

Fine arts degree to be offered

By LOUIS HEJTMANEK
In the future, students may be coming to Texas A&M University to learn how to carve cattle, sculpture squash or turn molecules into masterpieces. The first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA) at A&M is only two months away from final approval.

Presently, the art program hinges on the support of the Board of Regents, Coordinating Board and completion of the \$6.4 million Ernest Langford Architecture Center.

Professor Raymond D. Reed, Dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, is in charge of the proposed degree.

"A major university of this size and status should have a degree program of this type, in order to have a balanced field of studies," Reed said.

According to Reed, the environmental design and architecture departments have many fine artists who want to become professionals with the aid of a BFA degree, but can't because one doesn't exist.

Currently, numerous students are taking art and environmental design courses related to art, who are awaiting the establishment of the BFA degree.

There are two aspects of the BFA program. One is a professional program for those interested in entering the field of fine art. The other, a service feature, is to provide students with a variety of elective courses in the visual arts area.

The proposed degree will be a four-year art program. It will require 55 semester hours of art, 30 hours of humanities and social sciences, 12 or 14 hours of science and math or foreign language (12 hours if math is taken, 14 hours if foreign language is selected) and 31 hours of miscellaneous courses such as building construction management, environmental design and others.

All courses comprising the new program are now being offered as electives, so no new ones will be required to be added to the curriculum. Reed said that no graduate degree is planned at this time.

Additional faculty is no problem

and it is projected that only three new members will be needed in the next three years.

Currently, similar art programs leading to a BFA are offered at 12 Texas institutions including Rice University, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech and the University of Texas.

Inadequate facilities was an early problem to the program before construction of the Langford Center was approved.

The new building was named after Ernest Langford, who, according to Reed, was most responsible for the present architecture on campus. It will house modern print, ceramic, paint, sculpture and drawing studios along with a library, central exhibit gallery and lecture auditorium.

"After its completion, which is scheduled for next spring, we should have the best facilities in the southwest and we won't be second best in the nation," the dean said.

The BFA program hasn't been pushed for quick approval due to the incompletion of the new building. Reed said it would be useless to institute the program until the \$6.4 million center is completed because it would defeat the goal of quality service to the students.

For the degree plan to be ac-

cepted, it must go through various phases of inspection.

According to John C. Calhoun Jr., vice-president of academic affairs, the department initiates the request for the new degree. Then it goes to the department heads and curriculum committee, the dean and the academic council.

From there the proposal goes before the Board of Regents and must meet final approval by the State Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board is a governor-appointed group whose job is to coordinate higher education.

"The request has met no opposition and was accepted in January by the academic council," Calhoun said.

The degree proposal will go before the Board of Regents later this month and if approved, the Coordinating Board will discuss it in June.

"In the chain of events, the earliest it (BFA) would be enacted would be the fall of 1977," Calhoun said.

The need for an expanded visual arts program was also expressed by Joseph Hutchinson, arts professor in department of building construction.

Hutchinson, one of eight faculty

members in the environmental design department with an art degree, cited examples of increased visual arts programs appearing on campus that students should become aware of and familiar with. The art exhibits and the craft center at the Memorial Student Center, additions of sculptures and statues, the fine art film series and seminars offered on creative art were some of his examples.

"An expanded art program would better inform and educate students about the art they are encountering on and around the campus community," he said.

Creative enterprise and leisure-time art is also an important aspect of the program. Hutchinson pointed out there is a current trend for more and more individuals to make and create their own art instead of purchasing it. They are doing it as a means of releasing pressure, self-expression and enabling them to actually see their inborn artistic talents.

The designed program will be a support area to the liberal arts, environmental design, architecture and arts education areas. It will have no correlation with music or theatrical studies.

Adult education night school

classes are also possible extensions of the new program.

Currently, there are 130 students enrolled in the art program. The projected enrollment in the program by 1980-81 is 400. The number of BFA majors is expected to be 250.

These estimates are based on the planned growth of A&M to approximately 30,000 students by 1980-81 and upon the shifting goals of the student body.

"We are definitely behind the times here at A&M in the area of fine arts," Hutchinson said.

"However, we have the opportunity to draw on experience from other institutions which should greatly aid and boost our program," he said.

Negotiation deadlocks; missile option stays open

By FRED S. HOFFMAN
AP Military Writer
WASHINGTON — A final Ford administration decision on producing additional long-range Minuteman III missiles will hinge on the course of U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms limitation talks and Russian Weapons growth between now and September.

The Pentagon plans to speed procurement of more powerful new multiple warheads for Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles ICBM regardless of whether the negotiating deadlock is broken.

This prospect emerged after the announcement Monday that President Ford is asking Congress for \$322.4 million to start manufacturing the new Mark 12A warhead a year earlier than had been planned and the option of continuing production of the triple-warhead Minuteman III.

There is no intention to increase the total number of land-based Minuteman missiles beyond the present 1,000 in firing position, the Pentagon said, because the interim SALT agreement now in effect does not permit construction of additional launch silos.

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AGGIE CINEMA presents "Marat/Sade", 8 p.m., Rudder Theater.

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A&M RACQUETBALL, 7:30 p.m., MSC 140.
CEPHEID VARIABLE, Rudder 701, 8 & 10 p.m.
CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA, 8 p.m., Rudder Auditorium.
HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, 1 p.m., MSC 141.
STUDENT SERVICES STAFF meeting, 3:30 p.m., Rudder 501.

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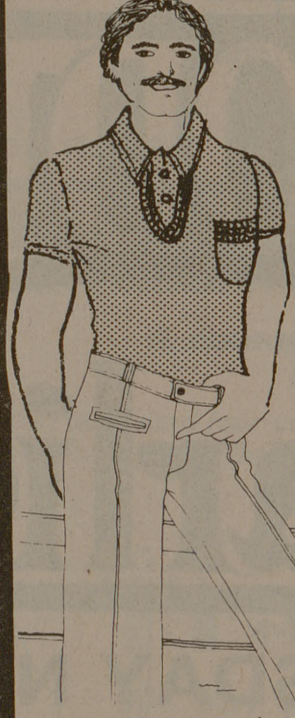
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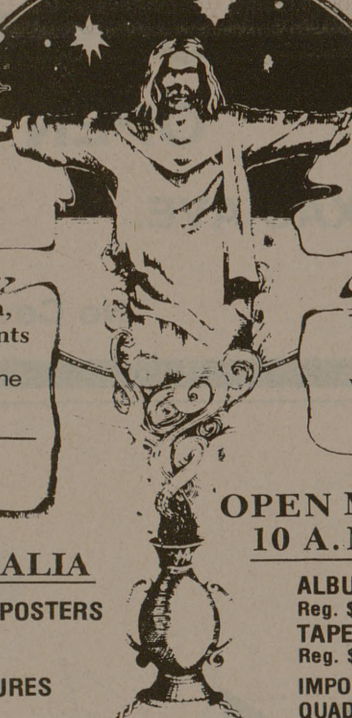
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