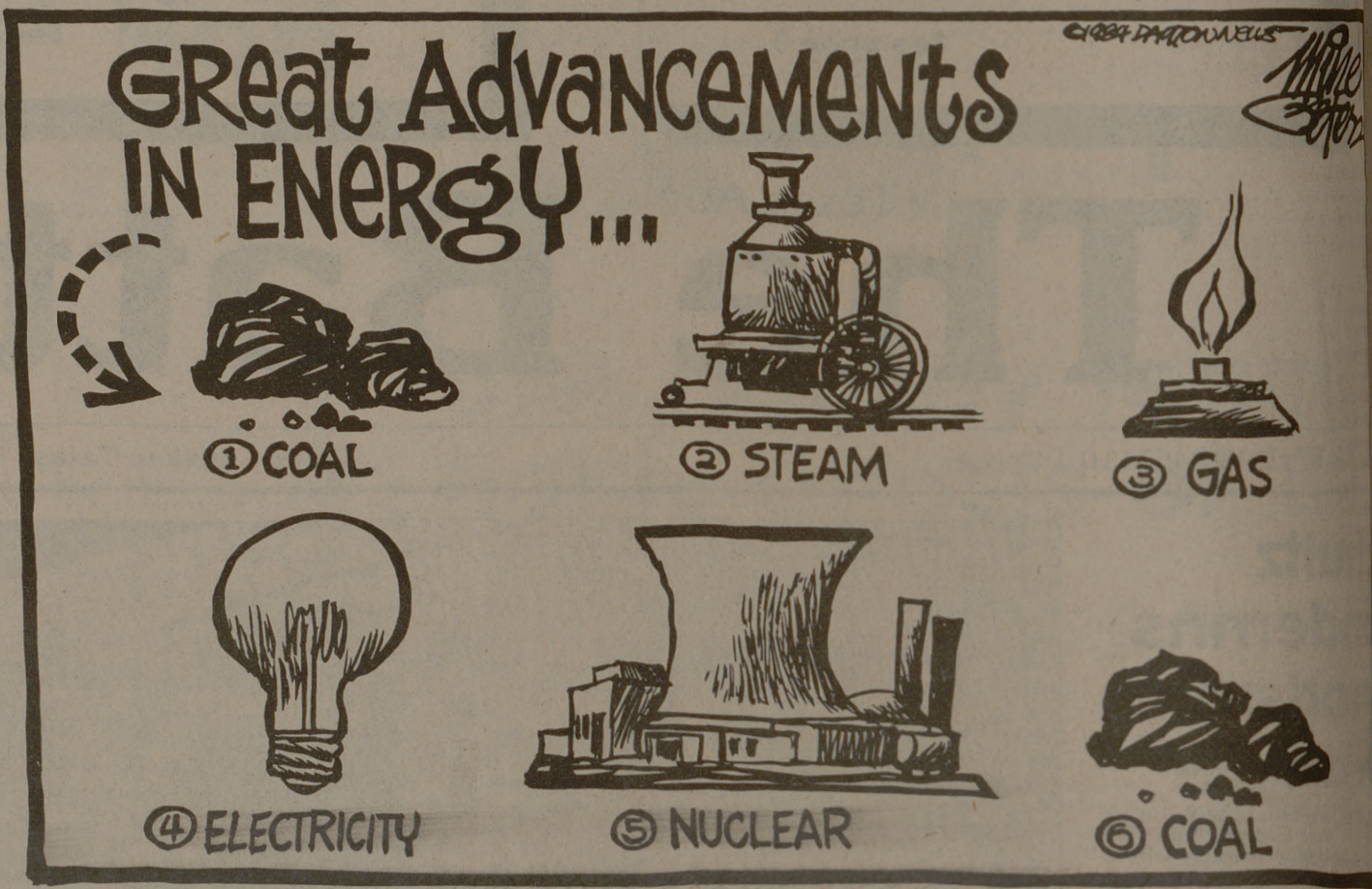


Opinion

Why a separate black history?

Black History month begins today. It's really a shame that we have to have such a month. Why must we have both black and white history? Even though history is supposed to be an objective pursuit, history textbooks have been written by white Anglo-Saxons from white viewpoints. Blacks have been excluded from American history except for minor roles — slaves and maids and such. Sure, a few token black heroes can be discovered if you search through an American history text, but that's the problem — they're tokens. That's why we need a month to remember and honor blacks who have contributed to our nation. An entire month dedicated to those blacks who have been left out of the white history texts. The least we can do is to take note and learn. Opportunities to learn will be num-

erous. The MSC Black Awareness Committee is sponsoring events that will provide students with many chances to learn about black history and Black History Month. One idea that has great potential for a learning experience is a Black History Month class. At least one class is scheduled and others are being planned. These classes will be in the evening and open to anyone. Speakers also are planned in conjunction with other MSC groups. Donald Woods will give his views on "Apartheid: The Controversy," and Patricia Russell McCleod will speak on "The Price of Freedom in 1984." Set aside some extra time. Go to the speeches. Go to the classes. Learn that history is, at best, subjective. And learn that blacks have contributed in many ways to the development of the United States and the preservation of democracy. — **The Battalion Editorial Board**



Darwin's theory is valid

Over the past several days many of the letters to the editor have concerned evolution and creationism with misrepresentations of the facts abounding. As an anthropology student I believe that most of the advantages and problems of Darwin's theory (and its later modifications) have been presented to me and that it would be good to replace some of the biased information recently printed with some more objective material.

The only answer that a person grounded in science can give to that is that our widely accepted concepts of gravity and atomic structure are also "just" theories, yet they explain the events that happen around us every day. If you do see someone just fly out into space for no reason, give me a call and I'll gladly propose a new system.

that evolution describes does happen, whether or not you choose to believe it. What is ironic about this conflict is that the process of evolution in no way invalidates religious thought until it is viewed historically or developmentally. Apparently it is too difficult for some theologians to integrate their beliefs with the information gleaned from the scientific community.

We have found no evidence in over a century to refute Darwin's basic ideas about evolution. Instead, our new information about the workings of DNA and hu-

Certainly man is an amazingly sophisticated creature, but he is not so "special" that the basic principles of biology are null and void for him alone. I do want to stress that this conflict rests with only some theologians. Most churches readily accept the findings of Darwin without disrupting their own beliefs.

man-controlled genetic breeding have supported it.

If, after all this, you still choose to ignore one of the most important elements of the 19th (not the 20th) century's learning, you have indirectly placed yourself in the muddled world of the early 1800s. That environment lacked many things we couldn't live without — electricity, fast transportation and communication, to name a few. It also promised a life of drudgery or slavery for many minorities, degradation for women and a lifespan of about 40 years. Many of the changes since that time have come about through the advances of science and in the ways society has used them, not through the disregard of new concepts as "heretic knowledge."

In general, theories developed in the liberal arts fields have taken far longer to be accepted than those developed by the chemist or physicist, but they are just as valid. One of the main reasons for this is the apparent lack of proof, the claim that "if I can't see it, I don't believe it exists."

This point is actually moot concerning evolution. Even though evolution is an extremely slow process in most organisms, it can be readily observed in only a few months in ones that regenerate quickly, such as insects and protozoa. The development of bacteria that produce many of our medicinal bases is a direct result of controlled selection in a corporate or university lab. The process

Gay jokes 'bad bull'

by Lenny Depalma
After 32 years of listening to racist, sexist, and queer jokes told in the name of "fun," I was shocked to find the official University newspaper joining in the "fun" with its "Bad Bull" awards to the local gay organizations for our educational event called Blue Jeans Day.

der." (Either use the phrases equal not at all.)
3. The Battalion (again) — for persistently running stories which show the worst side of gay life while ever running stories which show the gains gays have made and are making throughout the country.

reader's forum

Since turnabout is the essence of "fair play," and to demonstrate that gays also have a sense of humor, I offer you our "Gay Bad Bull Awards of Merit." We mean no harm to anyone but only ask that the awards be taken in good humor, since we have all learned through the letters to the editor column that prejudice is okay as long as it is meant as a joke.

4. The bigots with "STEEERS QUEERS" bumperstickers on their vehicles. Also, any establishment that sells them.

1. The Battalion — for attempting to make a joke of a very successful and educational event from which many people benefited. Of course, The Battalion would not know that, since they never bothered to do a follow-up story on the day.

5. The so-called "Christian" members who are allowed to speak on campus (one assumes they have University approval) and then proceed to and bend the scriptures until they come a poisonous venom and an end for bigotry. Perhaps you have heard this before. Among gays it is known as the "Anita Bryant" or "Kill a Queer Christ" syndrome.

2. The Battalion — for its continued use of phrases like "avowed homosexual" or "homosexual murder" but complete lack of phrases like "avowed heterosexual" or "heterosexual murder."

6. The person or persons who get up and out of class after their professor has taken the time to invite members of gay organizations to speak to them in a class-related topic.

7. The person or persons who take down all the signs announcing Jeans Day and then claimed they not given advance notice.

8. The person or persons who arranged a local restaurant sign to read "X is a fag" without ever facing the consequences.

Imagine that you have just killed someone. You really can't imagine what propelled you to perform such a violent act. Maybe it had something to do with that last drink you had. Your alcoholic mother had plenty, also. Or better yet, maybe it had something to do with your father banging your head against the wall when you were two.

crime, yet still we have murderers. This, we must realize that the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to crime.

No, I am not trying to justify this killer's crime, but merely develop an understanding of what caused such an act. Nor am I suggesting throwing him back into a society which is, at the present time, an unfit place.

Mr. Bruce, in the latter part of your letter you asked:

1) Is murder an acceptable crime?
2) What is the proper punishment for a convicted killer?

You have unknowingly helped answer the second question by asking the first. If murder is not an acceptable crime or act, then how is it an acceptable punishment? Regardless of the answer, there is but one end result.

Rather, I believe the "magic answer" lies in reform and rehabilitation. After all, since the beginning of history we have used the death penalty as a deterrent to

And, finally, if you are a Christian, isn't the "eye for an eye" concept since Jesus in the New Testament to "turn the other cheek?"
Kim-Lea M...

Letters: Absentee voting

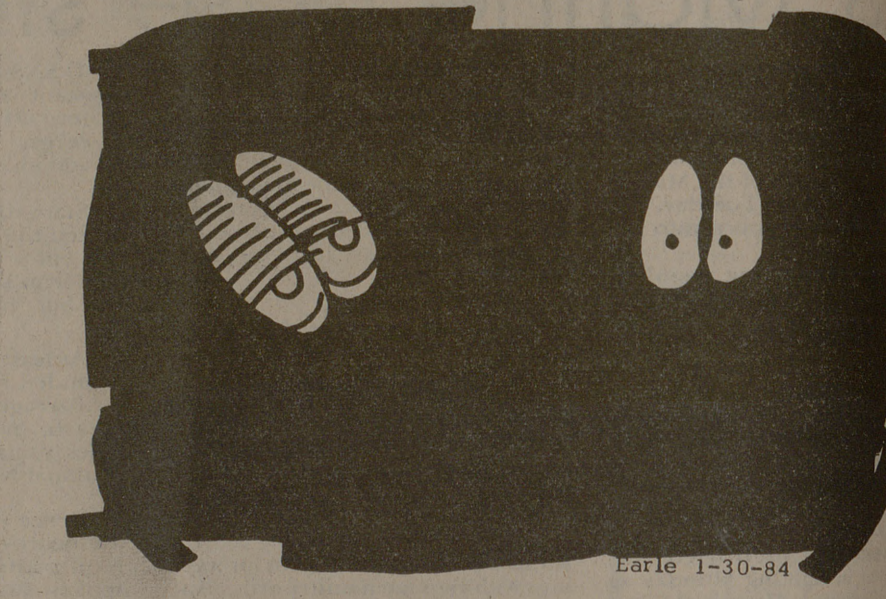
Editor:
I am writing this in response to the column written by Grant Swartzwelder, "Election unfairly scheduled." I fail to see why there is so much commotion about the March 10 election date for a Brazos County Representative. According to the Brazos County Clerk's office, absentee voting starts on Feb. 20 and ends on March 6. Anyone who will not be able to vote on March 10 for any reason can go to the Brazos County Courthouse, located at the corner of 26th and Texas Avenue, to vote absentee, or they can request a ballot by mail from the County Clerk, Brazos County Courthouse, Bryan, TX 77803, if they are out of the county during the absentee voting period. True, the March 10 election date does coincide with the Aggie spring break, but it does not have to keep anyone from voting.

Furthermore, voter registration does not end on Friday as Mr. Swartzwelder indicated. Voter registration is open to anyone at any time who will be 18 or older on election day. Voter registration for the March 10 election ends on Feb. 8 for those not voting absentee. Remember, it is not necessary to register again if you are already registered in Brazos County. It will be somewhat of an inconvenience for many to vote absentee, but it is possible for all registered voters to vote.
Susie Shipley Ragland
Staff Member

Capital punishment

Editor:
In response to John Bruce's "quick game of what if," let's play another game of "what if."

Slouch



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