

Northside halls get generators

by Patrice Koranek
Battalion Staff

In about six months, several residence halls on the north side of campus will be equipped with emergency generators which will operate when a power outage occurs, the director of the Texas A&M Physical Plant Department said.

Joe Estill, department director, said he didn't know when or where the generators would be installed, but said they will solve some problems for residents of those halls.

When a power outage does occur, physical plant workers are able to tell what circuits are out, but they have to go out on campus to find the location of the failure, Estill said.

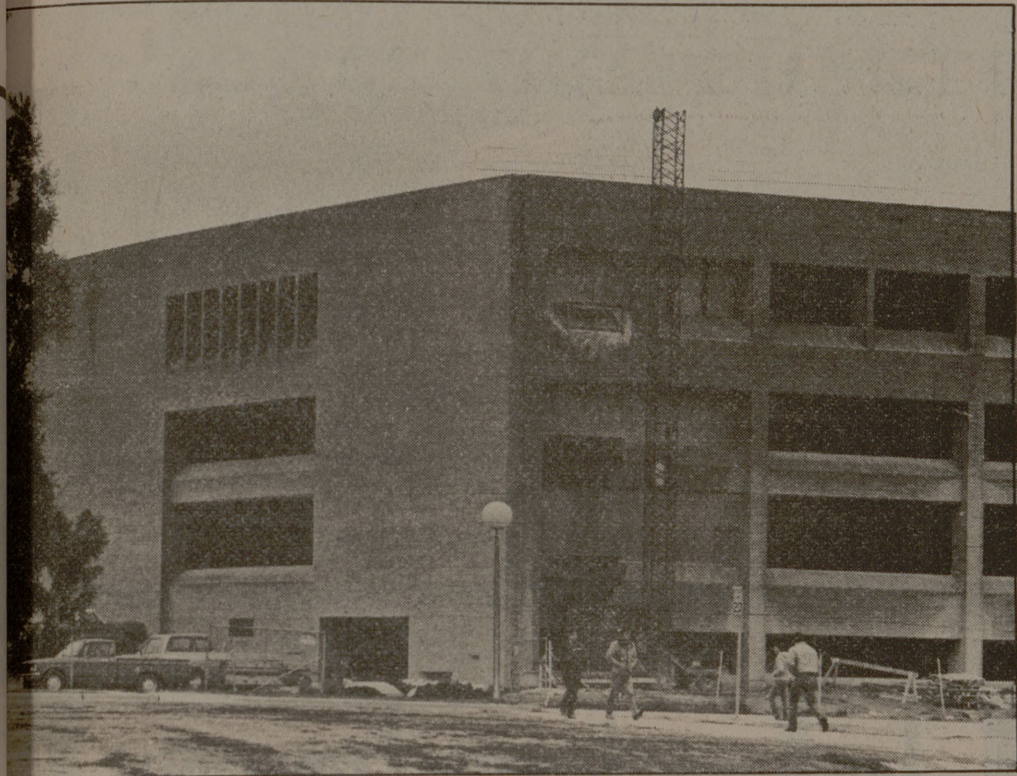
"We know what circuits feed which buildings so we know where the power is out, but in order to find the exact location of the outage, we have to go out on campus and look," he said. "We take flashlights and go look

in the manholes. We can sometimes tell by the smell and sometimes the problem is visible because we see scattered cable in the hole."

Once workers find the problem, they have to find out what caused the power failure. It can be a number of things, Estill said, such as a bad splice, a cable failure or a bad switch.

Estill said that using a computer system to track down the location of the break in a circuit would not be feasible because the University would still have to have a secondary source of power to run the computer and for the check points around the campus. He said that the University's system is not spread out enough to utilize a computer system.

Estill said that most of the power lines on the main campus and those servicing the new buildings on the west campus are underground.



staff photo by Irene Mees

The engineering research center being built next to Zachry Engineering Center.

Three buildings planned for engineering, science

by Monica M. Foley
Battalion Reporter

The parking area behind the Geosciences Building the Reed McDonald building will stay busy until spring when the construction of a million geosciences annex will be complete.

Construction of the geosciences annex and a new engineering building is being coordinated by the Texas A&M System Facilities Planning and Construction Department.

The new engineering building, the Engineering Research Center, is underway next to the Zachry Engineering Center and will be complete by June 1983. Bob Evans, director of the construction division of

the planning and construction department.

Construction behind Halbouty began Jan. 4 on a four-story wing that will add 59,752 square feet for laboratories, classrooms and offices, said Evans.

The \$4 million expansion, contracted to BFW Construction from Temple, will include a walkway connecting the two buildings.

The Texas Engineering Experiment Station will move its offices from Zachry Engineering Center to the new Engineering Research Center.

Dr. W. Arthur Porter, director of TEES, said the new Engineering Research Center will be dedicated completely to engineering research in such fields

as material research.

"It will be one of the biggest composite material research laboratories of any university in the country," Porter said.

The building also will house a Robotics Lab, he said. Robotics is the automating of the manufacturing process by building machines that can accomplish manufacturing functions and make decisions.

Porter said the building will contain the TEES administrative offices in addition to the laboratories as well as offices for researchers.

Architects also are designing an energy and physics building, for the Spence street side of the lot, near the Cyclotron, Evans said.

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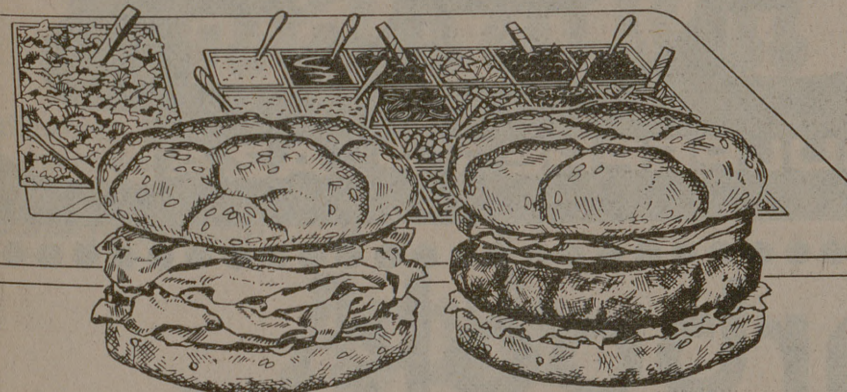
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