

CATV course offered at A&M

A&M's Engineering Extension Service opens the nation's first cable antenna television (CATV) technician training school Monday, announced EES Director H. D. Bearden.

Funded by the CATV Training Committee of the Texas CATV Association, the A&M Research Annex facility is built to train 18 10-man classes during the first year.

Although there are over 2,000 CATV systems in the United States, and some 200 in Texas, the A&M program is the only one of its kind, according to Ed Kerlick, chief instructor of EES's Electrical and Telephone Technician Training Division.

The only other off-the-job training is through a Penn State University correspondence course for engineers.

Tom Straw, former technical sales engineer for a Phoenix, Ariz., CATV equipment manufacturer, will instruct the courses. The program is housed in the old Officers Club, a hanger and office building at the Research Annex.

Straw said over \$10,000 in equipment has been installed. Approximately \$100,000 worth of facilities will be in operation by Aug. 31, 1971.

The course is reserved for employees of CATV firms, but Straw said the classes will be open to the public if a particular class is not full.

Straw said the first class is for installers. Texas CATV Association members are sending a special group to the first class to measure curriculum effects, he added.

CATV installers are responsible for connecting the signal cable from the street cable to the customer's set.

"We will be stressing public relations," Straw said. "To many customers the installer is the cable company, he is usually the only employe they meet."

Since the entire program is funded by industry "we will listen to the industry and see what they want emphasized," Straw stressed.

A 2 1/2-mile cable system has been installed at the annex. Straw said the whole system generally represents what is found in the average system.

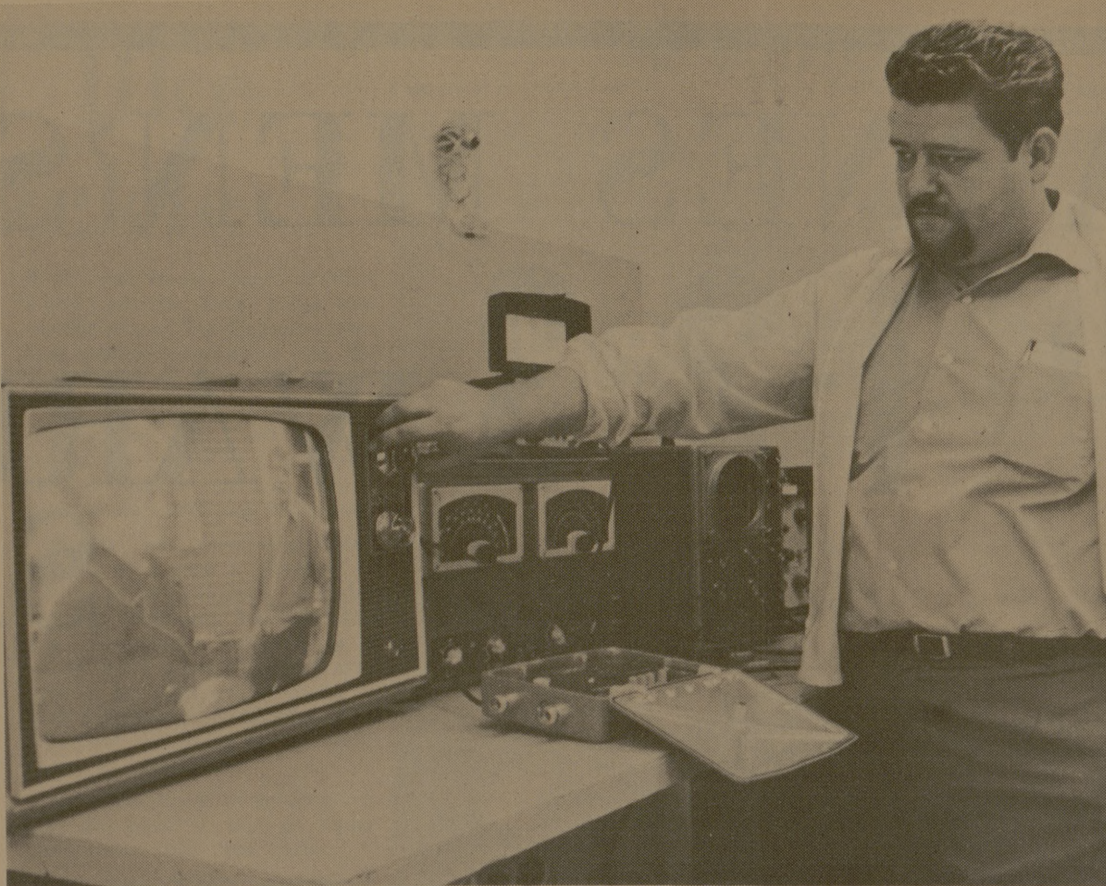
Most of the equipment has been donated by association members or manufacturers, he reported. Highly-skilled men also have been sent at no charge to install much of the facilities.

Straw said CATV began in 1949 in Oregon. It was a very loose industry until 1966, when the FCC ruled it had jurisdiction and put a freeze on the top 100 markets.

Recent rulings have led many to speculate that CATV will soon boom across the nation.

One FCC ruling of great importance, Straw said, is starting April 1, 1971, firms with 3,500 or more subscribers must have at least one channel of local originating programs.

Besides technical classes, the CATV Training Center plans to include local programming courses for CATV employes and already has a studio ready at the annex.



TOM STRAW, INSTRUCTOR FOR A&M's new cable antenna television technicians training program, adjusts equipment at the A&M Research Annex training facility. The course, only one of its kind in the nation, begins Monday.

Chemistry lecture to be held here Wednesday

Dr. John D. Baldeschwieler, Stanford chemistry professor known for his studies of molecular motion, will appear Wednesday as a visiting lecturer.

Dr. Baldeschwieler's colloquium presentation will be at 4 p.m. in Room 231 of the Chemistry Building, announced Dr. A. E. Martell, chemistry head.

The talk by the vice chairman of the President's Science Advis-

ory Committee will be on "The Study of Biological Macromolecules Using the Perturbed Angular Correlation of Gamma Radiation."

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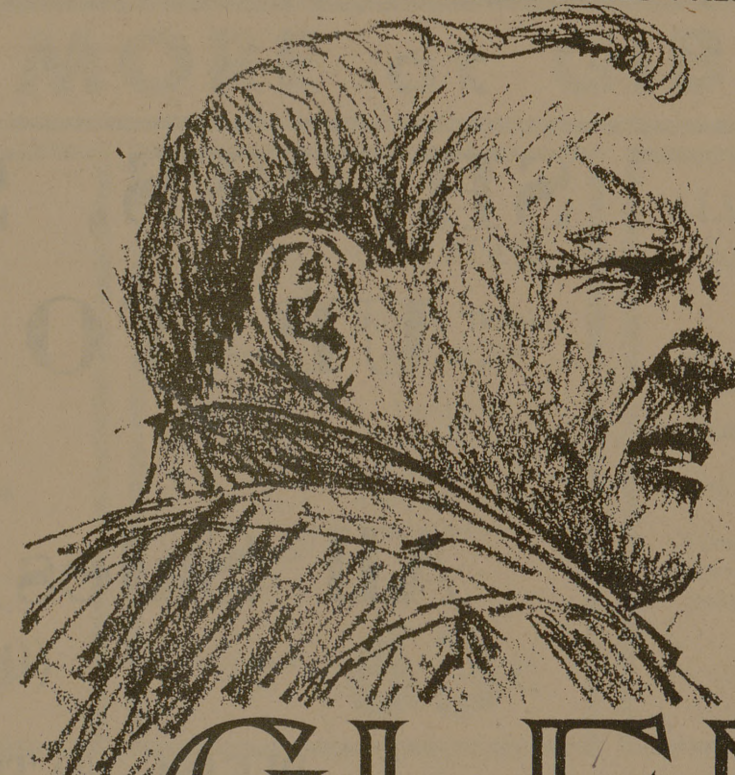
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