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Prof says efficient buildings needed

Saving energy a priority

By **MICHAEL CANNATA**
Reporter

Energy efficient designs could save up to 75 percent of the energy now being consumed, but Texas is woefully lacking in such designs, says a Texas A&M architecture professor.

Professor Raymond Reed says some states recently have begun to place energy efficient requirements on new buildings, but Texas hasn't because there aren't enough qualified designers.

Reed says a national survey found only 5,000 architects out of more than 60,000 in the nation capable of designing energy efficient buildings.

"There has been a period of about 30 to 40 years in which architecture students have not been trained to design with nature," he says. "During that time, buildings were primarily built for investment purposes and they didn't take into consideration the climate in which the buildings were built."

Reed says that today many buildings throughout the world look similar, and, in some cases, it is impossible to tell where you are judging by building design. This loss of what he calls "regional designing" has occurred only since World War II. He says a prime example is the Holiday Inn chain because all Holiday Inns look so much alike. But building design has begun to change.

"With the advent of the OPEC crisis, an increasing concern has been placed on architects to design energy efficient buildings," Reed says. "In

doing this we have had to re-learn many of the age-old concepts of designing with nature."

Reed says current technology has been combined with old design concepts and now architects are designing buildings that can burn 80 percent less energy than their predecessors.

Buildings in Texas, Reed says, are like big ovens because they generate so much heat internally that heating is never a problem.

"Our office buildings have so much heat generated inside from lights, equipment and people, that on the coldest day of the year in Texas the average office building is cooling its interior not heating it," he says.

Although new designs are an important part of energy efficient buildings for the future, Reed says that retrofitting old buildings is just as important. The main reason, he says, is that 80 percent of all the buildings in the year 2000 will have been built before 1984. Only 20 percent will be new.

Lighting is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to increase a building's energy efficiency, Reed says, and the addition of glass to a building is not complicated.

Thomas W. Parker, a local architect, has been building in the Bryan-College Station area for some time and says only recently has he seen any attention paid to energy efficiency.

Parker says that most architectu-

ral innovation begins at the residential level, because commercial building is limited by initial expense.

"Commercial developers are pretty tight with the dollars," he says. "They don't really become too concerned with what their tenants have to pay for their utilities."

Parker says the added costs for making an energy efficient home takes a few years to pay off, but more people are willing to pay those costs because their savings will continue to increase as other people's fuel costs climb through their non-energy efficient roofs.

"We are in a peculiar situation here right now," he says. "We have a tremendous housing glut in the Bryan-College Station area, yet in our office we have more custom homes to design than we have had in the last five years. I'm sure there is some correlation between what's out there and what people really want."

Parker says new homes that are being bought take a large amount of site analysis. The angle of the sun, the wind conditions and the natural shade all must be measured before a new energy efficient home is designed.

The three most important design techniques used to make homes energy efficient, he says are orientation (the way the house faces), thicker walls for added insulation and overhangs that help add light all year round and keep heat out in the summer and in during the winter.



Skylights such as these in Zachry Engineering Center may help increase energy efficiency.

U.S. is 'fat, dumb' says commissioner

United Press International

COLLEGE STATION — Bolstered by a false image of an oil glut, America is "fat, dumb and happy," just as it was before the Arab oil embargo, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Mack Wallace said Tuesday.

"There is no glut of oil when we import 6 million barrels a day of crude into this country," he said at a Texas A&M University symposium on efficient use of energy in buildings.

The trend is a dangerous one, said Wallace.

The commissioner, who called himself a "child of the '73 embargo," said he wants the United

States to utilize its own resources, including the world's largest coal deposits and oil that may come from unexplored lands of the outer continental shelf.

"If you like long lines, political blackmail and being told what to do, then fine, go ahead and be dependent on Arab crude," he warned. "Instead of being fat, dumb and happy, we should be lean, mean and aggravated."

Wallace said the Saudis can control the price of crude oil in order to discourage production in America. He said lower Arab prices have brought on the demise of alternative energy projects and decreased drilling activities.

Committee to study A&M women

By **ROBIN BLACK**
Senior Staff Writer

Eight months after its creation, the Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Women in the University has evolved to a working stage.

The committee — a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee — presented an outline of its charge, goals and objectives at Monday's Senate meeting. The committee was established at the Jan. 31 meeting of the Faculty Senate to evaluate the status of women administrators, faculty, staff and students at Texas A&M. The committee's primary objective is similar to that of another Faculty Senate committee that was created to study minorities at the University.

Gayle Schmidt, committee vice chairman, says one of the committee's primary goals this year will be

to compare the male/female reward scale at the University, including salary, rank or promotion and tenure.

"To complete a really extensive study like this will take the committee about a year," Schmidt says, "simply because of the vast amount of research that must be done."

Schmidt says the committee will use as its beginning point a study published recently by the Office of Planning and Institutional Analysis that compares the salaries and workloads of male and female faculty at Texas A&M.

The study shows women faculty members well behind their male counterparts in salary and position.

However, Schmidt says, the study is very general and unexplanatory.

"All the study really is is numbers — no descriptive data on 'what does this mean?'" she says. "Looking at what the graphs and tables actually

mean is something else." The committee — which has been gathering extensive amounts of data over the past few months — has come upon one surprising factor, Schmidt says.

"Every time we meet," she says, "we find more and more women at A&M than we thought there were. This isn't really unusual, though, because in a university community there are people coming and going all the time — what we're after is almost like a moving target."

Schmidt says she hopes the committee's year-long study will ultimately provide something similar to the Texas Plan.

The Texas Plan — effective last January — provides that Texas A&M must hire a certain number of minorities in administrative positions within the next four years. The plan does not include women



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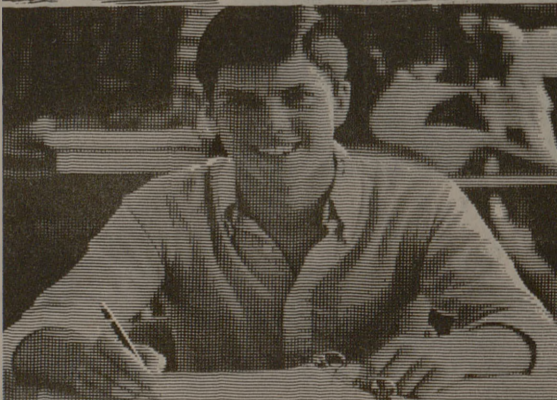
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