# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** 

MONDAY **FEBRUARY 13, 1978** 

ON

"WE'LL JUST ALL FREEZE TOGETHER!"

That's the way it should be. But it better be that way soon. The miners

have every right to negotiate for a better contract, so long as the rest of the

# A long, coal winter in Ohio

The best way to win an argument is to get your opponent in a position where he can't say no.

Negotiations over the United Mine Workers coal strike are rapidly approaching that point. Sunday, the union's 39-member bargaining council rejected a tentative agreement to settle the 70-day-old strike. But the people with their backs against a wall aren't the coal industry. They are the coaldependent utility companies in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Indiana.

Federal officials estimate the average coal supply for U.S. electric utilities have on stock will last another 66 days. Industry supplies are generally smaller than those held by the electric utilities. But if and when the UMW bargaining council does approve a contract agreement, rank-and-file approval and returning mines to operation would take at least 25 days. So, if the bargaining council had approved the proposed agreement, customers still wouldn't receive any new coal until mid-March. The council adjourned Sunday without any decision on when a new contract may be considered.

Utility companies in the east-central states which has been hard-hit by recent record winter storms have called for voluntary conservation of elec-tricity by all users, while cutting back industrial customers up to 30 percent. If union officials don't agree on a contract within the next two weeks, the utilities' margin of safety will be getting pretty thin. The strike is already the longest in UMW history.

So what does all this mean to Texans complaining about 30 degree temperatures while "Yankees" are under 30 inches of snow? Simply this: The affected states are major centers for the steel industry among others, and steel industry costs affect steel prices which affect the cost of an awful lot of products Texans like. So an extended strike could increase the cost of steelrelated products well down the line.

Why doesn't "somebody" do something then? President Carter has approved removal of air pollution limits in Ohio so that state can make use of all its coal stores. He's also ordered an emergency plan to find out how to move coal into most restricted areas. But he refused to use strike-breaking powers under the Taft-Hartley Act.

"I continue to believe that the solution to the strike must be worked out in a free collective bargaining," Carter said.

> again exercising democratic principles and freedom and justice for all. Whoa! Wait a minute. If we put Mr.

country doesn't suffer in the process.

US ECONOMI

Criminal behind bars for life, that is going to indirectly cost the taxpayer more money. Mr. Criminal might have gotten out in 7 to 10 years. Now what if he lives 50 more years. That is anywhere from 5 to 7 times the cost of letting him out on parole, and we can't do that. He is just too dangerous. Oh my God, there are more like him, hundreds, thousands. Jesus! Where is all this money going to come from to pay for all these people in prison? And as more go in prison that means there are less of us on the outside, so the mone-

Why don't we give them all lobotomies? No, can't do that. That would be tinkering with their minds, besides, it can be dangerous. Can't have all these zombies walking around.

L.R.L.

Why don't we just give him the death penalty? He robbed six stores, took 17 hostages with him, brutally slayed all but one old lady and she is nothing but a vegetable. Now. No! No! We can't do that. You

Steve Tennyson is a sophomore civil engineering major. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

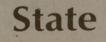
# TOP OF THE NEWS Campus

### College sets open house

All prospective and interested students are invited to the Texas A&M University College of Medicine open House Feb. 21, in room 215 Animal Industries Building, with the program beginning at 7.30 p.m. A tour of the College of Medicine will be given.

### Board plan installment due

The second installment board payment for the 1978 Spring semes-ter is due on or before Feb. 17. The amount is \$143.05 for the 7-day Board Plan and \$128 for the 5-day plan. Pay now either at the Fiscal Office, Richard Coke Building or the Cashier's Office in the main lobby at Rudder Center, to avoid penalty.



### **Recordings** subpoenaed

In Odessa, Ector County Judge Virgil Lumpee has subpoenaed newspaper reporter's tape recordings of statements made by Ector County jail inmates regarding the death of a Mexican-American prisoner. In statements and recordings given to Richard Orr of the San Angelo Standard Times, the inmates say they saw jail personnel hi and harass Larry Ortega Lozano, 27, several days before his deat Jan. 22 in the jail. Inmates say Lozano was physically abused by the jailers during a contraband search. Three jail sources also said Lozano was beaten to death by sheriff's deputies while his head was covered with a blanket.

#### Love Field may have competition

Eight years after the last commercial passenger plane took off from Meacham Field in Fort Worth, Meacham officials are eager to reop the airport to intrastate commuter traffic and compete with Dalas Love Field for low-cost flights within the state. Rio Airlines an several other commuter operations already have begun negotiation with field officials, and Meacham aviation director Barry Hall said it only a matter of time before details can be settled with the Texa Aeronautics Commission to allow flights from Fort Worth to Hou Field," said Hall. "I think we'll have commuter flights in and out of here within six months now that voters have shown us they're in terested in this service by approving our capital improvements bod this week

## **Planes** search for officials

At least 10 Civil Air Patrol planes flew missions Sunday in the expanding search for a missing single-engine airplane carrying tw Southwest Conference basketball officials. The plane, with Bill Hor len of San Antonio and Jerry Neely of San Marcos aboard, left McA len Friday night and did not arrive as scheduled in San Marcos. "Th weather is improving and we have 10 planes in air looking over several locations," said Mrs. Peg Jollie of the Civil Air Patrol in Sa Antonio. "We have looked as far south as the Mexican border and as far north as the Killeen area. "We hope to have more planes in the air during the day looking along the McAllen-San Marcos line."

# Nation

### Burger refuses to rescind

Chief Justice Warren Burger not only refused to apologize for his comment that many trial lawyers are incompetent, but he repeate the charge Sunday in New Orleans and urged the American Ba Association to do something about it. The chief justice's views on th subject have caused legal tempers to flare. But Burger said his n marks instead were intended to "stimulate efforts to correct a long standing deficiency." In a speech prepared for delivery before th ABA winter meeting, he likened new law school graduates to the practice law as a passport to try any and every kind of a case in a court makes no more sense than to say that a medical school degree qualifies the holder to perform every kind of surgery," Burger to the convention. "Our protection is that the hospitals will not let then do so.

# **Capital punishment effective deterrent**

#### **By STEVE TENNYSON**

I am writing in response to Reader's Forum (Feb 8) by Vicki Whorton. I must disagree with her "bleeding heart" liberal opinion

#### **Readers'** forum

The subject was the death penalty and Ms. Whorton was vehemently against. So, Ms. Whorton, I address this response to

Letters to the editor

on the criminal mind has got to have some significance, even if it acts as only a deter-rent to illegal activity. To remove this rent to filegal activity. To remove this would be to assure the criminal that no matter what he does, however cata-strophic its effects may be, he will be able to sit in his cell and laugh at the odd value systems these "civilized" people have. He will be certain to live through anything he does There he there sizes life it he does. Then, he thinks, since life is the roughest possible punishment, why not carry out each every clandestine whim that comes to mind? "I will be up for parole in a few years anyhow." That is easily enough taken care of. Mr. Criminal, we just deny you parole. And the happy world The effect of possible death by the state goes, about its carefree business, once, tary demands go even higher per capita.

Basketball & bad fall, math fare & pet care

#### **Editor**:

Many people are calling for increased support of the basketball team this semester. I believe that one major reason for such lack of attendance at the games has to do with the facility itself. Let's face it. G. Rollie White Coliseum is just not a very good place to watch a game. It is virtually half an what he saw, but it just happened to go against your school? Seeing who can scream loudest and stand the longest? I the base have their own opinion of the think not.

Spirit is cheering your team on, not against the other. Anyone who appears at a game has spirit of some nature. It makes it

club, too. While visiting my brother, I learned that they treated three serious parachuting accidents in one eight-day period last semester.

hard to enjoy a game if you have to dodge foul language and drunken Aggies. Is al-cohol not prohibited at G. Rollie? I must point out that this club was not affiliated with Texas A&M last semester, so maybe this new relationship may add to I must point out that this club was not

evening each month in the calendar of activities devoted to math testing. On that night each month common exams would be given in the large multisection freshman/sophomore math courses.

This was done for a time before. But various people didn't like it, and it was dropped. We feel it is time to rethink the matter. We think Patricia Young has

The school has 28,000 students here but G. Rollie can't hold even half that number. Maybe a few students would like to come to a game such as the one against t.u. but they know they probably won't get in. This then carries over to other games. A&M has excellent facilities in some

areas and I feel that the basketball team deserves a Madison Square Garden to play in. I believe not only would more people come to the games but the school could draw some of the most talented players in the nation that otherwise end up at schools at Arkansas.

-Lee S. Hebbard, '79

#### See my point

#### **Editor**:

First off, we would like to explain that we are not ones to gripe and complain when things go bad for the Ags. We hang tough through thick and thin, through hell and high water. When the Ags lost to Michigan, we said okay, let's just forget that one and move on. And when t.u. came to Kyle Field, we shook that one off, too. We even managed to forget about the 'vanishing" two timeouts against you know who.

But, we feel that our opinions must be voiced on a certain matter. By no means are we questioning the ability of Coach Shelby Metcalf, nor are we trying to second-guess some of his "tactics.

And we're not ones to put other Ags down, either. But we believe we are speaking for a lot of Ags when we say that the Ags could use a new point guard. Not that Dave Goff is not capable, for he surely But how can he play forty minutes of basketball with no rest? We can not see his playing the whole game while Jarvis Williams and the likes are "resting" on the bench.

We have come to the assumption that Coach Metcalf is saving his better players for next year just as Coach Bellard is saving those two timeouts for a bigger and

> Brett Smith, '81 Ricky Majeuisk, '81 Jeff Miller, '79

#### **Reconsider** spirit

#### Editor:

Spirit. What is it? Can it be defined? Yelling obscenities at a referee who called

Many people simply enjoy sports and are not for any particular team. That is what I consider myself - a spectator. Spectators have the same rights as viewers that consider themselves participants. You are judged to be a two-percenter or not a "True Aggie." If that's the case, I'm sorry, but I fail to see the beauty in being a "True Aggie." If I choose to sit, no one — NO ONE — has the right to tell me to stand. Having been knocked down perviously during a yell, I chose not to rise for it a second time. I was struck in the head with a large piece of ice by former yell leader. I was told that I didn't belong in that section. Where do I belong? Does he now consider himself an Aggie? A gentleman? Or even a Big Man On Campus?

It is time that people reconsider them selves and start considering others.

- T. Gordy, '79

## Look before leaping

Editor:

Consider this a warning to anyone interested in the recently publicized article and ad concerning the Brazos Sport Parachute Club. Before you get it fixed into your heads you're immortal, or dar-ing, decide just how expendable your limbs are, or face, or whatever.

Granted, most people who make the jump with this club have fun. But last semester I can name several who did not. One was Louis Martinez, who suffered a fractured leg after being forced into an unsafe landing because of obstacles. The other, my brother, is recuperating from several months of intensive care and surgery after "kissing" Gatesvilles' 7200volt power lines which snake through the

The jump site used, in my opinion, is too hazardous for beginners and DOES NOT conform to regulations set by the USPA for beginning jumpers. USPA Reg-All areas used for parachutists must be unobstructed, with the following minimum radial distances to the nearest hazard: Student and Novice parachutists: 300 meters. Hazards are defines as: Trees, ditches, telephones and power lines, towers, buildings, highways and automobiles. There are several hazards much closer than 300 meters at Gatesville. Power lines do surround the area. There are also barbed-

the safety factor (perhaps the new jump mentioned). By the way, I don't want to hear any flack from the parachute club on how "biased" my letter is. I just wanted to let people know both sides. The Feb. 10 article says, "The Univer-

sity waived responsibility for any accidents associated with the club...Jumpers are responsible for their own safety. But, how responsible can new jumpers be, having only several hours ground training?

- Jim Slater, '79

#### Math answers

#### **Editor**:

Patricia S. Young, '81, wrote a letter in this column on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Part of it stated that a student's GPR could suffer from wrong choice of math section. It noted that the chemistry department has been a campus leader in working toward uniform grading policies.

Let me take a few inches of space to describe recent work and plans in math. Some freshman chem class techniques can be used in math. Chem breaks its lectures into small labs. Math has followed this lead and gone into the lab business in a big way this year. We think it is helping. Chem has a single superviser for every multisection course. Math has also adopted this policy, and its efforts are starting to pay off

There are other things chem does which math cannot. There are chem classes enrolling 300 students. In fact no math class enrolls as many as 130 students, whereas ten chem classes enroll more than 180 students. Objective tests make more sense in chem. In math we need to see calculations. It is easier to gove several equivalent versions of an objective test than of the tests which math administers. There are many lecture times for the various math sections of one course. Hence there must be many versions of exams in such courses. Grading thus becomes less standardized.

The Department has been working for years to get common exam times set aside Recently the University has changed the exam schedule to allow a single final exam at a common time for all sections of any multisection course starting no later than May, 1979. But what about the monthly hour examinations? Here we need help from more than the Registrar. We seek an

pointed out a real problem. We believe we can go a long way toward solving it if we can get this one night a month. We will be asking various people for their opinions and their help in the months to come - G.R. Blakley, Head

**Department of Mathematics** 

#### An exotic case

#### Editor

I would like to point out that Kathy Nemec's article against keeping exotic pets was full of old information and slightly absurd statements. I have been a zookeeper for the past two years and I plan to make a career in the zoo business.

For one, neutered, de-fanged, declawed and de-scented animals certainly are fit for a zoo. In fact, many zoos perform these operations. This is called management practice, Ms. Necec. Another thing, if you are worried about private ownership of ocelots (or most any specie of feline), owls, many species of primates, or most any exotic animal, try buying one. Unless you are federally approved, the Depart-ment of Interior will not let you have one. This is called the Endangered Species Act, Ms. Nemec.

The concern about mortality rate in transportation of exotics was touching, but the whole story was not told. The reason for the high death rate is because the large percentage of shipped exotics are babies, and any young of a specie is more susceptable to death than mature animals. Animal catchers have the choice to capture either a litter of babies or their full-grown, dangerous and, and very-difficult to catch mother. Which would you choose, Ms. Nemec?

In closing, I would like to express disapproval for the keeping of any animal which you do not have the facilities to care for it with, be it exotic, a dog, a cat, or a pet hamster. Wild animals CAN be domesticated, though it takes much more attention and love. If you care for animals, buy one you feel comfortable with and would take care of properly. If you are considering an exotic pet, contact a zoo or the wildlife department for information on care and pending laws on the animal. This is common sense, Ms. Nemec

- Bruce Nixon, '81

#### Another Son of Sam?

A psychotic killer, who has labeled himself the "BTK Stranger," Wichita, Kan., says he is seeking the same perverse publicity give the Son of Sam slayer in New York and Los Angeles' Hillside Strang ler. Police say a letter from the "BTK Strangler" describing the mu der of seven persons in a four-year period is authentic. Investigator say they are pursuing several leads but have no suspects. Authoritie have in their possission of two letters and a card signed "BTK"– standing for "Bind, Torture and Kill." The latest letter, one of at least three communications police have in their possession, was received by Wichita television station KAKE and submitted to police Friday In the KAKE letter, the writer claimed he was responsible for the strangulation murders of four members of the Joseph Otero family in 1974. The letter also mentioned three other victims, one of which was not identified.

# Weather

Sunny and mild today, clear and cold tonight, clear and cool tomorrow. High today upper 60s, low tonight near 30. High tomorrow mid-50s. Winds from the northeast at 10-15 mph.

# THE BATTALION

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