

# Propelled winds reach 200 mph in Easterwood wind test facilities

By MICHELLE MORREY  
Campus Reporter

Winds of 150 miles per hour hit a skyscraper. No one is injured and the building is unharmed. Within minutes, the winds subside. Sound unbelievable? It does happen, and frequently at Texas A&M University's wind tunnel at Easterwood Airport.

The wind tunnel is a large rectangular-shaped steel duct about 50 yards long. Wind is generated from a propeller off the B-29 "Enola Gay," the plane which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

The tunnel gradually gets larger between the propeller and the test

area. This design decreases the wind velocity as it travels through the tunnel. When the wind reaches the test area, the tunnel again narrows to one-tenth the size of the largest area of the duct, increasing the velocity. Winds up to 200 mph can be generated.

The test area was built in the mid-1940s and in 1959 the steel duct was installed. It hasn't needed many repairs, manager Joe Brusse said. To replace the steel tunnel today would cost \$5 million to \$6 million, he said.

Brusse said aircraft, offshore drilling rigs, ships, windmills and automobiles have all been tested at the

wind tunnel. All test results are recorded by computer. He said the facility also did a series of tests for the space shuttle.

Models of actual structures are tested. A model must be scaled down to fit in the test area which is seven feet high and 10 feet wide.

Buildings such as the Reunion Building in Dallas and The Tower of the Americas at HemisFair in San Antonio have been tested at the wind tunnel.

He said automobiles are tested to reach a compromise between styling and low wind resistance.

"It's important particularly now a days with the fuel crunch," Brusse said.

Dr. David Norton, associate professor of aerospace engineering, said he is "probably the biggest campus customer" at the wind tunnel.

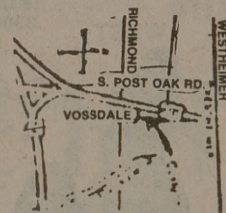
Norton does aeronautical testing for Brown and Root and other Texas firms. Much of his work has been in

wind engineering, which is the study of the effects of wind on buildings, houses offshore drilling rigs and pollution diffusion.

The charge of wind testing for commercial customers is \$275 per occupancy hour. An occupancy hour is the time which the wind tunnel is at the disposal of the customer, Brusse said.

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# New sidewalk lights improve track safety

By CAROL THOMAS  
Campus Reporter

Joggers worried about the dangers of running on campus at night can now be assured of more safety. Six new lights have been turned on at the aerobics running track.

Two sidewalk lights were placed about 100 yards apart at the northeast corner of the track, parallel to Throckmorton Street. Two more sidewalk lights were put on either side of the path which crosses the drainage ditch. Street lights were placed on Jersey Street.

The first four were turned on Jan. 16, and the other two were turned on Jan. 29.

Brad Smith, student government vice president of student services, said the idea came up in the senate last fall.

"We noticed a lot of people jogging at night," Smith said.

Smith said there are gullies in the track and trees near the track that could cause injuries if unnoticed.

"If it's too dark to see a gully," Smith said, "you'll twist your ankle."

Another reason for the lights,

Smith said, was the danger of women running alone in the dark. For instance, campus police say a woman was raped Jan. 6 while on the track at night. Police have not found a suspect.

After the idea was brought up in the student senate, Eugene Ray, director of grounds maintenance, said he took two students with him to the track to decide if and where the lights were needed.

Ray said he and the students decided the trees needed pruning because the shade was obstructing the lights. "We took in 54 loads of brush," said Ray.

Howard Perry, associate vice president for student services, said the administration paid half the \$6,500 bill and the student senate paid the other half.

Smith said the student senate used reserves from student service fees to pay its half of the bill.

Though Ray said the track is safer to run on, he said, joggers still need to be cautious.

"I do think that people need to be encouraged to run in pairs," said Ray.

# GOP representatives doubt Kelly's 'Abscam' account

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Eleven Republicans believe Rep. Richard Kelly's explanation of his involvement in the "Arab scam" scandal was so incredible the GOP should investigate whether he deserves punishment by his own party.

Kelly of Florida, the only Republican among seven House members implicated in the FBI's undercover bribery investigation, said he accepted \$25,000 from undercover FBI agents to further a secret investigation he was conducting on his own.

Reps. George M. O'Brien of Illinois and James T. Broyhill of North Carolina drafted a letter to Republican House leader John Rhodes urging an inquiry into continuation of Kelly's party privileges.

Kelly's story "challenges credibility and suggests Mr. Kelly acted in a manner unbecoming a member of

Congress," the letter said. Nine other Republicans joined in signing it.

The Republicans said the party would have several options if Kelly is unfit to continue association with them.

"We could expel him from the Republican conference, we could take away his committee assignments, we could deny assistance for his reelection campaign and strip him of his seniority, rights and privileges he enjoys as a Republican," the letter said.

Kelly and the other seven House members — all Democrats — are now being investigated by the House Ethics Committee as well as the FBI.

The committee announced Wednesday it has chosen E. Barrett Prettyman, member of a huge Washington law firm, as special counsel for the investigation.

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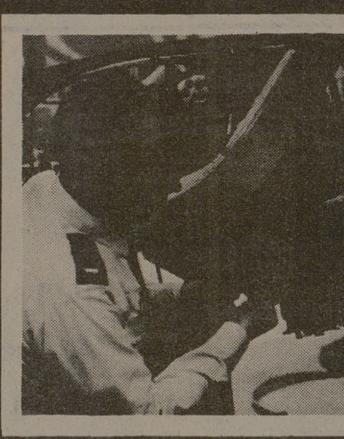
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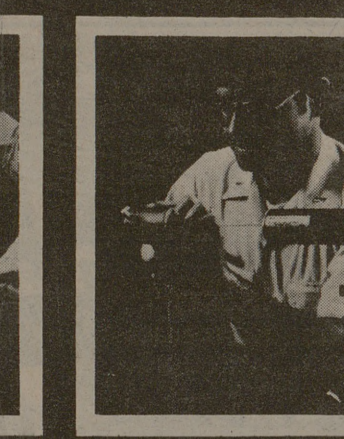
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