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by Patricia Ludwick

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JANUARY 14-25, 1987 8 PM
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Tuesday, January 20, 1987

Major microprobe move

by John Watson

Most people involved are happy with the decision temporarily to move an electron microprobe from the Geology building to Chemical/Mineral Engineering.

"Certainly it's the best decision that could have been made," said Dorion Smith, professor of geology.

The probe has been inoperative since being damaged by dust and water in the basement of the Geol-

ogy building.

Geology Department chairperson Rutter said all the problems with the probe are not known. "Exactly what was wrong with it we don't know," he said.

Rutter said the department either had to send students to other institutions with similar equipment or move the machine and get it working.

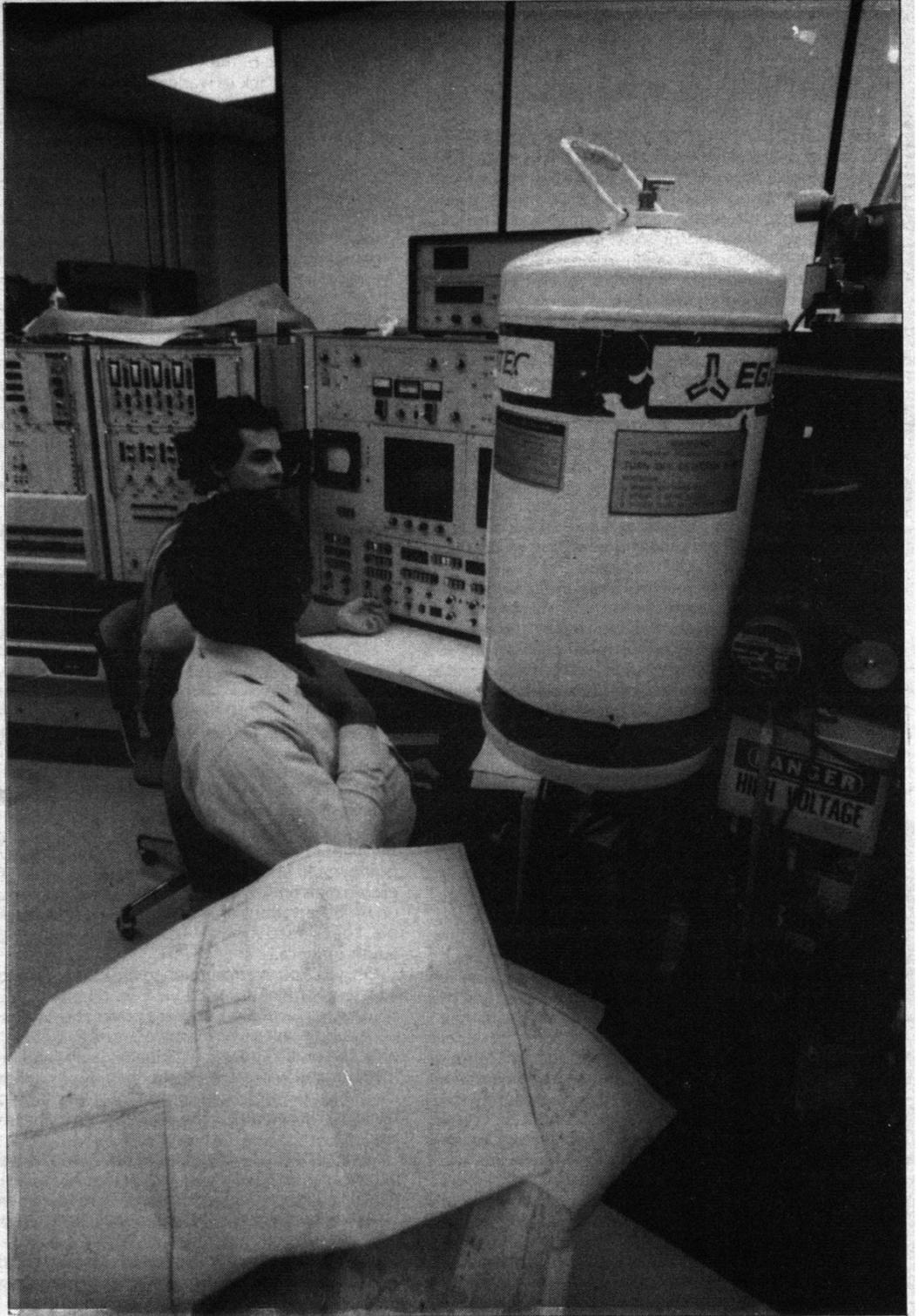
Students and some staff were

concerned about being left without the equipment.

"The high degree of aggravation actually paid off," said Dr. Morton, a professor in the department.

The probe will probably be operating within about two months, as tuning the machine is expected to take some time.

The probe will be moved back to the Geology building once renovations there are completed.



High-technology equipment causing concerns

photo by Ron Checora

Rape or sexual assault?

by Siona Gunn-Graham

We now have sexual assault as opposed to rape. But has the law really changed?

On Thursday, Jan. 22 Alex Pringle, a defense lawyer, and Eileen Nash, a prosecutor, will be at the Law Centre to discuss whether practically, as opposed to theoretically, the law on sexual assault has been altered.

Most of the changes have related to the basic rules of the game allowed when attacking the victim's credibility as a witness.

In the past a victim's entire personal life was often held up to the scrutiny of the court and the jury. Only if her overall morality was deemed suitable by the judge and jury was it likely that, legally, the

court would attempt to determine whether the crime defined as rape had occurred.

An extreme example of the prevailing outlook was shown by the statement of one juror that "You can't rape a prostitute, everybody knows that."

Five years ago new rules regarding evidence of the victim's previous sexual activity were created.

Under these rules a defense attorney can no longer raise the witness's sexual history to discredit her testimony with persons other than the defendant. But there are exceptions to this rule.

The most important exception is that such "character" or "reputation" evidence can be brought up where the attacker admits he com-

mitted the act but argues the woman was consenting.

In order to show he had grounds for believing he had the woman's consent evidence of her character, reputation, and sexual activity is still allowed.

These are merely a few of the points brought into issue by the changes in this area of the law.

Have the changes cured old injustices or merely reworded them? Are victims still as much on trial as defendants in sexual assault cases?

For the answers to these and other questions, stop by the Law Centre 12:15 p.m., Jan. 29, Room 231.