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Mich-Radio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1948

Mi Daily

ON THE BEAM:

West Quad Radio Club Erects New Rotary Antenna on Tower

After two long years of preparation the West Quad's Radio Club finally saw the culmination of all its efforts to erect a new rotary beam antenna on top of the Quad radio tower

Designed by the club's former president, Bruce Weinert, '50E, the antenna was built entirely by the club's 15 members. Resembling a huge helicopter propeller, it was originally to have been erected at 1 p.m., last Saturday.

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DUE TO ASSEMBLY difficulties, however, the work had to be delayed until later that night and the job was finally completed under powerful floodlights well after midnight.

Standing 85 feet above the sidewalk, the antenna is operated from the control room of the fifth floor of Williams House. It is rotated by a small ratio motor and powered by an army surplus transmitter.

The club now hopes to be able to establish contact with stations all around the world. Formerly their transmitting radius was confined to the United States and Mexico.

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FOUNDED TWO years ago by Ellsworth B. Holden, the Radio Club is open to any man living in the University residence halls.

Most of the club's members have radio transmitters of their own and, except for the tower, they own all of the broadcasting equipment necessary to operate the new antenna.

After receiving permission from the University to erect the rotary beam last year, the club began an intensive drive to raise funds to finance the construction. A gift of $50 from the West Quad Council and a pint of blood donated by one of the members were the biggest single contributions.

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ALTHOUGH THE wiring on the new antenna is almost finished, it can not be used until it is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, according to Keith Heiss, '50E, president of the club.

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