

MAYBE WE OUGHT TO CALL IT CONTROVERSY DAY

Memorial Day, also known as Decoration Day, is one of this country's most solemn holidays. Custom has come to recognize it also as a day for enjoying the first long weekend of summer.

But perhaps no national holiday has been the subject of disagreement approaching that surrounding the day we celebrate on May 29.

ORIGIN

The actual origin of the holiday lies in the custom of decorating graves during ancient festivals in Europe and Asia. Most nearly parallel to the U. S. observance is Germany's *Heldengedenktag* (Heroes' Memory Day) which is celebrated on March 12.

In 1866, a group of women from Columbus, Miss., a small town near the site of the Battle of Shiloh, made a pilgrimage to Friendship Cemetery, an 18-acre tract on the edge of the village. The ladies went despite urging to the contrary from their husbands. "The memories are too bitter," they said. "Emotions are still inflamed."

Their act of kindness became a symbol of the attempt to bring about amity after the bitterness of the Civil War. An article in the *New York Tribune* described the activities of the Southern ladies:

"The women of Columbus, Miss., have shown themselves impartial in their offerings made to the memory of the dead. They strewed flowers alike on graves of the Confederate and the National soldiers."

In a way, the men of Columbus were right. The bitterness resulting from the Civil War has through the years interfered with the universal observance of Memorial Day.

CONTROVERSY

Subsequent to the Columbus grave-site ceremony, similar observances were held throughout the South and in a few scattered locales in the North. Then, in 1868, the Grand

Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans, designated May 30 "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

Official designation by Union veterans caused Southerners, embittered anew by the excesses of Reconstruction, to consider the holiday a day to honor only Union dead. Southern states first ignored the holiday and then set aside a different day as "Confederate Memorial Day," a practice that still persists.

Controversy over the holiday continues even as to its very name. Intended to be known as "Memorial Day," reference to the day as "Decoration Day" began early. So popular was the name "Decoration Day" that its use prompted the Grand Army to urge that the "proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day"—not "Decoration Day." Yet, the official name of the holiday in three states is "Memorial Day or Decoration Day." In Tennessee it is officially "Decoration Day."

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

Recognition of Memorial Day as a holiday came in 1873 when New York designated it a legal holiday. Rhode Island followed in 1874 and Vermont in 1876. The U. S. Congress made it an official holiday for federal employees in 1887. By 1910 it was a legal holiday in all states except nine Southern states, including Texas.

The state of Texas never officially adopted a statewide day of recognition until the day was re-legislated by the U. S. Congress in 1971. Individual communities had their own decoration days, a practice that still exists in many rural areas.

In 1971 Congress changed the date of the nationwide observance of Memorial Day from May 31, to the last Monday in May, which this year falls on May 29. All states except

four adopted the change. Arizona observes the holiday on May 31 and Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina do not recognize it at all.

CELEBRATING THE DAY

The day is celebrated in various ways throughout the nation. The main feature of most observances is a military or veterans parade to cemeteries for memorial exercises. At military installations a ceremony at noon generally marks the day with a 21-gun salute. Garlands of flowers are cast upon the seas from military ships.

The national focus is on an observance at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington. The President generally participates in this ceremony. Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to participate in Memorial Day celebrations. He spoke at Gettysburg National Military Park in 1904.

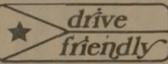
FAMILY OUTINGS

Because the day falls just after the close of public schools for the summer, the holiday is seized as an opportunity for family outings. Parks and recreational facilities overflow each year on this first holiday of the summer. Highways are crowded with traffic carrying Texans to an abundant variety of recreational pursuits.

DRIVE FRIENDLY

Traditionally, the accident levels during the long Memorial Day weekend are high—marring the holiday with tragedy. The Governor's Committee on Traffic Safety has urged Texans to DRIVE FRIENDLY during the Memorial Day weekend. DRIVE FRIENDLY means planning travel to avoid hurrying, observing traffic laws, and refraining from drinking while driving.

This Memorial Day DRIVE FRIENDLY...



Presented as a Public Service by the Governor's Committee on Traffic Safety



A&M environmental design senior Ed Huckaby's "A" chair can be used in three ways as a chair (left) or a child top (right). The polyurethane chair also can double as a modern sculpture. Huckaby is demonstrating the rough-cut design prototype, which has gained production interest. See related story below.

Versatile chair developed by A&M student Huckaby

A block of polyurethane and some non-conformist ideas about chairs have resulted in an A&M student's design of a chair that doubles as a child's toy or sculpture.

Edward E. Huckaby of San Antonio calls it an "A" chair, because of its resemblance in side view to the letter.

It flips over for use in any of three positions. Qualities of the material and the design enable a user to sit upright or recline comfortably. In the upright "A" position, it seats two people back-to-back.

In another position, the Huckaby chair becomes a child's toy animal than can be bounce-riden.

Standing upright on the outside of one leg of the "A", the chair becomes a piece of modern sculpture.

An environmental design senior, Huckaby generated the contours and form in an environmental design course instructed by Prof. Rodney C. Hill. The course concentrates student thinking on processes of creative problem solving and extending visual fundamentals to manual training in supporting production.

Through assistance of another of his professors, materials specialist Dr. L. Dale Webb in civil engineering, and the Texas A&M Research Foundation, Huckaby has the chair-toy-sculpture going under patent.

"The design is tied up," Huck-

aby noted. "One company is interested in it for production."

The San Antonio MacArthur High School graduate is more interested in getting the product in use than financial return however. Huckaby plans to go into interior space design after graduate school. He says that being able to point to his design in use will help.

Webb said relatively simple production techniques are available. With an integral polyurethane skin, the chair would resist wear and tear, and gain lateral stability.

The block of polyurethane from which Huckaby cut the prototype allowed only a 22-inch width, about six short of ideal, Webb added.

"When I did this, I threw out everything I knew about chairs," commented the student. He gen-

erated contours of the chair in studies of the human body. A hole in the "A" is important for flexure and comfort. He said Hill-taught course stresses sign for people, instead of design's sake.

The versatility of the design developed after he cut several models and began work on the scale chair.

"The flip came as an afterthought," revealed the San Antonio plastics distributor E. V. Huckaby of 118 Oaks.

He pointed out while demonstrating the design that an existing chair adapts so easily to the human body. To make size, Huckaby reclined on his side with his head propped on an extended arm.

"Could you do this in any other chair?" he grinned.

Fourteen spring graduates receive education awards

A&M's College of Education has presented faculty achievement awards to 14 spring graduates.

Recipients of the award are Eugene Wilson Brees II of Tempe, Arizona; Ronald Wilkins Brune of New Ulm; Carolyn S. Canaday of Xenia, Ohio; Betsy D. Carpenter of Bastrop; Mary Ann Dudko

of Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.; Gene Hodges of Stanton, Texas; Gene Sue Marak of Dallas.

Also, Marilyn Ann Mahan of College Station; Betty S. of Buffalo; Mary Ann of Brenham; Melba C. of Lancaster; Rebecca S. of Riehyale, Calif.; Lou Weatherly of Friona; and Lillian Ann Wolf of Killen.

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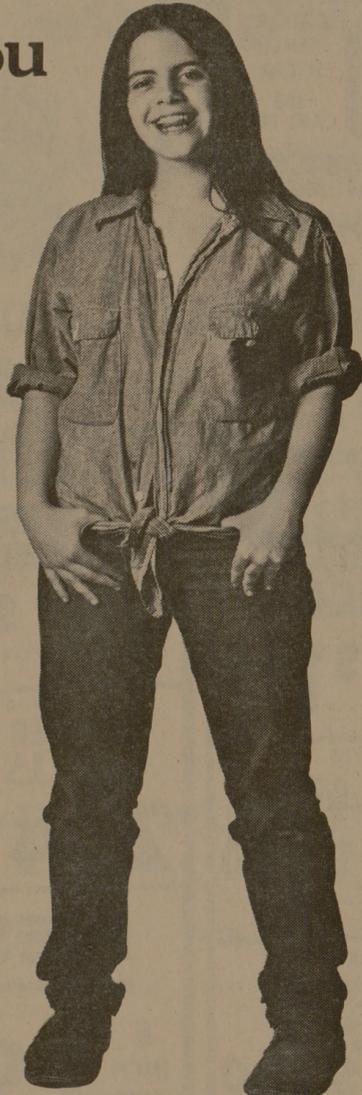
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FARES SUBJECT TO GOVT. APPROVAL.



Dear Bugle:

"Something strange has happened. An unusual recording by a relatively unknown artist has made it big on Top 40 radio. I am referring to "American Pie" by Don McLean.

Now that's not really the strange part. What is strange is that many supposedly aware people have condemned the record as being top 40 shit! I object!

I would ask these diletantes, some of whom have indignantly and pedantically complained to a WZMF morning jockey about his playing the record, to listen with awareness and sensitivity to the whole recording.

Let McLean speak of the day "Music" died. The "Music" of another age. An age when it was so very good and easy not to have to think too deeply. Yesterday, when your troubles seemed far away. Allow McLean to outline for you as no history teacher ever has, the events that brought us where we are today... the demise of Elvis, the incredible influence of the Beatles, the assassination of President Kennedy, the Democratic convention of 1968, the passing of Janis Joplin and all that meant, the inauguration of President Nixon, and the moon flights... to mention just a few.

BUGLE AMERICAN Milwaukee, Wis.

After that first big step, listen to McLean's "American Pie" album! McLean shows himself to be not only a wonderful musician but an intensely beautiful poet.

One cut, "Vincent," says all there is to know about the genius that was Vincent Van Gogh. Mind you, Don McLean does not write song lyrics but poetry. McLean's "story" of Van Gogh's struggle with himself and with an "audience" which was not yet ready to even tolerate him fills the listener with rage and pity.

I find very, very little of any real value in the wide world of art. Don McLean is an exception. In the midst of a thousand heroic attempts, McLean has made it. Not since Dylan have I been so excited about a poet-musician. Please listen to him!

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