

opinion

Letters

Bicyclists break laws

Editor:

As a visitor to the Texas A&M campus I am impressed. I am impressed by the diligence and fervor with which the community constabulary addresses itself to the parking and moving violations perpetrated by motor vehicular traffic. It is with awe that I have witnessed the hourly prowling of parking lots and the countless stake-outs of stop signs all of which convince me of the vast numbers of security forces available and their dedicated search for motorized villains and illegal activities.

But what of the bicyclist? Surely Texas A&M campus is not a declared haven from the laws of the road for those with bicycles. Just as the forces of Law and Order maintain their vigilance over those with four wheels, so do they ignore those with two. Since arriving on the campus I have been attacked on footpaths and sidewalks alike by speeding bicycles. When I take to the streets in my automobile, I find bicycles attacking me as they travel one-way streets in the wrong direction and two-way streets on the wrong side of the road. I find them leaping out in front of my car from sidewalks, across intersections or pedestrian crossings, without even slowing down. And I believe I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of bicyclists who

stop at stop signs, whether they are on the road or the sidewalk and regardless of the direction they are moving.

Now, as a pedestrian I don't wish to be maimed, and as a driver I don't wish to maim; sado-masochism was not one of the reasons I came here. It would appear to me that some clear regulations concerning bicycle traffic should be developed (if not already) and enforced. It is no less hazardous or illegal for bicycles to ride footpaths, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, streets the wrong way or on the wrong side, and ignore stop signs than it is for motor vehicles. And just think of the income that could be generated by carrying out the spirit and letter of the laws as they apply to bicycles.

Let the spirit of Aggeland be an equality of peace and justice for all using the roads and footpaths. Let law and order prevail. Let's prosecute and persecute the bicyclists 'til they obey the same laws that apply to motor vehicles.

Yesterday I was privileged to see a further development in the mahem of two-wheel mania: a motorbike travelling the wrong way up a one-way street on the sidewalk. "When will it all end?" I ask myself, rhetorically.

Alan Journet
Department of Entomology

White now minority

Editor:

I write this letter in response to the black review of our dual education system.

I am white and I do maintain a certain degree of prejudice: I prefer the company of white, blonde, blue-eyed females above all others. I do not, however, believe in discrimination of any kind — racial, religious or sexual.

I find myself exceedingly annoyed and disgusted by the endless cries of minority organizations who quote statistics and ratios while demanding their "equal rights" of representation and participation.

There exist scores of minority advancement institutions, organizations, clubs, television programs, grants, aid programs and even a black Miss America contest. But try to restrict the beneficiaries of any organization to whites only and you'll quickly receive a sound politic-

al, if not physical, lynching.

With all the programs which now exist for the recruitment of minority students and faculty, and all the federal pressure being applied in their favor, it is we, the white minority, who should feel discriminated against.

I believe in equal opportunity and equal pay for equal ability, whether the recipient be black or white, male or female. But, no extra effort or money should be expended to recruit and employ members of any specific racial group simply because they belong to that group.

If I could, at this moment, change my racial origin and sexual gender (for business opportunity reasons only, mind you), while retaining my identity and intelligence, I would emerge both black and female, take the world by storm, and then laugh all the way to the bank!

Roy Robertson

Library signs ignored

Editor:

Apparently there are a few Aggies who can't seem to read. Everywhere I turn in the library I am confronted with the sign, "Food, drinks and smoking prohibited." Yet, there are a few Aggies who seem to believe this sign doesn't pertain to them. I can't begin to count the number of times I have been distracted by the crumpling of candy papers or the opening of a coke while I was studying in the library. As a new transfer student, I am appalled by this behavior. We're not in high school, so don't act like high school

students — it's not funny anymore.

Food, drinks and smoking are prohibited in the library. It's a rule — not an option. When this rule is broken time and time again by several students, their behavior reflects upon the University. And, I must say, it doesn't paint a pretty picture of the students' respect for their school. If you must eat, drink or smoke while studying, go outside, go to the MSC, or go wherever you must — just don't go to the library. Thank you for your cooperation.

Robin Enloe '85

Music charts expose middle age

by Lloyd G. Carter

United Press International

FRESNO, Calif. — As a teen-ager in the 1960s, it was my task to reassure my frightened parents that the Beatles, Animals, Kinks, Zombies, Rolling Stones and even Herman Hermit's were not invaders from outer space but merely my musical heroes.

Dressed in bell bottoms, paisley shirt, granny glasses and unfurled moptop — my parents felt certain I would run away with a band of gypsies — I reveled in the emotional shocks registered by Mick Jagger's menacing glare or Jimi Hendrix's irreverent Star Spangled Banner.

But as the years passed and the roses of the Flower Power Generation wilted slightly, my expert grasp on the minutiae and trivia of rockdom (Paul McCartney's favorite drink? Rum and Coke) slipped slightly. I began to hear more tunes on the radio without being able to instantly name the band, recording studio and latest drug influences.

The grudging recognition that I am inching perilously close to what others (never me) might call middle age came

when I saw the latest list of Top 20 hits and realized I may be hopelessly out of it.

At the top of the charts is a group called the Police. Can you imagine how uncool that name would have been in the '60s?

At the No. 5 spot is a group called Kajagoogoo. Don't ask me what that means. It sounds like somebody starting to sneeze.

Cruising in at the No. 17 spot is a group called Debarge, who presumably spent some time on De River.

A group called Madness has a No. 10 hit called "Our House." I am trying to track down the rumor they are referring to Anthony Perkin's abode in Psycho II.

While Mick Jagger's paean to erotic frustration, "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," kept plenty of parents nervous two decades ago, the parents of my generation get to worry about such innocuous album titles as "Pyromania" (by Def Leppard, which presumably is a hard-of-hearing, illiterate jungle cat), "Cuts Like a Knife," "Killer on the Rampage" and "Eliminator" (which could be about a murderer or a balm for a digestive tract upset.)

Have you seen the album cover of a screaming singer with a couple of screws stuck in his eyes? This guy is another little cornea beef hash.

Bridging the generation gap is what is (pick up) Styx, with an album called Kilroy Was Here. Don't ask me what Kilroy has been doing. I want to know.

Keeping the Top 20 soul list is a bright little ditty called "Freaky" by Midnight Star, a group regaling from the planet Murgandy.

However, the final indignity is a sudden onrush of my golden-age hits, realizing that in addition to Top 40 hit songs, there are now lists of selling video cassettes and home games, unheard of in my young

A closet arcade freak, I am with me see that Centipede is at the top of home video charts. However, I have a record-video-etc. store that I visited and saw a new video game out there even my jaded sensibilities.

It's called "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and it should be cutting a swath through the video game charts soon.



Even cloudy days provide energy

Solar home means no utility costs

by Children's Express

United Press International

NEW YORK — If the sun didn't shine for four weeks, Amory and L. Hunter Lovins' house would only lose less than a degree of temperature a day. And it could never go below 55 degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovins are building a completely solar house and research center called the Rocky Mountain Institute near Aspen, Colo. They also write books and give speeches about what they call our vulnerable energy system and ways we can replace it with solar energy, wind-power, and flowing water, as they are doing in their house in Colorado.

The Lovins are not going to get any heating bills. Their house is "super-insulated."

"Just the sunlight coming in through the windows can heat the whole building," Mr. Lovins told us. "We don't have a furnace. We don't have electric heat. We don't need them. We have a special kind of window that holds the heat in about five times as well as ordinary windows. It looks like an ordinary window but it's much more heat-tight."

If the sun doesn't shine for a long time, Mrs. Lovins said, "Just our body heat and the heat from appliances like the typewriter, stove or lights will keep us quite warm. And on a totally cloudy day, there is still a great deal of energy in the light that comes in."

The Lovins can also grow fish and vegetables and food. They have a farm in there and that's where they're going to get their food from. They also have a well that brings them water.

"In a few years we'll even be getting our electricity from solar cells," Mr. Lovins said. "We can forget about utility bills altogether. We also don't need to worry if there's a power failure."

In the long run, Mr. and Mrs. Lovins say solar energy is going to save them thousands of dollars.

Mrs. Lovins said, "Many of the techniques we're using can be dealt with in much less expensive houses. The principles, the way in which it heats itself, or the way in which it saves water, could be put into any tract house."

But if renewable energy is cheaper than non-renewable energy, why isn't it used more often?

"In the past few years it actually is being used much more," Mr. Lovins replied. "It's turning out that it's much faster to build a lot of small simple things that anybody can do than to build a few big complicated machines that cost billions of dollars and take 10 years to build."

Mr. Lovins stated, "By thousands of people stuffing up the thousands of little

is going to get a lot of publicity. Lovins says it's going to make people that they can have a beautiful house just solar energy, paying no electricity at all — "a house so beautiful that anybody who sees it would like to live in a house like that."

(For more information about Children's Express, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Children's Express, Charles St., New York, New York 10014.)

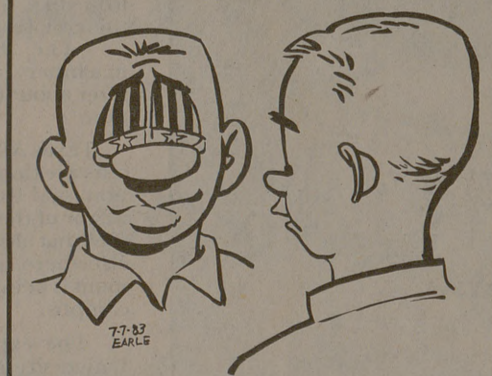
(Editor's note: Children's Express is a privately funded news service, is real journalism reported entirely by children 13 years of age or under whose recorded interviews, discussions, reports and commentary are edited by reporters and adults. This story is written by Horowitz, 12; Glenn Golz, 12; Heimel, 12; Sarah Stern, 13. Also Editors are Rosanne Marmor, 15; Ehron Elisha, 16.)

The Lovins can also grow fish and vegetables and food. They have a farm in there and that's where they're going to get their food from.

cracks, by buying more efficient cars, by plugging up the steam leaks, by putting solar collectors on their roofs, by producing electricity from dams on little rivers — we're getting more new energy than from the big boys going out and, let's say, building a nuclear power plant."

The Rocky Mountain Institute house

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Don't you think you've over-celebrated?"

Berry's



ATTENTION longer

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor: Hope E. Paasch
City Editor: Kelley Smith
Sports Editor: John Wagner
News Editors: Daran Bishop, Brian Boyer, Beverly Hamilton, Tammy Jones
Staff Writers: Jennifer Carr, Scott Griffin, Robert McGlohon, Angel Stokes, Joe Tindel
Copy editors: Kathleen Hart, Tracey Taylor
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
Photographers: Brenda Davidson, Eric Evan Lee, Barry Papke

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during both Texas A&M regular summer sessions, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.