

Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Paul Woods stands in front of the passive solar energy system house he designed on a government grant. The house is located at 1109 Todd Trail in College Station.

Use of passive systems taught

By WAYNE COOK  
Battalion Reporter

The end of the month arrives and with it, the monthly utility bill. Once more it is higher than the month before.

As conventional home energy costs rise, alternative energy plans are being sought out.

A course to be offered at Texas A&M University during the 1981 Spring semester may offer a solution to the homeowner. The course is called "Passive Solar Systems."

A passive solar energy system uses sunlight for energy without using a generator to make electricity. Such a system takes into account such things as placement of windows and the building's location to take full advantage of the sun's rays.

Paul Woods, an assistant professor in the Texas A&M Department of Building Construction, will be the course's instructor.

"I have taught architectural design and mechanical and electrical design for buildings," said Woods, "but my

main interest is in energy conservation and solar energy."

Woods, a graduate of the University of Texas, received one of four Housing and Urban Development grants awarded in Texas to design and build a home using a passive solar energy system. The home has been completed and is at 1109 Todd Trail in College Station's Southwood Valley subdivision.

The savings over conventional home energy systems is hard to measure, Woods said, since the future costs of natural gas and electricity are unknown.

"I prefer to think of a passive solar system as an investment," Woods said.

Woods said he realizes passive solar systems will be slow to be adopted. House lots may need to be larger and traditional styles may have to be altered slightly, he said.

"People will have to change the idea that they want their home to look a certain way whether it is oper-

ational or not," Woods said. "In 10-20 years no houses will be built that don't consider this principle."

The course offered in the spring will be an introduction to the basic concepts of passive solar heating and cooling systems, and will be numbered BC 489s. The maximum enrollment will be 20 people.

The final project — designing a passively heated and cooled building — will be an attempt to combine the

elements of passive solar design with the functional requirements of a building into an aesthetically pleasing result, Woods said.

The course is open to anyone with junior or higher academic classification. Some drawing and design experience would be helpful, Woods said, but not necessary.

Woods said he especially wants people with "an intense personal interest" in the topic.

# Solar course offered in spring

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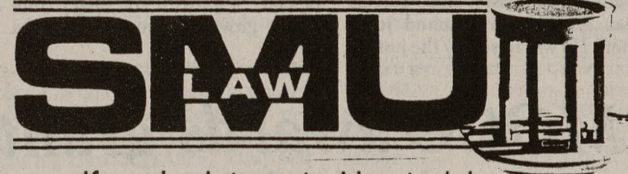
### What's Up

THURSDAY

- KAPPA DELTA PI: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 350 MSC.
- BOWIE COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Will meet at 6 p.m. in the MSC Lounge. Pictures for the AggieLand will be taken at 6:30 p.m.
- FRESHMAN AG SOCIETY: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- MSC OUTDOOR RECREATION: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
- CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Will meet for a Bible study at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center and will have a night prayer service at 10 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.
- TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 104B Zachry.
- PRE-THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Will meet at 8 p.m. in 211 Academic.
- GUATEMALAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 137 MSC.
- METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 141 MSC.
- TEXAS A&M STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: Will meet at 7 p.m. in the O&M Building Observatory.
- "THE BLACK HOLE": The crew of the Palomino finds the long-lost ship Cygnus drifting perilously close to a black hole. Boarding the apparently dead ship, they meet the mad scientist who has taken it over. The feature will be shown at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- MEDINA COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 109 Military Sciences.
- PSI CHI: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Academic.
- TAU BETA PI: Will meet at 7 p.m. at Quonset Hut B.
- TAMU FENCING CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 261 G. Rollie White.
- TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 104B Zachry.
- OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES: Will sponsor a dance beginning at 8 p.m. at Cell Block 5.
- A&M JUGGLER'S ASSOCIATION: Will meet at 8 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Will meet for Leadership Training Class at 7 p.m. in 207 Harrington.
- MSC CAMAC: A playwriting workshop will be given from 6-10 p.m. in 137 MSC.
- TEXAS A&M EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder. AggieLand pictures will be taken at 6:45 p.m. in the MSC Lounge.
- The ECA class will meet at 6 p.m. in the Health Center Cafeteria.

FRIDAY

- FAITH BUILDERS AGGIE FELLOWSHIP: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- STUDENT BOOK COLLECTORS' CONTEST: The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. in the Sterling C. Evans Library.
- BAPTIST STUDENT UNION INTERNATIONALS: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Baptist Student Center, 201 College Main.
- CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.
- MSC CAMAC: El Teatro de la Esperanza will perform a bilingual play at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- ISA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL: Will meet at 6 p.m. in 607 Rudder.
- RUDDER'S RANGERS: Will leave for a run at 5:30 p.m. from the Military Sciences Building.
- MBA/LAW DAY: Ticket sales end today. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.



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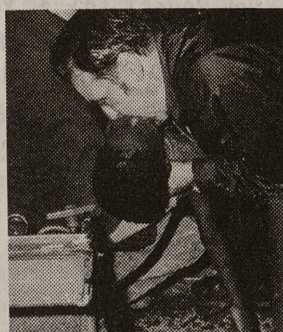


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