

campus

# Computer saves KAMU work, cash

By MARJORIE MCLAUGHLIN  
Battalion Reporter

One employee at KAMU-FM works 11-12 hours a day, never takes a lunch break and never picks up a paycheck.

The employee is "Proteus," a system named after the computer in the 1976 movie, "Demon Seed."

Proteus is programmed with a daily schedule which instructs it to alternate music tapes with updated weather reports, National Public Radio network shows and live local news at the proper times.

Station manager Jacola Bolger said even regular listeners have trouble telling when the automated system is operating.

"We've done a good job of blending the live programming with the automatic programming," she said.

Bolger said that as far as she knew, KAMU-FM, a member of the National Public Radio network, is the only public radio station in the country using the automated system.

According to Bolger, Proteus hasn't eliminated any jobs yet at the station. "We haven't cut back on anyone," Bolger said. "It just reduces the number of hours that any

one person has to work a week." Previously, the disc jockeys had to split up the 18-hour, seven-day-a-week job among themselves.

The students still work on the weekends, but Proteus works from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. The students work from 5 p.m. until midnight weekdays.

Besides reducing the work load, Bolger said that the system will save the station money — something that a non-commercial radio station, funded primarily by donations, never has enough of.

"Buying the system will save the price of paying wages for more workers," Bolger said.

Bolger said the system has been operating since January.

"When it was installed, it was such a new system that it didn't even have an instruction book," Bolger said.

An engineer from the company that manufactures Proteus (the real name of the system is Control-16) gave KAMU workers a three-day instructional course on how to operate the computer, but after that, the station was on its own, Bolger said.

"Most of what we know about the system we have learned by trial and error," she said.

# Prices cover plant theft, speaker says

When the customer gives the auto parts dealer \$50 for a water pump for the old flivver, he's paying for more than the cost of the part and a reasonable mark-up.

He's also paying for the thousands of dollars worth of water pumps and other industrial and manufactured items that are stolen from the factory each year. The losses are usually made up in higher retail prices.

"Industrial theft is greater than ever before," said C.G. Keele, security director for General Motors. "We call it the 'parts after' market and although some of the thievery comes from the employees who walk out of the plant with the stock in his lunch pail, the majority of losses are highly sophisticated thefts of truckloads of lots and greater quantities."

Speaking at an industrial security seminar held for industry experts at Texas A&M University, Keele said it is nearly impossible to place a dollar amount on the value of products that are stolen each year from the manufacturer. Many of the thefts occur without the thief ever handling the goods, he explained.

"If the thief knows the inventory and accounting techniques, goods can be shipped, received and the transaction erased with the push of a few buttons."



Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Debbie Monroe, a disc jockey for KAMU-FM, works on the station's audio board. Among other things, KAMU uses an automated system that alternates music tapes with updated weather reports, National Public Radio network shows and live local news. Station manager Jacola Bolger says most listeners can't tell automated broadcasts from live shows.

# Price up 3 cents a month in Texas

## B-CS gasoline sales decline

By FLOYD WILTZ  
Battalion Reporter

Gasoline prices in Brazos County rose in September even though consumption went down, according to an informal survey of gasoline dealers and distributors last week.

The average price of gasoline in

Texas rose 3 cents a gallon, according to a report from the American Automobile Association. The report listed the average price for regular as 89 cents a gallon; 93 cents a gallon for unleaded; and 96 cents a gallon for premium.

Most area service station dealers said they had expected the returning Aggies to put a dent in the gas supply, but that instead, consumption has gone down.

"The supply is plentiful," Broach Oil Company marketing director Kenny Broach said Friday. Broach Oil manages the Redmond Terrace Amoco service station in College Station, and 42 convenience store gasoline pumps throughout East Texas.

Broach said his prices rose 3 cents during the second week of September.

"We've even extended to being open on weekends," Vickie Chouinard of D&B Oil Company said.

Some service station dealers were not sure about gasoline supplies for October since this is the month

when the refineries turn most of their production facilities to manufacturing heating oil for the winter.

An employee of the Gulf service station at 420 Texas Ave. said the station had 90-95 percent of the gasoline allocation it had last September. He said he expected to have enough for the beginning of October but didn't know about the end of the month.

Claude Dobbins of Dobbin's Fina said he has plenty of gas, but expects Texas A&M's home games to take a lot of the current supply.

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# China tour yields germplasms

An agricultural exchange team's acquisition of important germplasm of sorghums, millets, soybeans and vegetables on a recent visit to China should benefit the United States, a scientist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station says.

Dr. Fred R. Miller, internationally known grain sorghum research leader with TAES at Texas A&M University, made this observation following a just-completed five-week visit to the People's Republic of China.

"Our foremost objectives were to study and arrange for the acquisition of germplasm of major food and feed crops. Seed of some of these important Chinese crop collections are being returned to the U.S. in the official pouch of our agricultural attaché."

"Following a period of quarantine, the crops will undergo a seed increase here, and then will be distributed to research scientists throughout the country," Miller said.

"The Chinese soybean and millet varieties are as good — and in some respects, better — than U.S. varieties. But our sorghums are far superior to those we studied during our tour of the PRC," Miller said.

The scientist said that U.S. researchers should be able to supplement American crops with the newly acquired germplasm. Some of the Chinese varieties are quite old and trace back to native wild strains that still exist there.

"Additionally, we should benefit in food production by studying the Chinese technology for growing amounts of vegetables per unit of land. However, we will need to add the quality factors which were missing," Miller said.

"Perhaps one of the greatest benefits to the U.S. will be in follow-up study on how to use a crop to its fullest potential, for the Chinese have perfected this technique. We were impressed by how they take sorghum crops and harvest the grain, then compost the leaves and residue, and then use the stalks for fuel," he said.

Miller was the only Texan invited to serve with the agricultural scientific exchange team for the China visit. The U.S. recently entered into the new exchange program, which involves reciprocal visits from scientists of countries involved.

Miller and his fellow team members visited the Academies of Agricultural Sciences and nearby production units around Peking, Shandong, Liaoning, Heilongjiang and other provinces.

# Silver Taps set for Tuesday for A&M doctoral student

Silver Taps will be held Tuesday night for 44-year-old John J. Burke, a Texas A&M University doctoral student who died Sept. 12 in Massachusetts of cancer.

business administration program here, said officials.

Burke is the second student fatality of the current academic year.

The Silver Taps ceremony begins at 10:30 p.m.

# ZALES

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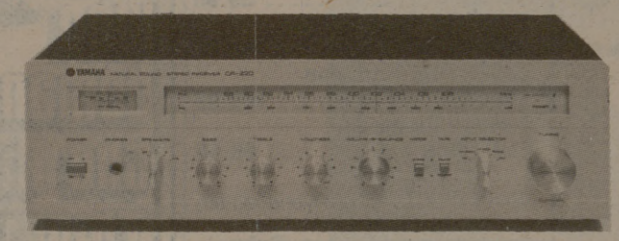
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