

A bargain moat

Crocodiles, piranhas and spirit

Editor: I recently graduated from A&M and have since entered graduate school at a university in Washington. Now that it is football season I thought you might be interested in how school spirit is expressed here.

When I arrived here I was shocked to see that the University did not have a wall surrounding its campus. But, they do have a 12-foot-wide moat containing crocodiles and piranhas. Curious to know more, I asked a nearby stu-

dent about the moat. He proudly said it was the only one of its kind and it had only costed \$3.2 million to construct.

"Quite a bargain, huh?" he asked. I said I didn't know because I hadn't priced any moats lately. He then added that it played an important role in school spirit, too.

"How's that?" I inquired. He explained, "Once a year before the last football game 1600 barrels of crude oil are poured into it and set afire. Then all the students link hands and form a continuous

Listen Up

ring inside the circle of fire." He went on, "We then yell, 'Claw 'em Cougars,' and sing our fight song while the band plays. As a finale we take three students dressed as our opponents and throw them into the flames." "The shouting can be heard two blocks away, and the flames have been seen as far away as 10th St.!"

exclaimed my informer. "Remarkable," was all I could say.

After a short silence I inquired, "Well, does everybody participate?"

"Naw," he disgustingly admitted, "there's a few kooks on campus who are against it."

"Well it does seem like a waste of fuel with the energy crisis and everything," said I.

"Listen," he sternly replied, "have you ever realized how much fuel is wasted across this nation everyday just from overfilling of gas tanks?"

"I guess I never considered that," I timidly responded.

"Besides," he added, "no cost is too great for increasing our school

spirit."

"And it really helps the spirit here?" I asked.

"Of course!" he said, as if I had asked a dumb question. "We've won three out of our past seventeen games against that team."

"Three out of seventeen doesn't sound too good to me," I stated.

"Well," he said defensively, "if we hadn't had our 'Ringfire' we might not have won any of them. Besides, this year will be different."

He asked me if I was going to be there and I said I thought I'd probably be busy.

I know this all sounds unbelievable, but people do strange things for strange reasons sometimes. CIG

EM.
David Schaub

Compromise fails

(Continued from Page 1)
5.43 percent. The phone company's original request was designed to boost the rate of return to 8.4 percent.

If the rates are put into effect, both cities will probably take legal action, asking the district court to issue a restraining order or temporary injunction, to stop the rate increase.

The case would then be taken to district court where a final decision on the increase would be handed down, following a hearing.

Bryan Mayor Lloyd Joyce said Thursday night the city will fight the rate increase if General Telephone does put the new rate hike into effect Monday morning.

"We will use every means at our disposal to stop this increase from going into effect," he said.

College Station Mayor O. M. Holt could not be reached for comment.

The phone company last sought a

rate increase in May 1972. That case was settled out of court between both cities and the phone company after a year of litigation in the 85th District Court in Bryan.

During the meeting, the phone company offered to settle for a \$688,000 increase and agreed not to ask for more until the state utilities commission goes into effect in September 1976, according to one city official.

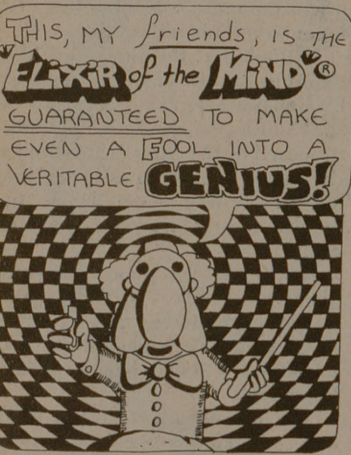
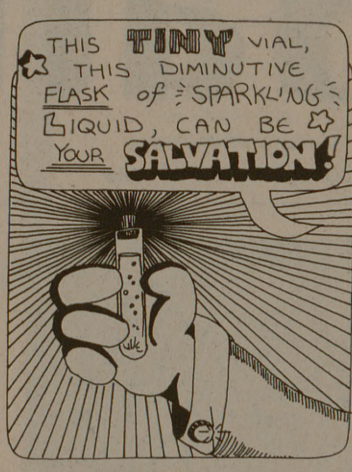
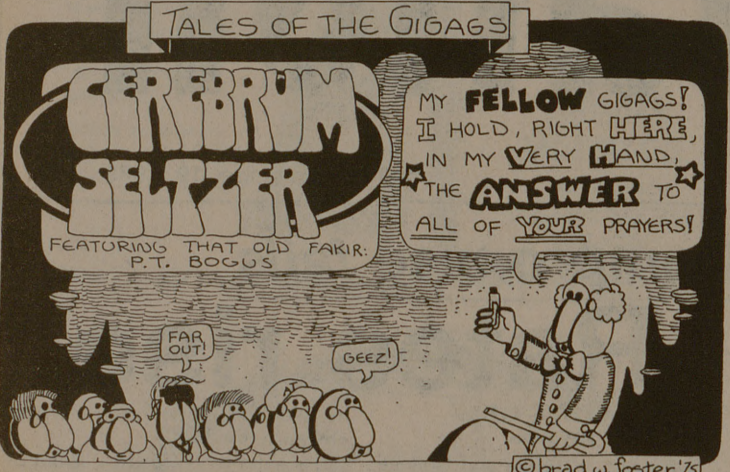
Both cities turned down the offer, saying it was still too high.

At another point during the meeting, according to another city official, the cities offered to grant General Telephone a \$375,000 rate hike, an increase of \$155,693 from the city's original offer.

General Telephone declined the offer.

One city official said that during the discussion the phone company again reduced its offer for an increase from \$688,000 to \$550,000.

The cities also refused that offer.



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