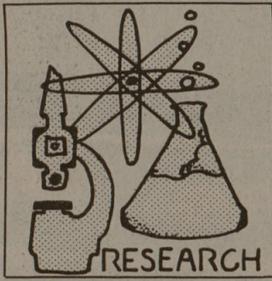


# A&M researchers convert methanol to power engine

by David Hatch  
Battalion Reporter

A team of Texas A&M scientists and engineers have been experimenting with an engine powered by hydrogen. But unlike other hydrogen-powered engines, the hydrogen is derived from methanol which is converted to hydrogen inside the engine.

"The hydrogen-powered engine is nothing new," Dr. William Harris of the chemical engineering department, said. "The main reason that hydrogen is not currently used for fuel in automobiles are that hydrogen as a fuel does not enable the engine to provide much power and it limits the distance that can be traveled to around 100 miles before re-fueling is needed."



The researchers have been trying to develop a method of converting methanol to hydrogen that provides for a more powerful engine, can be done with a minimum of added equipment and is cost efficient. This is possible because a fuel

tank filled with methanol provides twice as much hydrogen as a tank filled with pure hydrogen.

Harris said the experiments consist of various fuel-to-air ratio tests. A computer is programmed to take readings on many of the performance aspects of the engine during each experiment, he said.

The data gathered by the computer is then used to plan further experiments and test the effectiveness of the tests they have made.

"The project we are working on here is not the immediate solution to the energy crisis," Harris said. "The high costs of both the conversion unit and the

methanol make nationwide conversion economically impractical.

"If an economical method of producing enough hydrogen for a universal fuel could be developed, then there is no doubt in my mind that it would take over as the predominate fuel in the world," Harris said.

The only current, practical use of hydrogen-powered automobiles being considered, Harris said, is in Los Angeles. City planners are considering converting taxi and fleet cars engines to run on industrially-prepared hydrogen in an effort to help abate the city's severe air pollution problem.

# Park dedicated for Elsie Olsen

by Carol Craft  
Battalion Reporter

A park in honor of Mrs. C.E. "Pat" Olsen, wife of the former Texas A&M baseball great for whom the baseball stadium is named, was dedicated Sunday.

The Elsie Duncan Olsen Grove, which is south of and adjacent to the baseball stadium, was financed by Mr. Olsen.

Mr. Olsen and John Blackburn, a faculty member in the Department of Recreation and Parks, planned and designed Olsen Grove. Much of the construction was done by Blackburn's students.

Olsen Grove offers facilities for recreational vehicles and picnickers. It has 40 lighted recrea-

tional vehicle hook-ups with water, electricity and waste disposal. The park also has a large outdoor grill and a covered pavilion complete with picnic tables.

Mrs. Olsen has been associated with Texas A&M for over 60 years. Her father, W.A. Duncan, came to the University as director of food services. She was one of the first women allowed to attend classes. Before women were formally admitted to Texas A&M in 1963, the daughters of faculty and staff could attend class on a limited basis.

Mrs. Olsen is a member of the Texas A&M Mothers' Club and lives in College Station.

# Hinckley writes one more letter

United Press International  
LUBBOCK — John W. Hinckley Jr. says he's a Texan at heart, and his poems to actress Jodie Foster were important in the trial that acquitted him of shooting President Reagan.

In a letter to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Hinckley said, "I think my poems turned out to be very important evidence in the trial.

"Some of the jurors have stated that the poems played a big part in their not guilty verdict," he wrote. "Of course, the testimony by the defense doctors helped me because they were merely echoing what I told them."

by reason of insanity in June for the March 1981 shooting of Reagan, presidential press secretary James Brady, a Washington D.C. policeman and a Secret Service agent.

"The letter I wrote to Jodie a couple of hours before the shooting also proved to be helpful to us because it stated the reason why I was shooting the President," he said.

"I still like Lubbock and Texas Tech is one of the best universities in the country when it comes to atmosphere and openness among the students," Hinckley said. "I'm a Texan at heart."

Hinckley moved to Lubbock in 1973 and enrolled at Texas Tech University.



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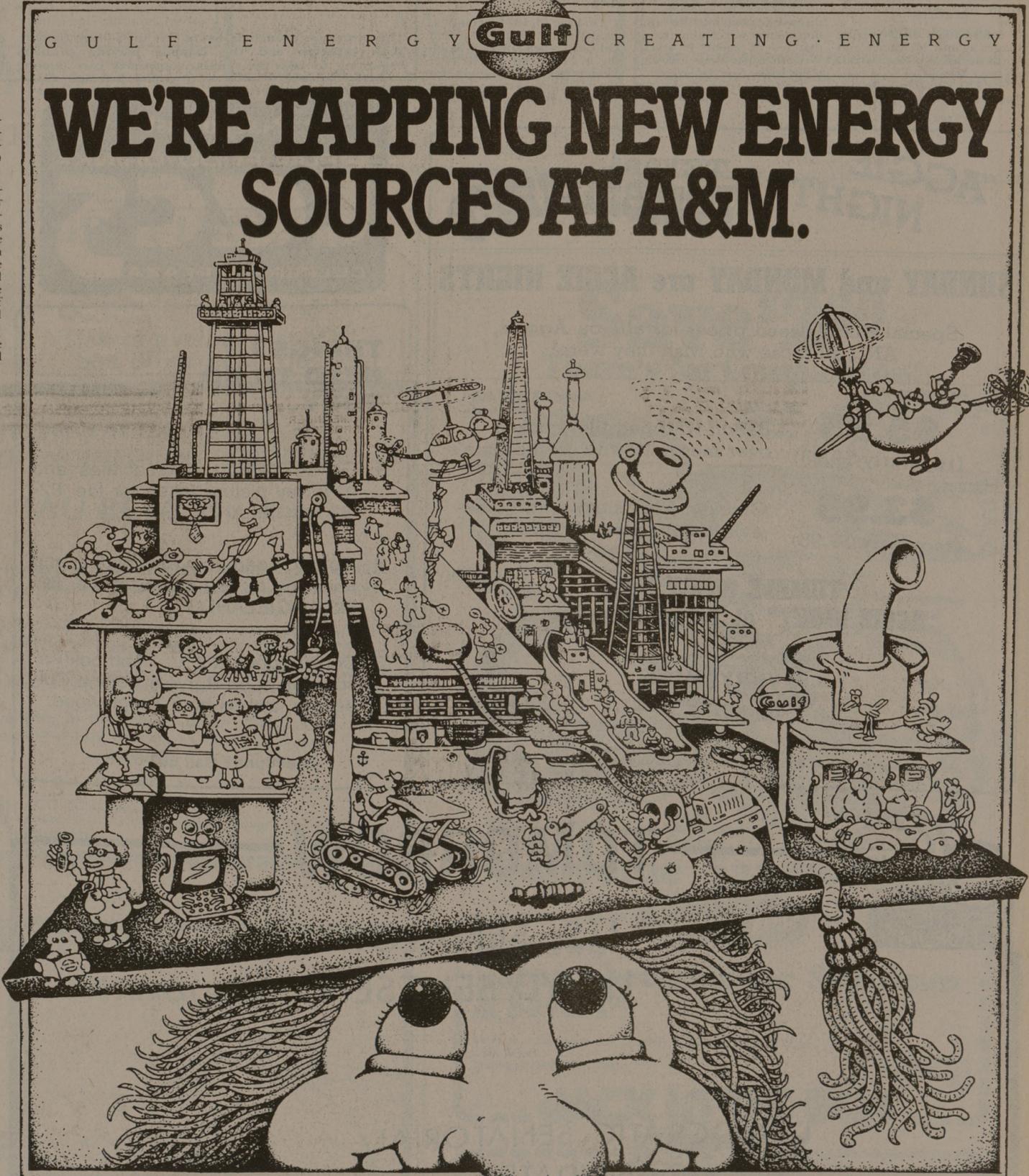
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