

Local

Improvements estimated at \$209,500

Renovations planned for A&M pools

By **JOHNA JO MAURER**
Battalion Reporter

Seven renovation projects for the two University swimming pools have been planned by the Texas A&M Department of Health and Physical Education and the physical plant.

The renovations will cost an estimated \$209,500. Grady Winkler, physical plant planning and estimating supervisor, said the re-

novations could begin within the next 30 days to six months. Bids and contracts are still pending.

At the Wofford Cain outdoor pool, high-pressure sodium fixtures installed on 30-inch aluminum poles will replace the 27 existing underwater lights, which will be removed. The new lights are to be arranged around the perimeter of the pool. The estimated cost of this renovation is \$7,500.

The gas heaters at the P.L. Downs indoor pool will be cleaned, inspected and adjusted. The estimated cost of this renovation is \$6,000.

Proposals for the two projects are being processed by the physical plant. Before the proposals can be released for completion, they must go through scheduling and purchasing procedures. No actual timetable has been set up for the jobs, Winkler said.

The remaining five items — the installation of new filtering systems for both pools, the replastering of Cain pool, the repainting of the natatorium ceiling and the installation of a new lighting system

at Downs pool — are subject to approval by Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver.

Dr. Leonard Ponder, head of the health and physical education department, said the first priority for pool renovations is to keep the pool operative. "The next is to make it not just a pool, but a good recreational facility," he said.

Both the Cain and Downs pools keep busy schedules. Up to 830 students a week use the Cain pool for classes. When the pools are not being used for classes or swim team workouts, Texas A&M students and area residents use them for recreation.

"On a peak day, from 300 to 500 people use the Cain pool for re-

creational swimming," Ponder said.

Hours for swimming at the Cain Pool are: Monday through Friday — 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday — 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Cain pool is open March through November.

The Downs Pool is open from November through May. Hours for open swimming are: Monday through Friday — 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend hours are 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

University students are admitted free with a Texas A&M I.D. card. The admission price for non-students is \$1.

Student injured in bike accident

A pedestrian-bicycle accident Wednesday sent one student to A.P. Beutel Health Center with an injured ankle and left the other apparently unharmed.

"I was walking with my head down, and I looked up, and there he (the cyclist) was," said Mona Wilkerson, a freshman management major from San Antonio. "I really don't know what happened."

Wilkerson was taken to the health center for x-rays. The unidentified cyclist left without going to the health center.

The Emergency Care Team responded to a call about the accident, which happened shortly after noon. Dorian

Bravence, an emergency care attendant, said the team takes calls itself regarding campus accidents and from the health center, but the health center isn't always notified when an accident occurs.

Tom Dittman, an ECT committee chairman, said all accident victims are taken to the health center and checked over, unless injuries are too severe for the center to handle. In that case, victims are taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan, he said.

Dittman said the ECT has responded to about 30 accident calls this semester. Five or six accidents occurred the first day of classes, he said.

Automated robot is new Aggie aid

By **SANDRA K. GARY**
Battalion Reporter

Instead of using traditional books and dissertations as learning tools, several Texas A&M University students and researchers will use a robot to help them understand automated industry.

The robot, however, doesn't fit the stereotype tin man with blinking lights and a bleeping voice. In fact, the robot doesn't have any real human characteristics but resembles the equipment seen in a dentist's office connected to a computer display terminal.

Dr. Robert E. Young, assistant professor in the industrial engineering department, is project supervisor of the robot that will perform dangerous industrial tasks such as loading parts onto machines in factories.

Pinching his thumb and index finger together, Young indicated how the robot functions. "It's an articulated arm," he said. "It doesn't have a hand, just a gripper with two fingers that open and close."

"We wanted to know the problems associated with building robots, as well as information on design, control, software and hardware. In order to get a handle on it, we decided to build our own."

The robot, constructed of aluminum and steel, will cost the University's industrial engineering department \$1,000 in material. This is anywhere from \$19,000 to \$39,000 less than a manufactured robot would cost, Young said.

A micro-computer will control the robot named Aggie I. Young said the computer will cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and will be used for other projects besides Aggie I.

The computer parts, expected to arrive after Christmas, have delayed completion of the robot, Young said. "We expect to have it in operational order sometime in the spring," he said.

The Aggie I project began early last fall. "But that's deceptive, because students often wait to work on semester projects until two weeks before they're due," Young said.

Graduates and undergraduates are constructing the robot designed by Young.

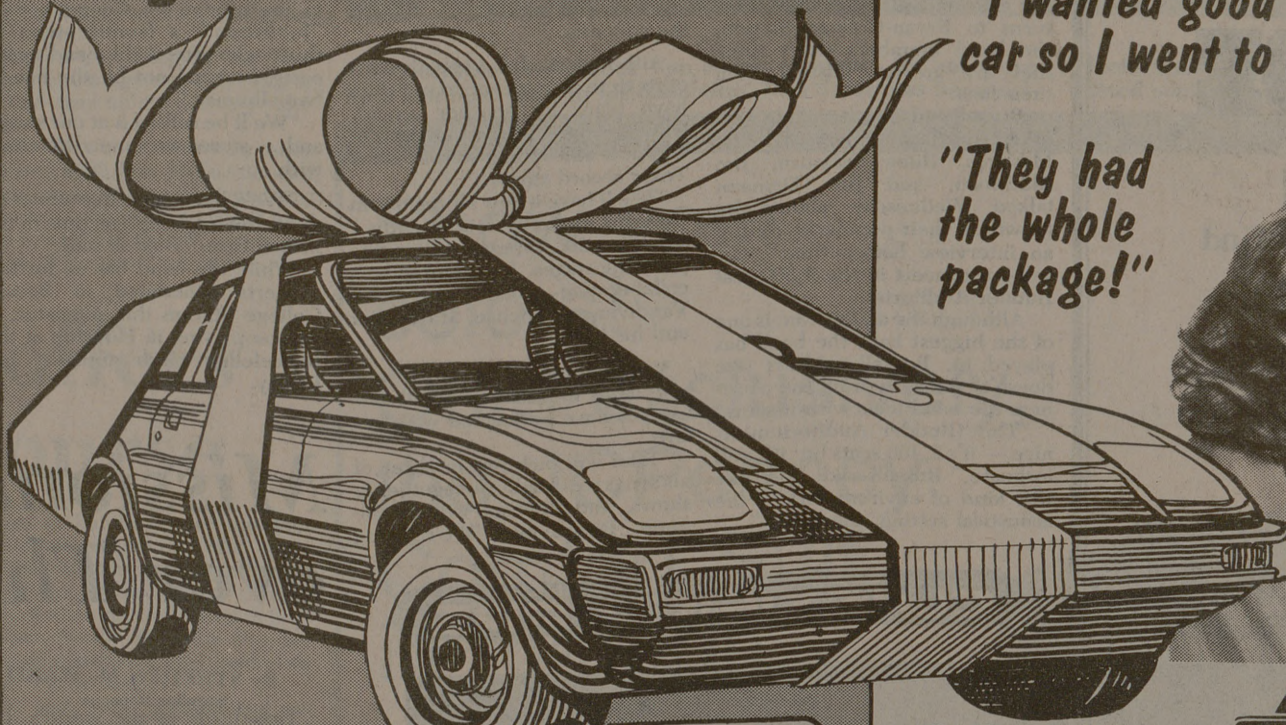
"Different sections have been built for different directed studies," he said. Students working on the project receive credit for an industrial engineering problems course (I.E. 485).

Aggie I is part of the department's plan to implement a specialization program in automated manufacturing and to continue to meet the needs of Texas industry. By offering a number of specialized courses, students can achieve expertise in those areas, Young said.

Students will need and want training when they enter their profession because of industry's increased interest in robots, Young said.

"We're trying to start up some courses in robot applications," Young said.

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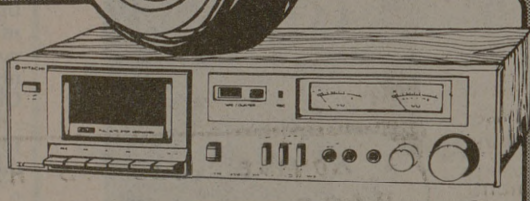


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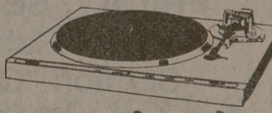


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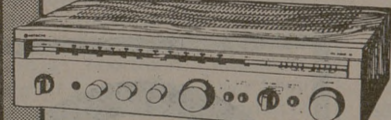
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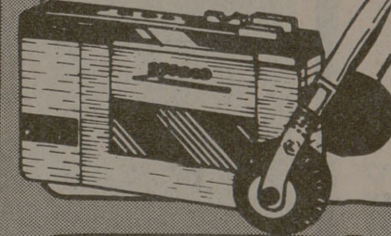
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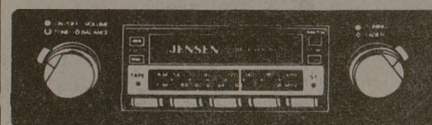
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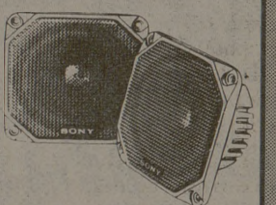
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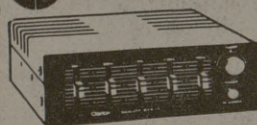
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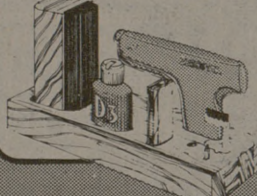
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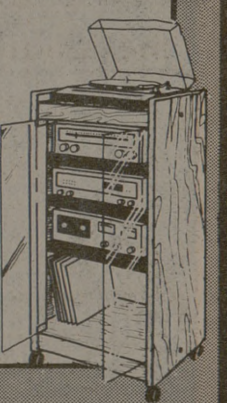
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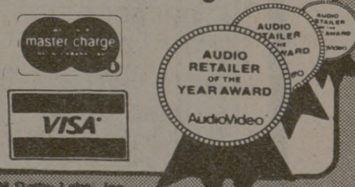
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