

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Mount Aggie claims another victim

A member of a physical education snow skiing class executes a perfect four-point landing after losing his balance on Mount Aggie east of

Kyle Field. The astroturf, coated with silicone and water, is used to simulate snow skiing conditions in generally snowless College Station.

Court grounds balloons

United Press International
ST. LOUIS — Faced with a court order obtained by the Federal Aviation Administration, Herman Bluestone says he won't be flying his balloons for a while.

Bluestone and his neighbors in the Ramona Hills subdivision planned to send aloft up to 15 weather balloons on 450-foot nylon cables in protest against low-flying airplanes at Lambert Field.

The subdivision is directly under one of the airport's flight paths, and Bluestone said about 77 planes pass 200 feet overhead hourly, rattling houses and making conversation impossible.

"Some of my neighbors are losing their hearing, others are highly nervous," Bluestone said. "They've reached a breaking point. I don't know what they're liable to do."

The FAA said the balloons could cause a plane to crash, and the agency received a temporary injunction from a U.S. District Court against the protest. Bluestone and his neighbors were ordered to appear in court Nov. 13.

Bluestone flew one of the yellow-and-red balloons at a height of about 50 feet Thursday, but reeled it in when he learned of the court order.

"It's a standoff right now," Bluestone said. "We're sitting back contemplating our next move. But we don't plan to fly the balloons. We're law-abiding citizens."

Bluestone said the airport should change the flight patterns, or buy the 100 or so homes in the subdivision. He estimated that would cost about \$1.5 million.

"They're talking about doubling the traffic from 77 planes an hour to 120," said Bluestone. "I would relinquish my property to get something quieter."

"We can't live under the threat of such heavy traffic," he said. "You have a mechanical thing flying overhead, plus you have the human error. You can't guarantee those things are going to stay up."

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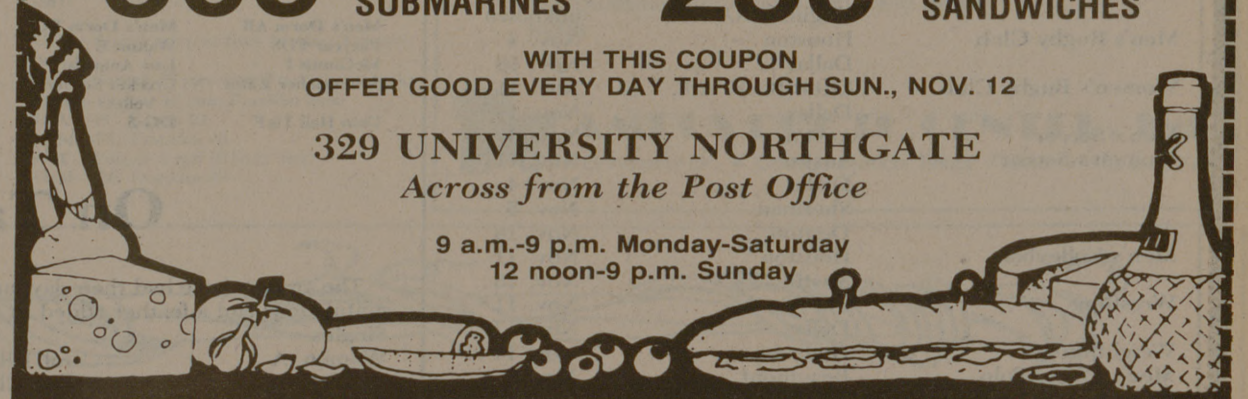
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Unusual-looking buildings help lure customers inside

United Press International
TOWSON, Md. — Sydney Lewis admits he was gambling when he thought the public would like a New York architect's penchant for the absurd.

The public did like it. As a result, the new Towson store of Best Product Inc., of which Lewis is board chairman, is a building people don't forget.

Site Inc., a New York-based experimental architecture and environmental arts organization, proposed tilting the brick front of the store at a 45-degree angle.

Lewis and his wife Frances, an executive vice president of Best, shrugged and asked, "Why not?"

The facade on the store looks as though someone lifted the right side of the building from the base foundation. The result — a canopy effect that exposes smoked glass show-window windows — so far has done an excellent job of luring puzzled and curious shoppers inside.

Mrs. Lewis said facelifts at three other Best stores designed by Site have improved business tremendously. She said the idea to have Site's 12 architects improve on the traditional four-sided box was a matter of "Well, why not?"

"We wanted a building people would remember," she said. "Most buildings are so boring. But you'll never forget our stores. They've become landmarks."

Emilio Sousa, one of the four

partners of Site, said the tilt design for the Eudowood Plaza building in Towson was an attempt to get away from the boxy, warehouse-type structure that dots most major shopping centers throughout the country.

"We're involved with public art," Sousa said. "It is the fusion of art and architecture that concerns us. We want people to stop counting the cracks on the sidewalk and look up."

Site's three other Best stores are scattered across the country, each making its own statement on "the fusion of art and architecture."

They include a Richmond, Va., store that has a facade which looks like the brick outer wall has peeled away from a concrete backdrop; a Sacramento, Calif., store that has a corner piece pulled from its base; and a Houston store that looks as though the front wall is collapsing.

Another project designed by the firm — a "ghost" parking lot in Hamden, Conn. — spooked shoppers as they gaped at the spooky images of cars sprouting up from the asphalt lot.

The designs have been called "punk art," but the architects protest that description, saying they have created a new form of architectural expression.

Sousa admitted that the unique storefronts, which cost 4 to 10 percent more than the traditional prototype, are "something that has to

grow on you."

He declined to comment on the cost of the Best store in Towson.

Referring to the tilt building, Sousa said, "We wanted to show them the goodies inside and we did that by taking the front corner of the building and lifting it up to see what's inside. The effect is a canopy."

James Wines, project concept coordinator, said Site's architects were "starving for eight years" before their idea of "inversion symbolism" caught on.

He said the architects explore to find ways to make buildings "not what they seem."

Living with the law

I have a friend who has lived with his girlfriend for several months. He thinks that unless they live together for three years, there can be no common law marriage. Is that right?

Not necessarily. There is no time limit to establish marriage. The essential elements of a common-law marriage are an agreement presently to become man and wife, a living together pursuant to the agreement as husband and wife, and a holding out of each other to the public as husband and wife.

Editor's note: This column is provided by the students' legal advisers as a service to Battalion readers. Answers are general and should not replace the personal advice of an attorney. Questions for this column can be addressed to the students' legal advisers in Room 306, YMCA Building.

Most newspapers pick Hill over Clements

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— Austin American Statesman

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