

City gets face lift, A&M style

By KARI FLUEGEL
Reporter

Cattleman Square in San Antonio is undergoing a face lift by Texas A&M students. The renovation of the 20-block area west of downtown San Antonio has been the pet project of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Texas A&M for the past year. The project is co-sponsored by the San Antonio Development Agency.

Charles Toudouze, owner of A.C. Toudouze Co., asked Vasquez to renovate his building in the Cattleman Square area. Vasquez realized his ideas wouldn't work unless the entire area was included, he said.

The idea then was adopted by the planning department. Since then, four departments and 31 undergraduate students have participated.

Ed Tokarek, a senior who has been working with Vasquez on the plan since last year, said many of the people involved with the project seem impressed with the quality of the work, especially when they discover it was done by undergraduates.

Undergraduate students do not usually work on projects with this large a scope, Vasquez said.

Funding for the work completed last semester came from a grant from San Antonio, but this semester the funding is coming mostly from Cattleman Square land owners.

The plan includes the renovation of old buildings with historical value and the building of new structures, such as hotels, for both commercial and residential uses.

The principle structure in the area is the old Missouri Pacific (MOPAC) Train Station. The cost of the proposed renovations for the station itself are estimated at \$6-\$7 million.

"It is real hard to put a price tag on it because the outside is good but the inside has to be all torn up," Tokarek said.

The MOPAC station, which is no longer in use, is directly connected to St. Paul's Station on the other side of San Antonio and is on a line running from Canada to Mexico City.

Renovations for the station include such items as trimming shrubbery and general clean-up of the building. Renovating the station opens the possibility of putting it back into operation.

A World Trade Center also is proposed for the area and would be a declared foreign trade zone.

"It would be one of the key generators of activity in the area," Jesus Hinojosa, planning professor and director of the study, said. "The center would promote international trade for the city."

Vasquez compares the Trade Center to a shopping center for

international trade and tourism.

"It's potentially something very big for San Antonio," Vasquez said.

Class members made a preliminary presentation to Toudouze Tuesday. The students have a chance to answer some of the questions they might be asked at the final presentation April 30.

"The input, work and enthusiasm of the students was excellent," Toudouze said.

However, Toudouze added that some of the ideas would probably never be used because of elements, such as land owner preferences, of which the students were not aware.

One issue that was brought up during the meeting was the availability of parking. Hinojosa said the class would examine all possible options for the problem.

The last study of the area was done in 1979.

H.B. Zachry, one of the major funders for the project and former Texas A&M student, is hosting the final presentation at the Hilton Palacio del Rio in San Antonio.

St. Joseph's ice cream to help liberty statue

By ADA FAY WOOD
Reporter

Ice cream lovers can quench that hunger for a cone, and help renovate an American landmark at the same time.

Starting May 5, St. Joseph Hospital will be having a double-dip ice cream sale, with the proceeds going to help with the renovation of the Statue of Liberty.

Kay Thompson, who is food service director at the hospital and chairman of the event, says that it will last through May 12, and that they hope to raise \$6,000. "I just want people to come," Thompson said.

The first day the sale will start in front of the hospital at 10 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. Just driving through will get an ice cream fiend a scoop of chocolate and vanilla in a cone for only \$1.

The mayors of Bryan and College Station will be present to help kick off the event, along with the Coca-Cola Robot, Thompson said.

For the remainder of the week the ice cream will be served in the hospital cafeteria from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Anyone can come in and get some, Thompson said.

She became involved in the nationwide campaign recently when the ARA, a nationwide campaign group,

approached her with the renovation information.

Thompson said she decided that she would take the ball and run with it. Since May 7 through 12 is Hospital Week, she thought this fund raiser for the Statue of Liberty was the perfect public service event.

Thompson noticed that a local grade school had raised \$1,600 from a can drive, and knew that the hospital could help in the renovation, too.

The renovators need \$230 million to make the deteriorating statue safe and beautiful again. This money will have to come from the people since no government money will be used, Thompson said.

Students plan weather forecasts using Texas A&M station's data

By CASEY RAMSEY
Reporter

Everyone has something to say about the weather — usually a complaint. The funny thing is, no one can do anything about it. Man is at the mercy of the elements. The best anyone can do is predict what the weather will do next.

Texas A&M has its own weather station to do just that. The station, in the O&M building, is used primarily to provide all the data used in the meteorology analysis and forecasting classes.

"We're concerned purely with academics just the same as any other department," station manager Charles Brenton said. "We have no interaction with the public, the National

Weather Service or the Federal Aviation Administration."

Brenton, who received his meteorology training in the Air Force, said the station stresses hands-on experience using the theories learned in class. Weather is forecast throughout the day by studying in great detail the distribution of moisture, temperature, pressure and wind.

"One point I try and emphasize with everybody is that the atmosphere is in continual motion, thus it is constantly changing," Brenton said.

To help forecast the weather, the department receives 126 ready-made maps of the atmosphere from the National Weather Service. Radar data and satellite pictures are used to look at the atmosphere in terms

of the potential for severe weather.

Brenton said climatology, a statement of past weather history, is also used as a guide to make the forecast.

"One analogy I always make with young kids touring the station is climatology is what they

expect and weather is what they get," Brenton said.

The weather station does some forecasting for the Texas A&M farm operations, the Physical Plant and the Athletic Department, but 95 percent of the data is used by students in the meteorology department.

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