

## Using third world ways

# Lab classes make bricks

by Chappelle Henderson  
Battalion Reporter

While some lab classes involve sitting in a classroom waiting for something exciting to happen in a test tube, this wasn't the case last Thursday or Friday in Civil Engineering 315.

A device used in third world countries to compact mud and clay into bricks is being used in the labs to help develop a stronger more durable brick.

"Lots of places in the world have used this method," Dr. Leonard D. Webb, associate professor of civil engineering, said.

The CINVA-Ram was introduced in 1952 by the Inter-American Housing and Planning Center in Bogota, Colombia, to aid third world countries by producing a material strong enough to build with, Webb said.

The lab involves using different additives such as lime and portland cement or concrete to stabilize the soil, Webb said.

The students added water to dirt, making sure it was not too wet. They then took the dirt and added different amounts of lime or cement to get different types of bricks which then were placed individually into the CINVA-Ram — a box about one foot long and eight inches deep with a pole about six feet long attached to the lid — to apply pressure and compact the dirt to form the bricks.

The bricks are labeled and dried before going into the final stage of the experiment — testing for strength under pressure.

Alan Pond, graduate teaching assistant, said the lab will produce about 30 types of bricks from which the class will build a wall to see how long the adobe will last.



staff photo by John Makely

Joey Panazzo from Sugarland and Mark Haynie from Corpus Christi, make bricks in their civil engineering class, both are senior building construction majors.

# Suspects' flight ends in surrender, death

**United Press International**  
**PADUCAH** — A man and his son, on the run for killing two Minnesota bankers, decided to get out of their dead-end situation with a suicide and a surrender, Cottle County Sheriff Frank Taylor said Monday.

James Lee Jenkins, 46, was found dead about 6:30 p.m. Sunday on an abandoned farm 4 miles north of the west Texas community of Paducah. Steve Jenkins, 18, showed Taylor where he could find the father's body.

Taylor said the younger Jenkins indicated he would waive extradition Monday and return to Minnesota to face two second-degree murder charges in the slayings of Rudy Blythe, 42, president of the Buffalo Ridge Bank in Rutherford, Minn., and loan officer Toby Thulin, 37.

"I guess they talked it over. The father decided he'd end it

out there and the son decided to give himself up," Taylor said. Jenkins' body was found in the middle of a road leading to the farm. He shot himself through the mouth with a 12-gauge shotgun.

The younger Jenkins surrendered to Paducah police at 6:30 p.m. Sunday and told authorities his father had committed the shootings, Taylor said.

The pair had spent most of Sunday hiding out in a partially burned building on the abandoned farm, Taylor said, and apparently were on their way back to Brownwood in southwest Texas, where they used to work.

Lincoln County Sheriff Abe Thompson of Minnesota told Taylor officers from his office would arrive in Texas Monday afternoon to get Jenkins after an extradition hearing.

Jenkins gave himself up to a police dispatcher who called Taylor, ending a three-day, 800-mile flight for the teen and his father.

In October 1980, the Buffalo Ridge Bank foreclosed on Jenkins' farm and then bought an interest in it, according to Lincoln County, Minn., court records. Jenkins later filed for bankruptcy, court officials said last week.

Upon losing his farm, Jenkins lived in Texas for about a year. Brownwood police Friday reported Jenkins worked as a night guard and maintenance man at the school there for a few months.

Jenkins recently bought a farm near Hardwick, Minn., but was having trouble getting the Buffalo Ridge Bank to grant him credit to buy cattle, Minnesota authorities said.

They said neither Blythe or Thulin was involved in the foreclosure on Jenkins' first farm.

## Inmate 'harassed'

# Prison worker sued

**United Press International**

**WASHINGTON** — The Supreme Court Monday let a decision stand allowing "jailhouse lawyer" Allen Lamar to seek damages from a Texas prison employee for harassment, even though it failed to stop the inmate from filing lawsuits.

The high court's decision means Lamar, a 46-year-old convicted thief who was serving a 25-year sentence for robbery, will return to a Houston magistrate court to have a transaction. C spokesman Alan Longtime Texas Department of Corrections employee Len Arthur Steele.

Lamar was released from the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., 12 days ago, his attorney Dan Boyd said. He was transferred to federal custody after testifying in a case which led to sweeping reform orders of the Texas prison system.

Steele, now an assistant warden at the TDC diagnostic unit, was a building major at TDC's Ellis Unit in Huntsville when Lamar filed the lawsuit that led to a favorable magistrate jury's ruling in 1980.

Lamar, known as a "writ writer" and "jailhouse lawyer" because he frequently filed lawsuits and writs in behalf of other prisoners, contended Steele

threatened him because of a series of lawsuits filed over conditions in the nation's largest prison system.

Lamar said Steele burned his legal documents, asked an inmate to assault him, asked another inmate to kill him, invited him to pick up a small knife while Steele held a large knife and promised to send him home in a "pine box" if he did not cease his activities as a "writ writer."

The trial included testimony — over Steele's objections — that the TDC official had asked inmate Bertrand Bennett to kill another writ writer and that inmate Lawrence Smith, who died before trial, said Steele had threatened to harm Lamar if he continued filing lawsuits.

The magistrate's jury ruled in 1980 that Steele had harassed Lamar, but decided against awarding him damages. U.S. Magistrate Calvin Botely in Houston awarded Lamar a nominal \$1 in damages, as well as \$7,992.33 in attorney fees to be paid by Steele.

Steele appealed, saying no damages should be awarded because there was no injury if Lamar continued to file his lawsuits in spite of the harassment — which he described as harsh language often necessary for

prison management. Steele also raised objections again about the inmate testimony.

Lamar cross-appealed, saying the questions put to the jury were confusing and the panel should have been allowed to assess damages.

The jurors had found that while Steele had tried to intimidate Lamar from filing his lawsuits, it did not believe he had "unnecessarily and wantonly inflicted emotional distress" on Lamar.

The negative response to the second question incorrectly precluded jurors from considering damages, Lamar argued.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld inclusion of testimony about the other inmates' claims and Botley's award of attorneys fees but sent the case back to him for a new trial "solely on the issues of actual and exemplary damages."

The Supreme Court Monday let stand that decision, which means Lamar now will get another chance in court.

Court documents show that Lamar — who has spent time in eight prisons in Texas, California, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Indiana and Tennessee — was usually unsuccessful in his hundreds of lawsuits but had some notable exceptions.

## UH honors politician from South America

**United Press International**

**HOUSTON** — A South American educator, physician and political leader will be honored by the University of Houston this week and will receive an award for his work in education.

Dr. Jaime Lusinchi, a candidate for the presidency of Venezuela and member of the "Accion Democratica" party, will be given a special award Wednesday designating him as "Distinguished Social and Educational Leader of the Americas," said UH president Dr. Charles Bishop.

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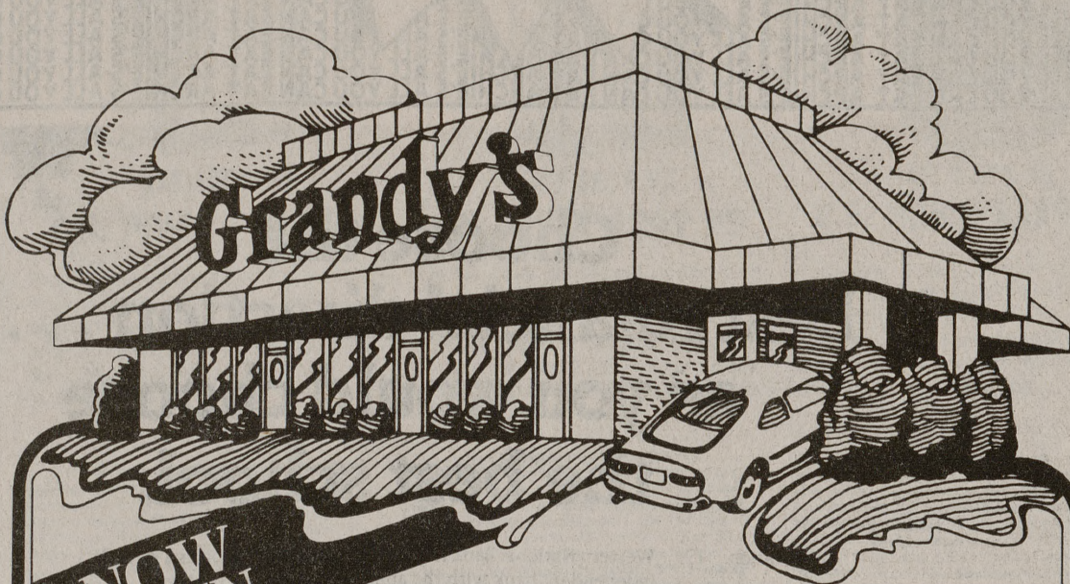
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