

# Hunting is more than just a sport

## Critics don't realize true meaning of sport

On a normal Thursday, I am usually telling you where to find bass in some secret spot nobody knows about. Well, maybe next week.

Today, I feel there is something that I need to clear up. Monday, I read something that bothered me right here out of our own newspaper. It was an opinion article written about a live pigeon shoot. I do not know if anyone read it or not but Ellen Hobbs was upset, and rightfully so, that live pigeons were being shot in an effort to get kids into the sport of hunting and away from drugs.

I feel that the organizers of the shoot had a good idea but went about it the wrong way. Killing animals solely for target practice is not what hunting is about. This is the reason such things as sporting clays and trap shooting were invented.

The main idea behind the shoot was to get our youths into the outdoors and to stay away from drugs. Whether Hobbs likes it or not, the sport of hunting is a time-honored tradition in our country and just so happens to be my favorite past time.

Unfortunately, most people have never had the experience of sitting alone in a duck blind and watching the sun come up. They have no idea what it feels like to have that surge of adrenaline when a nice eight-point buck steps out from the brush.

Hunting is not just picking up a gun and killing an animal. It's driving six hours to South Texas with friends and family, sharing stories that you have heard time and again but are still just as funny.

It is staying up until one in the morning playing cards at the camphouse with people you only get to see maybe once a year. Hunting is a time to be by yourself and enjoy nature away from all the pressures of school and work.

This is what the organizers of the pigeon



**Kevin McDaniel**  
Outdoors Writer

shoot were trying to get the kids to do. I agree that there are better alternatives to live bird shoots, but their message is one that I whole-heartedly support.

If you can get a child to experience all of the aesthetic values that encompass a hunting trip, and teach him proper ethics and values, it will carry over into how he will lead the rest of his life.

This is what bothered me about Hobbs' article. She led us to believe her story was about these poor pigeons that were being shot for no reason and should not be used as an anti-drug campaign.

Then, somehow she wrote about trophy hunting and linked it with some men who were caught shooting endangered cats on a ranch in South Texas. These people are not hunters, they are criminals. State and federal game wardens are gathering evidence to make a case against these men for their actions.

What Ellen Hobbs did was disguise a personal attack on hunting as a whole and it offended me. What she implied was that all hunters have inflated egos that only the death of an animal could satisfy.

This is not true. In fact, most hunters get

mixed feelings of elation and remorse after shooting a deer. Because of these feelings it shows that hunters do have respect for the animals they hunt.

Animal rights activists fail to realize this because they have never experienced what it is like to be on a hunt. Instead they stereotype hunters as a bunch of beer drinking barbarians hell-bent on destroying the animal population.

What gets me is that these activists use unsubstantiated claims in an attempt to sway non-hunters away from the sport. If someone who read Ellen Hobbs' article actually thought that this is what hunting is about, then they are missing out on one of the finest traditions that our country has to offer.

"If you teach a kid to hunt today, you won't have to hunt the streets for him tomorrow." - NRA.

### AREA FISHING REPORT

**GIBBONS CREEK-** Guide Clark Wendlandt reports that bass are fair in the creeks on crank baits and worms. Humps and tank dams are also producing fair numbers of slot fish. Crappie are said to be excellent over brush tops in 12-18 feet of water on minnows.

**LAKE SOMERVILLE-** According to Watson's Grocery, bass have been on the slow side but are expected to turn on with the passage of this cool front. Crappie have started to pick up around the Big Creek area.

**FAYETTE COUNTY-** Old Park Lodge reports good schooling action on the main lake. There have been some top water action early but it is typical fishing for this time of the year. Boy-howdies and plastic grubs have been the baits of choice lately.

## Lady Aggies win

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team as a whole made 15 service errors in the contest.

"In the third game, I don't know if they were going for the aces, maybe serving more aggressive, but they made three errors in a row," Givens said.

"One of the goals that we had before the match was every time they make a mistake, they've got to pay. That's what the better teams are going to do to you.

"When you make a mistake, they're gonna make you pay for it. We want to develop that kind of mentality."

Alysia McMath had a team high of 11 kills for the night. Elizabeth Edmiston had eight.

The Lady Aggies head out on the road again this weekend as they play in the University of Texas at San Antonio Invitational.

A&M's next home game will be next Wednesday against the University of Texas-Arlington at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

## 12th Man Notebook

**Texas A&M Men's Rugby Team:** The A&M rugby team will play Sam Houston State on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. at Zachary Field. The rugby team finished second in state last year. For more information call Nick Flynn, 846-4204.

**Junior college golf tournament:** The Texas A&M Golf Course will host a 12-team junior college golf tournament beginning Monday, Sept. 23 and lasting through Tuesday, Sept. 24. Play will begin at 8 a.m. Monday. Each team will play 36 holes a day. For more information call Johnny Andrews, 845-1723.

**Fifth Annual Twin City Tennis Championships:** Entries are invited for a tennis tournament for A&M students and Brazos County Residents. The tournament is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 30 and last through Friday, October 4. All rounds will begin at 6 p.m.

Entry forms are available at the intramural office south of G. Rollie White Coliseum. The entry deadline is Sept. 26. The entry fee is \$7 per person, per event. For further information call the B/CS Tennis Association, 846-9097.

## Andro

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Astro brass thought he was washed up after the 1988 season so they let him sign with the Rangers - Big mistake.

Even if he is washed up, he still draws fans to a Rangers game. Have the Astros filled the Dome with 30,000 people this year?

Davis, an All-America kind of guy, doesn't want to be associated with beer commercials after he wins a game. This guy is the kind that mothers hope their daughters marry, and the Astros get rid of him to save a couple of bucks.

Sure, they have Pete Harnisch, who is a good pitcher. But Glenn Davis was the Astro.

The other team that plays in the Astrodome, the Oilers, hasn't had much to brag about either.

They run a high school offense and people think it's exciting. They have the best quarterback in the league, but their games are boring to watch.

The thing that really makes the Oilers

stand out, is their unmistakable ability to choke in during the season's crunch time.

Every year the Oilers go to the playoffs and every year they lose. Even though the Oilers are 3-0 so far this year, the season is still young.

Now it's time to talk Rockets.

When you talk Rockets, you talk Hakeem.

Last year the Rockets had a good year. But name the last year the Rockets won the world championship. Think about it for a while. . . never.

At least a team from Dallas has a championship trophy to brag about.

Sure, you remember, the Cowboys won the Super Bowl a couple of times in the 1970's. Of course, the last time was 14 years ago. But I still have hope for the Cowboys.

And the Mavericks are a good NBA expansion team. Unfortunately, they haven't been an expansion team for over ten years.

You never know what your going to get with the Mavericks because they base their team around Roy Tarpley, who's great as long as he stays out of trouble with the law.

And again there is Ryan's Rangers.

One year the Texas team has pitching. One year it has hitting. Unfortunately, it never has both during the same season.

The worst thing about the Rangers is the fact that they have good players. The only problem is that they all play for other teams. It doesn't look like pennant fever will hit Arlington for a long time.

San Antonio can't count against the state because the only team they have is the Spurs. Their World League of American Football team, the Riders, doesn't count.

Texas is a great state. It's just that its pro teams wouldn't know a championship if it came up and bit them.

### ACNE STUDY

VIP Research is seeking individuals for a research study of an anti-acne medication. Those who enroll and complete this study will be compensated \$100.00. NO BLOOD DRAWN.

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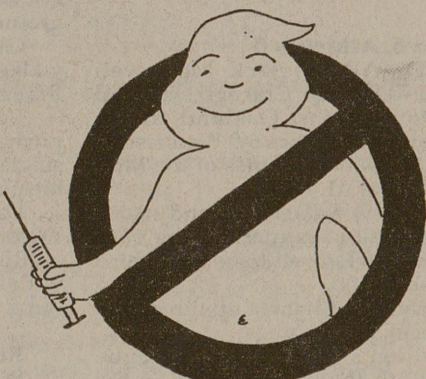
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845-3678

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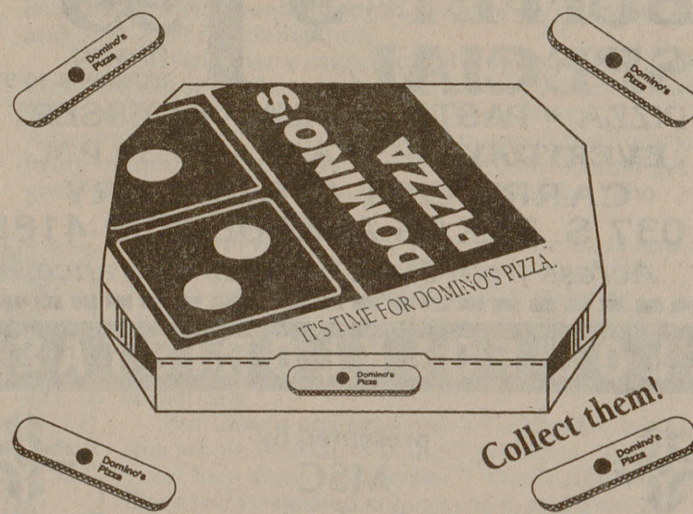
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### TENSION HEADACHE?

Individuals with moderate to severe Tension Headaches wanted to participate in a 4-hour headache relief research study with an investigational medication in tablet form. Flexible hours. \$75 incentive for individuals who are chosen and complete the study. Daily 776-0400. Nights and weekends 361-1500.

### FREE RAGWEED ALLERGY TEST

Individuals 18 and older with fall allergy symptoms or known ragweed-allergic individuals to participate in a research study with an antihistamine in tablet form. \$300 incentive for those who complete the study.

### ASTHMA STUDY

WANTED: Individuals, age 12 and older, with mild to moderate asthma to participate in a clinical research study for 15 weeks with an investigational medication in capsule and inhaler form. \$400 - \$500 incentive for those completing the study.

### ASTHMA/ALLERGY STUDY

WANTED: Individuals 18-50 years of age with asthma to participate in a short clinical research study involving an investigational medication in capsule form. Up to \$200 incentive for those chosen to participate.

### SKIN INFECTIONS/INFECTED BUG BITES

Individuals of any age with symptoms of impetigo (bacterial infection of the skin) to participate in an investigational drug research study using a cream with drug in it. \$150 for those chosen and completing the study.

### URINARY TRACT INFECTION

Do you experience frequent urination, burning, stinging or back pain when you urinate? Paull Research will perform FREE urinary tract infection testing for those willing to participate in a short investigational research study. \$100 incentive for those who qualify.

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