

Members of the MSC summer directorate recently decorated a wall of Sbisa Dining Hall to advertise an upcoming program. The large mural replaced one that had been displayed since late spring.

Pollution testing is aided by ion-firing research

and destruction.

Basic studies on firing highyielded results that can be applied tion or finding poison in the human body.

A TAMU professor, Dr. R. L. Watson, has developed a sensitive and rapid way to analyzing materials by means of a new X-ray technique that evolved as a spinoff of one of his other projects. Watson said the main project tem," he said.



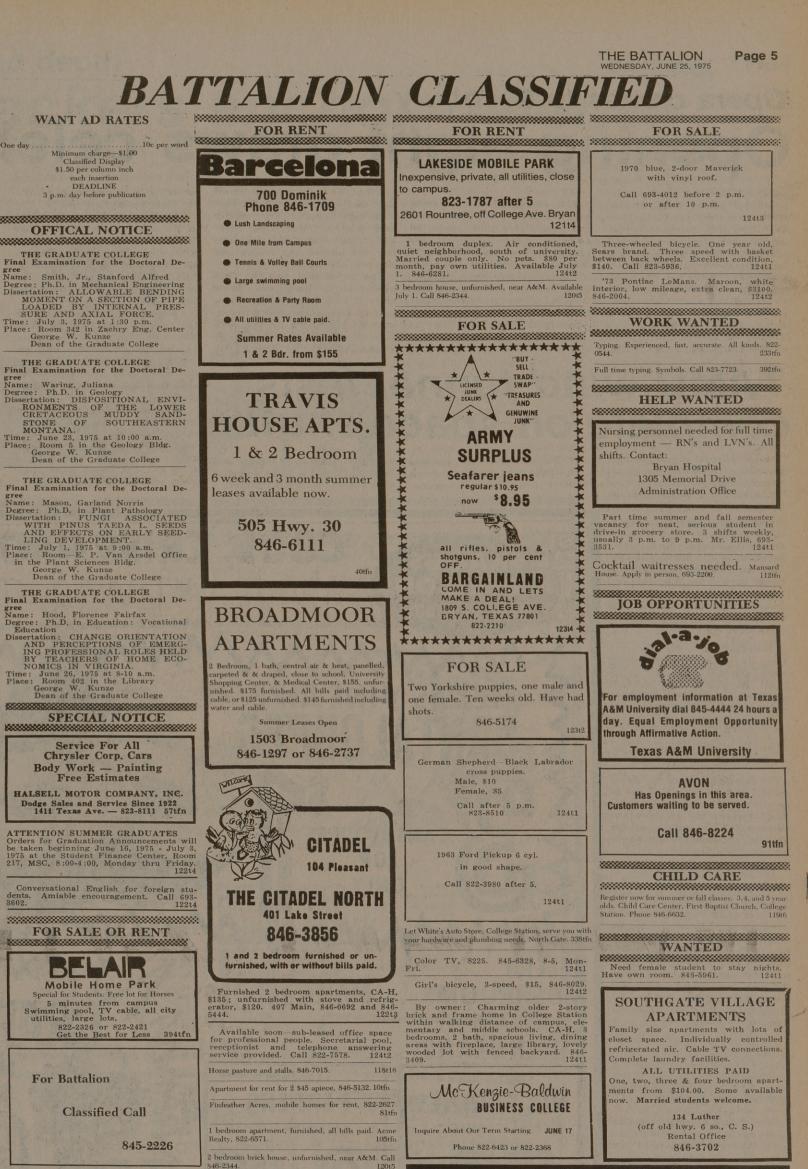
is to study what happens when "A definite application of this energy ions into molecules have high-energy ions penetrate a sub- research stems from the high stance. At high energies, Watson efficiency for producing Xrays to detecting air and water pollu- obtains information that can be with ion bombardment," Watson used to test scattering theories. said. "We can analyze an object At low energies, he studies the because Xrays are produced by dynamics of molecule formation atomic collisions. Each element emits a distinguishing Xray as "By means of atomic-collision a result. One can'tell what the

studies similar to these, it may object consists of and in what someday be possible to experi- amount by monitoring the X-ray mentally trace out each step in emissions. the formation of a molecular sys-

"We are presently also developing this concept to study elements and their distribution in body tissue," he said. "Extremely small quantities of most substances can be analyzed. For example your liver can be analyzed for lead or arsenic without having to take a big chunk out of it. Also concentration of elements in quantities of less than one-millionth of a gram can be detected in the blood with this method.

"The method applies not only to biological systems, but essentially to any system," Watson continued. "It can be particularly useful in environmental studies because of the speed with which complete analyses for a wide range of elements."

Watson has been funded with an additional \$30,000 to continue his research from the U.S. Energy Research and Development Ad-Administration this month.



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