

New A&M lab will focus on artificial illumination

By Lucinda Orr
Reporter

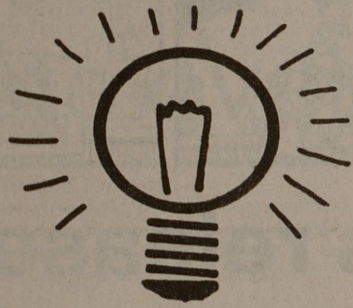
Thomas Edison would be proud. Artificial lighting has long been neglected as an element in architectural design, but a new laboratory at Texas A&M will seek to correct that problem.

Under the direction of Brenda Ryan, a lecturer in building construction who has studied lighting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University's graduate school of design, an artificial illumination laboratory should be ready by the fall to integrate lighting studies into the architecture program.

Students previously have studied aspects such as plumbing, electricity, illumination and acoustics in a "pieced-together" environmental systems course for architecture and construction science students. Last year Ryan and Dr. Lester Boyer developed and team-taught a course specifically for the study of lighting.

Ryan now is organizing efforts to assemble the lab, which will be in the Langford Architecture Center.

"We are getting support from the industry, mainly the Illuminating Engineering Society, as well as manufacturers of lighting equipment . . . to establish a laboratory on campus,



Graphic by Taani Baier

specifically in the College of Architecture," Ryan said.

The lab, which will serve classroom, research and interdisciplinary research purposes, compares to prototypes such as those at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Colorado.

"We want to do the same kinds of research here," Ryan said. "Especially research into areas like: 'How does artificial illumination in hospitals and health care facilities affect recovery rate?' 'The impact of shadows, glare, excessive brightness,' etc.

"To do that, we need a place that we can set aside as a classroom facility . . . because lighting is a really abstract kind of thing to study. It's the last thing one notices in an interior space, but lighting does have

significant impact on your psychological perception of that space — you just don't think about it."

In her own work with lighting design on campus, she used "zonal cavity calculations" (the customary method), found poor results and decided that quantification was not enough and quality should be studied. This is more difficult because instead of plugging numbers into a formula, she must start again.

"It requires you to look at the space, who's in the space, the activity and the biological needs of the person," Ryan said. "This can't be satisfied by a purely 'number-crunching' kind of thing.

"The architect is trained to know about the kinds of things that make people feel good in a space, but they've just been leaving out the lighting. So even though he doesn't design for that, he can become aware of that in school. That's what we're trying to bring to the architect and the construction people — some awareness of other things that are important."

Ryan expects construction of the lab to progress in stages and to depend on the amount of space allocated. More than \$5000 and possibly up to \$20,000 of equipment has been promised, but funding still is needed for installation.

Officials say state didn't get funds from fees

PATTON VILLAGE (AP) — Local officials launched an investigation to determine what happened to more than \$21,000 in traffic citation and warrant fees that records show was not sent to the state as required.

State officials said that \$21,485 that should have been forwarded to the state from failure-to-appear warrants and traffic citations were unaccounted for during an audit of city marshal and municipal court records spanning late 1985 through the present, Mayor Robert Devaney said.

"At the very least, we're talking shoddy bookkeeping," Devaney said. "At the worst, embezzlement. If the state didn't get its percentage, there's a good possibility we didn't get ours."

Devaney met with officials from state Comptroller Bob Bullock's office Monday.

"They're not saying the money is missing and neither am I at this point," Devaney said. "They're just saying they don't have a record of receiving it."

"It's up to us now to go over all the records and try to chase this stuff down."

The Patton Village City Council disbanded the marshal's department in May, and the municipal court was shut down the same month by Devaney for an audit and criminal investigation.

Police chief denies killing black inmate

HEMPHILL (AP) — Suspended Police Chief Thomas Ladner Wednesday again denied causing the blows that led to the death of a black county jail inmate and said he first noticed blood on the victim when the man tripped on a chair.

Ladner and two other suspended officers are accused of violating Loyal Garner Jr.'s civil rights by beating him Christmas night while he was in their custody. If convicted, they face up to life in prison.

Garner, a 34-year-old black man from Florien, La., died Dec. 27 at a Tyler hospital, two days after allegedly being beaten while in the Sabine County Jail.

The white lawmen — Ladner, 41, and Sabine County deputies James "Bo" Hyden, 35, and Bill Horton, 58, — were suspended after being indicted in Garner's death.

Ladner said he hit Garner, who had been picked up for drunken driving, only after the man had struck him twice — once on the left ear and again on the neck — as he and Hyden entered the drunk tank. But he denied hitting Garner back repeatedly.

"You hit him on that side of the head and top of the head and other side of the head?" Prosecutor John Hannah asked Ladner.

"That is a lie," Ladner replied. "How did he get the blows?" Hannah asked.

"I don't know," Ladner said. "I did not hit Mr. Garner but one time."

And that blow, according to Ladner, was a glancing one because Garner held up his arms to defend himself.

Later on Christmas night, Garner was taken to a room to make a phone call but changed his mind, Ladner said.

"He might not have wanted me in there when he was making the phone call," Ladner said. "I told him: 'Sir, we're going to have to go back to the cell.'"

Ladner said Garner became abusive and went for a nearby flashlight. "He probably was going to use it on someone," Ladner said.

"All I saw was Mr. Garner trip and fall. I did not have a hold of Mr. Garner. He got tangled up in a swivel chair. He stumbled on it."

Asked if the fall left some blood, Ladner said it did, but he denied seeing a pool of blood in the cell where Garner was kept.

He also denied hearing other inmates say Garner needed medical attention.

On Tuesday, Ladner testified Garner hit him in the left ear and side of the neck and the chief defended himself by hitting the inmate once with a blackjack.

The three officers were scheduled to stand trial on murder charges Monday in Tyler.

Plan helps elderly disabled afford phone bill charges

By Kelly S. Brown
Reporter

Reaching out and touching someone by telephone is not always financially possible for elderly disabled Texans whose income is below the poverty level.

But in response to recently passed legislation, state officials and telephone representatives created a plan wherein those qualified will have their basic monthly local charge cut 65 percent.

The program, which does not include installation, touch-tone, custom calling, long distance or similar charges, requires participation from all 66 telephone companies serving Texas, said Marlin W. Johnston, commissioner of the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS).

Mike Mason, administrator for the policy development-program division at TDHS, said the reduced rate will allow people who previously did not have a phone to get one.

"It also will help the elderly to live alone independently," Mason said. "They need phones in case of an emergency, as well as for basic contact with the outer world."

Mason said requirements for participant in the program must be:

- at least 65 years old.
- disabled.
- living in Texas.
- head of the household.
- have income at or below the federal poverty level.

Currently 450,000 Texans eligible for the service. The 1988 poverty level for a one-person household is \$480.83 per month. The income limit for a two-person household is \$644.16; a three-person household, \$807.50; and a four-person household, \$970.83. Add \$163.33 per month for each additional person.

John Wallace, division public affairs manager for B-CS' GTE phone company, said it has filed for the program and is being considered for approval by the Texas Public Utility Commission, which is responsible for rules governing participation by the telephone companies. If it is approved, local eligible residents will be paying \$8.78 less on their local phone bill.

Information and application forms are available by calling the toll-free number 1-800-343-8353.



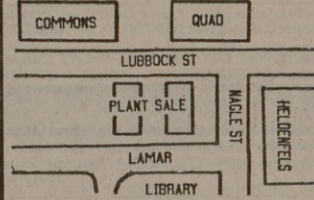
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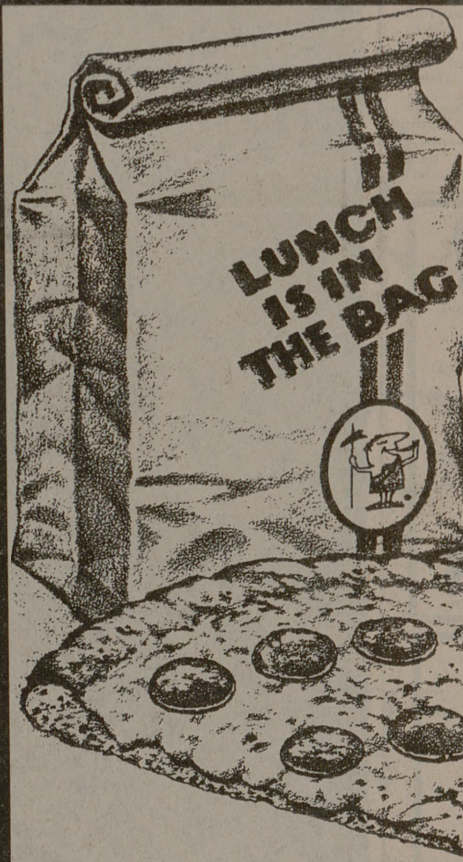
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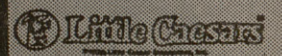
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