

Harry Flynt would love all the detail

Ancient Hindu architecture is ornate

By DOUG GRAHAM

Battalion Staff
Many people think of the Taj Mahal as a beautiful example of India's architecture, but it is an Islamic tomb designed by an Indian, said a Texas A&M University professor Thursday night. Architect Richard Vrooman, an environmental design professor, showed slides of typical Indian and Mughal architecture at a meeting of the Pan-American Round Table, an international Spanish-speaking club, in the Memorial Student Center. He showed various Indian religious buildings. The two basic types are the Bhuddist Pagoda, a multi-tiered building, and the vaguely pyramid-shaped Hindu temples. One particular example of the latter buildings was a large wooden temple mounted on iron wheels. It rolled down a street once a year, then pulled back a week later by thousands of people straining on ropes, Vrooman said. Those who get crushed by the rolling, which spawned the word "germanaut," supposedly go to a good

place in heaven, Vrooman said. The temple belongs to the god Jagannath.

Other temples have been carved out of solid rock, the architect said. "These temples should be considered sculptural achievements more than as structural accomplishments," he said.

All of the temples, like other ancient religious structures, were built with a command of geometric principles and astronomy, Vrooman said. The Kan temples are filled with mystic symbols and ornate artwork that go beyond Europe's Gothic cathedrals in complexity, he said.

Many of the detailed carvings show erotic scenes, Vrooman said. Indian culture used all aspects of nature, including procreation, in its mystic and religious art, he said.

He added that the erotic art was one reason why textbooks seldom show clear detailed close-ups of certain Indian art.

He showed slides of exquisitely painted temples that he said were built 2,000 to 1,000 years ago.

That period was India's most ac-

complished in building, but later after Islamic invasions, Moslem rulers destroyed many of the temples.

Vrooman had ample time to study the region's architecture because he helped found a national school of architecture in East Pakistan, which later became Bangladesh in 1971 after a revolution. He worked there for seven years, he said.

During that time he learned several limitations of living in an underdeveloped country, he said. Beyond the typical frustration of boiling all water, he, as an architect, had to contend with a backward technology.

Concrete was handcarried in buckets to be poured, he said. Since all concrete was imported, it was a valuable black market commodity, and much of the new school's concrete was stolen. Often the mortar between bricks was mostly sand, he said.

The only common building mate-

rials were bamboo, bricks, and rope, made from the abundant clay and jute, the national crop, Vrooman said. Bamboo was used for many class projects while paper and paint had to be imported, he added.

The shortages led to many difficulties for the students, he said.

But Vrooman said he enjoyed working with his students, some of whom were sent to earn degrees at Texas A&M.

Before he left Bangladesh 10 years ago, the university was plagued by the unrest that led up to the independence of the country. Vrooman says he agrees with the separation of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

He described Bangladesh as a Louisiana-sized country crammed with one third of the population of the United States.

"Then flood it," Vrooman added.

One slide he used to demonstrate architecture similar to India's

showed a building with various carved stone animal heads and vegetables in bas-relief.

The ornate building he was using? A European cathedral or a fancy victorian mansion? No, he simply showed a slide of Texas A&M's old Animal Science building.

Legionnaire's disease

Outbreak may hurt Dallas businesses

United Press International

DALLAS — The stigma that followed the initial outbreak of legionnaires' disease in Philadelphia and forced the closing of that city's Bellevue Stratford Hotel could threaten Dallas' profitable convention industry.

Health officials announced Wednesday that at least two of the 400 people attending the national Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in August had contracted legionnaires' disease. Both were non-fatal and health officials refused to disclose names of the victims other than to say they were from Missouri and New Jersey.

State health officials Thursday said the outbreak poses no threat to Dallas population, but Chamber of Commerce officials fear it will hurt business.

"It's still too early to tell what effect stories like this will have on the convention trade," said Jack Antrus, vice president of the chamber's convention and visitors bureau.

"We're just telling people to wait a while and see what the situation really is before jumping to conclusions. Right now we don't even know what the situation is. We just don't have any information yet."

After the mysterious pneumonia-like illness killed 29 and sickened another 151 in Philadelphia in July 1976, the city suffered considerable loss of conventional trade. The once-popular Bellevue Stratford, in which the victims stayed, was forced to close a few months later because of lack of business.

Ironically, the VFW originally planned to have its 1978 con-

vention in Philadelphia but changed to Dallas because of the Philadelphia episode.

State health officials have been collecting air and water samples from the hotels that housed the VFW members and their guests.

"The number of people who attended is the biggest problem," said Dr. Lowell Berry, director of the Dallas City Health Department.

"We've been in touch with VFW. The records of people who were here will be checked by local officials in their states and by the CDC."

Ag class plans to visit ranches

By PEGGY McCULLEN
Battalion Reporter

If you can't bring animals into the classroom, take the classroom to animals.

That's exactly what Dr. Howard Hesby, animal science nutritionist at Texas A&M University, is going to do during Christmas break.

At noon on Dec. 15, 150 to 200 students will embark on a five-and-a-half day animal nutrition and production field trip. The trip will cover 1,300 miles of Texas.

"We want to bring realism into the classroom," Hesby said. "It means more to the students if the manager or livestock owner reinforces what I teach them."

The trip will include tours of dairies, ranches, feed mills, feed lots, packing companies, breeding farms, training units for horses, a

small-animal clinic, and a broiler farm.

"The trip is open to all students," Hesby said, "and students can still sign up for the trip."

Students who complete the trip are eligible for one hour credit in Animal Science 400.

"Ideally, we want sophomores and juniors to take the trip because if they see something they're interested in, they have time to come back and take additional courses in that area."

"But the trip is useful to any person in any field. It gives a broad exposure and understanding of American agriculture," Hesby said.

The trip will cost \$60-70 per student.

Interested students should contact Dr. Howard Hesby in Room 129 of the Kleberg Center, or call 845-7616.

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