

Caught in the net

Students look for ways to utilize campus technology

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

The age of the computer has finally arrived. In the past, computers were mostly used by businesses and computer nerds spending hours playing games. Now, getting on-line and accessing the world is a widespread practice.

Finding an exact definition of the Internet is close to impossible. Sean Geoghegan, the Academic Computing Center help desk director, said the best way to find out is to get on any small network and branch out.

"People come in and say they want to get on the Internet," Geoghegan said. "If they want to that, they can just stand on a computer. It's a conglomeration of networks."

The scope of the Internet stretches across 83 countries and includes 20 million people and over 2.2 million computers.

The Internet may be the future of education. Professors at A&M are already utilizing the Internet for their teaching. Students can access their syllabuses, class notes, exams and grades

through the World Wide Web. The amount of information the Internet provides draws in many users.

Gena Garrett, a junior indus-

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trial distribution major, said she can access professors through the Internet.

"I like it because my professor puts his notes on the World Wide Web," Garrett said. "I no longer have to go to Notes and Quotes and buy them."

Michael D. Edwards, a Computing and Information Services employee, said this move toward education through computers tends to scare traditionalists.

"People automatically have a

fear of change," Edwards said. "The human element won't be lost, though. We need to use this wonderful technology to enhance education. There will still be human teaching; the computers will just be a supplement."

The information on the Internet is not limited to traditional education. Anyone "surfing the net" can find facts on everything from juggling to 42 essays about the significance of the white lodge and black lodge on Twin Peaks.

Greg Small, a senior industrial distribution major, said he heard his friends talking about the Internet and had to find out for himself what all the hype was about.

"I love the Internet, because it has so much outdoors information on it," Small said. "If I want a location of a climb or a biking trail, I can find it on the Internet."

As some users have found, the appeal of the Internet can become a problem if consumes too much time.

"People can even get addicted to the Internet," Geoghegan said. "I love tasteless jokes and it

takes a long time for me to read them. That's time I have to spend dedicated to the computer."

Electronic mail is the most widely-used function. People can send mail to one another through the Internet.

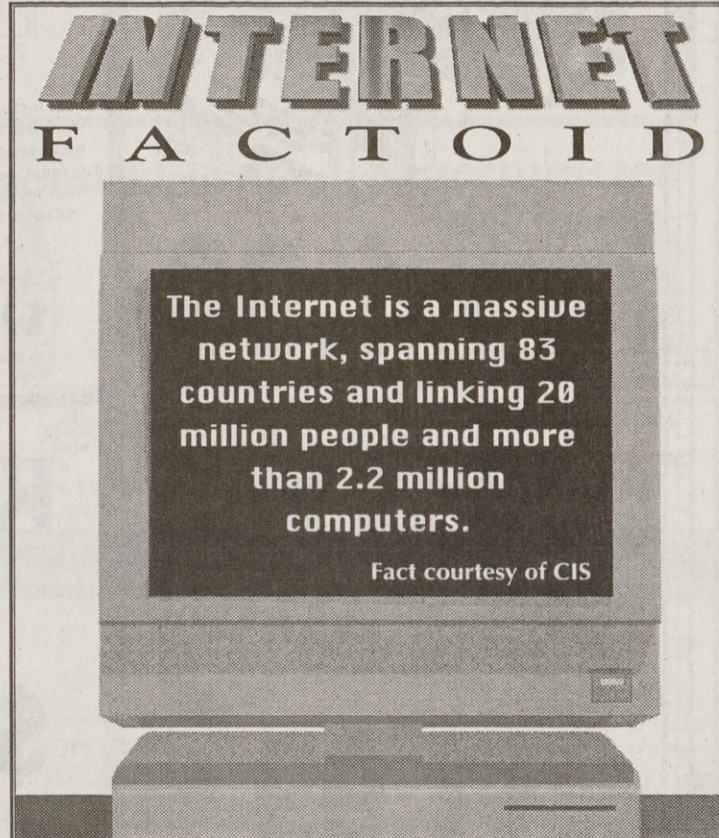
Lynn Brunnet, a senior computer engineering major, said she uses E-Mail constantly.

"E-mail comes in handy especially with my boyfriend co-oping in Austin," Brunnet said. "It's a cheap and easy way to talk to friends and family all over the country and world."

Sean McDonnell, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he started using the Internet when he was working as an intern in San Antonio. He said everyone should have some working knowledge of the Internet.

"The Internet is about to explode," McDonnell said. "I think it's going to be the future of commerce and education. Everybody is going to have to know how to use the Internet."

There are five general computing help desks offered by the CIS in the computer labs around campus. The Networking Help Desk is in 133 Blocker.



WEEKEND PREVIEW



Brad Thompson, a rock performer, is playing at The Tap.

SATURDAY

Big Apple Trio, a jazz band, is performing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Fuerza Latina, HYPE, Yayo Castillo y Rumors, Xelencia and the Baile Folkorico from San Antonio will be celebrating the first annual Diez Y Seis on the streets of downtown Bryan all day. The festival will also have food and craft booths.

House of Dreams, a cover band from San Antonio, is playing at The Tap.

Texas Fever, a country band, is playing at The Texas Hall of Fame.

Wooden-Ride, a classic rock cover band, is playing at Fitzwilly's.

The MSC Film Society is presenting *Batman Forever* in Rudder Auditorium Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Alabama, is opening.

Fondue Monks, a rock band, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina. Willie Jaye, a rock performer, is opening.

Peeping Tom, a cover band with a few original songs, is playing at The Tap.

Carolyn Wonderland & Imperial Monkeys, a rock band from, is playing at The Dixie Theatre. Breedlove is opening.

FRIDAY

Blue Midnight, a blues band, is performing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Confederate Railroad, a country band, is playing at Denim & Diamonds.

Dixie Chicks, a country and western band from Dallas, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina. Since the trio was formed seven years ago, it has progressed from playing on the streets to playing at the 1993 Tennessee Presidential Inauguration Ball for President Clinton. Stop the Truck, a country band, is opening.

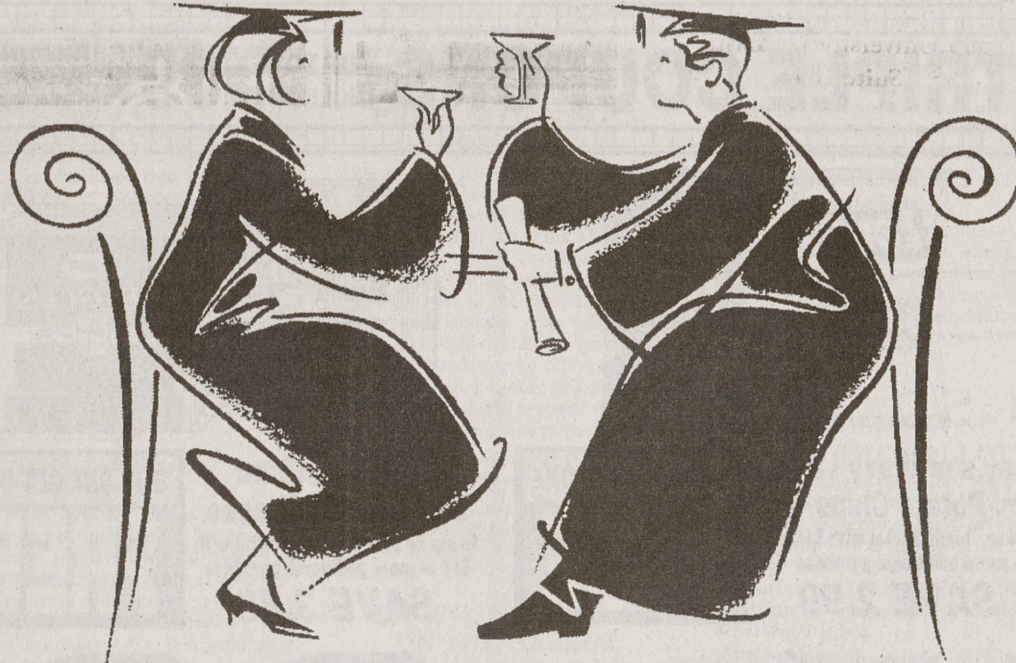
Chris Duarte, a Texas rock performer from Austin, is playing at The Dixie Theatre. Gravy, a blues rock band from

From playmate to playwright ...



Phoebe Legere (above), a rock performer, is playing at The Dixie Theatre Saturday night. Legere has a four-and-a-half octave range and is a cabaret pianist, a playwright and she has written an opera. Legere also posed for an eight-page layout for Playboy in 1988. Josh Alan Band is opening.

Higher learning



Pizza patrons can earn honorary degrees as they achieve a worldly drinking education

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

There are experts in every field — politics, religion, sports, science and beer. Beer? It's not the most likely field to spend time studying for expertise. But College Station residents have the unique opportunity to become certified experts in global beer drinking.

Double Dave's Pizza Works offers the Global Beer Experts Tour for individuals interested in becoming beer experts.

The process is simple — Double Dave's employees give customers a card, and each time customers drink one of the restaurant's 69 available beers from 11 countries their cards are stamped. After drinking 60 beers, customers become official beer experts.

Elizabeth Graves, a senior political science major, is 15 beers into the tour, having started three weeks ago.

"I just wanted to see what the beers from other countries taste like," Graves said. "Plus, you get a free t-shirt."

Beer experts are honored by Double Dave's with a t-shirt and plaque.

The names of experts are placed on plaques in restaurants where they finish the tour.

After becoming an expert, beer drinkers can go on to become beer masters after completing the tour a second time. When drinkers finish the tour a third time, they earn a doctorate in global beer drinking.

Gary Younger, manager of Double Dave's on University Drive, said it is not uncommon to see repeat performers on the beer tour.

"There is one guy that has finished the tour five times," Younger said. "He's trying to convince us now that we should start giving people tenure for finishing the tour several times."

Graves said she plans to finish the tour at least three times before May.

Jay Thornton, manager of Double Dave's on George Bush Drive, said he sees a lot of regulars in the restaurant who finish the tour numerous times.

"I've seen several people finish at least twice," Thornton said. "We also have one guy who has earned his doctorate twice."

The beer tour has become a challenge for many Double Dave's patrons.

Thornton said he has seen people determined to finish the tour.

"Once people hear about the tour and get started on it," he said, "they're usually very determined to finish it."

Groups of beer drinkers often attempt to finish the tour together, Thornton said.

"We had five roommates come in one day, and together they drank all 60 beers," he said. "They had their address put on the plaque."

But fame is not usually a motivation. Many of those individuals who complete the tour prefer to remain anonymous.

"The Three Amigos" made their mark on the University Drive Double Dave's, Younger said.

"We had three guys come in and start the tour at opening time," he said. "They finished all 60 beers in one day. They had us put 'The Three Amigos' on the plaque. They were pretty drunk and even got a sick, so we had a delivery driver take them home."

After The Three Amigos' global beer tour, Younger said Double Dave's decided to limit beer drinkers to four beers per day. Customers often do not realize that the imported beers are much stronger than American beer.

Younger said the beer tour is an experience everyone should try.

"It's like a social event," Younger said. "You get a couple of people together and sit around and drink beer. It gives you a unique beer experience."

