

Physical plant

A&M will spend \$3.6 million to replace cooling towers

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M will replace some of the wooden cooling towers in the university's physical plant with more efficient and durable ceramic cooling units, a system official said Wednesday.

Cliff Junek, assistant manager of the A&M system facilities planning division, said the 20-year-old wooden towers have become less efficient and more expensive to maintain because of structural deterioration. The towers are located inside the physical plant complex on the north side of campus between Ireland and Asbury streets.

"They've (the wooden towers) reached the end of their expected life and need to be replaced," Junek said.

At its Nov. 27 meeting, the Texas A&M Board of Regents awarded a \$3.6 million contract to replace the towers to the College Station firm of New Woods, Inc. Construction will begin early next year and last for about 1 1/2 years, he said. The project is designed by Bovay Engineers of Houston.

The wooden towers work by spraying water over wooden fill, which breaks up the water droplets, and then circulating air from the bottom of the tower to cool the water, said Ervin Linnstaedter, A&M system tower project manager. The water is cooled from 95 F to 85 F.

The new units will have concrete exterior structures and ceramic fill, Linnstaedter said. The ceramic towers, which are expected to last at least 40 years, will require less main-

tenance, be more efficient, eliminate mist better and last longer, he said. Because of the tower's highly-visible location on campus, the University also plans to improve their appearance with a brick exterior.

Most of the water cooled by the towers is used in "chillers," separate cooling systems, while the rest goes to steam condensers, Linnstaedter said. The "chillers" provide cold water for all campus buildings except those on the west campus.

Because the units being replaced produce about 33 percent of the total water capacity, they will be replaced in two phases, Linnstaedter said. Another 35-40 percent of the water capacity is produced by 10-to-15-year-old wooden towers, which also will be replaced eventually, he added. The remaining percentage comes from ceramic towers that have already been built.

Although the ceramic towers cost more to build than their wooden counterparts, Linnstaedter said, their interior concrete structures and ceramic fill deteriorate much slower. They are expected to begin saving money after 15 years of operation.

The next major utility building project planned is the expansion of the west campus utility plant, said Dan Whitt, assistant vice chancellor for facility planning and construction. The west campus system is now at capacity and must be expanded to accommodate the planned construction of the biochemistry and biophysics building. Junek added that the project will double that system's capacity.

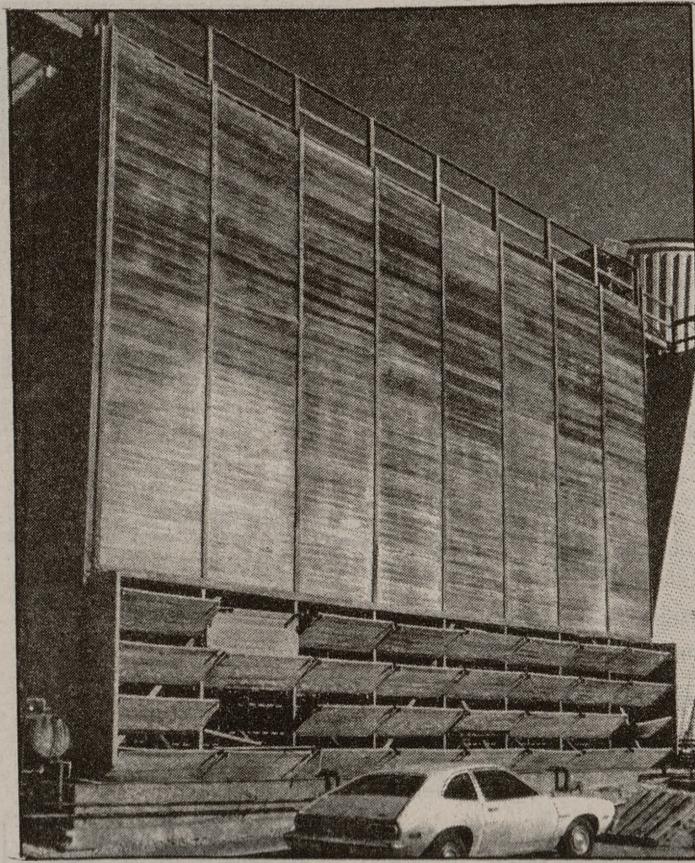


Photo by JON P. KARP

These are the wooden cooling towers that will be torn down and rebuilt in January.

Dorm rooms available for Christmas break

By ANDY RICHARDSON
Reporter

Students currently living in Texas A&M residence halls may apply for housing during the Christmas break if they intend to stay in town.

Interim housing accommodations in Keathley Hall will be available from 8 p.m. Dec. 20 until 10 a.m. Jan. 13. Students must have a hall reservation for the spring semester in addition to current residence in a hall to be eligible for the housing.

Lesley Stoup, assistant housing

services supervisor, said students will be placed in vacant rooms if any are available. If this is not possible, Stoup said the Central Area Office will notify people whose rooms will be used so they may make arrangements to stow belongings in other rooms.

"The rooms used will be selected randomly," she said. "Keathley was chosen because it is a balcony dorm with outside doors and makes security easier since outside doors don't have to be opened as in other types of dorms and students wouldn't

need an outside door key."

The accommodations will be available to both males and females, although no visitation by members of the opposite sex will be permitted in the rooms. Stoup said the males and females will be placed, so they will not be next to each other in the suite-style hall.

Telephone service will be provided for local calls only during the Christmas break.

No resident advisers will be on duty in Keathley during the interim housing period.

Students can sign up for the housing Dec. 12 - Dec. 18 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Housing Office. The \$120 fee for the Christmas break housing is payable at this time.

Two students will be assigned to each room, four to each suite, and students may request a specific roommate.

All other residence halls and lounges will be closed for the holidays. The University Police will patrol the area throughout the period. Residence halls will open for the spring semester at 10 a.m. Jan. 13.

85 Teacher of Year gives her view of teaching

By JO BETH MURPHY
Reporter

The importance of teachers being able to change their teaching processes for the betterment of their profession was what Texas' 1985 Teacher of the Year relayed to a landing-room-only crowd Thursday night in 301 Rudder.

Meliane Morgan, a 1978 secondary education graduate of Texas A&M, presented her award winning views of the teaching profession and the challenges and rewards it offers during a program sponsored by the College of Education.

The topics she discussed were from her written philosophy of teaching



Meliane Morgan

ing titled "Caring, Sharing, Daring." Her philosophy was one of the reasons she won the state Teacher of

the Year award. The philosophy also helped her become one of the top four finalists for the national Teacher of the Year award.

The need for teachers to change is part of that philosophy.

"We must not be victims of change but agents of change," Morgan said. She said that many teachers resist change in their teaching processes, but that change is necessary because of the harsh judgement by the public of the teaching profession.

Morgan used comparisons with the medical profession to show how judgement on teachers is made.

She said doctors can follow all the correct procedures, have a patient

die and still be considered competent. Teachers, though, are judged by their end product — students — and if the end product hasn't improved, teachers are judged harshly.

Morgan said that the profession needs to strive for improvement.

"As teachers we have been guilty of being only competent," she said. Teachers need to move from competence to proficiency.

Morgan said that judgement of teachers would improve with time and effort, but a definite plan is needed to bring about change.

"We must know where we're going, how to get there and when we get there," Morgan said.

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William Shakespeare, 1596

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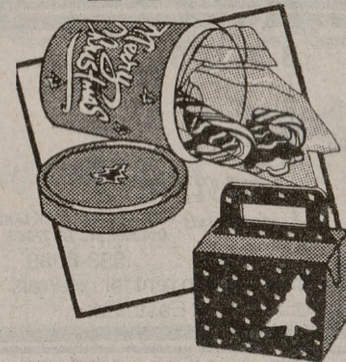
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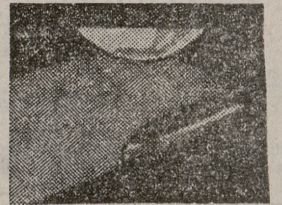
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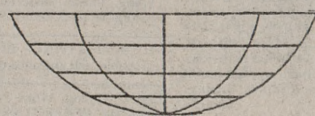
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