

State and Local

Prof: It's one of the best

A&M radar facility is unique

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M students and other Brazos Valley residents are fortunate to have one of the best weather radar facilities in the world at their service on the A&M campus, says Dr. James Scoggins, head of the Department of Meteorology.

"To my knowledge, we have the only radar anywhere in the world with a dual frequency system," Scoggins says. "The radar is capable of sending two beams of varying wavelengths into the atmosphere simultaneously."

The large dish on the top of the O&M Building is the antenna for the system which sends out and receives the beams.

"The large dish sends out a 10-centimeter wavelength while one of the smaller dishes sends out a 3-centimeter wavelength," he says. "The other small dish is actually a dummy which helps keep the antenna balanced."

The 10-centimeter frequency detects the larger particles in a storm, such as hail, while the 3-centimeter frequency reveals the smaller particles, Scoggins says.

Scoggins says the radar can detect numerous particles associated with a thunderstorm such as hail, raindrops and even tornadoes.

"While our system cannot detect wind intensity in a particular storm, we can see an image (on the radar screen) produced by a tornado known as a hook echo," he says. "We can also determine the height of a storm by sending the beams in a vertical direction."

The weather radar has been moved several times since it has been at A&M.

"Before being moved to the present O&M Building, it was located at Goodwin Hall while the antenna was on top of Bizzell Hall," Scoggins says. "Now the antenna and radar unit are all housed in the present O&M Building."

The 10-centimeter radar was built here and began operating in 1956, while the 3-centimeter system began operating in 1957. The 3-centimeter system was obtained from the Air Force.

Jake Cangelose is responsible for maintaining the radar and helped build the 10-centimeter system.

Cangelose says the radar is equipped with a device enabling the

operator to tape what is being seen on the radar screen.

"When Alicia hit the coast, we taped the storm," he says. "Now when students want to study hurricanes, all we have to do is plug in the tape and study."

While meteorology students use the radar to study various weather phenomena, five meteorologists are assigned to keep people in the Brazos Valley aware of upcoming severe weather.

Scoggins says Brazos Valley residents have the best severe weather warning system available anywhere in the United States.

"In addition to having the best radar in the world, we also have a trained staff which is on call at all times to inform the public about approaching severe weather," Scoggins says. "We can be 100 percent accurate about forecasting severe weather, because when we can see it on the radar screen we know where it is and we can watch all of its movements."

"The radar is capable of scanning for about 400 miles, although we rarely look at any storms over 200 miles from here since they would have to be very large for us to see them," he says.

Lost items? MSC Lost and Found might be the place to find them

By CRAIG RENFRO
Reporter

Ever wonder what happened to that book you lost? Or what about the calculator that you thought was gone forever? There's a good chance that these items and many more can be found at the Memorial Student Center Lost and Found.

The Lost and Found is located at the MSC guest-room main desk and check-cashing window on the first floor of the MSC. Last spring more than 2,900 items, such as books, backpacks, wallets and jewelry were brought to the Lost and Found, says Joyce McNeill, Lost and Found coordinator.

The MSC also receives items brought in from the shuttle bus

routes, the intramural complex and from other buildings on campus, McNeill says.

Approximately 70 percent of the items are reclaimed, she says.

"The biggest problem is that people don't bring the items back right away, and the student who lost it gives up on ever finding it," McNeill says.

Another problem is that many students do not know that a lost and found exists and that their items could be there, she says.

"If we find a number or an address we get in touch with the student," McNeill says.

To claim a lost item the student must accurately describe it, she says. If the description fits the item, the item may be reclaimed.

The policy, as required by law, is to keep the items for at least six months before disposing of them, McNeill says.

Accurate daily ledgers are kept to record each item brought to the MSC, and monthly inventory checks are taken and posted in the MSC Student Programs Office, she says.

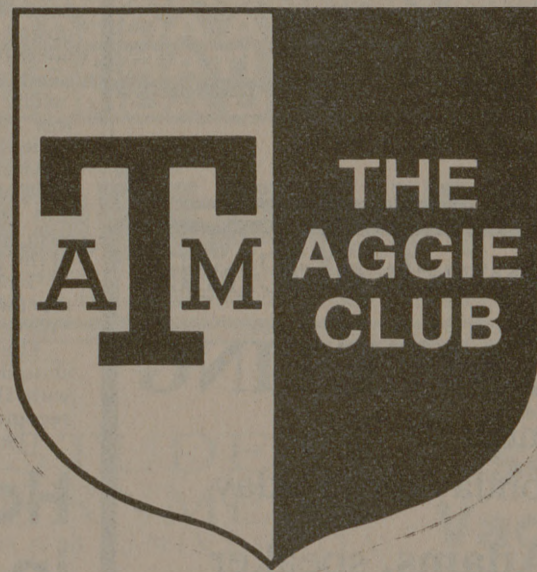
As for the unclaimed items, the MSC Lost and Found committee auctions them off in October and April. Proceeds from the auction go to Student Programs for annual Christmas party expenses and decorations, she says.

"An overwhelming amount of items are brought in each semester," McNeill says. "If students were just more aware of our service, maybe they could find what they lost."

\$12.⁰⁰ for the Twelveth Man

First Meeting for Aggie Club Sept 17
Rudder 401 7 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
STUDENT ATHLETES



Benefits:

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Look in The Battalion for upcoming meetings on football Road-trips or come by the office on the North End of Kyle Field.

Freshmen & Sophomores!



GET SHOT!

*Freshmen and Sophomore photos for 1986 Aggieland Yearbook will be taken at the Yearbook Associates studio September 16-20 and 23-27.

*The studio is located at 401-03 West University (above Campus Photo Center at Northgate).

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