

# THE BATTALION

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Ronnie is comin'

● Ronald Reagan is one of the speakers approved for this year's SCONA. For other speakers, see page 7.

● Now researchers think alcohol — among other things — causes cancer. See page 10 for the sobering report.

## Staff, students say center is \$5.9 million problem

Editor's note: some of the professors and students quoted in this story remain anonymous because they asked to be. They felt their careers would be in jeopardy in their names were used. This is the first of a two-part story, the second part will appear in Thursday's Battalion.

By MARILYN FAULKENBERRY  
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University's \$6.9 million Langford Architecture Center has problems.

The center's \$5.9 million main building leaks, is noisy and has cracks appearing at its joints. It affords privacy only to staff members and the air conditioning system has not worked properly since the building was completed two years ago.

The building was designed to be energy-efficient: The windows may be opened to a cooling breeze created by the building's design; skylights let in light and let warm air rise out.

Dean of Architecture Raymond D. Reed says the building's design creates a high pressure area on the south side and a low pressure area on the north side, so that when the windows are opened a draft passes through the building.

Architects in the department say the design works.

They know. During the first few months the building was used in the summer of 1977, the air conditioning was not working, so the natural ventilation was used.

David G. Woodcock, architecture department head, describes the building as "livable, but not too pleasant in this climate."

Windows in the building are exposed to the winter sun but not the summer sun, to aid in heating and cooling, Reed says. The building can be used "in normal daylight hours" without any additional lighting, Reed says, but students disagree.

Jerry Reesby, a senior in landscape architecture, expressed views similar to those given by all students interviewed. She says it would be possible to work directly under the windows, but not farther in, where it is difficult to see for detail drawing.

"You'd go blind," she says.

But the energy designs are not in use now.

"We like to have them (these designs) in case we ever need them, in case energy ever has to be curtailed during certain times of the year," Reed says.

The building is composed of concrete panels that give it strength and design. Reed says it was constructed like "a giant erector set," with a crane lifting the panels piece by piece.

The interior of the building is an open design, with undergraduate workshops and faculty offices open to the center. Acoustics in the building are a major problem because the interior is made of the same pre-cast concrete blocks as the exterior. Without any materials to absorb the sound, "it literally bounces around," one

professor says.

Another professor says, "You have to put a finger in one ear to talk on the phone. It is impossible to concentrate or to be heard in the larger classrooms when two teachers are conducting class."

The Board of Regents allocated \$100,000 at their September meeting for carpet and other materials to help reduce the noise level. Architecture faculty and staff members say they anticipated the acoustical problem and made suggestions to the board when they saw preliminary sketches several years ago. The board chose not to act on the problems at that time, they say.

Howard L. Vestal, University vice-president for business affairs, says the budget was "short" when the building was erected. He says the board did not want to spend money for acoustics until they knew it was necessary.

The open design of the building also creates a privacy problem, professors say. Faculty offices are open to the center of the building and faculty members are not allowed to hang drapes or shades of any type, one professor says. One professor has created a jungle of plants and artwork to create some privacy in his office.

"You never find anyone in his office because there is no way to work in them," a professor says. "It's like being in a goldfish bowl."

Students say they had to "beg" for partitions to divide the largest workshops so they could concentrate. They say the partitions have helped, but say they think it is unfair that graduate students are allowed more partitions and therefore more privacy.

Dean Reed refers to this design as the "open concept."

"It is beneficial because students can look around and observe other disciplines and learn from each other," he says. He also says the unfinished interior that exposes the pillars and joints of the building is educational. Students can look around and see the basic structure of a building, he says.

Some students say they like the "hard architecture" style of the building, but they say they are "too busy to look around and learn."

Other students say they do learn - in reverse.

"We learn what not to do," one student says.

Despite this "open concept," graduate students are in the more secluded west end of the building and are allowed more partitions in their work than undergraduates. Staff members, also at that end of the building, have private offices separated from the rest of the building by glass and doors.

One architecture professor says, "This building was designed like a Paris fashion - to follow a fad." He says it was not designed around people or for their use.



This sign on the Langford Architecture Center, hung in the fall of 1977, voiced an opinion about the building. A year later, other students, graduate students and faculty are complaining about the building — from inadequate air-conditioning to not enough privacy. Today's article is the first of a two-part series. The second half will appear in Thursday's Battalion.

## Hill attempts suit to fight energy act

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Attorney General John Hill is trying to arrange a meeting this week with the attorneys general of Louisiana and Oklahoma to discuss a joint suit challenging major provisions of the new federal energy act.

Hill, the Democratic nominee for governor in the Nov. 7 election, Tuesday said Texas would file suit even if the other producing states do not participate and perhaps would file an individual suit should Oklahoma and Louisiana join.

"Frankly I hope we can proceed together, because it will be a very expensive suit," Hill said.

Hill said he hoped the meeting with the attorneys general could be held Thursday in Dallas, Houston or Austin.

The Texas attorney general said he hopes to file the suit in federal court next week, but conceded there is little prospect for any legal decision on the case before he leaves office at the end of the year.

"I doubt we can accomplish much more during my term of office other than aligning the parties and defining the issues," Hill said.

Hill said he has been considering such action for the past 18 months but Bill Cle-

ments, his Republican opponent in the governor's race, accused Hill of announcing the possible suit as a campaign tactic. Hill plans to challenge the constitutionality of a provision of the new law that gives the federal government authority to regulate the price of natural gas produced and sold within Texas.

"We have never had federal supervision of the pricing of products grown or produced and sold solely within the state and I think that should be ruled on at the Supreme Court level," Hill told a news conference Tuesday.

"There is some uniqueness to the Texas claim that other states do not have," he said, noting Texas had retained title to its public lands when it entered the union. One of the areas Hill expects to challenge is whether prices of natural gas produced from public lands and sold within Texas can be regulated by the federal government.

Oklahoma Gov. David Boren first suggested the prospect of a joint suit by the three states. Boren said he had talked with Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards concerning the federal energy bill and said the three major gas producing states probably will join in filing the suit.

## Two sides of African controversy meet unexpectedly on campus

By LYLE LOVETT  
Battalion Reporter

A South African exile advocating overthrow of his country's current political system had an unscheduled confrontation with a member of that political system Tuesday after a speech in Rudder Tower.

The exile, Dr. Denis Brutus, was scheduled by the MSC Great Issues committee to speak. Gerrie De Jong, a member of the South African Parliament, was in College Station visiting his two daughters, who attend Texas A&M University. De Jong later said that it was purely coincidental that he was in town the same day Brutus was to speak.

In his speech, Brutus said that the 87 percent black majority in South Africa is being oppressed by a small white political regime and that the United States could help remedy the situation by its non-support of American industry in South Africa.

Brutus said the regime derives much of its power from the 539 American corporations operating in South Africa. Through their economic support, he said, the regime is able to continue enforcing the "network of laws which surrounds the black from birth to death," which he cites as the reason for continued white control.

He said restrictions imposed on black South Africans prevent them from exercising human rights: holding elective office, voting, joining trade unions or going on strike.

In a question-and-answer session after the speech, De Jong said that much of what Brutus said was inaccurate. Brutus left South Africa in 1966. De Jong said that progress has been made for black human rights in South Africa since that time.

De Jong said "coloreds" and Indians are now permitted to join labor unions. By 1979, he said, they will have the right to

hold office and to vote. He defined "colored," as westernized or civilized blacks, in contrast to the uneducated, uncivilized tribal blacks.

De Jong said 70 percent of the South African population is still considered to be tribal black, and as a result will not receive representation under the new law.

During his speech, Brutus said that if the situation in South Africa is to change, it will change under the impact of protest, pressure and expression of concern by individuals.

"It will be the people of this country," he said, "who will huo turn the policy around. I don't think that is going to happen until they understand what is happening in South Africa — until they are informed, not only of the realities of the situation there, but of the degree to which institutions in this country are accomplices in the exploitation and oppression in South Africa."

Brutus was once a South African political prisoner, held on Robben's Island, sometimes called Devil's Island, where he said he was forced to reduce a pile of rock to gravel every day. Before leaving the country, he had to sign a document requiring his return to prison if he re-entered South Africa.

He has since served as director of the World Campaign for Release of South African Political Prisoners. And as president of the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee, he was largely responsible for South Africa's exclusion from the 1972 Olympics due to South African racial policies.

Brutus is now professor of Afro-American literature at Northwestern University near Chicago and is trying to make Americans aware of the South African political situation.

Detailing treatment of non-whites in his

country, he said South African blacks are permitted neither elective office nor voting, and it is illegal for a black to belong to a registered trade union. They can, however, belong to an unregistered trade union, which he said has no status in South African law and does the members no good.

A black laborer can be imprisoned for going on strike or even talking about striking, he said; if a black is found to be unemployed, he is forced to leave the city.

Another criminal offense for which non-whites can be sent to prison is failure to produce a "book of life," he said; it contains one's computer number and must be produced upon demand.

He said South African law also provides that cities are to be "white by night" — all blacks must be off the streets by 9 p.m.

Brutus said that since the 1906 beginning of the Union of South Africa, conflicts between whites and blacks have escalated. The latest problems has been going on since 1967 and will continue until blacks finally win.

"So when we talk of a war of liberation," he said, "this is not civil rights, not people sitting in a Woolworth's cafeteria. This is not even people struggling for the right to vote. This is a struggle of people for the seizure of power — a struggle for the achievement of majority rule."

He said during his speech that the existing government can delay but not prevent the eventual seizure of power by the country's black majority.

"It can be most seriously delayed,

and that delay will entail so much more hardship and destruction and death — on both sides — that if there is one thing that we would ask the American people it would be to help us to insure that that conflict is as brief as possible and involves a minimum of hardship, death and destruction. That is our message to you. That is our appeal.

"Because," he said, "this country, perhaps more than any other in the world, can make a significant contribution either way. You can either make our struggle longer and harder and bloodier or you can make it short and crisp and clean and ultimately just."

"And we would, you know, like to see the United States on the side of justice and this time on the winning side. Maybe this time you'll pick a winner. It would be a nice change."

De Jong, a member of the party in opposition to the current government, called for evolution without revolution and charged Brutus with inciting revolution. De Jong said that progress with regard to black human rights will come but it will come slowly.

"The mistakes of our grandfathers can't be wiped out overnight," he said. "I've seen more racial hatred right here in Texas than at home."

Brutus, ending the presentation, said, "People have already died and are dying now. More are willing to do so if the end is to achieve a society where we can run our own lives."

## One-alarm fire burns local home

A one-alarm fire gutted the home of a north Bryan resident Tuesday evening. No one was injured.

Capt. Marvin Jeske of the Bryan Fire Department said late Tuesday that the small, one-bedroom house at 3607 W. 28th St. was reported ablaze at 5:49 p.m. The fire was brought under control about 15 minutes later.

Immediate reports indicated that the owner of the house, Dorothy Adams, was not inside when the fire started.

Jeske said preliminary investigation showed the cause to have been an electric heater. No account of actual losses has yet been made.

## Pressure, positive action keys to success, woman editor says

By DIANE BLAKE  
Battalion Staff

Women must take positive action if they are ever to be taken seriously by the news media, an editor of a Houston feminist newspaper said Tuesday.

Janice Blue, editor of Houston Breakthrough, discussed the portrayal of women in the media in a speech sponsored by Phi Delta Gamma, a women's professional honorary society.

Blue said women must continue pressuring newspapers to give women's news the front-page coverage it deserves.

The editor said she started the newspaper in Houston three years ago for many reasons, but I found there were two obvious ones: one was the Houston Post and the other was the Houston Chronicle.

She said that lack of coverage of women's news was also the reason newspapers such as Big Mama Rag in Denver, Off Our Backs in Washington, D.C., and Majority Report in New York were started.

"Some progress has been made in the last 10 years, but it has only been superficial," Blue said. News is still being "ghettoized" in women's sections, euphemistically called Style, Lifestyle, Today and Focus, she said.

She quoted a lifestyle writer as saying the women's sections are the "dumping ground for anything the male editors consider a women's story. So we get all the serious news stories about the ERA, rape law changes, back-pay lawsuits and so forth back among the girldle ads instead of

on page one or two or three, where they belong."

"The whole problem that we've had has been getting women into section one," Blue said.

"I frankly don't know how we can get a good image of ourselves as people in the community by what we read in the newspapers," she said.

Blue said that the adjectives used to describe women in news stories are demeaning. Women are referred to as a "divorced mother of three" or a "petite housewife." The editor read an excerpt from the Austin American-Statesman describing Barbara Jordan as "that chunky forceful black from Houston's fifth ward."

(Please turn to page 3.)



Needed: one dictionary

Don't "pak" on Joe Routt Boulevard between Wofford Cain Hall and the Memorial Student Center where this curb sign is painted. The student who does will probably still get a "tickert."

Battalion photo by Martha Hollida