



**MSC CAMERA**

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

Mon. Sept. 10th  
7:00 P.M. Room 410 Rudder Tower  
- Classes and Darkrooms Available -

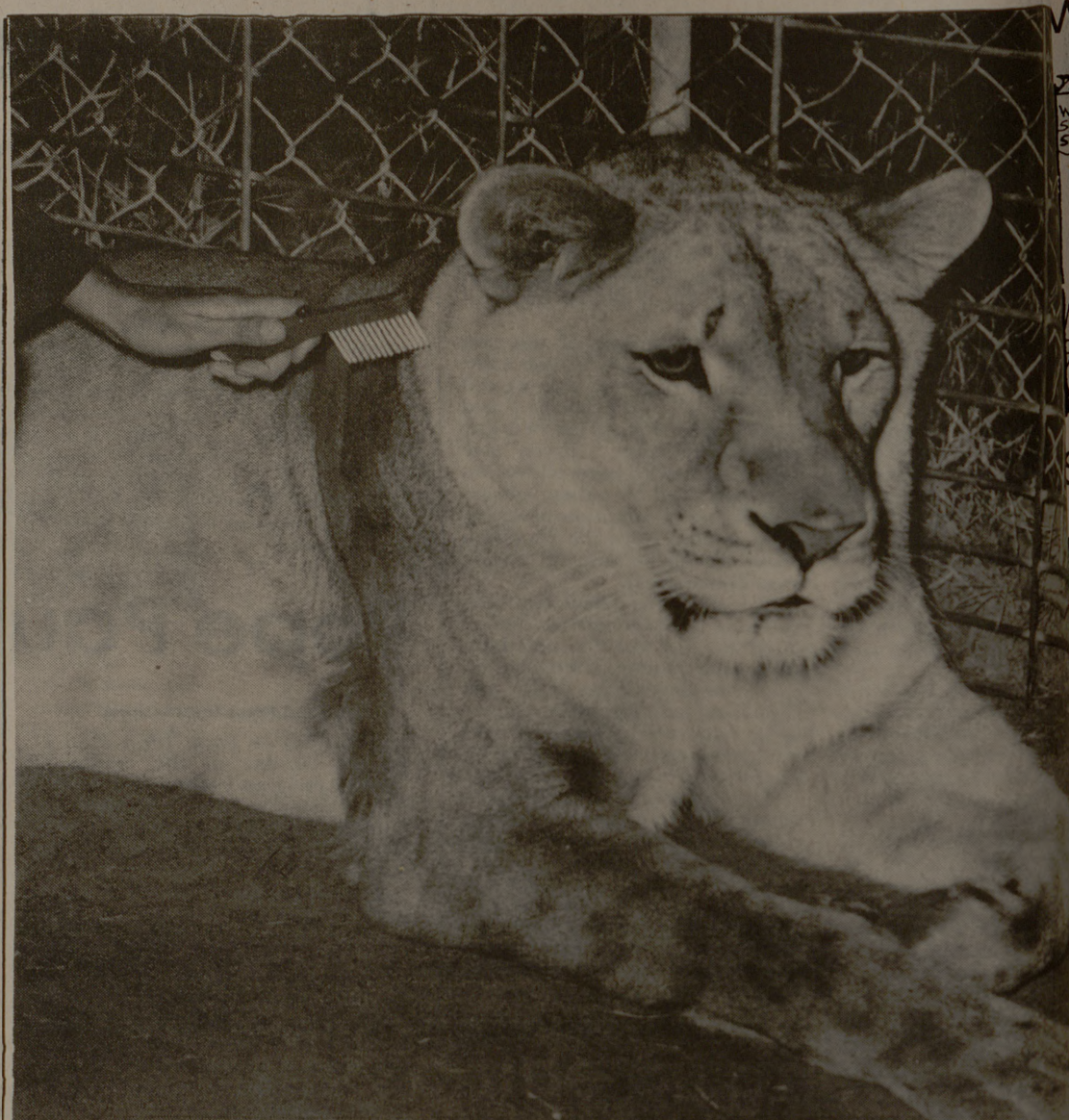


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A Texas-sized kitty tries out ROMEc's new 'd'flea' comb for ticks and fleas.

## O'Connor's 'd'flea' comb soon to be killing local fleas

By KARLA K. MARTIN  
Staff Writer

It's been tested by thousands of dogs and cats, one raccoon, one lion and two goats — with only one goat complaining.

"And that's because," says Dr. Rod O'Connor, inventor of the new "d'flea" tick and flea comb, "the goat's hair was tangled."

O'Connor, professor of Organic Chemistry here and president of ROMEc, Inc., said he invented "d'flea" in self-defense.

"I've got three big ole' cats who hate to be dipped and refuse to wear flea collars," said O'Connor, revealing his scratched arms, "but they just love to be combed."

O'Connor said his insecticide-dispensing comb, tested in several private and university veterinary clinics, was marketed in Oregon and Washington with great success.

"They're selling like hotcakes," he said. "Some vets in Washington have even quit dipping their animals. They just comb them."

O'Connor said he hopes to have "d'flea" marketed in the Kroger and Safeway food stores by the end of September. They will sell for \$6.95 each.

O'Connor began expanding his research on "d'flea" during his one year leave of absence from Texas A&M in 1983. An absence, O'Connor said, that had a double advantage.

"This leave helped me get things going with my company and also allowed me to get out of the University politics for a while," he said.

While his financial situation

with ROMEc, Inc., has increased (with a profit of \$10,000 in 1982 to about \$250,000 in 1983), O'Connor says his professional situation with Texas A&M has remained the same.

O'Connor resigned as director of the first year chemistry program after the department required him to have a more "demanding" class, thus lowering the students' grades.

"I've tried not to cause any problems," O'Connor said. "The mildest comment I can make is that I do not admire very many members of the administration, and I imagine that feeling is mutual."

Sophia Cutbirth, a senior industrial distribution major, remembers her freshman chemistry class with O'Connor.

"I liked him because he could hold my attention," Cutbirth said. "When you're a freshman, all you need is someone who cares a little bit, and he cared."

Carl Williford, a senior petroleum engineering major, also had chemistry with O'Connor.

"He could relate a lot better with the students than most of the professors," Williford said. "The class wasn't hard because of the way he taught it. Now the way people talk, it's a dreaded class. I think his forced resignation was an injustice to him and the incoming freshmen."

One incoming freshman, Laura Frazee, is taking Chemistry 101 this semester.

"So far, the class isn't real hard, but it's not real easy, either," Frazee said. "But you've got to re-

member that we (as freshmen) don't have any other classes or professors to compare to."

Dr. Michael P. Rosynek, associate head of chemistry, believes the relationship between O'Connor and the rest of the department is "pleasant."

"Dr. O'Connor teaches every Tuesday and Thursday morning," Rosynek said. "He is a very pleasant person to work with."

Rosynek said the director of the first year chemistry program has now been determined among three faculty members.

As far as classes go, O'Connor says he is happy to be teaching the students.

"I've missed them," O'Connor said. "I've been to many classes and I know that I want to teach any place I can go. People are special kinds of students."

While O'Connor plans to continue teaching at the University, he also will continue to work with ROMEc, Inc.

ROMEc stands for Rosynek-Osmosis Mobil Environmental Clean-Up. O'Connor's first successful invention that purifies polluted water. A model of the machine is on display in the Pavilion of the World's Fair in Louisiana.

ROMEc, Inc. is the only company sponsored by the Business Administration at the World's Fair.

## Increasing crude oil prices mean higher gas prices at the pumps

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The average price of gasoline nationwide has increased about a quarter of a cent in the past two weeks, reflecting more stable worldwide oil prices, an industry analyst said Sunday.

Dan Lundberg's bi-weekly survey of dealerships in the 50 states showed the average overall price of gas at the pumps was \$1.182 per gallon, up 0.27 of a cent since the last survey.

Regular leaded gasoline at self-serve pumps averaged \$1.063 a gallon, up 0.36 of a cent. Regular unleaded was \$1.141, up 0.34, and premium unleaded was \$1.273, up 0.2 of a cent.

At full service pumps, regular leaded was \$1.278, up 0.04, regular unleaded was \$1.344, up 0.19, and premium unleaded was \$1.424, down 0.01.

Prices started falling in May and continued to decline for 14 consecutive weeks through the summer driving season, Lundberg said.

"But in the past four weeks prices have started to go up because of the decision by OPEC to curtail production and its decision to stop the big discounts on the market," he explained.


"So prices for crude oil strengthened and that means higher crude prices will work way through to the pump."

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8:30 am-12:00 am (juniors, seniors, and graduate students)  
1:30 pm-4:00 pm (all students)  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm (reception at Texas Hall of Fame-\$1.00 admission)

**Wednesday, September 12, 1984**  
**MSC 2nd Floor**

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