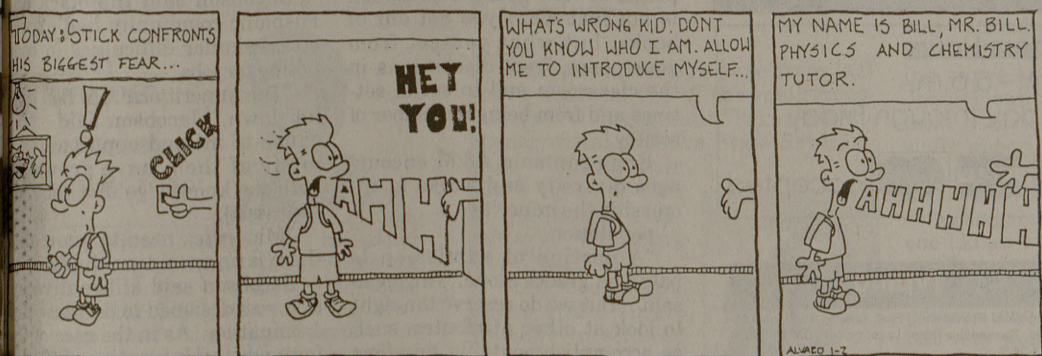


**Stick**

By Alvaro

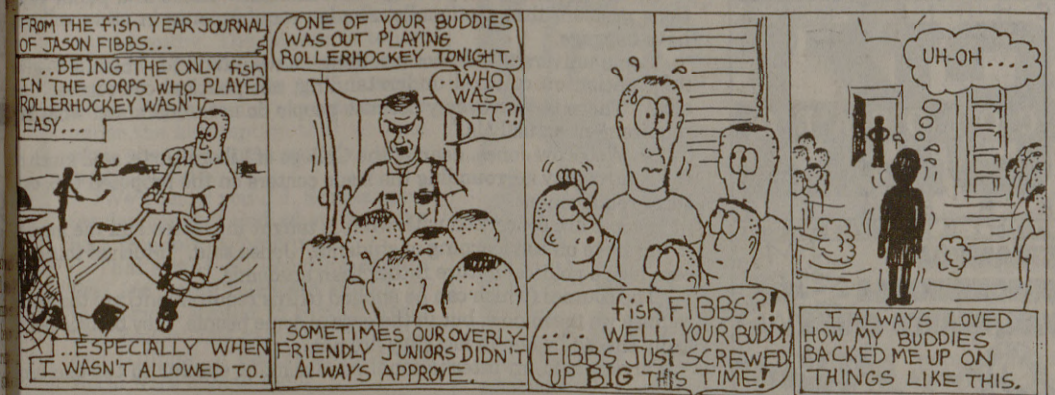


**THE INKWELL**

By Brad



**ADVENTURES IN AGGIELAND** By Greg



**Generation Y**

By Quatro



**WEATHER**

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Cloudy. High near 97. South wind 10-15 m.p.h.	Partly cloudy. High near 95. South wind 5-10 m.p.h.	Partly cloudy with isolated afternoon showers and thunderstorms. High near 94.
Tonight	Tuesday Night	
Fair skies. Low near 73. South wind 5-10 m.p.h.	Partly cloudy. Low near 74.	

Source: TAMU Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

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# Computing Toolbox

A weekly column dedicated to computing at Texas A&M

## Computing in 1994-1995

The author, Dr. John Dinkel, is the Associate Provost for Computing and Information Systems at Texas A&M University.

The return to campus in the Fall of 1994 brings with it a number of new and enhanced computing resources for Texas A&M University. These resources will greatly enhance the overall computing environment on the campus. I want to briefly summarize these latest changes and to invite your participation in the use of these resources.

Texas A&M University made the decision during the summer to upgrade the connection that joins Texas A&M University to the Internet. As a result, Texas A&M will be directly connected to the SprintLink national Internet backbone. The increase from the current T1 connection at 1,540,000 bits per second to the T3 connection at 45,000,000 bits per second will result in 28 times greater access speed. All of this translates into a much capacity to handle the huge amounts of traffic from Texas A&M University.

A study conducted by CIS in Spring 1994 indicated that the faculty, staff, and students of Texas A&M University are accessing the Internet at the rate of 100 million times a year. Also, there is a growing need for high-speed access to remote computers. This upgraded connection will greatly improve the overall access to Internet services for the faculty, staff, and students of Texas A&M University. This project is being undertaken jointly with the University of Texas-Austin and is being driven by the Texas A&M University's increasing use of the Internet.

In conjunction with the Student Housing Office, CIS installed 2,144 Ethernet connections in eight dorms during the Summer 1994. These connections will provide students a direct link to the campus network and the Internet from their dorm rooms. Also, CIS implemented support services to assist students with attaching their computers, answer their questions about connections, and diagnose problems. Student Housing and CIS will continue to evaluate demand for such connections and to provide additional connections as required.

At the same time, the access to the campus network from off-campus is being upgraded. The number of high-speed modems has been—and will continue to be—increased. The newer, more capable PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol), a high-speed protocol used for communications links directly joining two stations, will be made available for remote access to the campus network during the Fall 1994 Semester.

The West Campus Library facility and its generally accessible microcomputer lab formally opened in August 1994. The facility has about 140 microcomputers, a high-speed color printer, a help desk and support facilities. Along with the microcomputer facilities in the Biochemistry/Biophysics Building, this will provide a total of almost 250 generally accessible microcomputers and a computer classroom on the West Campus for the faculty, staff, and students of Texas A&M University.

Portions of these facilities will be open 24-hours-a-day as demand dictates.

The plan to replace and upgrade the academic and computing environment at Texas A&M University has been approved and the implementation of this plan has begun. This three-year plan will provide significant enhancements to these computing environments. The first step in the plan is the replacement of the Cray YMP 2/216 with the more capable SGI Power Challenge. This new machine has 16 processors rated at 300 MFLOPS each, one gigabyte of main memory, and 64 gigabytes of high-speed disk storage. The Cray YMP will be maintained until February 1995 in order to allow a smooth transition period.

The second step will be the installation of a file server and about 100 gigabytes of an automated tape backup system. This will be done sometime during the Fall semester. The resulting system will provide file service capabilities for the entire Texas A&M University network.

The third step will be to upgrade and enhance the interactive computing environment. The details have not yet been finalized. This project will most likely begin this year.

As you can see, there have been a number of significant changes in the Texas A&M University environment. Also, new and enhanced services are available. We welcome you to this environment and look forward to your use of these facilities and services. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. ●

Computing Toolbox is published by Computing and Information Services (CIS) at Texas A&M University. Please send comments, topic suggestions, and questions for the Computing Wizard to SUGGEST@TAMU.EDU or call 845-9325. We want your input!