

Cutting classes

Mike Dunn, senior mechanical engineering major from Sugarland, demonstrates wood cutting techniques at a class held for students interested in working on Bonfire this year. Dunn has been

giving the wood cutting instructions twice nightly, 5:30 and 6 p.m., in front of Sbisa Dining Hall. His last class will be tonight. Anyone interested in cutting for bonfire must attend one of the classes.

Oil program to be given by museum

"Boomtown U.S.A." is the title a two-part program to be prealley Museum. The program will ature presentations on oil rerieval in the Brazos Valley.

The first part of the program is a ecure scheduled for 7:30 p.m. hirsday, in the Brazos Center at 212 Briarcrest Dr.

The second part of the program field trip to a drilling rig and a king oil well near Kurten. The eld trip is scheduled for 9 a.m.

fen spaces are still open for the orgram which has a limited endment of 25 people. Four dols will be charged for the progn and participants will carpool ith the instructors on the field

gfo

Interested persons should conact Museum Director Dale Bode at 779-2195 for more information.



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New technology paying off

thought of having to pay more money for energy, and new technology used to mean higher

But two Texas A&M economists say that energy from shale, coal or plants, ultimately will keep

fuel prices from spiraling.
Dr. Charles Smithson of the University's economics department said: "As prices have increased over the years or as resources have become more difficult to obtain, man has always looked towards alternative methods for meeting demand. Certainly new methods for getting fuel are more expensive, but they supply our additional energy needs."

Smithson and Dr. S. Charles Maurice, also in the economics department, have authored a study on the economic feasibility of assimilating new technology.

The economists maintain that technology has been analyzed through ad hoc evaluations of specific projects rather than through a general approach based on generally accepted economic princi-

Consumers cringe at the more natural gas will be needed on the West Coast in the future," ey for energy, and new techshortage is estimated and it is assumed that this shortage can be alleviated by gas produced in the Rocky Mountains via nuclear stimulation.

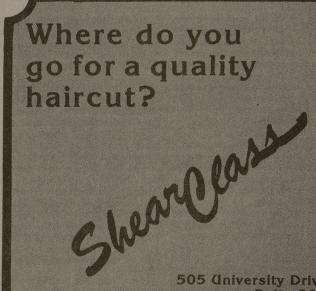
The extra gas would cost more to produce than conventionally produced gas, Smithson said, but when prices increase to a point where new technology isn't more expensive than old technology, additional supplies can be feasibly produced. This increases competition and ultimately keeps prices down, he said.

"Analysts fail to consider that in

a freely functioning market, after some period of adapting new technology there will be no shortage, or gap, in the supply of natural resources if government permits prices to vary," Smithson explained. "As prices rise, suppliers usually find it profitable to extract resources that would be unprofitable at lower prices.

Smithson said consumers, not government officials, decide when new technology will be used in the s. · marketplace to increase energy "Suppose someone says that supplies. Smithson cited the oil

boom in Texas along the Austin chalk as an example of how increases in the price of oil have made it possible to use more expensive technology for obtaining additional supplies.



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