

# Peripheral equipment provides instant severe storm analysis

Storm analysts that once took hours are now available instantly at Texas A&M University with new equipment that was unveiled this week.

Dr. K. C. Badige, head of the Meteorology Department, said the addition of peripheral equipment to the existing radar system provides a greatly improved capability in recording and analyzing severe weather.

The combination of two radar wavelengths and their integration allows the meteorologists to "see" into storms to locate, by the lightness or darkness of the signal, the cells of intense activity. This

allows scientists to watch the formation of severe weather as it happens and to pass warnings along to the public.

"Prior to the modification of our system all storms showed up as a big white blob which required an extremely well-trained eye to tell anything about the signals," Brundidge explained. "Analysis could take hours and the storm in question would be long over before anything could be told about it."

The added integrating equipment takes analog information, converts it to digital information, and provides contours on the radar scope in six levels of intensity to tell the varying

rates of rainfall throughout an area storm system.

"The six intensities of light on the radar scopes will indicate rainfall levels in increments from one-tenth of an inch to five inches per hour," Brundidge went on. "As a result we can quickly locate heavy intensity areas where tornadoes or flash flooding might occur."

All of the signals can be recorded on tape and played back through the radar scope to study the development of storms in a classroom situation. This will give experience to laboratory students instead of having to rely on the day-to-day weather for developing professional

meteorological expertise.

Dr. Vance Moyer, one of the pioneers of Texas A&M's weather radar program, noted the university is one of the few schools with weather radar "and perhaps the only place students can get hands-on experience."

Texas A&M got its first radar in 1953 just in time to pick up the 1953 Waco tornado as it developed, but then there was no way to pass a warning. As a result the Texas Tornado Warning Network was formed along with methods to get people to cover in the event of tornadoes.

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## Planning and Zoning Commission holds hearings on apartment permits

Three public hearings on granting conditional use permits for new apartment complexes will be held during a regular meeting of the College Station Planning and Zoning Commission Thursday at 7 p.m.

Applications for the permits are under names of:

- ✓ A. Cain for an apartment complex to be built on the southeast corner of Welsh Avenue and South Parkway

- ✓ Sycon Construction Co., for a complex to be built on the northeast corner of Anderson Street and Brentwood Drive
- George Boyett, for a complex to be built on the corner of Boyett and Patricia Streets.

Also on the agenda are consideration of a final plat resubdividing a 0.255 tract located on Sterling Street and reconsideration of a preliminary plat for Parkway Plaza Phase 6.

D.D. Williamson of the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation will present a discussion of transportation system problems.

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## Nuclear fuel given for A&M reactor

Texas A&M University has received a 10-year supply of fuel for its research reactor from the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

John Randall, director of Texas A&M's Nuclear Science Center, said more than \$125,000 in fuel was placed last weekend in the reactor, the largest university research facility of its type in the southwest.

The case was already radioactive, he said.

"This fuel is a very long lifetime fuel," he said. "This isotope U-235 has been enriched to 70 percent and a rare earth californium added which increases the lifetime of the fuel from six months to over nine years."

The cerium counteracts the extra uranium so that the neutron absorber burns up at the same time as the uranium to maintain proper reactivity in the cores," he said.

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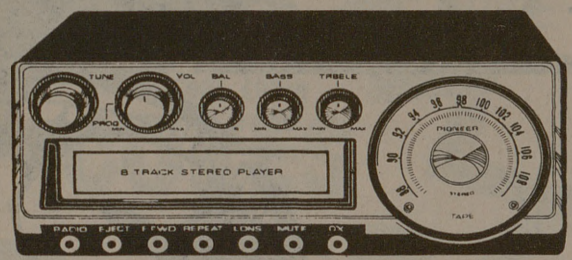
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