

State and Local

Trash surfer 'catches the wave' in exercise of communication

By Tracey Streater
Reporter

Environmental Design 104 students learned more than just how to construct sculpture out of trash while creating "Catch the Wave," a sculpture on display on the first floor of the Langford Architecture Center.

"Catch the Wave" is the Environmental Design 104 students' contribution to the Rowlett Lectures, a series of lectures by visiting speakers and displays of student projects sponsored by the Department of Architecture.

Although the lectures only were Monday and Tuesday, the displays will be up through the beginning of next week.

Taught by Dr. Hadley Smith, a visiting professor in the College of Architecture, the class created this project as an exercise in communication and imagination.

"If you've got a great idea and don't have the skills to communicate it, it's as if you didn't have the idea," Smith said.

The sculpture, made entirely out of trash, depicts a surfer riding an ironing board in the curl of a wave of debris.

The ingredients of this masterpiece of refuse include everything from Christmas tree lights to old blue jeans and a U-bolt from a pickup truck.

Environmental Design 104 student Alan Underwood, a freshman environmental design major, explained the goal of his class.

"We were trying to use an unlikely material to create something visually compelling," Underwood said.

After deciding to use the cheapest materials they could find — trash — the students brainstormed to develop the ultimate theme of the creation.

Matt Mars, a freshman environmental design major, said the objective was to make the most out of the class's design while keeping the theme in mind.

"Man is affected by his environment — what goes around comes



Photo by Beth Murray

Paul Neidinger, a graduate architecture major from Houston, listens as professor Peter Cook from the Technical University of Frankfurt cri-

tiques his design and discusses regional designs in modern architecture Tuesday during the Department of Architecture's Rowlett Lectures.

around," Mars said. "That's why we made the surfer out of trash instead of using a mannequin or something."

Maximum affect at a minimum cost was also a major goal of the class, Mars added.

Suzanne Grothues, a freshman environmental design/building con-

struction major from Dallas, said the sculpture is more than just a pile of junk, though.

"If people say it's a pile of junk, they've got a limited view," Grothues said. "They're looking at the material and not the form."

After all was finished, the stu-

dents seemed to agree on one idea in particular.

They all learned the importance of working together to achieve a common goal.

As Underwood expressed it, they learned "how to give a little to get a little."

Shifting soil, clay causes damage to research center

DALLAS (AP) — Walls are cracking, ceilings are sagging and equipment is in danger at a \$1.5 million research center at the University of Texas-Arlington because of shifting soil under the building, officials said.

Officials blame moist and swollen clay beneath the 15-month-old Aerospace Research Center, and say the shifting soil is also causing the fire alarm-sprinkler system to fail.

The building was completed in November 1986 as part of a \$39.9 million contract for an engineering complex with the Stolte Co. of Arlington.

"I'm not really worried about the building falling down," center director Donald Wilson said Monday. "It's more of a nuisance than anything. It's embarrassing to invite contractors and government officials to impress them with our research and facilities when you can't even get the front door that you fixed three weeks ago open."

The foundation on the north end of the building has risen about 1.5 inches, Wilson said. Although workers tried to replace most of the soil before beginning construction, problems began shortly after the building was finished.

Doors became difficult to open and shut, tiles fell from the sagging ceiling, outside walls cracked and a safety officer noticed problems with the fire alarm system and sprinklers, Wilson said.

Although the shift has not caused serious damage, faculty members are worried that if allowed to continue, the precision of a sensitive optical laser might be altered.

John Blanton, resident construction manager with the UT System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, said Stolte Co., which also is remodeling the engineering building and constructing a new one, was not to blame for the shifting building.

Bush campaign hits B-CS, Tower courts A&M voters

The George Bush campaign came to Bryan-College Station yesterday to try to build support for the vice-president in next week's Super Tuesday primary and to attempt to get voters out.

"The student body of Texas A&M are the most sophisticated voters of any college campus in Texas, with the possible exception of SMU, my alma mater," former U.S. Sen. John Tower said.

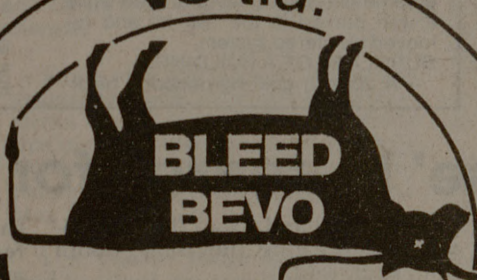
Tower, along with U.S. Rep. Tom

Loeffler and Judge Roy Barrera Jr., all stressed the importance of the people needing to vote in the primary next week.

"Remember next November you are not electing America's president, you are electing the leader of the free world," Tower said, "the man that will be responsible for providing the leadership necessary to promote a climate of peace and security and self-determination for all peoples in this world."

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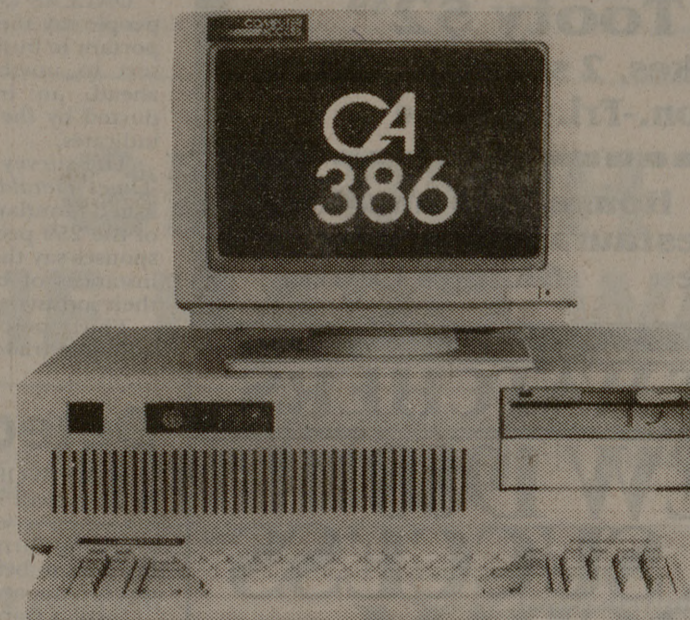
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