

TDC quotas fail; prisons crowded

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE — The Texas Department of Corrections is under a federal judge's order to give a minimum amount of space per inmate and, despite imposing quotas from May to July and recently adding new prison space, it is brushing the ceiling again.

Gov. William P. Clements Jr. wrote corrections officials Sept. 23 that he is committed to ensuring that the prisons stay open and said of proposed quotas that "such an action must not be taken."

TDC spokesman Rick Hartley said Tuesday the system has room for about 1,400 more inmates before it again reaches court-imposed limits on space per inmate. The prison population is growing at the rate of 800 inmates a month.

The TDC population topped 35,000 last week, 2,000

inmates more than on May 10 when TDC temporarily closed its doors after finding itself unable to comply with U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice's overcrowding order.

Quotas for the 16 most populous counties were imposed on May 17 and lifted July 27.

But T. Louis Austin of Dallas, chairman of the Texas Board of Corrections, said Monday the board is prepared to reimpose the inmate limitations to control population growth.

Austin said the board does not have to take any formal action to reimpose reduced admissions. The previously board-approved limited admissions program remains in effect, allowing TDC to reimpose it whenever necessary.

Class assists thesis writers

by Leslie Barr
Battalion Reporter

The old saying that great ideas are only as good as a person's ability to express them in words serves as the basis for a Department of English graduate course called "Technical Writing for Publication."

The three-hour course, taught by Dr. Robert Scott Kellner, assists students in getting their thesis paper published in a journal in their field.

Kellner said the students, who come from many different majors, are required to complete a 3,000 to 5,000-word thesis by the end of one semester. But the odds are against students getting their thesis published the first time they send it to a journal, Kellner said.

"From a 15-member class — which is the maximum number of students accepted per semester — an average of one student

per semester gets the paper published," Kellner said.

"I always hope to raise the ratio of those who get published, but realizing the enormous competition, I feel that we get a good percentage of our students' papers in journals and other publications," he said.

The students may choose to take parts of their thesis and turn it into a publishable article, Kellner said, but a student must notify his dean before making a commitment to a publication.

"If a student manages to get an article published, it enhances the chance of getting the final thesis published upon completion," Kellner said.

"I feel that if a student goes to the trouble of writing a 20-page paper, then they have good ideas in their minds that can make a significant contribution to their respective field of study," he said.

Hay Co. has unusual style

Modern dancers imitate life

by Susan Dittman
Battalion Staff

The Deborah Hay Dance Company brought a small part of the modern dance world to Texas A&M Wednesday night.

During a performance in Rudder Theater, the dance company succeeded in showing an appreciative audience that dancing is a part of everyday movement.

Hay, the founder of the company, casually walked alone onto the bare stage and explained to the members of the audience what they were about to see.

"It's going to look different from what most of you are used to," she said.

And it did.

During the first piece, called "Shaking Awake the Sleeping

Child," the four women tried to express the images of a sleeping child's dream through their dance movements.

By bending, stretching, and flailing their arms and stomping across the stage, the dancers imitated caged animals, warriors marching off to war, a mother waking her child and the child going back to sleep and dreaming about warriors again.

The percussion music which the dancers performed to seemed to fit the Austin-based company's unusual dance style.

Bill Jeffers, the company's business manager and accompanist, played his own music compositions on African thumb pianos and wooden box drums.

At one point, Jeffers spoke up during the dance by speaking a

narration which included the line: "There is some thunder, there is some thunder shaking us awake."

As Jeffers spoke, Hay and the other dancers put into movement the images he was describing.

The dance style used by the company to create these images seemed to be spontaneous as well as choreographed.

The dancers would move in unison across the stage, turning and leaping, stomping and stretching.

Then suddenly they would each start doing their own thing — wildly shaking their heads and arms and jumping at random.

After a 15 minute intermis-

sion, Hay, Emily Burken, Heloise Gold and Diana Prechter returned to the stage wearing baggie jumpsuits in muted colors.

The second dance, entitled "Tribute to Growth," began in darkness.

During this dance, the dancers enacted the images of descending, splitting, collapsing and forming rocks and caves.

Their bodies almost seemed to become inhuman as they rolled and wriggled about on the stage.

Hay had told the audience at the beginning of the performance that "all movement is possible." And the performance the Deborah Hay Dance Company gave proved just that.

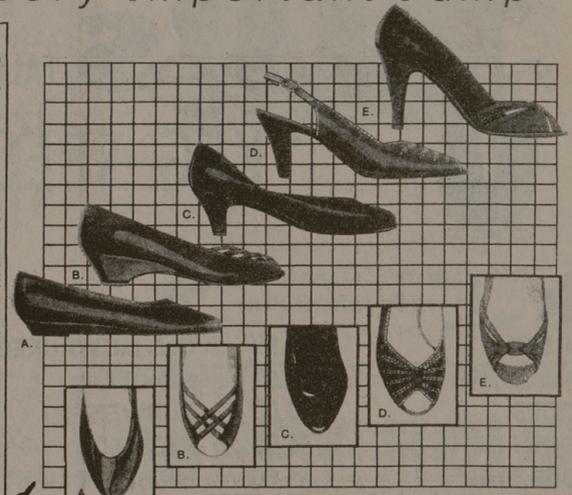
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