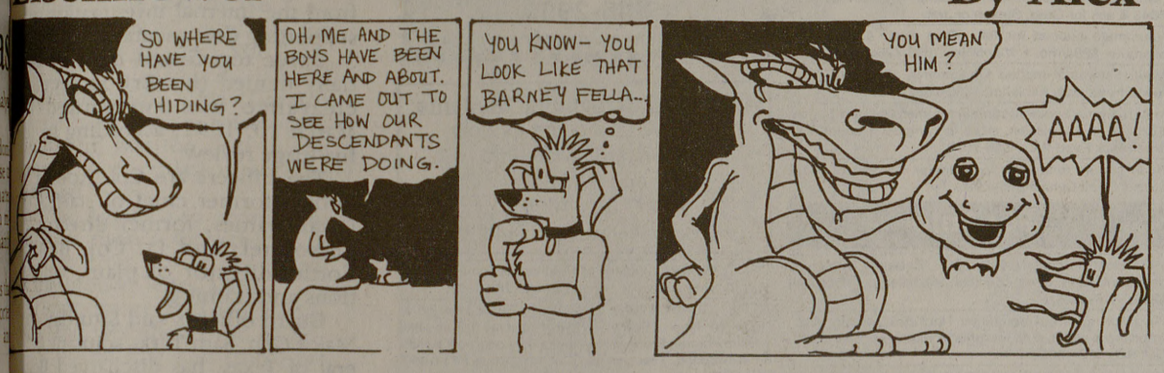
By Boomer Cardinale

Bartholomew

by Kalvin

Eisenhower

By Alex



Business

Continued from Page 1

ing infrastructure.

"The faculty will have better computing links at their desktop computers," Wichern said.

In addition, there will be more space for student activities and organizations.

The relocation will give departments already in the Blocker Building more room and will allow other departments to move into the building.

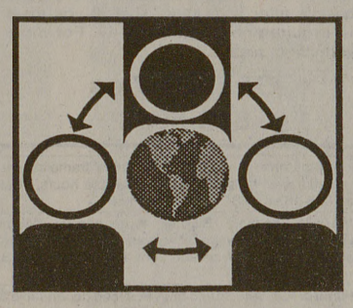
Glenn Dowling, director of Planning and Institutional Analysis, said the Center for Academic Enhancement and the departments of English, speech communication, theater arts, philosophy and humanities and statistics will be gaining more space in the building.

"The deans of the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts, which includes student advising, will be moving into the building along with the Department of Agricultural Economics," he said.

Part of the math department will move into the building, but they will also retain their current space in Milner.

Computing Toolbox

A weekly column dedicated to computing at Texas A&M



Popular uses of the campus computing network include electronic mail, news, file transfers, word processing, and general data processing. But what is a network? Networks are a physical communications medium that allow the exchange of information between computer systems, just like a telephone line allows you to exchange voice messages with a person on the other end of an ordinary telephone.

There are many types of networks, but the most popular network today is called the Local Area Network or LAN. The word "local" means that your computing resources are all in the same general area. Think of a LAN as a spiderweb that interconnects many resources (personal computers, printers, workstations, other networks, and so on). Resources may be directly connected (dedicated link) or may share a common network (shared link).

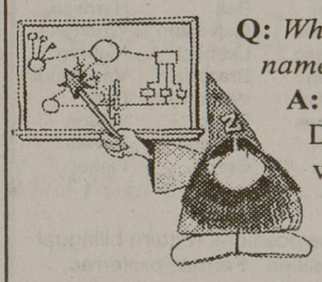
Today it is important that the different computing work groups at Texas A&M be able to communicate with one another, so new roads have been paved between each one. However, as the example below illustrates, new nologies have been develped to keep up with today's networking demands.

The driver of a car travelling along a busy highway tries to gain access to a town. However, when he reaches a checkpoint outside the town, a guard won't allow him entrance because he can't speak the town's official language and he is turned away. As he slowly makes his way back through the traffic, he wishes that the people in town spoke more than one language and that there were more lanes on the highway so that he could move faster. Similarly, information travelling along a network will be turned away from a computer system if it does not use the same communications protocol (speak the same language).

There are greater loads on existing networks due to increased computer usage and the demands of today's high-performance computers and applications. Since information traffic is increasing, network managers have developed technology to open more lanes on the highway (increase "bandwidth") and speak more languages (increase "compatibility") between different computer systems.

A widely used LAN technology is called "Ethernet". Ethernet connects computer systems with a coaxial cable. In many organizations Ethernet makes up the highways, main streets, and country roads of their networks. Although Ethernet is a reliable and highly travelled networking system, increased speed and reliability is needed to deal with increased usage and to transmit voice and video ("synchronous" signals) as well as data ("asynchronous" signals) over computer networks. A new transmission medium, optical fiber, can enhance the efficiency of Ethernet systems. Read this column next week to learn about optical fiber!

Ask the Computing Wizard



Q: *What is the primary nameserver on campus?*

A: The nameserver is DNS.TAMU.EDU with the IP address 128.194.178.1. The secondaries are currently TAMSUN (128.194.15.32) and SUMMA (128.194.3.89).

HELIOS was the primary nameserver until last December. HELIOS is now an unofficial secondary but will cease to perform name service on May 1st. For problems related to this discontinuation, please call the Network Availability Center (NAC) at 845-4219.

Q: *What is the speed of the Texas A&M campus Internet connection?*

A: The campus T1 serial line speed is 1.544 Mbps. However, Texas A&M will upgrade to a T3 link which will allow speed of around 43 Mbps beginning late 1994 or early 1995. The T3 will provide a higher data transfer rate for supercomputing applications and increase the speed of Internet access.

Please send comments, topic suggestions, and questions for the Computing Wizard to SUGGEST@TAMU.EDU or call 845-9325.