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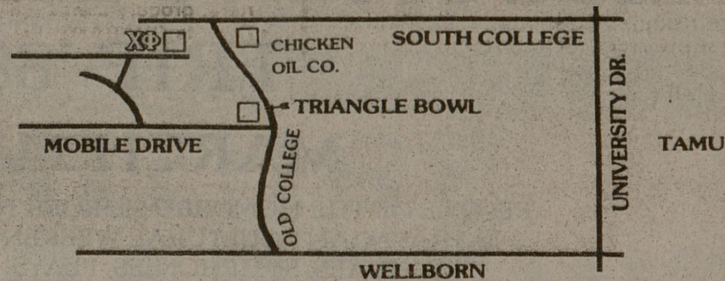


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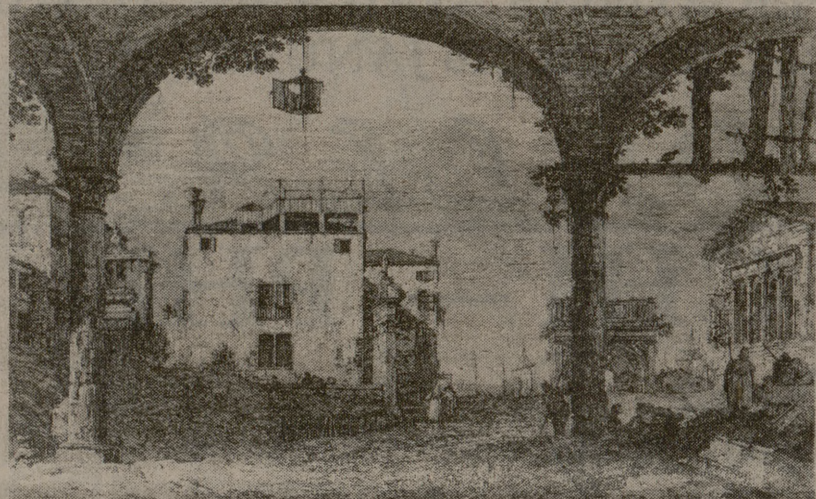
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|-------------|---------------|--|
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| THUR | JAN 28 | That Was Then This Is Now |
| SAT | JAN 30 | Wine-Cheese Party Invitation Only |
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Researcher: Future rests on technology

By Ashley Bailey
Reporter

The future of the United States rests with the application of advanced technology and the competition that exists in the open marketplace on a worldwide basis, a U.S. Army researcher said Wednesday night at the College Station Hilton.

Dr. Jay Sculley, the assistant secretary of Army research development and acquisition, told Construction Executive Program members that because of its ties to technology, the Army both depends on and helps the construction industry.

The Army has 300,000 physical plant buildings in need of repair, he said. It also owns 155,000 houses; 500 million square miles of paved surfaces; 48,000 miles of storm sewer, electrical or sanitary lines and over 3,000 miles of railroads — all of which would cost about \$170 billion to replace, Sculley said.

Sculley said the statistics provide stark evidence that the U.S. armed services must find a new way to replace or restore their constructions

at a cost that taxpayers can afford.

In the past fiscal year the Army corps of engineers awarded contracts in excess of \$4 billion for its military construction program and another \$2 billion to civilian companies, he said. About 98 percent of the military contracts and about 97 percent of the civilian contracts were awarded on a competitive basis, with about 57 percent of those contracts given to small businesses, he said.

"I would say that the corps of engineers, even within the Army, is a leader in competitive contracts and in paying attention to the socio-economic goals instilled by the small-business administration," Sculley said. "It's my job to beat those socio-economic goals, but it's also my job to insure that competition is fair and open and that we get the most for the taxpayer's dollar."

The requirement for efficient and cost-effective construction provides a focus for the Army laboratory research development program, he said. Army research is directed toward exploiting technology in order to stretch the military construction

dollar, he said.

The Army's program involves individual-paced learning, computer-aided instruction, video learning discs, work simulations and learning aids, he said. These help the construction industry professional become aware of technological advancements in the place, he said.

The federal government spends more money on research than other organizations combined, and has supported six Nobel Prize-winning efforts, he said. "The expertise found in the search and development labs is a national resource — not just a defense but also in health and human resources," Sculley said.

"We are standing on the verge of technological breakthroughs as significant as any we've seen in our civilization," he said. "The federal government must take full advantage of each technological opportunity it presents itself and be sure that results of each are transferred to industry because technology and competition is our future."

WWII veteran kills man in front of wife, police say

KERRVILLE (AP) — A World War II veteran angry about his medical claim shot and killed his claims counselor as the victim's wife and other workers watched in horror Wednesday, police said.

Rufus William Smith, 63, of Fredericksburg, was charged with murder in the shooting death of John Walker Pettit, 54, a veterans affairs counselor with the Texas Veterans Commission.

Justice of the Peace Pat Knox set a \$300,000 bond, and Smith was being held in the Kerr County Jail Wednesday night.

The suspect had walked into Pettit's office, adjacent to the Veterans Administration Medical Center,

about 9:20 a.m., police Detective Joe Lanning said.

"There was an argument in reference to some benefits that he felt he was entitled to and he produced a weapon and shot (Pettit)," Lanning said.

Pettit's wife, Linda, a clerk at the hospital, was in her husband's office when the shooting occurred. Other workers witnessed the shooting as well, officials said.

Lanning declined to describe the weapon or the number of shots fired. He said the suspect surrendered peacefully to hospital security officers.

Pettit's body was taken to the Bexar County Medical Examiner's

office for an autopsy, Lanning said.

Hospital spokesman Bob Fair said Pettit had worked as the sole veterans affairs counselor in Kerr since August 1979.

Pettit helped veterans by tracking down medical and bank records and military files to assist them in filing claims.

"John had plenty of friends here. He was deeply involved with all veterans organizations," Fair said. "He was not one of these face people. He would get out among veterans groups and help them as well as he could."

Fair said the suspect was a World War II veteran who had been receiving medical treatment.

Discrimination files of federal agency missing in backlog

DALLAS — Two dozen people who filed age discrimination complaints have waited two years for action, but their cases were lost in a huge backlog in the district office of a federal agency, officials said.

The Dallas office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has the largest caseload of the agency's 23 district offices, District Director Lorenzo Ramirez said.

Its 37 investigators resolve about 3,200 cases a year but this year have 5,800 complaints pending, he said.

The 24 age discrimination cases, on which the two-year statute of limitations has expired, had priority but were lost in the shuffle of the heavy caseload, which includes increasing numbers of equal pay, sex and race discrimination complaints, Ramirez said.

"The problem is just getting to the complaints, and the impact is on the people who have to wait for the results," he said.

A 32-year-old Dallas truck driver, who asked that his name not be used, filed a race discrimination complaint two years ago. He said

he's still waiting for an EEOC ruling that could allow him to recover damages from his former employer.

"It's lousy to be poor, broke and waiting for the federal government to act on your behalf," he said. "You go to the federal government for relief because they are the only source of help for those without money. But they take their time, and you wait and wait."

Ramirez said he doesn't have enough workers for the caseload the Dallas office handles, and the workers he does have are frustrated by red tape.

The office has a six-, 12- and 18-month warning system on age discrimination cases to avoid losing complaints because of the two-year deadline, he said.

"The EEOC is the best there is," Ramirez said. "It is about the only thing there is to help people discriminated against. In these field offices, we are the most active and available source to protect the civil rights of the common man."

But the 24 people whose complaints have expired have lost their chances for legal redress.

PUC grants extension in GSU case

AUSTIN (AP) — The Public Utility Commission on Wednesday approved a two-week delay in the Gulf States Utilities rate case after the company said it could not meet today's deadline for filing further information.

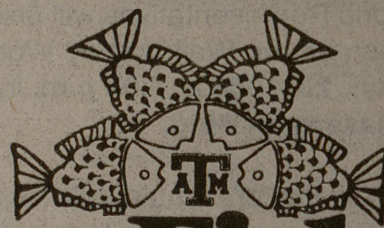
The deadline for deciding the case, which had been set for Monday, is now Feb. 1.

Commissioners have asked for further information, including documents about GSU's federal tax payments and the money the company is spending on the rate case.

The three-member panel on Tuesday had approved a 90-day delay in the case in order to hear more testimony about GSU's River Bend nuclear plant in St. Francisville, La.

But that plan was scrapped when company President E. Lynn Draper said GSU would need an interim rate hike in order to avoid running out of money while the case was pending.

It is the longest case in PUC history and includes the commission's first-ever review of nuclear plant expenses.



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