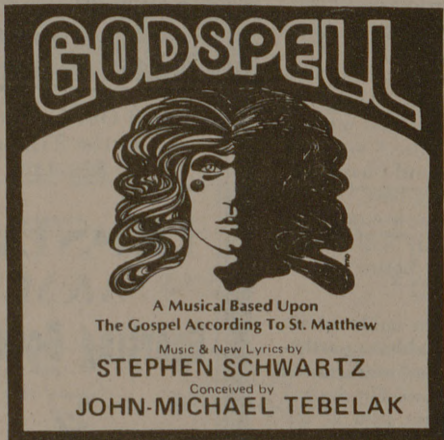


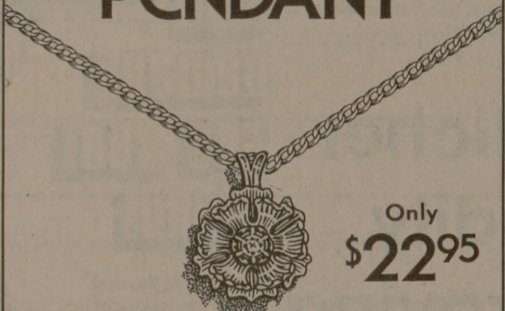
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Get-rich-quick swindles

Don't pay till BBB checks

By ROSEMARY TRAVERSO
Staff Writer

People have been getting swindled by get-rich-quick schemes advertised through the mail, in magazines and newspapers for years but people never seem to learn. Leroy Balmain, director of the local Better Business Bureau (BBB), said Tuesday.

The most common frauds which take people in are home employ-

ment offers and mail order merchandising, he said.

"A lot of young couples come in and ask about these deals advertising jobs stuffing and addressing envelopes at home," Balmain said. "Most of the time they will take your money and send you a list of ways to rook somebody else."

He said one A&M student came into his office with a complaint about an advertisement in The Battalion about job opportunities in

Alaska.

"She sent in \$3 and got a booklet telling about the weather in Alaska and how many people are working there but nothing about job opportunities," Balmain said.

He said mail order operations should be checked out with the BBB before any money is sent for merchandise. In the case of plants, Balmain said the merchandise is often dead before it reaches the customer.

Complaints regularly come into the BBB office concerning these schemes but Balmain said he has no idea how much money is lost annually in Bryan and College Station.

"Most of the people who get taken don't even call us. They don't think the money is important enough, even though it may be only a few dollars," he said. "They are often embarrassed because they've been taken."

The BBB tries to get companies to make good on their offers when complaints come in, but when efforts to do this are not successful, the complaints are turned over to the proper law enforcement agencies, Balmain said.

Roland Searcy, county attorney, said these cases usually come under federal jurisdiction rather than that of state or local agencies.

"A lot of the cases are investigated by the Postal Service," he said. "I can't think of any that have been handled in the local courts."

Panel, film included in rape seminar here

A seminar on "Rape in Our Society" will be sponsored Tuesday by the Women's Awareness Workshop and the Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project (TRPCP).

The program features a panel discussion and a film beginning at 7:30 p.m. in room 602, Rudder Tower.

Panelists include Bradley Smith, a deputy district attorney; Dr.

Harry Lipscomb, internist; Gerry Boyd of University Police; Dr. Sara Jones, TAMU clinical psychologist; Dr. Bonnie Stadelman of the History Department; Marge Swacker of the English Department and Sarah Robinson of the Sociology and Anthropology Department.

The film and panel will be prefaced by remarks by Cathryn Dorsey of the TRPCP.

Campus briefs

Pre-med, pre-dent banquet

Tickets will be on sale through today for the annual Premedical Pre-dental Society Spring Banquet to be held this Saturday in the Memorial Student Center.

Dr. James A. Knight, dean of the College of Medicine at A&M, is the featured speaker for the event and Dr. John M. Precott, dean of science, will make several special presentations.

Tickets may be purchased from George Theilen (845-4659), Dorm 5, Room 428, or Del Yarbrough (845-2139), Moore Hall, Room 404. A representative of the Society will also be present in Room 319 of the Biological Sciences Building from 8 to 5 on Thursday.

Public ERA debate

Women's Awareness Workshop is sponsoring a debate on the Equal Rights Amendment at 8 p.m. Monday in the Memorial Student Center room 224.

The debate panel will consist of two pro-ERA speakers, two anti-ERA speakers, and a mediator. Written questions will be accepted from the audience.

The public is invited.

Great Issues speaker

Business Week editor Lewis Young will speak for the "American Economy" series of Great Issues at 8 p.m. tonight.

Young will speak on "American Business in Perspective" in room 225 of the Memorial Student Center. Admission is free.

World Whale Day

The Association of Graduate Wildlife and Fisheries Students (AG-WAFS) and the local Sierra Club are sponsoring a program to celebrate World Whale Day.

April 28 there will be a table set up in the MSC which will distribute information leaflets about the problems faced by whales and other marine mammals. At 7:30 p.m. there will be a series of films shown in room 137A MSC. Petitions will be available for signing for those who wish to express their concern.



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- FRANKENSTEIN (8 pm)
- BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN (9:30 pm)

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