

# Campus Names

## Doyle Butler named teacher training

Dr. M. Doyle Butler has been promoted to head of the Vocational Industrial Teacher Education Training Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Butler holds a doctorate in educational administration from Oklahoma State University. He also received a master's degree in trade and industrial education and a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from Oklahoma State.

He joined the staff of the Texas Engineering Extension Service in July 1977 after serving as director of the Northeast Oklahoma Area Vocational-Technical School's south campus for two years.

In addition to 14 years of experience in vocational-technical education, Butler has 18 years of experience in industry.

## J.O. Lewis assumes new training position

J.O. Lewis of College Station

is head of the new Telecommunications Training Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service at Texas A&M University.

Lewis has been with the training division eight years and was a training specialist before assuming the duties of division head.

"The appointment of a new division head results from the separation of the Telecommunications Training Division from the Electric Power Utilities Training Division," said James R. Bradley, division director.

Lewis worked in the telephone industry 17 years as a cable splicer and outside plant engineer before joining the Texas A&M staff.

## New specialists join Sea Grant College

Two marine advisory specialists have joined the staff of the Texas A&M University Sea Grant College Program, announced Feenan Jennings, Sea Grant director.

Ken Pagans, marine recreation specialist, is located at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi. He will work with county marine agents to assist communities in planning and providing marine-related recreational services and facilities, with support from private and public sources.

Pagans received a bachelors degree in forestry and environmental sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a masters degree from Texas A&M University in extension and adult education.

Nelson Swartz, marine economics specialist, will assist all segments of the commercial fishing industry with economic matters. Additionally, he will conduct research on the economics of seafood production and marketing, through the Agricultural Economics Department at Texas A&M.

Swartz received a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arizona and a doctorate in marine economics from Oregon State University.

# Texaco agrees to pay \$169,400 in penalties to Port Arthur refinery

United Press International  
PORT ARTHUR — Texaco Inc. federal safety enforcers and the refinery workers union have agreed Texaco will pay one of the largest job safety penalties in history, officials said Wednesday.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommended \$394,000 in penalties after inspections in 1977 and 1978 led to safety violation charges at Texaco's Port Arthur refinery, where eight workers died in a March 1978 fire.

The figure was reduced to \$169,400 by agreement Tuesday among OSHA, Texaco and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-23. The settlement was tentative and requires approval by OSHA Administrative Judge Erwin Stuller.

"To my knowledge it is the largest, but I can't be definite," said Frank Pierce of Local 4-23, although spokesmen for Texaco and OSHA said they were uncertain.

"We're pleased with the settlement because we feel that we're

going to get some immediate relief in the area of safety at the Port Arthur refinery," Pierce said.

A Texaco spokesman said, "The agreement emphasizes it is not an admission of negligence, violation of law or breach of duty by Texaco."

"The Department of Labor felt it was in the best interests of employees and we felt this was a very good settlement," an OSHA spokesman said. "The purpose is not necessarily to save time and money. It's to get violations abated."

A total of 180 alleged violations, ranging from inadequate emergency rescue procedures to excessive distance between ladder rungs, were involved in the new settlement.

Pierce, chairman of Local 423's Texaco refinery unit, said the agreement includes "precedent-setting" provisions for improved emergency rescue procedures and safety training.

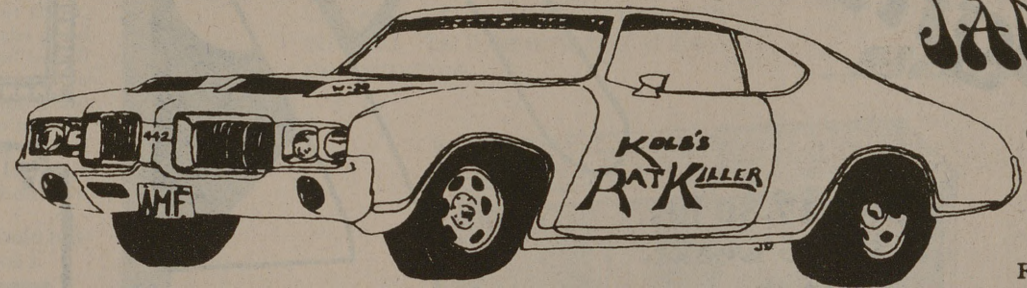
"It means we can pursue these further in the rest of the industry," Pierce said.

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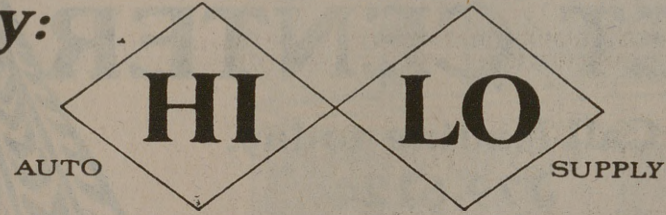


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## Professor cites changes

# Writing skills improving

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Battalion Reporter

Students today are much more aware of the importance of good writing skills in their lives, a Texas A&M University professor said Monday.

Dr. Claude Gibson, an English professor, said, "Kids are coming out of high school weak in writing skills. Most college kids realize this weakness, and are making an effort to correct it."

Gibson recently conducted a six-month survey of 486 college and university English departments across the United States, sampling changes in the undergraduate English curriculum.

Gibson found that nearly one third of all new courses offered in college and university English departments over the past three years have been writing courses.

Gibson attributes part of the increased interest in writing courses to the demands of business.

"Everyone is requiring writing skills," he said. "A typical young engineer or businessman is being asked to write more. If he is good at writing he'll be in good shape. There is a great demand for kids who can write proposals, reports and the everyday type of writing that needs to be done."

The study revealed that not only is there an increased interest in writing, but the type of writing being taught has also changed.

"The pendulum has swung around," he said. "The emphasis has switched from the literature-based type of writing to the more practical aspects of writing such as composition skills, letter writing and memoranda."

Gibson said that in Texas A&M's English department, as at most schools, the greatest number of courses are in writing. He pointed out that 22 percent of all students taking writing courses here are doing so on an elective basis.

"I believe students are discovering just how important writing is," he said. "The important thing is for students to learn all aspects of writing. There must be a happy medium, not just one aspect of writing to the exclusion of another."

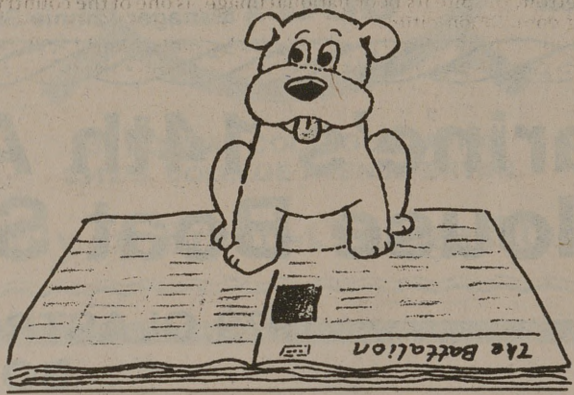
Gibson noted that schools are also

working on such problems as class size, course load and lack of qualified faculty and graduate students to staff the new classes.

"If the survey shows one thing," he said, "it is that English departments are having to take into account more than ever before the teaching of writing."

"Students are realizing more and more that writing is a definite fact of life," Gibson said. "The art of communication is becoming more important now than ever before."

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- MSC President - deadline January 26
- MSC Council officers - deadline February 7
- MSC Committee Chairmen - deadline February 21

Applications are available in Room 216 of the Memorial Student Center.

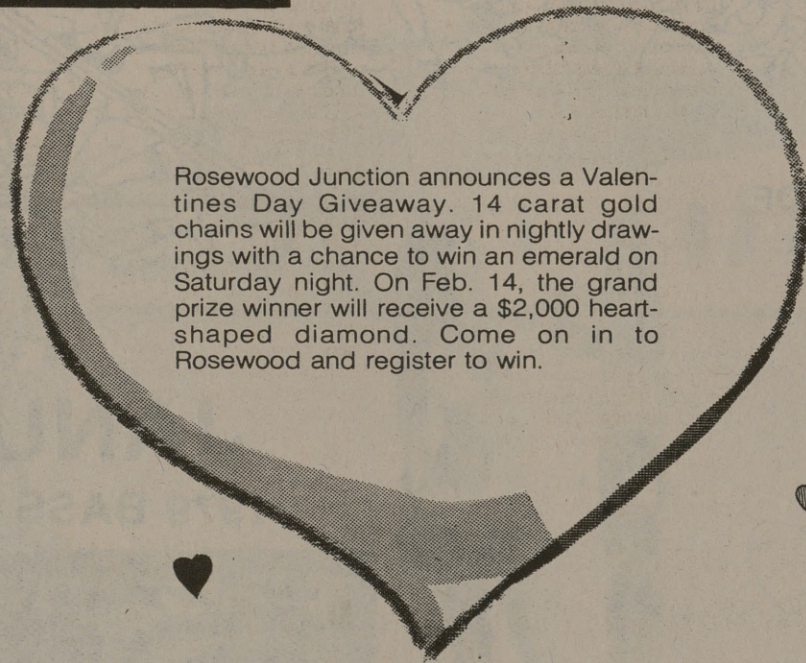
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