

Construction

Largest campus building to boast unique feature

Academic-Agency Building construction due

By FLAVIA KRONE  
Battalion Staff

Construction of the largest single building on the Texas A&M University campus will begin this fall. The new 255,500-square-foot Academic and Agency Building will contain more space than Zachry Engineering Center, the Oceanography and Meteorology Building or Harrington Education Center, project coordinator Harry Zimmerman said.

Project bids will be accepted this fall with the Texas A&M System Board of Regents awarding a contract sometime in November.

Before breaking ground sometime in February or March of 1979, the wooden barracks along Ireland street must be removed.

The six-story structure will house seven organizations, including:

- English Department
- College of Business Administration
- Executive Development Programs
- Institute of Statistics
- Texas Transportation Institute
- Texas Real Estate Research Center
- Texas A&M Research Foundation

The \$15,743,000 Academic and Agency Building boasts several unique features, said Charles Caffee, facilities and planning architect.

The narrow ends of the long, roughly diamond-shaped structure face east and west, minimizing exposure to the sun's rays. This "solar orientation" will prevent the sun's

rays from baking the windows on the building's north and south sides and should result in energy savings, Caffee said.

Project architects, Koetter, Tharp, Cowell and Bartlett of Houston, designed the building to take advantage of the land's natural slope thereby minimizing foot-traffic through the building.

The Ireland street entrance will serve students going to and from classrooms located on the building's first floor, Caffee said. The entrance on the opposite side of the building will lead directly to the second floor and will serve the second through sixth floor personnel.

"With students on the first floor and the administrative personnel above, we hope to separate the heavy and light foot-traffic," Caffee said.

The Academic and Agency Building will contain 38 classrooms, more than any other building on campus, Caffee said. All but two of the classrooms will be located on the first floor and will provide seating for about 2,000 students.

Classrooms range in size from 20 seats to 280 seats and were designed with students in mind, said Zimmerman.

"We have attempted to keep classes small by keeping the rooms small, but classrooms are not going to be overcrowded," Zimmerman said.

"Also, several classrooms are sloped and have seats arranged in a U-shape so students can see each other and interact with one another," Zimmerman said.

In addition to classrooms, the first

floor of the new building also will contain a 90-terminal remote computing center. The facility will serve as both computing center and classroom laboratory and will have a repair room for damaged terminals, Zimmerman said.

Several new facilities are planned for the English department, also located on the first floor, Zimmerman said.

The learning resources laboratory, a "directed study area" where classroom activities can be videotaped, will be available to students, Zimmerman said.

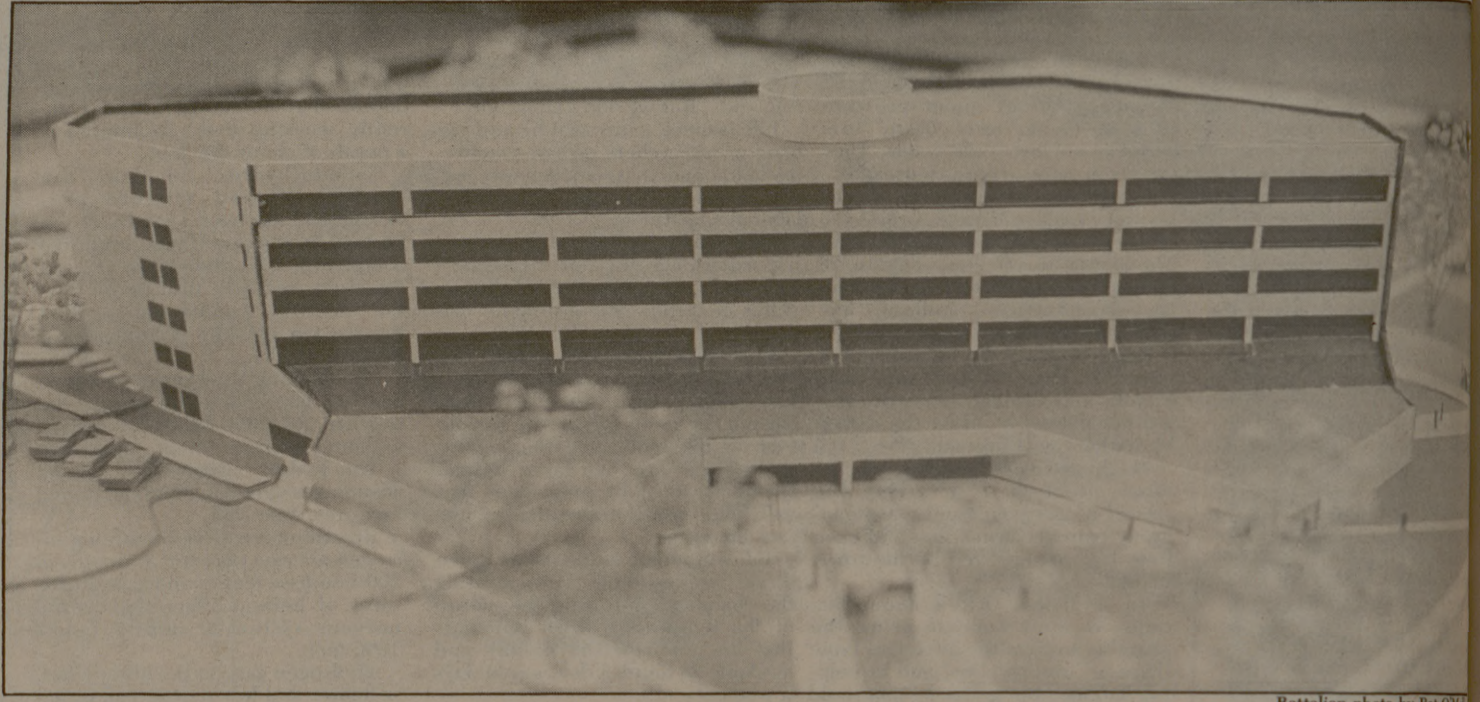
Speech and Communications, the drama unit within the English Department, will receive a set design lab complete with drafting boards and equipment, a costume design lab and a rehearsal lab with a small stage, Zimmerman said.

Between classes, students will be able to relax in what Zimmerman calls the "Grand Hall." Running the length of the building, the Grand Hall will contain couches, tables and vending machines.

"It will be a nice place for students to get together," Zimmerman said. "It will be light and colorful with big, high ceilings and skylights."

The first floor of the Academic and Agency Building is not the only floor boasting new or improved facilities, Zimmerman said.

The College of Business on the third floor will receive a behavioral laboratory for management and marketing research. It will contain six test chambers and one control room complete with physiograph and video equipment. There will



This is a model of the new Academic and Agency building planned for the Texas A&M University campus. Construction

on the six-story structure, to be the largest building on campus when completed, will begin this fall.

also be a small kitchenette which will be used mainly by the marketing department to study various aspects of the marketing food products, Zimmerman said.

An additional learning resources laboratory will be located on the third floor.

"This facility will have a check-out counter," Zimmerman said. "It will stock video and cassette tapes, slide

carrels and other equipment for individual and group study."

A reading lounge containing collections of specialized material will be available for graduate business students, Zimmerman said.

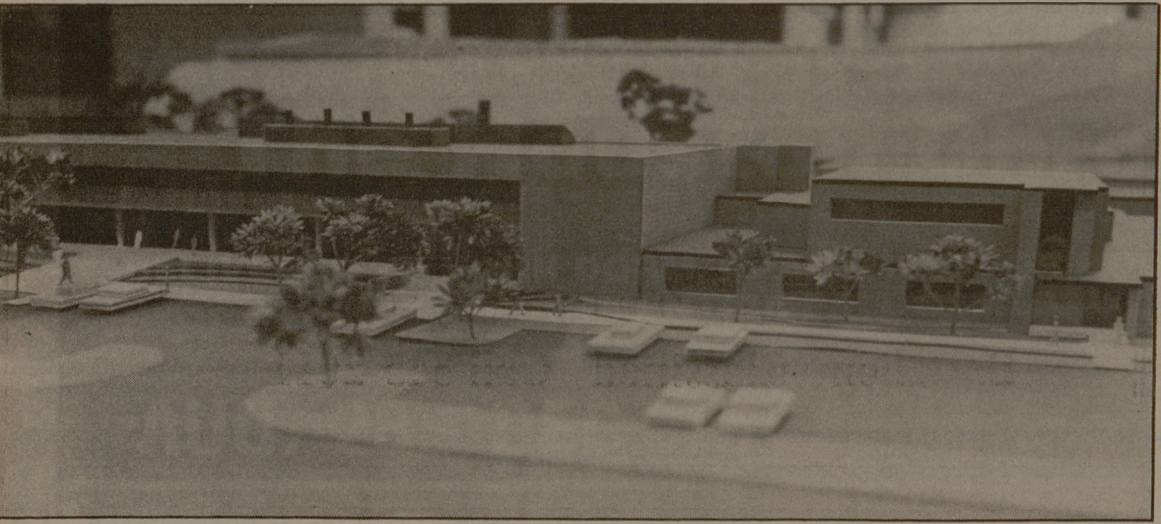
A group of meeting rooms similar to those in Rudder Tower will be located on the fourth floor of the new building, Zimmerman said. Although the meeting rooms are intended for use by the continuing

education and service programs offered through Executive Development, other departments and agencies in the building also can use the rooms, Zimmerman said.

The outside features of the Academic and Agency Building have been planned as carefully as the inside, Zimmerman said.

All of the oak trees now on the building site will remain standing, Zimmerman said.

A large plaza will lead up to the second floor entrance and Zimmerman said he envisions it as a plaza that can be used for outdoor meetings, parties or classes. Racks with room for the hundred bicycles will be placed around the building. Zimmerman said the Academic and Agency Building will be finished in the summer of 1981.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

The planned \$10.5 million veterinary sciences complex is designed to substantially increase the size of the present small animal clinic which now handles more than 15,000 cases a

day. The addition, shown at left in an architect's model, will be built onto the clinic (right). Construction is expected to begin in January 1979.

New medical facility will serve veterinary, med programs

By FLAVIA KRONE  
Battalion Staff

A \$10,500,000 contract for construction of a veterinary clinical sciences facility will be awarded this fall, said Edwin Ellett, professor of small animal medicine and project coordinator.

The new facility will house a teaching hospital, small animal clinic and animal research modules, Ellett said.

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University has the largest veterinary medicine teaching program in the nation, but proportionally has one of the smallest facilities for teaching clinical sci-

ences, according to statistics compiled by the college.

The present teaching hospital was built in 1955 to accommodate 64 students per class. The college now admits 138 students into each entering class, Ellett said.

In 1968, a substantial addition was made for the large animal clinic. Space for the small animal clinic remained limited.

Statistics show that 15,200 square feet are available for small animal medicine and associated clinical support areas at Texas A&M. By comparison, the veterinary college in Ohio provides 64,000 square feet to each incoming class of 130 students.

Veterinary schools with about the same available clinic space as the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine have smaller classes and case loads, statistics show.

The small animal clinic at Texas A&M handles about 15,000 cases per year in a space designed for 4,000 cases, Ellett said.

About 45 percent of the cases brought to the small animal clinic consist of referrals, which come from all parts of the Southwest, Ellett said.

"As the only veterinary medical

school in the state we act as an extension of private veterinary practice," Ellett said. "We are able to provide trained personnel and equipment that a private veterinarian would not be able to afford."

The ground floor of the new 57,784 square foot facility will house the small animal clinic and most of the teaching and clinical casework areas, Ellett said.

The expanded small animal clinic will accommodate as many as 300 animals. In addition, a radioisotope ward for animals undergoing radioisotope treatments will be constructed.

Animals undergoing radioisotope studies must be isolated because their waste products are contaminated with radioactive material, Ellett said.

The clinic will also contain a separate area for tropical and zoo animals, Ellett said.

Treatment facilities will include a nine-room surgical suite and specialized areas for eye, cardiovascular and neuro-surgery, Ellett said. Access to surgery will be made through a specially constructed "sterile" corridor, Ellett added.

Other treatment facilities will include an intermediate care and in-

tensive care unit, four X-ray laboratories and 14 examination rooms.

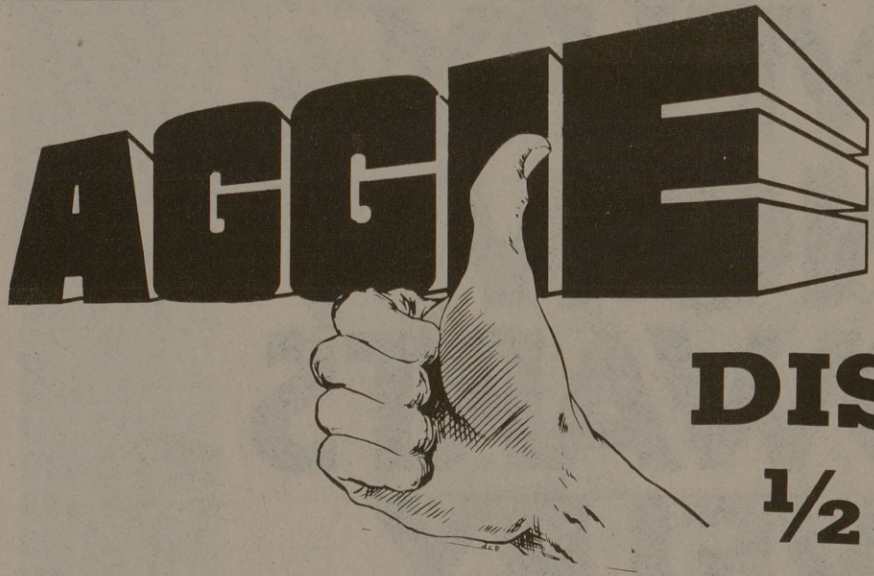
Clinical diagnostic laboratories will occupy most of the second floor. The college plans to use the diagnostic laboratories for clinical practice and research programs, Ellett said.

The laboratories will provide services in the fields of clinical pathology, microbiology, parasitology and epidemiology, Ellett said.

Plans also call for laboratories in clinical pharmacology and toxicology, radiology and nuclear medicine.

In addition to staff offices, the second floor also will contain a kitchenette and sleeping area for house students on emergency night call, Ellett said.

A 6,000-square-foot research facility will be located in the building's basement along with student surgical laboratories, Ellett said. The basement also will contain a laundry and sterilization equipment ranging from two 100-pound washing machines to vacuum autoclaves. "Hopefully, with these facilities we will get some good clinical research programs moving," Ellett said.



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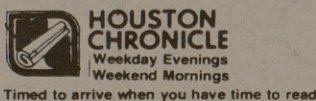
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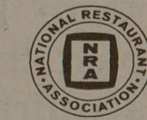
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