A response to "Educational and Instructional Issues in Radar Meteorology"

In your issue of July 1989 there is an article entitled "Educational and Instructional Issues in Radar Meteorology," by Edwin Kessler. In this article on page 762 we find the sentence:

> At McGill University, there is a fine 10-cm radar that was previously a cornerstone of student research, but is now little used in the academic program.

As Director of the McGill Radar Weather Observatory, I find this statement shows a complete lack of understanding of our activities. At the present time the Observatory supports a total of 14 graduate students who come from a variety of Departments at McGill:

	PhD	MSc
Meteorology	1	2
Physics	3	2
Agricultural Engineering	1	1
Civil Engineering	1	—
Renewable Resources	1	2

Supervision is provided by Professor Lovejoy, Dr. Bellon, and myself as full-time researchers at the Observatory who cooperate with several professors from the above departments. Moreover in the last few years we have published 36 journal papers, 20 of which made extensive use of radar data. Most of these were authored or coauthored by graduate students. While both the student and journal paper numbers may not be as high as they could be they are in fact almost an order of magnitude larger than "previously" when we were "a cornerstone of student research."

In terms of our scientific objectives, we have been attempting to ask what meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, and remote sensing questions can be addressed by using weather radar in conjunction with other sensors. Our work on radar networks, hydrological systems, and short-term forecasting using combined radar and satellite data has resulted in our ideas or systems being used operationally in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Hong Kong, Brazil, and Canada. One of our radar processors with an automatic nowcasting capability has been used for several years at Cape Canaveral to aid in short-term forecasting for the Shuttle activities.

To my knowledge, Dr. Kessler has not visited our Observatory in the 20 years I have been here. I believe his statement about our facility cannot withstand any serious investigation and should therefore be withdrawn.

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In response to Professor Austin's Letter

I regret not having checked with Professor Austin about my statement concerning the program of the Radar Weather Observatory at McGill University. This situation appears to have resulted from the fact that the Radar Weather Observatory is not part of the Department of Meteorology at McGill University.

I think that it is commendable to seek to apply weather radars in a wide range of disciplines, as Professor Austin and his colleagues are doing.

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