

Opinion

Watt: Preservation or development?

Women, blacks, cripples and Jews take note. Wednesday night James Watt will be defending his views on the development of natural resources.

Watt joined Earl Butz on the list of tactless (former) federal office holders last October with his description of the members of the Coal Lease Advisory Commission. Even though he protested that some people just didn't know how to take a joke, the resulting controversy led to his resignation.

But Watt was a controversial figure before that incident. Watt is the man who stopped the Beach Boys from playing at the White House on the Fourth of July.

And many people dislike what is seen as Watt's misinterpretation of the responsibilities of the office he held.

Environmentalists believed his prime responsibility was the preservation of the natural beauty of federal lands. But Watt disappointed them, to say the least. In his view, the practical value of energy resources had a higher priority than the natural beauty of the

land.

Watt's primary interest was extracting natural resources from the ground. Although under his policies many previously untapped reserves of oil and gas were discovered, Watt's zeal was criticized by his political enemies. They charged that by putting federal coal leases up for sale when the demand for coal was low, Watt cost the government millions of dollars.

The commission formed to investigate the sale of federal lands for strip mining was the group in the center of the controversy when Watt resigned. That's right: the woman, two blacks, a Jew and a cripple.

Preservation or development? Watt obviously didn't find the ideal balance between the two.

The Battalion Editorial Board can make no judgement about Watt or his policies without knowing his reasoning and motives. But you make your own decision Wednesday when he speaks at Rudder Auditorium.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Coach's high salary unfair to educators

Teachers across the state are mad — and they have good reason to be.

Working in a profession more vital to the future of American society than any other, teachers have historically been expected to work for minimal wages while expending a maximum of effort.

That's not the problem, though.

They knew when they received their diplomas and certifications that the pay was not great, the hours were long and the primary reward of the job would be their own sense of internal achievement.

But they assumed that those conditions existed across the board — in administration, in the classroom, in the music department and on the football field.

That's the problem.

There is little pay equity in today's public school system and the problem is becoming worse.

An increasing monetary emphasis is being placed on athletics by school districts across the State of Texas and it is destroying the educational system.

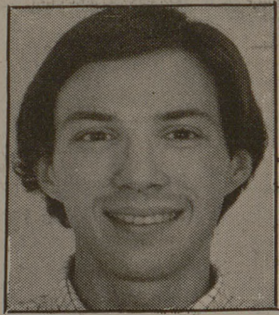
The most recent example of this comes from the Round Rock Independent School District.

never had a really good team?

Supposedly, player recruitment is against the rules of the University Interscholastic League and it would seem that if the talent was already there some other coach would have found it before.

There is no justification for paying college-level salaries to high school coaches.

At least on the college level the coach's pay comes primarily from ticket sales and part of the reason he is paid so much is



bill robinson

the difficulty of recruiting the best players to attend a particular school.

Paying exorbitant salaries to a high school coach out of tax money can't possibly accomplish anything.

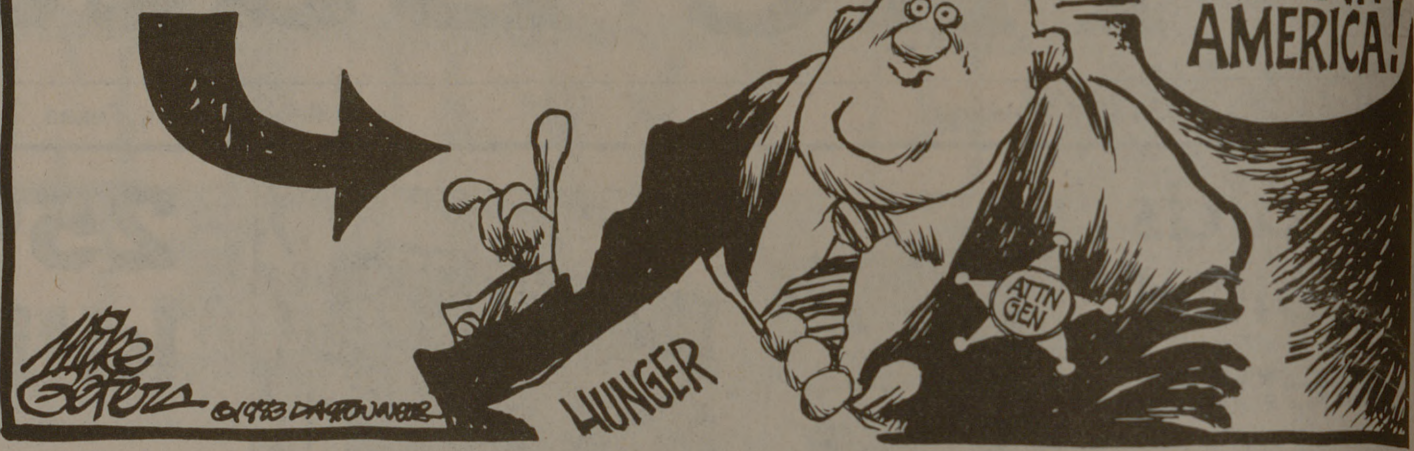
Anything, that is, except to further destroy the faith of the school teacher in the system and to speed their departure from the field.

But perhaps the president of the Round Rock American Federation of Teachers said it best in her appeal to the school board:

"You have set the standard of \$44,000 for the best coach in Texas. Would you search as hard and pay as much for the best English or math teacher?"

That says it all.

How Ed Meese Will End Crime In America . . .



What Yuri might say

by ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

In President Reagan's "I'm Not Really Mad at the Russians Speech" last week he ended by saying, "Just suppose with me for a moment that an Ivan and an Anya could find themselves, oh, say, in a waiting room, or share a shelter from the rain or a storm with a Jim or a Sally. And there was no language barrier to keep them from getting acquainted.

"Would they then debate the differences between their respective governments? Or would they find themselves comparing notes about their children and what each other did for a living ... And as they went their separate ways maybe Anya would be saying to Ivan, 'Wasn't she nice? She also teaches music,' and Jim would be telling Sally what Ivan did or didn't like about his boss. They might have even decided they were all going to get together for dinner some evening soon."

Mr. Reagan's point, I believe, was that if people got to know each other one on one, they wouldn't want to go to war.

While getting Jim and Sally and Ivan and Anya together is a very nice scenario for peace, I think it's more important for Ronnie and Nancy and Yuri and his wife to find themselves sharing a shelter from the rain or storm.

"Hi, my name's Ronnie Reagan and this is my wife Nancy. We're originally from California."

"My name is Yuri Andropov and this is my wife Tatyana. We are hardline Communists."

"That's neat. We're rock-ribbed conservative Republicans. What do you do for a living?"

"I used to be head of all Secret Police. Now I am the leader of the Soviet Union — when I don't have the flu."

"Hey, how about that, Nancy? Yuri here is the president of a superpower just like me. We have a lot in common."

Nancy turns to Tatyana. "Do you have to give a lot of state dinners?"

Tatyana replies, "Every night I have to give a state dinner. I never seem to have enough china."

"It seems that's my problem, too. Who makes your clothes?"

"Oscar of Belorussia. Who makes yours?"

"Adolpho of New York. Here is a photo of the latest suit he designed for me."

"It is very beautiful. But then you are a beautiful lady..."

"She's a darling, Ronnie."

Ronnie says, "Tell me, Yuri, what bugs you the most about being president of the U.S.S.R.?"

"The party bosses. They are always telling me I'm doing something wrong."

"Isn't that funny? That's what bugs me

the most about being president of United States. I don't mind the opposition. But I sure get mad when my people tell me I'm screwing up."

Nancy says to Tatyana, "How do you get along with your children?"

Tatyana replies, "Don't ask."

Nancy laughs, "Me, too. I guess we never close the generation gap."

Ronnie says to Yuri, "So what's the toughest thing about your job?"

"Balancing the budget, providing and keeping the U.S.S.R. no. 1."

"I can't believe it. Here we are, strangers caught in the storm and we have some common problems, interests, aspirations. How about the four of us getting together for dinner sometime and working out a plan to avoid blowing up the world?"

"I'd like that very much, Ronnie. Here's my hotline number. Call me for or night."

"Great. And here's my card. If I'm at the White House, try the Camp number. We're always there weekends."

That night as Ronnie and Nancy getting out of their soaking clothes, Nancy says, "Wasn't she a lovely person? You know she also plays the balalaika."

And Ronnie says, "He's a first-guy. He told me that before he invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, his real ambition was to be a movie actor."

MSC gears up for SCONA

by ALAN HILL

An important event is about to take place at Texas A&M — the Student Conference on National Affairs, known throughout the nation as SCONA. On Feb. 15 through Feb. 18 approximately 200 students, professors, journalists, reporters, government officials and observers from the U.S., Canada and Latin America will discuss this year's topic: "Media: Behind the Headlines."

SCONA was established at Texas A&M in 1955. Since that time, SCONA has examined an annual topic of national or international importance. As a student-planned, student-organized, and student-run conference, SCONA is a unique committee. An executive committee of 25 students and a general committee of over 100 members oversee the many organizational details involved in coordinating this year's well-planned conference.

SCONA is unique among student-recognized organizations and as one of the Memorial Student Center committees in that it chooses not to receive financial support from the University. During the year, fund drives are conducted across Texas, Canada and New York to raise \$94,000 for SCONA.

During the conference, the delegates will exchange ideas and thoughts on the

media and their influence on society. They will be divided into small "round table" groups to discuss the complexities and issues dealing with the media. A major conference goal is to provide an atmosphere that will bring students together to exchange meaningful ideas and express experiences and cultures

15.; Reed Irvine, editor of "Accurate Media," addressing "Domestic News Reporting" at 9 a.m., Feb. 16; Arthur M. Harvard Law professor and host of "Miller's Court" on PBS will mediate a discussion on "Media vs. Privacy" p.m., Feb. 16; Frank Manitzas, correspondent from Latin America ABC, will address "International Reporting" at 9 a.m., Feb. 17.

On Feb. 17, at 12:45 p.m., we will have a panel discussion on the media coverage of the Grenada crisis. Included in the panel will be Frank Manitzas, The DeFrank (White House correspondent for Newsweek), Victor Gold (press secretary for Spiro Agnew), David Gergen (chief of communications at the White House). The closing ceremony, at 10 a.m. on Feb. 18, will be held at the Theatre Complex.

Charles Thomas, a Bishop College graduate, expressed SCONA's ultimate when he said, "I know one thing: this conference is sending me home a better man."

Hopefully, this is what SCONA education are all about.

(Alan Hill is a senior major in journalism and chairman of MSC SCONA.)

reader's forum

while forming new friendships. The positive results of a constructive exchange of ideas have built SCONA's international reputation.

The round table discussions will be interspersed with speeches by: Fred Friendly, formerly CBS anchorman and currently head of the Columbia University School of Journalism, speaking on "The News Media in American Society" at 2 p.m., Feb. 15; Don Kummerfeld, president of News America, speaking on "The Business of Media" at 5 p.m., Feb.

Letters: Darwinism supported by scientific facts

Editor:

I admit to a certain degree of amazement in seeing some very ignorant ideas about science propounded by a graduate of Texas A&M, reputedly a very good university.

The writer in question seems to believe that it is "unscientific" to theorize about matters which cannot be directly observed, such as the origin of biological species. In truth, virtually all scientific theories concern the unobservable. There is, after all, no need to theorize about that which can be directly

observed.

The writer proceeds to claim that "many prominent scientists...doubt Darwin." If he had bothered to check original references (don't they teach that to undergraduates any more?), the writer would have discovered that the scientists in question are among the strongest exponents of modern Darwinism, and that what they question is the relative importance of the different evolutionary mechanisms proposed by Darwin.

Such intellectual ferment is in fact a sign that evolutionary theory is healthy. A real scientific theory is constantly being questioned and modified.

The truth is that there are very few scientists who have made any sort of significant contribution to biology or geology who doubt the central tenets of Darwinian evolution. There are none who accept the central tenets of creationism, namely a very young earth and a worldwide flood. The evidence to the contrary is so overwhelming that such a theory may justly be classified with the flat earth and the earth-centered solar system as the dustbin of disproved hypotheses.

Such steadfast rejection of evidence inconsistent with good science (and scholarship), so it is not surprising that creationism has proven scientifically futile. Indeed, when challenged, creationists have been unable to produce a single piece of creationist "science" which has even been rejected (much less accepted for publication) by any reputable scientific journal. Apparently, creationists don't even do bad science.

Terrell T. Gibbs

The Battalion

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