

C'mon now!

staff photo by Brenda Davidson

Louis Martin, a graduate student in animal science from Crowley, struggles with a stubborn calf. Louis has worked for the beef cattle center for several years and is manager of the center.

Bidding opens in July for building renovation

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's Facilities Planning and Construction Department will open bidding July 6 for a contract to renovate the Civil Engineering Building this fall, the project's manager said. Advertising for bids on the \$2.5 million project began Sunday, and the Texas A&M Board of Regents is expected to award the contract late in July, said Roger Killingsworth, planning and estimating supervisor for the department's Facilities Planning Division.

Dr. Donald McDonald, head

of the civil engineering department, said construction on and renovation of the building probably will begin in September and should be completed in about 13 months.

McDonald said the building, which has housed the civil engineering department since the mid-1950s, presently is used primarily for faculty offices. He said one of the objectives of the renovation is to return it to an academic building with more classroom space, labs and project rooms.

Some of the faculty will be moved to the new engineering

labs, the Academic and Agency Building and the Highway Research Center, which is next to the civil engineering building, McDonald said.

Much of the project will involve bringing the building up to modern standards, he said, since this fall's renovation will be the first work done on the building since the 1960s.

McDonald said the department has been assigned classrooms in Goodwin Hall, the Animal Industries building and Zachry Engineering Center this fall to make up for classroom space lost during renovation.

Community education cuts across nations, culture

by Robert McGlohn
Battalion Staff

Community education is becoming a household word in many communities, the director of Texas A&M's Center of Community Education says. It cuts across all classes and cultures. How it cuts across countries, Robert Berridge and Dr. Whetten, assistant director of the center, travel throughout Texas helping public school systems start community education programs. Not only do they help communities start the systems, but they also train people to run them, evaluate them after they have started, and furnish information on funding sources.

In addition to that, we do a lot of one-on-one consultations," Berridge said. "We don't do it here and philosophize, we go to the individual schools." After attending a workshop conducted by the center, a representative from the Lima, Peru, school system asked the center to conduct a similar workshop there. "The program was very fruitful," said Whetten. Whetten said that the colleges

and universities not involved internationally are missing a tremendous opportunity.

"Educators throughout the world are increasingly sharing approaches and problem-solving techniques," Whetten said. "Educational concerns can no longer be viewed from a local standpoint only."

Nor can they be viewed only from a standpoint of the traditional three Rs for the traditional 12 years, Berridge said. "Maybe the system we've been using for 200 years needs to change somewhat," he said. "And that's what we're trying to do."

The Center of Community Education, a division of the Department of Educational Administration, is one of 15 in the United States. It has helped establish more than 100 community education systems throughout Texas. Both Whetten and Berridge hope that's just the beginning.

"We're really building an attitude," Whetten said. "Community schools provide what the community has said it wants, not what a school official says it needs," Whetten said.

And that, he said, is the beauty of the system.

Community education is an organized effort to integrate a communities educational, social, physical, recreational and health programs for people of all ages. Commonly, through state and privately funded offices, public school systems open their buildings, at nights, on weekends and during the summer to community education classes of all sizes and types.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, baseball, bellydancing, ballet, computing, cooking, accounting, aerobics, drafting and drumming are just a few of the courses offered through community education programs.

"What we're really looking at is changing the concept from schooling to education," Berridge said. "We're trying to get people to realize that, in our high-tech society, education is lifelong. We're trying to get the parents back to school."

Whetten added, "In a community school, the doors are literally opened up to the community."

And that, both educators said, produces amazing spin-offs.

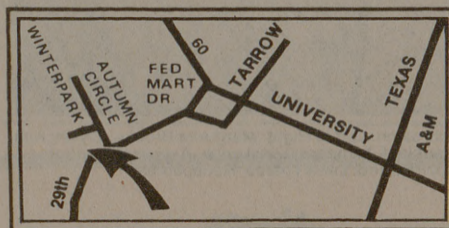
Research the center has conducted indicates that systems with community education are more successful in selling school bonds; have higher attendance, better discipline and less vandalism in their regular schools; and have a higher degree of community awareness and involvement.

"(People involved in community education) say it has rejuvenated their communities," Berridge said.

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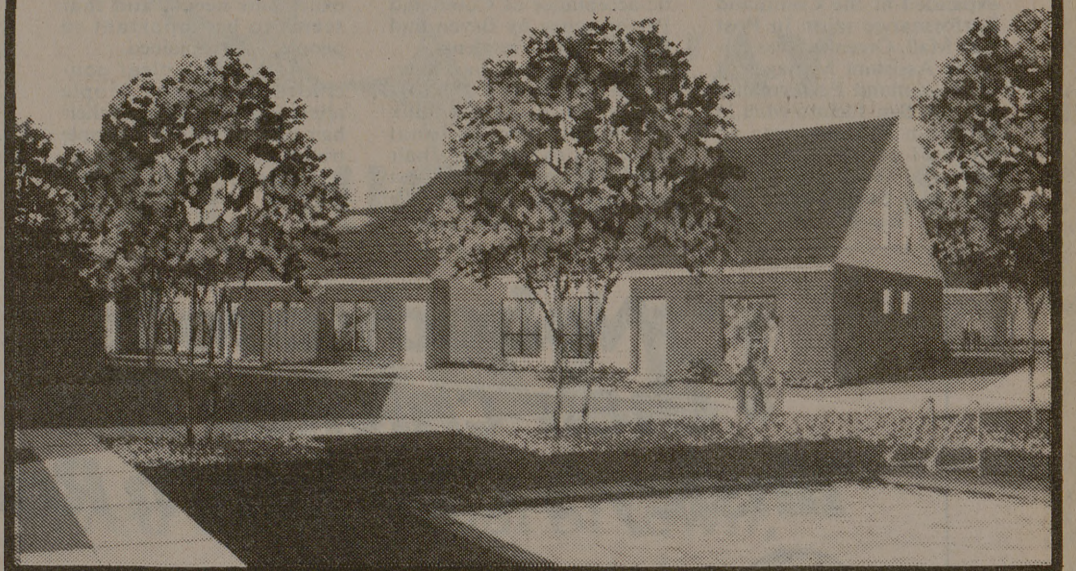
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