

Thursday, September 7, 1989

MSC expansion will start in spring

Parking garage, larger student center, new trees all part of plan

By Melissa Naumann
Of The Battalion Staff

Construction of the University Center expansion should begin next spring, as planned, despite all the "uproar and misinformation" over moving and losing some trees, Steve Hodge, manager of the University Center, said.

The most recent version of the expansion, which should take two-and-a-half years to complete, consists of three parts:

- The MSC will be expanded 63,000 sq. ft. between what is now the MSC and Rudder Tower.
 - The north end of the Rudder Theater Complex will be enlarged 30,700 sq. ft.
 - Two two-story buildings totaling 111,000 sq. ft. and a parking garage will be built in Lot 60 across from Rudder Tower.
- This summer, some were concerned that green space and trees would be sacrificed for the expansion, but Hodge said trees are both an asset and an architectural tool and would not be ignored.

He said the expansion will include planting trees around Rudder Fountain, an area that does not have trees now.

Lane Stephenson, director of the Office of Public Information, said the expansion is necessary for the large student body.

"The MSC was built for a student body of less than half of what it's serving today," Stephenson said. "When you balance trees out against the needs of the students, the administration has come down on the side of the students."

Much of the summer controversy centered on a tree called Rudder Oak. The tree in question, however, was not the official Rudder Oak, Stephenson said. In a fact sheet outlining the expansion, Stephenson said the actual Rudder Oak is on University President William Mobley's lawn.

Hodge said the tree near the MSC could be thought of as Rudder Oak because people have called it that.

"It is what people call it," Hodge said. "It is not necessarily the Rudder Oak but it has been called the Rudder Oak."

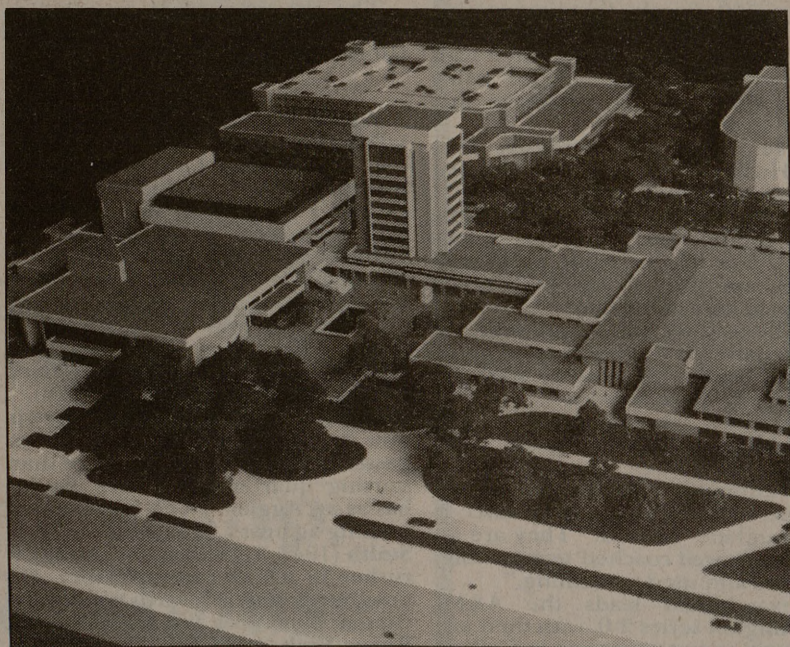


Photo courtesy Office of Public Information

A model of the expanded University Center.

Video cameras used in Brazos DWI cases help ensure decisions

By Selina Gonzalez
Of The Battalion Staff

Video cameras donated to Brazos County's DWI Mobile Videotaping Program are increasing the effectiveness of prosecuting suspected drunken drivers, Brazos County Judge R. J. Holmgreen said.

The fourth video camera was recently donated by Aetna Life and Casualty.

The cameras are used to record the driving behavior and field sobriety tests of suspected intoxicated drivers, Holmgreen said.

"If the car is weaving, it shows up on tape," Holmgreen said. "The officer can stop the individuals and have them perform right there on the street and the tapes are then used in court."

Holmgreen said the two-year-old program has proven successful in prosecuting drunken drivers.

The conviction rate of DWI offenders increased substantially when

using the videotaped evidence, Holmgreen said.

Brazos County currently has a 97 percent conviction rate in cases prosecuted with the videotaped evidence and an 83 percent conviction rate in cases prosecuted without it.

The videotape allows the enforcement officer to show what actually happened, Holmgreen said.

"If you are guilty, it will help prove it and if you are innocent, then it will help prove that, too."

The judge strongly suggests designating a driver when drinking.

"If you are picked up, charged and convicted of driving drunk, your fingerprints are taken and recorded," Holmgreen said.

"Today it may not seem like much, but 10 years from now when you want to apply for a job and your record is reviewed, it certainly would not be a plus."

Holmgreen said he hopes the county's DWI Mobile Videotaping Program will include more cameras to enhance the success of prosecutions in the near future.

South African steel causes delays for Houston bridge

HOUSTON (AP) — Efforts to block the importation of South African steel for the Ship Channel Bridge could result in costly delays, a contractor building the bridge told the state highway commission.

Highway officials have proceeded with plans to import the steel, meeting with South African business officials last week in Houston to discuss sending state employees to Durban, South Africa, to inspect the steel.

But under pressure from mi-

nority and labor groups, the highway commission last week demanded proof of compliance with a 1986 federal anti-apartheid law from Williams Brothers Construction Co. of Houston. The law bans the importation of certain products, including steel, from South Africa.

In a strongly-worded letter to the commission, Williams Brothers said it had complied with all federal regulations necessary to

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AIDS Foundation searches for hotline volunteers

By Mia B. Moody
Of The Battalion Staff

The Brazos Valley AIDS Foundation is looking for volunteers to help combat AIDS by joining its Helpline team. Training sessions will be held Saturday and Sunday for those interested.

Kirk White, one of the coordinators of the Helpline, said no experience is necessary for people interested in joining the group.

"We would like to have some volunteers who have psychology experience, but it isn't a requirement," White said. "We will teach volunteers everything they need to know."

White said the only requirement for volunteers is that they work three two-hour shifts each month. "Many people end up helping out

crisis intervention and will be expected to work with a crisis hotline as well as an AIDS information hotline. He said the center hopes to have

"We would like to have some volunteers who have psychology experience, but it isn't a requirement."

— Kirk White, AIDS Helpline coordinator

a lot more," he said. "Especially psychology club members interested in receiving training."

White said volunteers will be trained in AIDS information and

at least 40 trainees so someone will be available for callers from 5-11 p.m. during the week.

In addition to the Helpline, the

Brazos Valley AIDS Foundation has the Buddy Program.

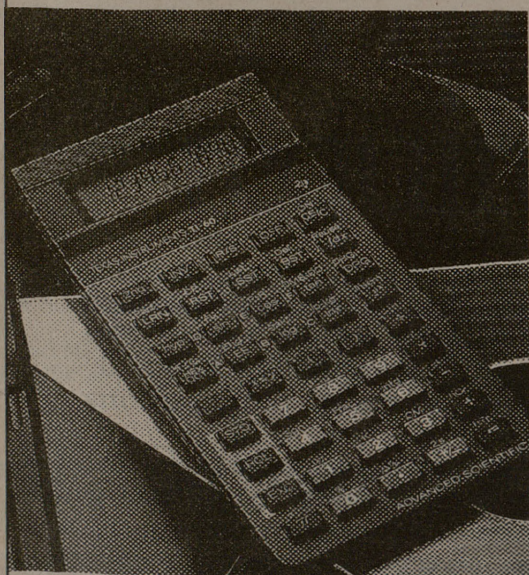
"The Buddy Program is designed for actual patient care," White said. "A volunteer, someone who is not a relative, doctor or friend of the patient, will do whatever he can to help."

White said if the volunteer can't help his buddy to cope with AIDS he will find someone who can.

The foundation also has a speaker's bureau and a support group for HIV positive and AIDS-diagnosed people.

People interested in becoming involved or finding out more information about the foundation can call (409)690-AIDS.

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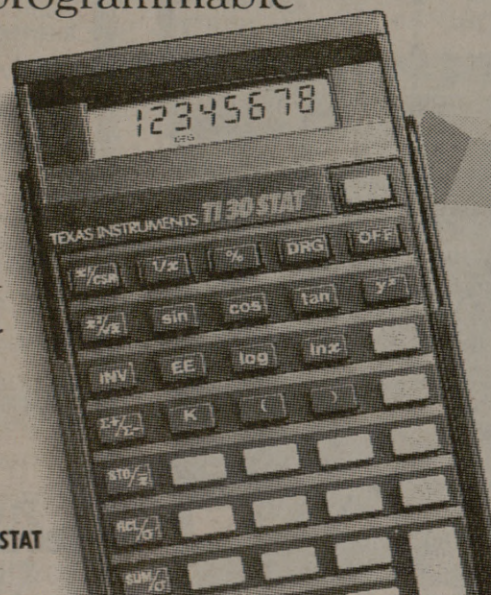
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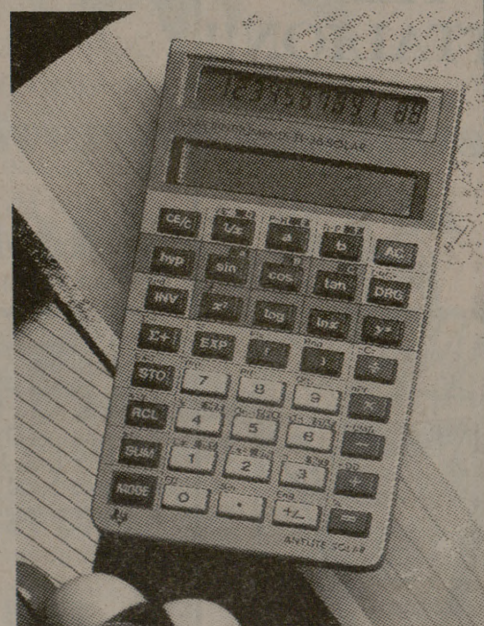
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