

Metal mass costs thousands

Houston art five stories high

United Press International
HOUSTON — It rises 55 feet above the plaza in front of the tallest building in the Southwest and nobody knows what it is, other than an angular red, black, blue and yellow stack of metal.

Nobody knows, that is, except Spanish sculptor Joan (Juan) Miro and the purchasers who paid \$800,000 to give Houstonians something to talk about besides the heat, the rain and the traffic.

"I think we should get the Humanitarian Award of the

Year for cleaning up all the junkyards in town," said pedestrian Don Faith, an accountant with United Gas Pipeline Co.

The sculpture entitled "Personage and Birds" was commissioned by United Energy Resources Inc., Texas Commerce Bancshares Inc., and Gerald Hines Interests Inc. — developers and operators of the 75-story, gray granite spire Texas Commerce Tower.

Marvin Brown, spokesman for United Energy Resources, said: "It's something everyone notices and everyone has a com-

ment about. It certainly evokes emotional responses."

One attorney, as he hastily walked into the office building, said: "I can't believe anyone would waste money on something like that. It looks like something a kid would play on."

Not everyone had bad things to say about the free-standing sculpture.

Melanie Trudeau of United Energy said: "I just love it. I find it childlike, whimsical and definitely not depressing. It really doesn't match the building or surroundings, but it plays against the sober look of downtown. It's very revolutionary."

The sculpture, dedicated Tuesday, stands in front of the building amid large newly

planted oak trees in a spacious plaza. It is the largest, most colorful sculpture downtown.

Lainie Fink, spokeswoman for the Music of Fine Arts, called the sculpture exciting.

"It may spur other companies to commission other art," she said. "People notice art and learn about it."



Staff photo by Eric...

Spring is here

Jim Charles, a junior marketing major from Round Rock, enjoys the sun by getting out his skateboard after its winter hibernation. Charles was skateboarding in the Corps Quadrangle.

Lawyer sues family, others charging looting of estate

United Press International
DALLAS — A Dallas attorney has filed a \$5 million lawsuit against his mother, two sisters

and five others, including an attorney being tried for extortion, charging them with looting his father's estate.

Marvin G. Kramer said the suit was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Dallas, but he said the defendants "played games" when he tried to serve them with civil citations through the mail. So he came to Jacksonville to personally see they got the documents.

Named as defendants were Kramer's mother, Miriam; his sisters, Brenda Leritman and Arlene Kramer; Leritman's husband, Alvin; attorneys Harold Haimowitz, Lonnie Wurn and Frederick Lenczyk; and accountant Ben Hoffenberg.

The suit charges the defendants with stealing as much as \$1.5 million from the estate of Kramer's father, president of the Food Fair Supermarket chain until his death in July 1975.

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Texas reactor report 'flawed,' official says

United Press International
HOUSTON — A report describing major engineering defects at the South Texas Nuclear Project was flawed by conclusions without supporting facts, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. official said Tuesday.

Jerome Goldberg, HL&P's vice president for nuclear engineering, said he found fault with the Quadrex Report, but admitted he hired Quadrex Co. to do another review of engineering for the proposed Allens Creek nuclear plant.

"Practice makes perfect," Goldberg said at a Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing hearing.

Goldberg explained that the review of the South Texas Pro-

ject gave Quadrex experience that no one else had for this kind of study. And, although nothing was fundamentally wrong with Quadrex as a consultant, the company was given insufficient time to carry out the study. Therefore, conclusions were made in the report without proper background, he said.

In the report, Quadrex had blasted Brown & Root Co., the former engineer and contractor on the project. But the engineer at Allens Creek, Ebasco Services Inc., "meets or exceeds industry standards," Quadrex had reported.

The NRC hearing was held to determine what steps HL&P had taken to assure that problems described in the report do

not occur at Allens Creek of Houston.

To prevent problems, Goldberg said, HL&P has developed a unique computer tracking system that quickly will provide sign engineers with all criteria and regulations that portion of a nuclear plant must meet.

"It's so good, I'm embarrassed to tell you about it," Goldberg said. "In fact, it's so good, Bechtel Power Corp. has agreed to use the HL&P system to build the South Texas reactor."

Bechtel was hired to prepare Brown & Root as the design engineer at the project near City.

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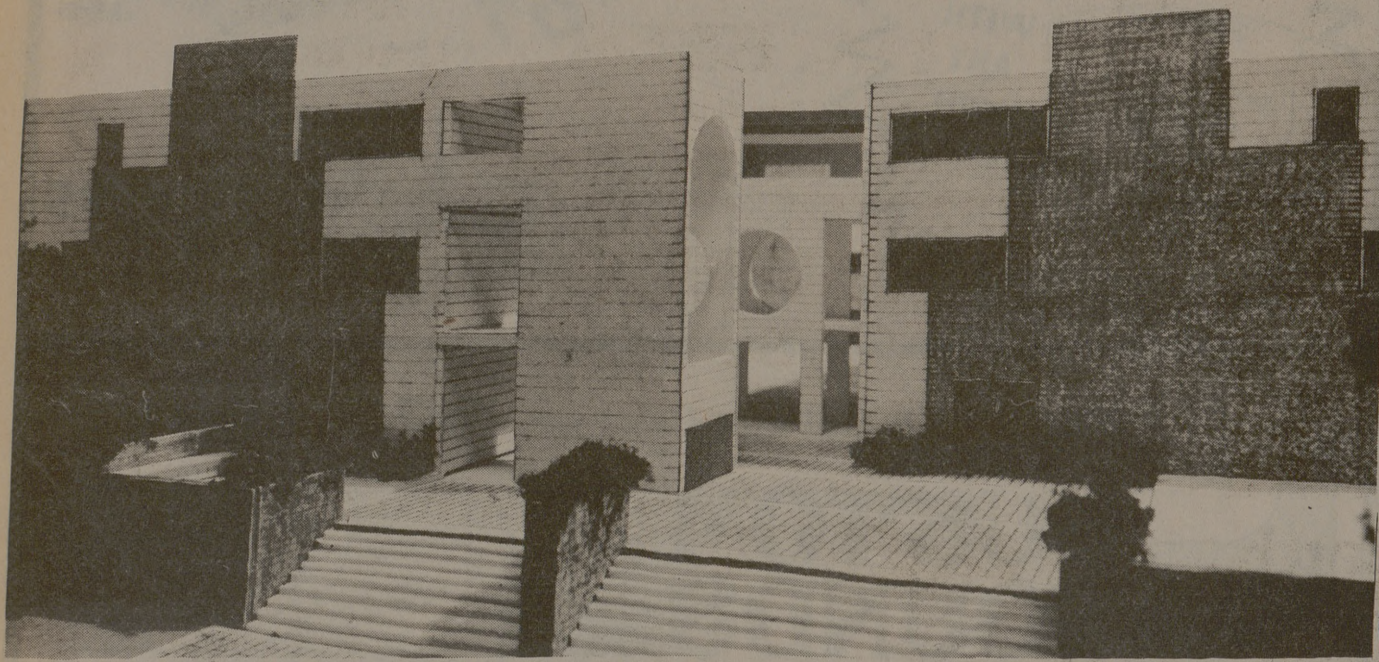
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