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### Pierced ears becoming more popular Earrings on men show individual

Page 6/The Battalion/Thursday, April 2, 1987

By Jessica Brown

Rebellion, fashion, peer pressure, individuality - which concept conveys the popular wearing of earrings

Laura Lambert, manager of Claire's Boutiques, an earring store in Post Oak Mall, says "Some guys get their ear pierced for a gag or for bet; however, rebellion probably is

the main reason for piercing."
But Clint Bills, a freshman animal science major, says rebellion has nothing to do with men wearing ear-

rings.
"If I really wanted to rebel, I would color my hair green," Bills says. "The pierced ear is more of a fashion statement, as well as an indi-

Brian Bowers, a freshman business analysis major, thinks the ear-ring denotes individuality. He adds that it's a form of ex-

pression not only because of fashion, out also because it attracts women.

'The pierced ear shows flamboyance," Bowers says. "It shows you can have fun.

"Gold and silver loops attract girls

Dr. John Thomas, assistant professor of rural sociology, addresses the concept of the "looking-glass self" — the self-concept all individuals form by the reactions of others to

"If there is any harm with the ear-

piercing," he says, "it is to themselves by the interpretation of others.

Peer pressure, a seemingly simple answer to ear-piercing, apparently has varying degrees of relevance for

"There was no peer pressure involved for me," Bills says. "I did it because I wanted to do something different, and because I was tired of

pleasing everybody else."
But Mike Banson, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, be-

"All my friends got their ears pierced, so I did it," Banson says. Peer pressure is involved.

Debbie Wilson, assistant manager of Claire's Boutiques, has noticed peer pressure is not solely between

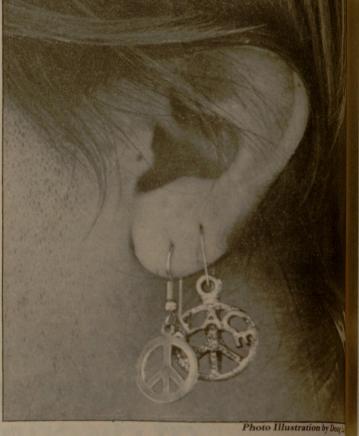
"Girlfriends come in with the men and sometimes pressure them into having it done," Wilson says.

Guilt by association, the basis for much dislike toward men sporting earrings, used to be a problem for men, Banson says, but it's more accepted now because it's not associated with rock 'n' roll, drugs and

groupies as much anymore.

And the acceptance of "earringed" male ears isn't limited to the

Linda York, manager of the Piercing Pagoda in Post Oak Mall, says, Tve had 30- to 60-year-old men in here getting their ears pierced.



## Two 50-year-old UT students return to college dorm life

of faces of Jester dormitory residents at the University of Texas tend to blend together into one youthful

image. Bob Ferry and Tom Warren are the exceptions.

Ferry, 56, and Warren, 57, may be the oldest students living in the dormitory, but to them, age is irrelevant when it comes to pursuing a higher

"I don't look upon age as an un-usual thing," Ferry says. "I think there are a whole lot of older people out there — what are we going to do with them — retire them and put them in a wheel chair? Shucks, I'm just starting.

Warren called returning to college "an opportunity of a lifetime — to explore intellectually."

"I'm not ever going to retire. I'm having a ball," says Warren, a grand-

Although Ferry's and Warren's career backgrounds are different, they have both ended up in the College of Education.

Ferry, a doctoral student in science education, is a former commer-ical airline pilot and a retired major in the Air Force.

But for the past three years, Ferry

AUSTIN (AP) — The thousands has been doing what he loves most

teaching.

He taught science to high school students in South Texas from 1983 to 1986 and hopes eventually to teach at a small college.

"If something happens to the bi-ological clock where I can only tick

"I think there are a whole lot of older people out there - what are we going to do with them retire them and put them in a wheelchair? Shucks, I'm just starting.'

— Tom Warren, 57-yearold college student

for another 20 years — that's 20 productive years," Ferry says. "How much influence can I have on the

next generation in 20 years? As a teaching assistant in biology, Ferry has a reputation as an industrious worker when it comes to help-

he would spend time with students when he needed to be studying." When he does study, Ferry goes to his College of Education Building office, which is packed with dozens of relics, including a mastodon tusk and a 1896 Mother Goose book.

class last semester, says Ferry is as

devoted to his students as he is to ed-

"He is very dedicated," Fitch says.

"He had classes to attend as well, but

Ferry and Warren chose to live in

Jester for practical purposes.
"It would have cost at least as much to live here as it does to live in an apartment," Warren says. "Here I don't have to hassle with making my own meals, and everything I need is

in walking distance."

Warren graduated from the UT
School of law in 1955 and practiced civil law for 24 years. After experiencing job exhaustion as a lawyer, Warren traveled for two years and landed a position in the Dallas Morning News classified advertising department.

It was a gradual decision to come back to school," Warren says. "I had entertained the idea for sometime ing students.

Bethany Fitch, an education sophomore who was in Ferry's biology

while working at the Dallas Morning
News when a fellow employee said
I'd make a great teacher."

### Mattox says GTE inflated phone taxe

AUSTIN (AP) -Telephone Company of Southwest is overcharging tomers by taxing them aller rates than the utility pays in ney General Jim Mattor

Wednesday. Mattox has filed a moint the Public Utility Commi and a state district court op a move by the telephone pany to withdraw a 3-jest rate case pending below PUC.

Mattox claims GTE, do changes in federal tax law the case was filed, has conti to charge its rate payers highest tax rates.
"Since 1985, General

phone has received a \$15m windfall from these tax same he said. "We believe the sa Texas and its taxpayers been overcharged by \$127.00

Mattox, representing t Purchasing and General Commission, said he was court and PUC to find or the utility's savings havenous passed along to customers.
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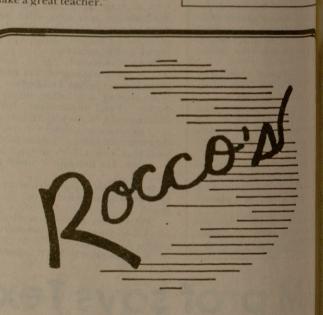
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