

A&M committee considers sign site

by Julie Farrar

Battalion Reporter
An electronic sign proposed spring by the Building Student Committee of the MSC Council and Directorate now is being considered by the Texas A&M Siting Committee, said Paul Fisher, vice president of operations for the council.

The committee is trying to determine the best possible location for the sign, which will enable student organizations and university services to promote their activities, he said.

At present, there is not an effective way to publicize upcoming events, Fisher said. The banners that groups hang inside and outside the Memorial Student Center are not only distracting to the building, but don't really reach a great percentage of the student body, he said.

The proposed sign, however, would display notices for student organizations as well as convey information concerning conferences, registration and athletic events, Fisher said.

The committee first considered placing the sign on the colony on the north side of Rudder Tower facing the fountain, but this location was rejected because the sign would not be visible from the street, committee member Joe J. Estill said.

In addition, the committee rejected a sign of this type would not be appropriate for Rudder Tower, which serves as a cultural center for the University, he said.

Another possible location for the sign is on the corner of Joe Rudder Boulevard and Houston Street in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum, Fisher said. If the sign is placed east, it will be visible to traffic along both streets, he said.

However, Estill said, the ground surrounding the coliseum is full of utilities, such as an intricate cooling system, which could cause problems in placing the sign. In addition, the trees around the coliseum would block the sign unless it was placed relatively low to the ground, he said.

If the sign was placed too low, Estill said, vandalism could be a problem.

At present, the committee cannot decide on a suitable location for the sign; however, more ideas will be presented at the next committee meeting.

Fisher said the sign will be about 24 feet by 6 feet, with a face made up of a matrix of holes that would open and close, causing them to light up at computer command.

Access to the computer would be through the MSC Council, Fisher said, since it currently is responsible for scheduling when and where banners can be hung.

When the sign is completed, students may be prohibited from using banners, Fisher said. "The sign will provide plenty of space to display all events, and there should not be a problem of overcrowding," he said.

Estimated cost of the sign is \$60,000, but this does not include maintenance, Fisher said. The maintenance agreement will cost an additional \$142 a month, he said.

"That covers everything from replacing light bulbs to wiring," Fisher said.

The Association of Former Students, which showed an interest in the sign when it was first proposed, is still willing to help finance the project, Fisher said.

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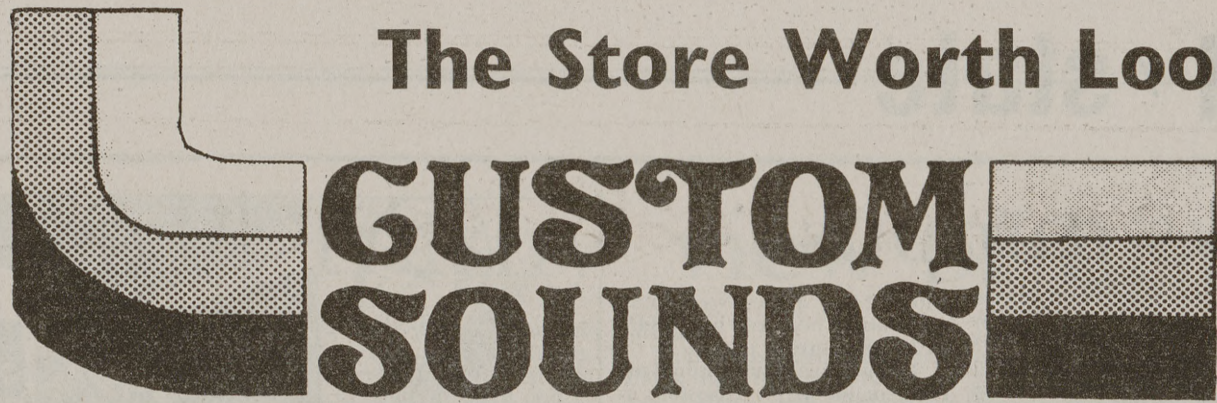
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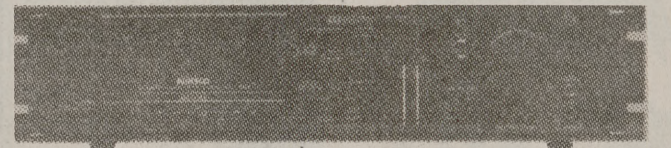


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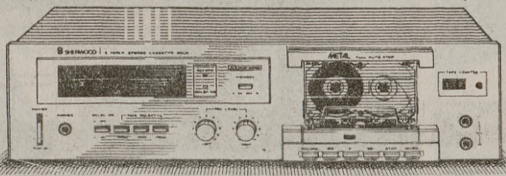


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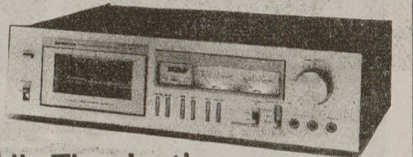


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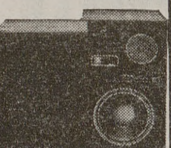
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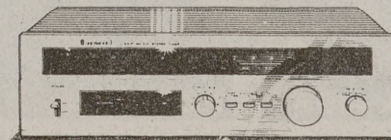


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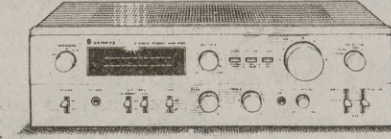
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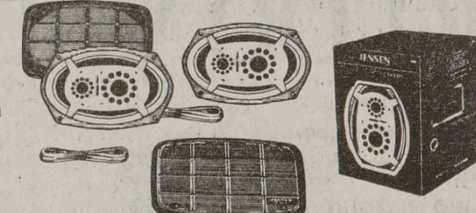
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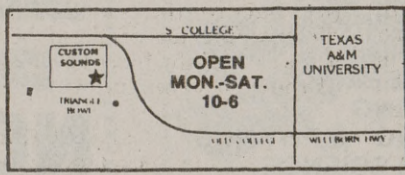
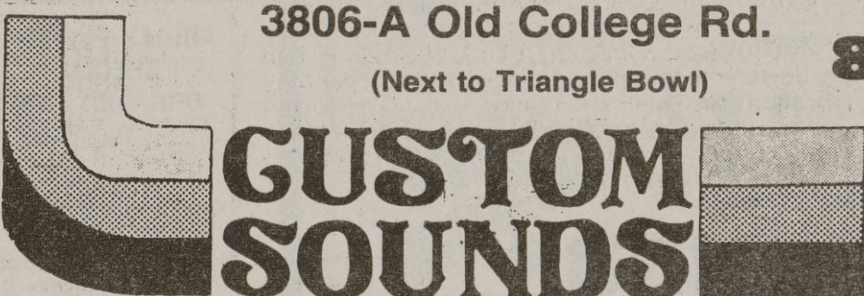
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