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Texas inmates still striking

• A few of the inmates in Huntsville continue their strike against the system, but one official says prison life should be back to normal by next week. See page 5.

Architecture Center: Construction problems

Editor's note: Some of the professors and students quoted in this story are anonymous because they asked to be; they say their careers would be in jeopardy if their names were used. This is the last part of a two-part series.

By MARILYN FAULKENBERRY
Battalion Staff

The \$5.9 million main building of the Langford Architecture Center, besides having acoustical problems and a questionable design, has been plagued with construction problems.

Completed in 1977, the building leaks and cracks are appearing where the joint of the building meet. Places where the joints have been patched are visible.

"Every building has leaks until it works itself out," said Raymond D. Reed, dean of architecture. "I think it's possible to do better, but it's normal not to."

Paul W. Stephens, acting director of the Texas A&M University System Facilities Department, said new buildings always have problems that need to be worked out and that leaking is not unusual.

However, University Vice-President for Business Affairs Howard L. Vestal said he was not aware the building leaked and that new buildings should not leak.

"I disagree with Reed and Stephens if it's what they said and I'll have to ask them about this," he said.

Neville Dobie, chief project analyst for the Facilities Planning and Construction Division of the State Board of Control, said, "Buildings that leak have leaks in the roof, walls or in the joints in the interior."

He said that University construction is regulated by the Board of Control but the Facilities Division of the University is a champion.

Dobie said leaking is not accepted in public building construction that is regulated by the Board and if leakage started before acceptance, the roofer would be responsible under warranty for repairs for not less than five years.

Vestal said buildings on campus also have been under roofer's warranties.

There is some disagreement as to the seriousness of the cracks in the building. Dobie said the cracks are "purely cosmetic."

"If there was anything structurally wrong with this building I wouldn't be in here," he said.

However, one architecture staff member said, "This building is technically badly put together. You can judge a building by its joints — a good building has good joints." He said some of the cracks are caused by inferior construction and some are inherent in the building's design.

The concrete panels in the building are joined by a pliable material, and Dobie said cracks in precast concrete construction are usually caused by joints that are too thin, not allowing enough room for expansion and contraction with weather and with the clay in the soil.

"They will grind themselves to pieces until they create enough space to move," Dobie said.

"It is impossible to make a building stout enough to withstand all the forces of nature," he said. "It is very costly and you must compromise between the amount of cracking and weathering you will tolerate and the cost of preventative measures."

Students say the building's east steps are another design problem — they say they seldom use the steps to the building because they are too steep. One professor said actually the stairs are so steep that they violate the national stair code and that if someone slipped and hurt himself, someone may be liable.

James Bond, General Counsel for the University System, said it is "purely speculative" whether or not the University would be liable in such a case. He said the injured party would have to prove negligence on someone's part.

The air conditioning in the building is another problem. It is still being controlled manually, said a mechanical engineering professor who researched the system.

He said the system could be efficient if the control system was working properly.

He researched the system for Drew Woods, the contractor on the job, and found it was installed according to specifications, he said.

"It's the specifications that are inadequate," the professor said.

He also audited the air conditioning system in the Oceanography and Meteorology Building as part of a funded research project and found the same condition there, he said.

The professor, who said he once worked in the Facilities Construction Division, said construction problems, especially with air conditioning systems, are "administrative" because the specifications

set down by the University are inadequate.

"If the administration wanted to save energy, we would save energy," he said. He said too few of the architects' designs submitted are actually questioned by Facilities for inefficiency; in that way, some inefficient designs are simply passed by.

Vice President Vestal said when a new building is begun, the Physical Plant writes a program of requirements in keeping with University policies. A project coordinator who knows the basic requirements for the building advises the Physical Plant staff, he said.

He said this program of requirements is taken to the Board of Regents for approval or disapproval.

When approved, Stephens prepares a list of potential architects, usually three, Vestal said. Then the Board of Regents Planning and Building Committee either selects one of Stephens' choices or selects one of its own. Vestal said, "They usually go with one of Stephens' choices."

The architect is given the University's program of requirements and he then submits a preliminary design to the board for approval or disapproval, Vestal said.

He said that in the last step, the Board of Regents takes bids on the job and awards the contract.

Stephens said the Facilities Construction Division is responsible for quality control in new buildings. It employs inspectors who are responsible for seeing that specifications are met.

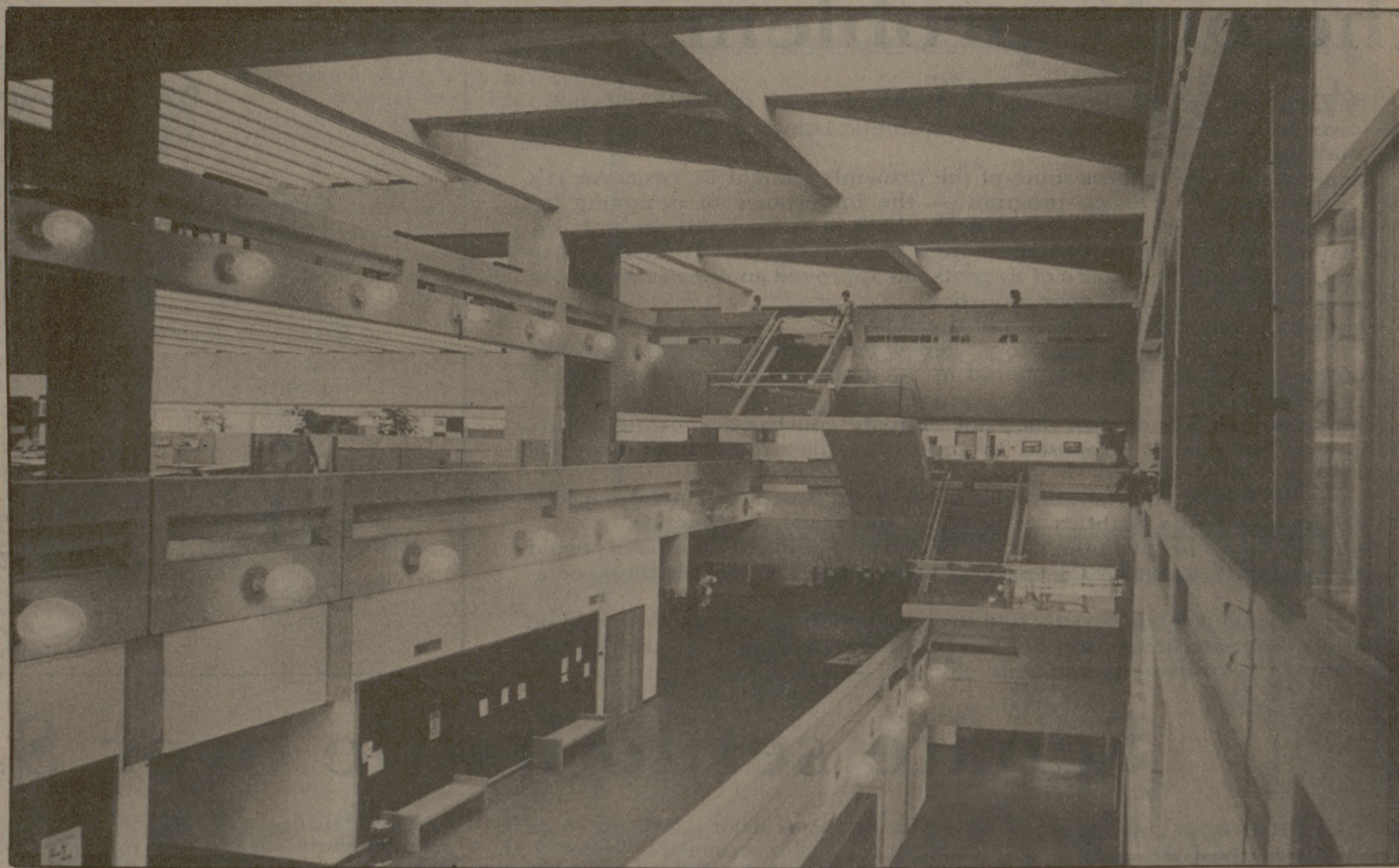
He said he does not think construction problems on campus are caused by "negligence or willfulness" on anyone's part.

He said air conditioning problems are "inherent in the business of construction."

Major reworking will have to be done on the air conditioning systems in the Oceanography and Meteorology Building, Rudder Tower, Zachry Engineering Center and the new Soil and Crop Sciences and Entomology Building, said Gerald Scott, manager of engineering and design for Facilities.

Dobie said larger buildings require more complex air conditioning systems.

"Problems can arise if they don't pay enough for competent people to maintain those complicated systems," he said. "The more large buildings you have, the more likely you are to have problems."



This is the interior of the Langford Architecture Center. The Texas A&M chapter of the Association of Student Chapters of the American Institute is sponsoring a "Beautification of Spaces" design contest for remodeling of spaces within the buildings, says David Applebaum, secretary for the organization. He says the contest is open to anyone. Entries can include use of paintings, cultures and tapes-

tries — "anything that will make the spaces in the building more appealing." Entries will be judged by a jury of faculty, University staff and students. The winning designs will be submitted to the Board of Regents in hope that some of the ideas will be approved and implemented, he says. "That's the tricky part," Applebaum says.

Battalion photo by Ed Cunniss

Tower says campaign embarrasses Krueger

Despite his stated intention to "stick to the issues", incumbent Senatorial candidate John Tower spent a good portion of his brief Brazos County campaign stop at Easterwood Airport Wednesday explaining recent non-issue confrontations with opponent Bob Krueger.

During a 20-minute press conference, Tower was asked to comment on the Senatorial race that has become one of the hottest mud-slinging campaigns in the elections.

Bob Krueger is "obviously embarrassed by having attention called to the fact that he is conducting a scurrilous personal campaign," Tower said.

He referred specifically to a Houston Press Club luncheon Tuesday where he and Krueger were speakers.

A newsmen at the luncheon questioned Krueger about a letter mailed by his campaign workers that suggested Tower was a womanizer and liked to drink.

Krueger said he had no way to prove the allegations were true, but when questioned again, he said, "Let's move on to the next question."

Tower told the small gathering of local Republicans present that Krueger "refuses to talk about the issues and that his campaign is largely based on personal attack and the use of deception and misrepresentation."

Tower canceled four television debates between the two candidates, saying that Krueger has lowered the tenor of the entire campaign and that he would not help him spread his "gutter politics".



Senator John Tower

When asked if the debates would have been just the tool needed to define issues instead of personalities, Tower said "it would have depended on how the debates were structured."

A favorable note for Tower's campaign came Monday when a report issued by the committee investigating the Koreagate incident said Tower is free of any entanglements with Korean businessman Tongsun Park. The report probably "impacted favorably" on his campaign, Tower said, "because the committee also said that I had been very cooperative."

Park, an unregistered agent of the Korean government, had testified that Tower or someone acting in his behalf had requested a contribution for the senator's 1972 campaign.

Compromise in Brazos County reapportionment plan lawsuit

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

Plaintiffs and defendants in a suit seeking to prevent the Nov. 7 Brazos County general election reached a compromise in federal court in Houston Wednesday.

The election will proceed as scheduled, but the votes for Precincts 3 and 4, Commercial Court and for Precinct 4, Place Justice of the Peace won't be canvassed, and those elections won't be certified until the suit is settled.

The suit challenges the validity of a reapportionment plan for Brazos County's four Commissioners Court precincts.

The suit was filed in August by three local Mexican-Americans. They charged that the reapportionment plan diluted the

vote of the minority population.

The suit named the Commissioners Court and other county officials as defendants and sought to bar the November election.

In the agreement "both sides come out winning," Joaquin Avila, the plaintiffs' lawyer, said at a Wednesday press conference in Bryan.

Avila, who works for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), said the agreement is typical of those arrived at in similar lawsuits.

The ultimate goal of the plaintiffs is a redistricting of Brazos County to create a precinct that is predominantly minority, meaning black and Mexican-American, Avila said.

In order to achieve this, Avila said, the minority and university populations would have to be in separate precincts.

Avila brought a possible re-districting plan to Bryan to show his plaintiffs. After getting their opinions, he will draw up a final plan to present to the Commissioners Court.

Avila said if the county is willing to negotiate, the litigation could be finished within six months. If not, Avila said, it could go on for one or two years.

"Our organization is committed to this lawsuit," Avila said, referring to MALDEF. The organization has the resources and experience to stick with the suit, he said.

If the plaintiffs win their suit, the elections must be held again.

Campus-wide recycling effort wasted

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

Wasted days and wasted nights seem to be the only result of efforts to begin a campus-wide waste recycling program.

Tom Brosnan, head of the Texas A&M energy conservation and awareness committee, said the group included a few energy tips in the Off-Campus Students Association newsletter last year, but never got a recycling program off the ground.

"The student government never showed much response or support," Brosnan said. It was toward the end of the year and they weren't very interested in getting a recycling program started then."

Brosnan said he called a meeting to begin a program, but no one came.

Although there is no organized recycling effort campus-wide, there are a few scattered efforts to reuse waste in the Bryan-College Station area.

The Oceanographic Graduate Student Council recycles computer paper from various computer centers on campus.

The organization gets about a ton of paper a week and stores it until about 10,000 pounds accumulate. The Golden Triangle Paper Co. in Beaumont picks it up and pays \$2 for 100 pounds of computer paper and \$3.25 for 100 pounds of computer cards.

The council makes about \$200 every six weeks, said Tony O'Brien, the club's treasurer.

The profits are used to finance OGC students' travel to conferences, some research and parties, said club member Sue Schaffler.

Dr. C.R. Benedict, professor of plant physiology, is also involved in a recycling program. He has been recycling cotton gin waste to produce hydrogen.

Benedict uses photosynthetic bacteria and prefers this method over other cotton waste recycling programs.

"Other people burn the waste to produce electricity, but I think this method is more efficient," he said.

Another teacher on campus recycles a different way. Carlson Yost, an English instructor, takes a plastic bag when he walks with his family and picks up cans.

He and his two sons pick up the cans to clean up the area and to finance the boys' book purchases and bowling. They were also curious about what kinds and how many cans were thrown down. Yost said Dr. Pepper cans were most frequently found on campus.

The most they picked up in one trip, two big bags, was when the Aggies were waiting for tickets to the Houston football game. "They were throwing cans all over the place," he said.

Yost had a warning for others who might want to start picking up cans.

"Ants are murder sometimes," he said. "The ants'll really get you."

The Twin City Mission Inc. in Bryan recycles corrugated and mixed paper. Mixed paper is office and typing paper — anything but newsprint.

The Rev. Warren Barnes, director of the mission, said it stopped accepting newsprint last January because the price dropped so low that it wasn't profitable.

The mission sells about 240 tons of corrugated and mixed paper every six weeks, sending it on boxcars to two recycling plants in Oklahoma.

Twin City Mission gets \$30 a ton for both corrugated and mixed paper.

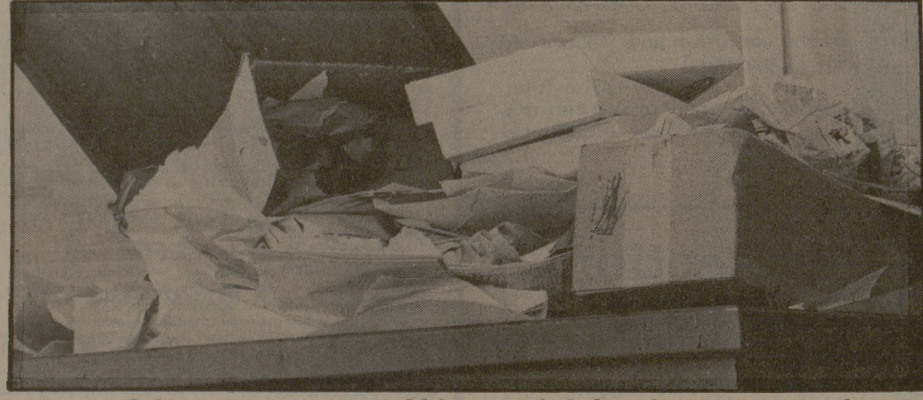
It also collects about 20 tons of rags every seven weeks, Barnes said. United Waste Material in Dallas pays it 4 cents a pound for the rags.

The mission has several drop boxes in supermarket and church parking lots in the area where citizens can deposit paper or rags.

Mission workers also pick up paper from local furniture stores and supermarkets, Barnes said.

"We recycle clothing, too," the director said. "People donate clothes and we give them to families whose houses have burned or who cannot afford to buy clothing."

"We sell some of the clothes at our store. The clothes are very inexpensive, like 30 cents," he said.



Some of these newspapers could be recycled, but there is no recycling facility in the Bryan-College Station area. Attempts to start a campus-wide recycling program at Texas A&M University have been unsuccessful. However, other universities have made some progress. Please turn to page 7 for more information of Rice and the University of Houston's programs.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

(Please turn to page 7.)

Weekend...

Baylor tickets still available

Baylor University has returned 1,500 tickets to Texas A&M University for Saturday's game between the two schools. The tickets went on sale at 8 a.m. today for non-student seating only. If any are left, they are available at Ticket Window 7 of G. Rolie White Coliseum.

Kevin Patterson, student senate vice-president for student services, made the announcement at Wednesday's senate meeting.

Senators also learned that Texas A&M's football games with Southern Methodist University and the University of Arkansas will be televised.

No 'Star Wars' at Aggie Cinema

The farce, not the force, will be with Aggie Cinema this weekend, despite advertisements to the contrary.

Much to the surprise of Aggie Cinema members, unauthorized ads appeared all over campus Wednesday advertising that Aggie Cinema will show "Star Wars" this Saturday.

Don Rohel, the adviser to Aggie Cinema, said the signs were apparently someone's idea of a joke.

Rohel has no idea who's behind the hoax. He said the signs were apparently reproduced on a photocopying machine.

Aggie Cinema will be presenting "The Return of the Pink Panther" and "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" Saturday as scheduled.

Atlanta Rhythm Section coming

The Atlanta Rhythm Section is still coming Friday, says James Randolph, student program coordinator and adviser for the Town Hall Committee.

The group had canceled performances in Waco, Houston and Wichita Falls because the drummer is sick and has been in the hospital.

But they will still perform in Aggieland, so hang on to tickets; the concert is sold out.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. Friday in G. Rolie White Coliseum.