

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Mike Faust and son Brian try out the new fishing hole.

OPINION

Fishin' nets more

Kenneth Rich went fishing Saturday.

The last time was more than a year ago, when his granddad taught him to catch New Mexican trout. But now the College Station 10-year-old was using his granddad's rod to catch catfish, with his dad and granddad's fishing cap for company.

His granddad had died, just a year ago Saturday.

Kenneth — and at least a hundred other youngsters — went fishing Saturday because some College Station policemen decided to care about kids *before* they get into trouble.

Juvenile officers B.F. Kapella and F.R. Carr realized the small pond alongside the city's new police station would make a perfect fishing hole.

Brazos Savings donated hundreds of pounds of good-size catfish. The local Lions Club donated material for several fishing piers. Add some hard work and presto — there appeared a great place for kids to have fun and an even better place for parents to spend time with their kids.

The pond's in fine shape for now. But the officers fear it may soon be fished out, even with a one-fish-per-day-per-kid limit.

Donations of money, or catfish, should be directed to Sgt. Kapella at 696-8864.

Cops caring about kids before they're in trouble — isn't that an idea worth supporting?

Will coal work? Ask the man

Albert Speer, the man who set up Nazi Germany's successful "synthetic fuel" program to make gasoline out of coal when Hitler gave the order in 1936, says that President Carter's plan to produce 2.5 million barrels a day of oil by 1990 is realistic.

It did not take Mr. Speer 10 years to provide all the fuel needed by Hitler's planes, tanks and trucks. If you want to know if a program will work, just ask the man who's run one.

Sherman Democrat

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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Carter proposes, Congress disposes

Holy writ suggests the workman is worthy of his hire. We have nothing against paying a congressman the wage that his merits command.

Like any other workman, the congressman is worthy of his hire so long as he fulfills his responsibilities, among them protection of the national currency from debauchery. That he should get a raise — a reward, actually — for falling down on the job does not make to us a lot of sense.

In his recent executive order proposing 7 percent raises for civilian and military employees, President Carter thoughtfully included Congress. To reject the money, one house or the other must vote to do so before Oct. 1.

If congressmen are uncomfortable with their \$57,000-a-year salaries, they have no one to blame but themselves. Who is responsible for inflation? Not the President, who only proposes the deficit budgets

that, year after year, keep inflation roaring along. The White House proposes, but Congress disposes. Its word is final.

Congress has been as eager as the President to spend. The consequence is 13 percent inflation — for which our congressmen should hardly expect the nation to show its gratitude by raising their pay.

Here's a better way. Offer a bonus; say, an extra \$1,000 a year for every point the inflation rate drops. Let inflation get back

to 1 or 2 percent — where it was so long ago — and our congressional men would be worthy of every extra dollar paid them.

As it is, it's hard to find justification giving them a single penny more. They're pinched? Gee, that's too bad. They serve all the sympathy due a man who throws a tear gas bomb then complains watery eyes.

The Dallas Morning News

DICK WEST Light bulbs would probably be banned if Edison were to invent them these days

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — President Carter's new synthetic fuel program has yet to combust a single hydrocarbon but already it has environmental groups heated up.

While perhaps well taken, the opposition to projected "synfuel" production illustrates how difficult it is to come forth with acceptable energy innovations in this time of ecological awareness.

All of which started me to wondering what the situation might have been like if some of the landmark developments in this field had been delayed until now.

Next month, for example, the Smithsonian Institution will open a major new exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary

of the invention of the light bulb.

The first public demonstration of the incandescent lamp drew thousands of admirers to Thomas Edison's home in Menlo Park, N.J. From all reports, they were filled with wonderment.

What might the reaction be like today? Somewhat in this vein, I'll warrant:

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled extensive public hearings on a controversial proposal to license electric light bulbs for household use.

The testimony will coincide with the completion of a nationwide environmental impact statement showing what effect such illumination might have on the flora and fauna of various regions.

"We do not in any way dispute the genius of Thomas Edison," said one nature group opposed to the license. "It is Consolidated Edison that has us worried."

"Once electric lights become commonplace, Con Ed and other power companies will be constantly digging up city streets with pneumatic drills."

"The noise and vibration could damage the central nervous systems of worms, moles and other underground creatures, thus upsetting the balance of nature."

WASHINGTON — The Consumer Products Safety Commission disclosed today it is considering a ban on installation of newly invented light bulbs in American homes.

"Our research shows that in order to

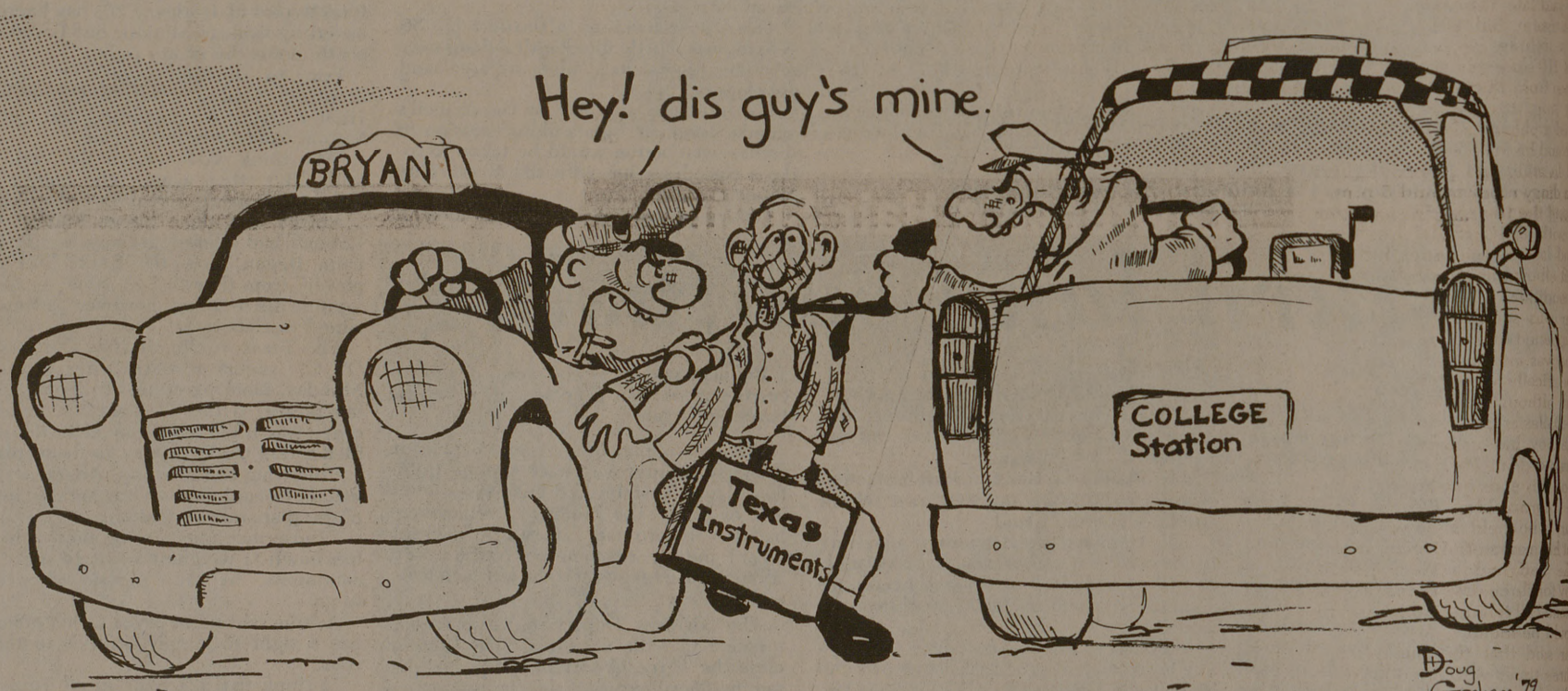
function in the desired manner, the bulb must be screwed into an electric socket commission spokesman said.

"Laboratory tests prove that if a consumer who is removing or changing an accidentally sticks a finger into the socket he may receive a nasty shock."

WASHINGTON — The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today to bar the use of light bulbs in public buildings.

"We have received numerous complaints that the lights go out during shortages and other electric transmission interruptions," an OSHA official told reporters.

"Night shift workers who are left in rooms could easily bump into sockets and hurt themselves."



LETTERS Freshman reveals new-found knowledge of college football rules to classmates

Editor:
I am a freshman. Since I am a freshman, and a female one at that, I did not fully understand some of the basic laws of college football.

After my first "real" game last Saturday night against BYU, all of the truths I have believed along the years about college football have been proven fallacies. I would like to pass along my newly found information about this sport to other freshmen, if I may.

- Did you know that:
- 1) If one of the opposition's coaches is wearing a beige hat, he may have the privilege of shooting the finger of goodwill in retaliation for a horse laugh.
 - 2) When a loyal Aggie quarterback has fallen and the play is over, the opposition may choose, at random, any one of their players to dive, helmet first, into said quarterback's back.
 - 3) When an Aggie player is running to catch a pass, and the opposition interferes with the runner, it is a basic law that all referees on the field must have their backs turned. (This law must be enforced at least one play per game.)

And last, but not least, let us not forget to thank our cordial host, SWC brother, for the lovely shaving cream on the door handle of our cars, and the free placement of their "Give a Hoot" stickers over our own "Gig 'Em Aggies" sticker. I wonder how they will upstage this hospitality during the SWC season.

—Teresa Cau, Class '83

Dress for Taps

Editor:
Tuesday evening, we gathered in darkness to pay a final tribute to some people

we will never see again. All was quiet and reverent; we showed care, respect and even sadness.

Perhaps we might have glimpsed, through misty eyes, in the night, a radiance of beauty — a glimmer of something very precious and sacred — life itself. How ironic it was that only in death could we grasp this essence. In death, we offered that respect for life which we so often fail to give at any other time. How many deaths?

Today is a new day, however. Let us continue as we were. Let us continue to steal from one another; cheat off one another; and lie to one another. Let us continue in our petty indiscretions, our contempt, our prejudice, and our endless verbal and thought degradations of humanity.

Let us continue to hammer away until we fashion an image of ugliness — an image born of noble birth yet raised in

poverty. Let us rob from life — life!

Finally, may we somehow yearn for death. In the death of others we may see the value of life; unfortunately our own death brings blindness, but at least a distant lifelong cry will and relieved of its miserable futility — a cry which wanted only enough time to whisper, "I'm life — I'm special — don't cheapen me."

— Lee A. Phillips

'Bald' dream

Editor:
I had a dream last night. I saw headlines of major national papers that read: "20,000 A&M Students Shave Heads in Support of Team." And "12th Man in Aggieland, Alive and Bald." Even the Eagle, "Block-long Lines at Northgate Barbers." Then I woke up; too bad.

—Bill Shearin, '80

THOTZ

