

Wednesday, October 18, 1989

Designer offers alternative plan to moving trees

By Bob Krenek

Of The Battalion Staff

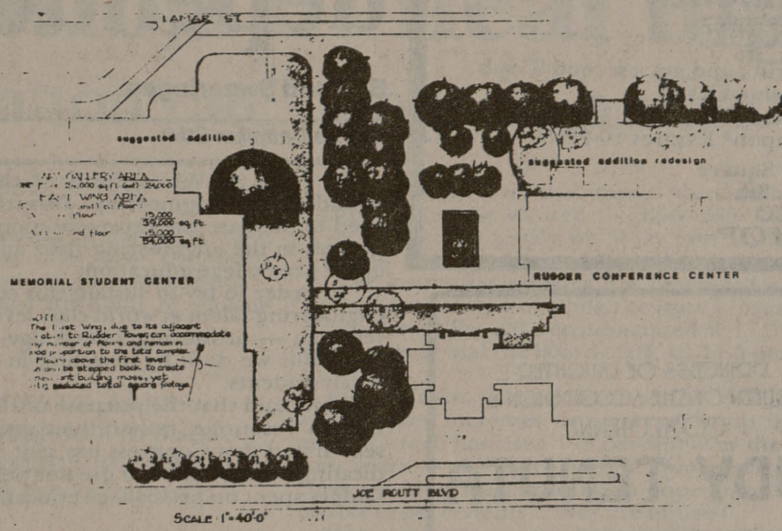
The University Center Expansion Project involving the removal of 26 oak trees has the potential of becoming a \$3.4 million environmental impact disaster, Dr. Robert Rucker told the Student Senate Tuesday.

Rucker is a former landscape architect and supervisor of ground maintenance at Texas A&M and the man who began the battle to save the oaks that are endangered by the University Center expansion.

"I am not opposed to the growth and development of our great university when it is done through an organized pattern," Rucker said.

Basic planning principles have been violated in the design of the Center, Rucker said, by ignoring the existing natural features and the economic and aesthetic values of these features.

The philosophy of campus planning, Rucker said, is "to create and maintain an academic environment for the use by students. Every student is entitled to a daily exposure of beauty as an integral part of the educational process. A campus master plan is valid only when it meets the daily needs of a specific student body and is developed within sound economic expenditures of available funds.

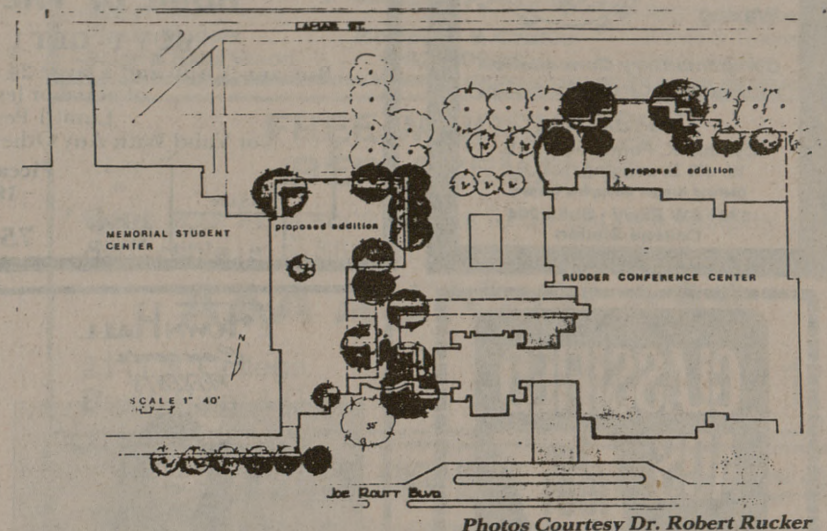


Dr. Robert Rucker's proposed expansion plan would save 11 trees from destruction.

"These trees have a great economic and aesthetic value," that is being ignored by the current plans for expansion, Rucker said.

Rucker showed a graphic illustrating his point that the proposed expansion will run through or near the centers of almost all of the oak trees.

Of the 26 trees that will be affected seven are young enough and small enough to make transplanting feasible, Rucker said. Many of the remaining trees, he said, are more than 100 years old, and would almost certainly not survive transplanting.



The University Center Expansion Plan would remove 26 trees, a move Rucker calls a "\$3.4 million impact disaster."

"To transplant trees of this age and size that have not been disturbed for over 100 years is tantamount to killing them," Rucker said.

Optional plans are available, Rucker said, that would leave the trees intact. He provided another graphic that showed a plan of his

that would enable the University Center to expand without disturbing any of the trees.

"Aggies, we can have our cake, the expansion, and eat it too," Rucker said. "All we need is a little creativity."

Photos Courtesy Dr. Robert Rucker

Remembering Reagan, the media

Roussel recants trials and tribulations of White House battlefront

By Melissa Naumann

Of The Battalion Staff

Instead of being on the frontline between the press and the president of the United States, Peter Roussel, former deputy press secretary for Ronald Reagan, is off the battlefield and is able to analyze objectively the strategies involved in that interaction.

Roussel, in a presentation to the Texas A&M chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, said Bush and Reagan differ as far as their relationship with the press goes. Bush, for example, has had only one prime time news conference in his nine months in office. Instead, he has opted for more daytime news conferences, Roussel said, which are more informal and give print reporters a better chance in a world of the electronic media.

"It evens it out a little bit for the print reporter, for the little guy," said Roussel, a visiting lecturer in the journalism department.

Bush calls many of the White House reporters by their first names but has said that he will not answer any questions shouted at him at photo opportunities, which, Roussel said, is unfortunate.

"Some of the more interesting and substantive things uttered during Reagan's presidency might have been during those photo ops," he said.

Reagan's relationship with the press was good, but not great, Roussel said.

When Roussel left the White House, there were 1,700 press passes issued to reporters, with anywhere from 100 to 150 reporters coming through the White House on a daily basis.

Roussel said the two daily briefings during the Reagan Administration kept him on his toes.

"It's like pitching the seventh game in the World Series," he said. "You're only one bad pitch, or in this case, one bad answer away from oblivion."

One problem with presidential prime time news conferences, Roussel said, is that prepared questions are met with prepared answers.

"It's become a theater," he said. "Even though it's not scripted, it appears to be."

Roussel said he would like to see a return to the type of press gatherings held in the Oval Office, which were very productive and organized. As electronic media became more widely used, those types of conferences became difficult. If possible, that type of press conference should be recreated so the electronic media can participate.

Roussel described his career in Washington as intense and requiring him to have a keen instinct for what to say and what not to say.

The first test of Roussel's instinct came on his first day on the job as Reagan's deputy press secretary when Jim Baker, then Reagan's chief of

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Universities cooperate on oil recovery project

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

"Texas universities may compete on the football field, but there is a growing bandwagon of cooperation among the Texas research universities," said Dr. Mel Friedman, Texas A&M dean of geosciences.

Geologists, geophysicists and engineers from the University of Houston, Rice University, Texas Tech University and University of Texas will unite with Texas A&M University colleagues in a Petroleum Recovery Research Program, Friedman said.

Friedman said the purpose of the program is to recover oil already found that isn't being utilized. The problem is approxi-

mately 20 percent of the nation's oil, classified as mobile unswept oil, is not being used, he said.

Friedman said reservoirs are currently treated as homogeneous, which means the permeability and porosity of the zones are the same.

Reservoirs are not homogeneous by nature; they're heterogeneous and don't yield hydrocarbons uniformly, Friedman said. When reservoirs are treated as if they are homogeneous, mobile unswept oil results.

In Texas, if one percent of the unswept oil could be recovered as a result of the proposed research, 350 million barrels could be recovered, Friedman said. "At

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