

Lincoln, Arab horseman among others

Murals brighten up town

United Press International
PORT ARTHUR — On the outside of the Soul Man's Shop downtown, a colorful mural depicts an Arab horseman riding a white stallion across presumably Middle Eastern sand dunes.

The nearby Robert E. Lee Printing Co. sports a depiction of the steamboat Robert E. Lee.

One outside wall of Derrick Oil Co. features a painting of oil wells and refineries, a tribute to the economic base of this refinery town of 65,000.

The murals — building-sized and striking — are part of a beautification program that grew from the American Bicentennial celebration and a desire to brighten a faded downtown.

Since March 1976, the program has used a combination of private, city and federal job-training funds to turn 18 downtown buildings into brightly colored works of art.

The director, Normaj Broussard, said a total of about \$150,000 has been spent on the program, but she said the benefit is immeasurable.

"How do you measure your town looking 100 percent better?" she said.

There have been three main themes, all harkening back to the bicentennial origins of the program: U.S. history, Port Arthur history and a reflection of the city's ethnic mix.

The Keyhole Club, for instance, features the Statue of Liberty and a Civil War scene. Another building features George Washington and the U.S. Constitution. Still another bears an artist's idea of the American Eagle.

Port Arthur's history is reflected in a mural showing shrimp boats, bait houses and refineries and one underway on the Hampton Building will depict the Kansas City Southern Railroad station.

"A lot of people were upset when the old KCS station was torn down

because it was historical," Broussard said. "We'll show a train coming in. It won't be quite life-size because the building's not big enough, but it'll be big."

And, for ethnic background, there are murals showing Cajuns, Indians, Mexicans, the English, Blacks — and, conspicuously, the Arab, an increasingly prominent figure in American history.

Broussard said some of the murals were individualized by the needs or requests of the owners of the buildings used. Since they often paid for the paint, they often got what they wanted.

An Arab named Khilil Dabit owns the Soul Man's Shop.

"We also took a little artistic license with the Robert E. Lee,"

Broussard said. "The Robert E. Lee didn't come here, but the man who owns the building is a descendant of Robert E. Lee and is named Robert E. Lee."

On a sewing shop owned by two black women, black heroine Phillis Wheatley sews an American flag and Abraham Lincoln is silhouetted in black.

City Manager George Dibrell said city officials have decided to discontinue the murals Sept. 30 when the latest Comprehensive Employment Training Act funding expires.

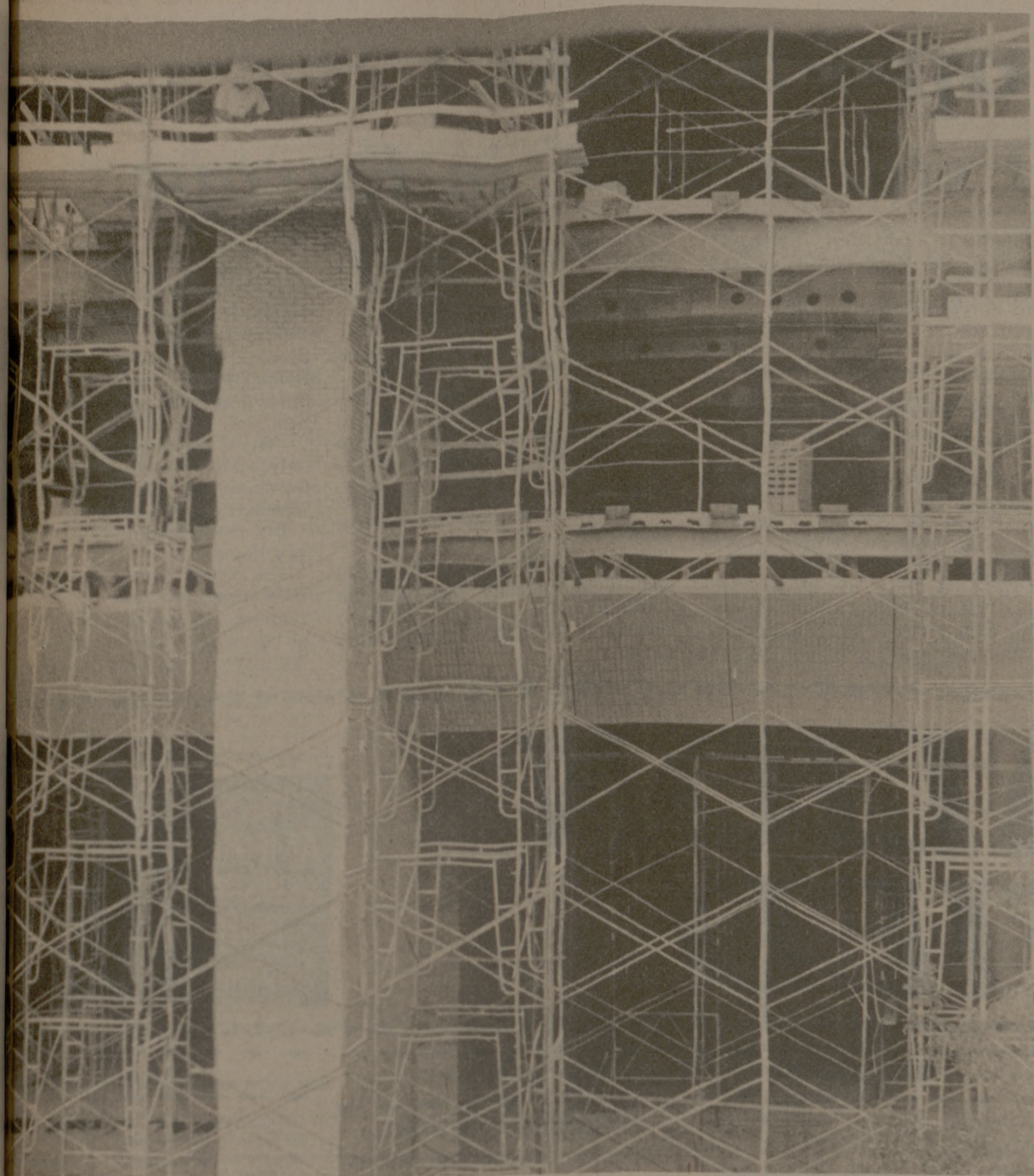
"We don't want to over-muralize," Dibrell said. "We've got some nice ones and if you do too many sometimes you lose the impact."

Business seminar set today

Four mini-seminars and a demonstration talk on the interviewing process will be featured at the College of Business Administration's career seminar tonight.

Dick Drewelowe, a staff recruiter for Shell Oil, will speak in the Rudder Theater at 7 p.m. Interviewing kits will be performed.

Following that gathering, the audience will attend meetings on accounting, finance, management and marketing.



Some sites deserve a second look

At first glance, the library expansion construction may seem a bit shaky, but it is an illusion, not faulty engineering. Photographer Liz Newlin caught this angle of the library

through a second-story classroom window in the Animal Science Building. The effect is caused by imperfections in the glass.

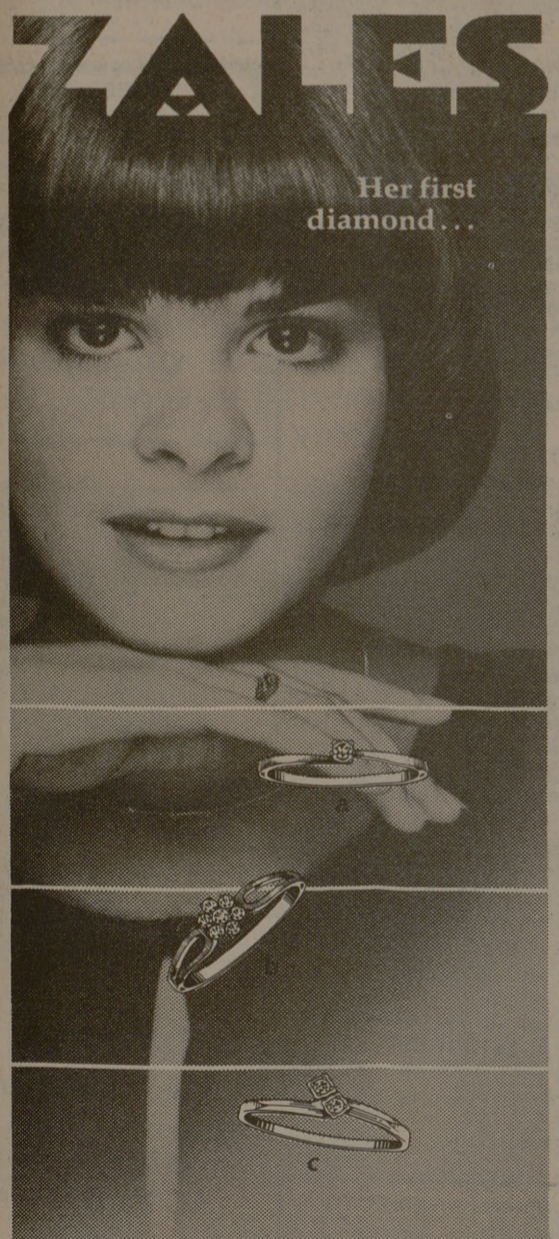
Emission device removal illegal

United Press International
NEW YORK — Many motorists still feel they can get better performance and gasoline mileage if they alter the car's emission control system.

However, the Automotive Information Council recommends no alterations for several reasons.

First of all, it's illegal. All automobile service and repair facilities — not just car dealerships — now are prohibited by Federal law from knowingly tampering with a car's emission controls.

An independent repair facility could be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500, and a car dealership of up to \$10,000. The Federal law doesn't prohibit car owners from tampering with the emission controls, but many states do have such laws.

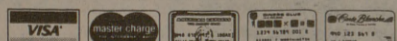


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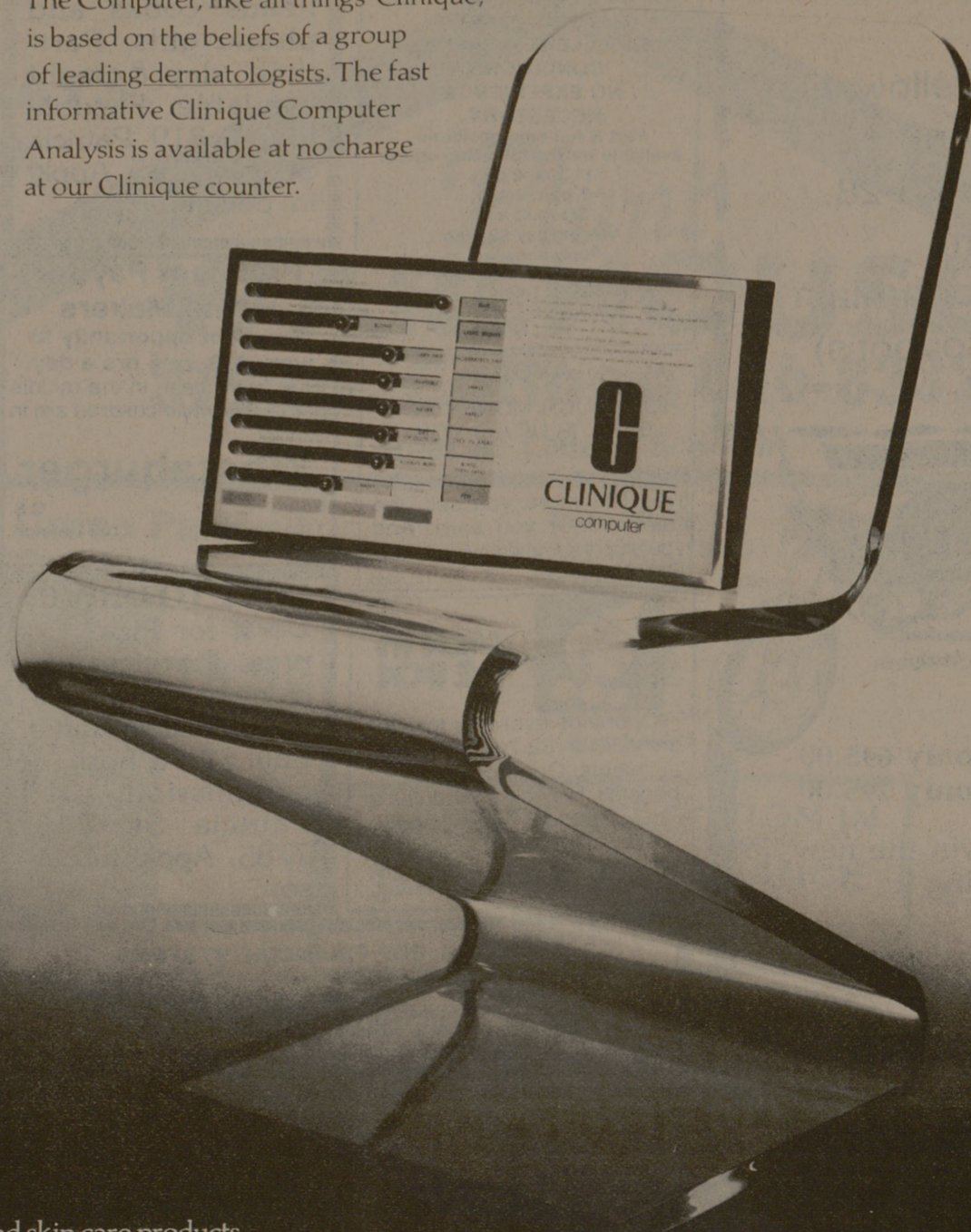
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