

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"You see, when a beer advertises that it contains no nitrosamines that may cause cancer, this is not to say that drinking beer will protect you against cancer. Are you following me?"

OPINION

Students really invited

Administrators are serious about the invitation printed below. Two years ago, when Dr. Miller became president, a similar concert and reception was held. Not many students attended, but those who did were able to meet and talk briefly with the new president, other top administrators and the regents. In a school of 31,000 students, there are few chances to see the chancellor when he's not officially doing something. But Thursday he's officially meeting students.

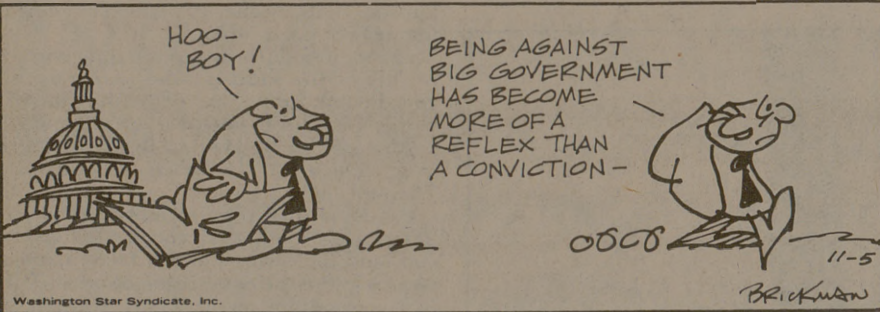
On behalf of
Texas A&M University
President and Mrs. Jarvis E. Miller
invite you to a
concert and reception
honoring
Chancellor and Mrs. Frank W. R. Hubert
on
Thursday, November 8, 1979

Concert, seven thirty o'clock in the evening
Rudder Auditorium

Reception, following, from nine until eleven o'clock
Room 224, Memorial Student Center

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for certification.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 1979

ANALYSIS Metal detector manufacturer profits from Australia's modern gold rush

By JOHN SHAW
International Writers Service

SYDNEY — People around the world are currently paying record prices for gold. But here in Australia, the boom has sparked a massive rush to prospect for the precious metal.

With the summer season in this hemisphere just starting, many families are planning to spend their vacations in quest of gold rather than fishing or surfing. Numbers are already digging on weekends at sites only a few hours from the major cities.

A factor in the rush is the Australian unemployment rate of 7 percent, the highest in a generation. This has prompted droves of jobless workers to take to the hills in search of gold.

Australian mining companies, also infected by the fever, are now processing low-grade ores that were formerly neglected as too expensive to handle. As a result, gold shares are soaring on stock exchanges here.

Like other gold booms in the past, this one may soon bust. At the moment, though, the dream of hitting bonanzas has captured the public imagination, and some

Australians have actually struck it rich.

Within recent months, for example, one young couple has found \$33,000 worth of gold digging in the desert near the tiny town of Cue, in the western part of the continent. The population of the town, 300 in normal times, has doubled since the discovery.

The biggest single strike so far has been a nugget valued at \$110,000, found at a place called Hill End, in New South Wales. It was near there that the first Australian gold rush began more than a century ago.

Perhaps the oddest discovery has been that of a family that, during a weekend picnic, picked up a chunk of quartz containing \$11,000 worth of gold.

The biggest beneficiary of the boom here has been an Arizona-based company, Bounty Hunter, Inc., which is selling metal detectors to Australians as fast as the gadgets can be shipped across the Pacific.

The detectors, which resemble those used by the military to spot mines, are powered by batteries and sell for prices ranging from \$100 to \$700. They have transformed prospecting from an amateur to a professional activity.

Instead of panning the sand of stream beds, for instance, those in search of gold now tackle huge heaps of "mullock," the discarded earth and rock thrown aside at abandoned mines. Prospectors can also cover large areas rapidly with their electronic devices.

Ralph Goodwin, the Australian importer of the metal detectors, is so confident that the gold rush will last that he has urged the American manufacturer to expand its production.

Australia, like California, very much owes its existence to gold, which was first discovered here in commercial quantities in 1851. The man who pioneered the effort, Edward Hargraves, was an English-born prospector who had failed to strike pay dirt in California during the famous gold rush there a couple of years earlier.

In the decade after Hargraves made his pile, the population of Australian trebled to one million, many of the immigrants arriving with pick and shovel in hopes of getting rich quick.

Big mining firms moved in during the years that followed. One of their mines, located near the remote western town of

Kalgoorlie, was managed for years by a young American engineer by the name of Herbert Hoover.

Though the early gold fever turned Australians never quite gave up the search for the precious metal. Those old gold fields like Ballarat and Bendigo have long spent their weeks of the mining, or panning for nuggets.

The new detectors, some of them sensitive enough to spot a dime-size speck of gold buried a foot deep, have produced modern technology to replace the primitive art.

Predictably, the newspapers chronicle gold finds the way they do sweepstakes winners. Some have suggested, a bit facetiously, that the employment problem might be solved by the jobless gold detectors and welfare compensation.

The glitter of gold for Australia, as it has before. In the end, however, it is captivating this much as it is the rest of the world.

Shaw, an Australian newspaper columnist, writes on current affairs in Sydney.



DICK WEST Q and A's inform curious consumers what is inflationary and what isn't

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Recent developments on the economic front seem to have left some consumers confused as to what is inflationary and what is deflationary.

Perhaps the following atecim will help straighten out their thinking:

Q. Are record-high oil prices inflationary or deflationary?
A. Oil price increases are viewed by most

economists as a prime contributor to inflation.

Q. Well, if oil price increases are inflationary and the administration is trying to curtail inflation, why did President Carter decontrol oil prices, thus permitting them to go higher?

A. If oil prices go high enough, they will eventually become deflationary. The theory is that people will have to spend all of their money on gasoline, thus causing the rest of the economy to deflate.

Q. What about record-high interest

rates?
A. Interest rate increases are considered deflationary.

Q. You seem to be saying that when the oil companies gouge us it is inflationary, but when the banks stick it to us it is deflationary. What's the difference?

A. Banks do not loan their own money. In effect, they lease money from depositors and sub-let it to borrowers. Technically, therefore, interest is another form of rent.
Q. But aren't rent increases inflationary?

A. Not as a rule. Usually, when increases reach the inflationary level, landlords convert the property to condominiums.

Q. How do wage increases figure in?
A. Wage increases that exceed guidelines are regarded as inflationary.
Q. What about the guidelines?

A. Since the wage-price guidelines had no apparent impact on the economy, they are neither inflationary nor deflationary. They are merely flat.

LETTERS Cyclists fight back: 'Objective rider' worried he is an endangered species

Editor:
The way things are going, the next time Silver Taps are played, John Q. Bike rider will be among the list of the deceased. There is a growing faction on campus (i.e. edgy pedestrians) that would like to add Shwinus Bikus to the extinct species list.

Being a non partisan, objective bike rider myself I thought I would lend a little perspective to this growing concern (that ranks right up with the Great MSC Grass Debate).

I am saddened by the days of old when I could ride my bike with "wild abandon" on campus. It was exhilarating to match man and machine against split second timing and to make instant judgment calls. The excitement of barrelling down unmercifully on scrambling, screaming coeds. The sense of power I got when I would see my next victim cringe in terror. The insane pleasure I would ... Ulp! Where was I?

Oh yes, I'm just a non-partisan, concerned, objective bike rider who would like to lend a little perspective to this issue.

I have never hit a pedestrian, but a few have thrown themselves under my bicycle. I suspect that since it is harder to throw oneself off of Rudder Tower, more and more students are throwing themselves under the nearest high speed bicycle. Poor, misguided chaps, but I feel I am helping society by putting them out of their misery. They have such sweet smiles on their faces.

Anyway, bikers need only to use a little

caution and temperance and the problem will be drastically reduced. I found that if I anticipate for what's up ahead I have no difficulty. Especially crowded areas or blind corners should be approached with decreased speed and a wary eye. Keeping hands on the brakes at tricky spots will bail you out of difficult situations.

This campus is very large and I'm not ready to give up my bicycle, yet. I for one will not become another casualty statistic, so I drive defensively.

— Mark Singleton

Use warning bells

Editor:
In the light of several recent attacks on all bicyclists printed in your paper, I would like to rebut. Firstly, nobody to date has been killed in a bike-bike, or bike-pedestrian accident. Cars kill people, and we've had plenty of that in College Station. Usual bike-related injuries include cuts and scrapes and occasional broken bones ... like pinkies. Nothing major, I'm sure.

We are not out to hit pedestrians, in fact many of us try very hard to avoid it. I use a bell, or a yell to warn a clod of people to move one foot to either side, because I am not armored and can be hurt just as easily as they can. I do not consider myself responsible for those who refuse to look where they're going and walk suddenly in front of me, nor for those who deliberately look at

me and then block the way.

Many off-campus students need their bikes to get to class. Yet, when they get here, they find street bike lanes frequently blocked by inconsiderate clods who try and squeeze in a parking place where there is none. Also, tried to walk from Kleburg to Zachry lately? It can't be done in less than 15 minutes. Don't suggest the shuttle-bus for either situation — the joke shows.

The only thing to do is to bike, frequently on sidewalks. Perhaps these should be marked off into bike-ped routes, so that collisions could be minimized? Or peds could simply acknowledge the presence of gas-saving bikes and watch out for them at intersections on campus?

If we must have a rule, make all bikers carry a horn or bell, and peds obey it.
— John S. Snowden, '79
— Margaret M. Galiano, '81

Use consideration

Editor:
There are always going to be traffic problems when people, whether they are walking, driving or bicycling, act as if they have exclusive rights to the campus.

Cyclists are not the only inconsiderate people on campus. There are those people who walk down the ramps that are for wheelchairs and bicycles when they could easily step over a curb. It is hard enough for all the bicycles to get up and down certain

busy ramps without having to

people.
There are also those people who look for cars when crossing a street expect bicycles to stop or go around it is much easier for a person to stop a bicycle, especially in the rain.

I think the solution is not pointing fingers, but rather, everyone giving a little and being more considerate of others.
— Loretta Boush

\$4 gas tax ludicrous

Editor:
J.K. Galbraith's idea of a \$4.5 tax per gallon of gas is ludicrous. What our needs is decontrol of oil and gas prices. Naturally the price of gas will go up and then the American people can R.H. Reviere suggested.

However, this tax is another example of ultra-liberals who only want to tax the out of Americans. Reviere errs in his belief that taxes will ultimately solve gas dependence.

Only if we increase production in U.S., will our problems be alleviated. This tax does is fatten up the government bloated bureaucracy and encourage flaming liberals to spend more for our welfare programs.

— Richard Lewis