

THE CANNIBALS

Panther breaks parole Fugitive returns

Associated Press

PARIS — Declaring "Prison holds no terror for me," Eldridge Cleaver, the fugitive Black Panther leader who has lived in exile for seven years, announced Monday he is returning to the United States Tuesday.

"There are no deals . . ." he said. "If I was terrified I wouldn't be doing this. There is nothing compelling me to do this other than a desire to turn a page in my life."

Cleaver, 39, faces parole violation charges. His parole from an assault conviction was canceled following a gun battle between police and blacks in Oakland, Calif.

In a statement read to newsmen at his lawyer's office, Cleaver explained his decision this way:

"A new situation now exists in the United States. The war in Vietnam is over. The status and condition of black people has undergone a fundamental change for the better. The American people have been shocked into objectivity and vigilance by the exposure of the massive, systematic and conspiratorial subversion of their democratic rights.

"In such a situation, I believe I can receive a fair and objective de-

termination of my case in court. Therefore I am returning tomorrow to have my day in court.

Speaking easily and with humor, Cleaver did not explicitly say he expected to go to prison, but recognized that he was a fugitive. "I think I'll be questioned and possibly detained," he added.

Cleaver received a one-way U.S. travel document earlier in the day from William Krug, a vice consul at the American Embassy. The black leader said his lawyers had been in contact with federal and California officials and that he expected "there will be people" — he did not explain who — on the plane with him.

Cleaver, who is the author of radical pamphlets and the book "Soul on Ice," fled the United States in 1968. He has lived in Cuba, Algeria and France and has been the guest of a number of leftist regimes. Over the last year, he has made a series of statements in which his bitterness toward the United States appeared diminished, comparing its freedoms favorably with the dictatorship he has seen.

Cleaver's two children traveled to the United States on Saturday and his wife, he said, will be returning after him.

Campus Comments

By SANDY RUSSO

Campus Editor

There is no such being as a chairperson.

President J. K. Williams sent a memo to all staff and faculty personnel saying that the nomenclature for persons "heading up" committees was chairmen. He went on to say that chairperson was a "non-word."

It is certain that there is at least one woman on this campus who refuses to be called a man in any shape, form or fashion.

It is also certain that the word chairperson will sooner or later be incorporated into the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

Is Williams trying to prove once again that A&M is resisting trends and is going to be 10 years behind the times because of administrative conservatism?

If chairperson can't be used on the A&M campus maybe chair-one, convener, presider, head, mediator, chief agent, principal or simply, chair can substitute.

Have a chair, President Williams? Another suggestion to those wishing a proper university vocabulary: Avoid the word "non-word" because it doesn't exist in the English language either.

Listen Up

Bikes and KK

Editor:

Bicycle riders on campus seem to be neglected by the University Police. I realize that the people in blue have their hands full guarding staff parking lots and ticketing cars that have no spaces to park, but meanwhile, the silent two-wheelers are causing chaos on campus.

Most cyclists show no respect for the right of way of cars or the right to life of pedestrians. And I have yet to see more than a handful stop at stop signs on any given day.

I do not put the blame on the KK's. There is no way they could effectively control a problem of this size. I do, however, blame the cyclists and consider it their responsibility to follow traffic regulations just like everyone else.

Preston Jones

Staff feels underpaid, overworked

Wages worry custodians

By CHAROL SHAKESHAF
Battalion Staff Writer

"Sure there are blacks and Mexican-Americans at Texas A&M. Who do you think cleans this place up?"

This observation by an A&M student is supported by at least one member of the custodial staff. "Yeah, we're mostly black. I did see one or two white people once at a meeting (of custodial workers) though."

Pay, not race, is the major concern of the custodial workers interviewed. All felt they were underpaid and overworked.

"I take home about \$77 a week," said a worker. "That's not enough for a family."

Another worker said she took home \$77.50 for working eight hours a day, 40 hours a week. The 51-year-old woman says she dusts,

sweeps, cleans bathrooms and 75 faculty offices for her pay.

"They put too much on us. There's too much to do."

If all the custodial help interviewed felt the pay was low, they also were quick to point out that A&M was a better place to work than most local jobs.

"There are more benefits at A&M. Vacations, sick leave, insurance." Another worker admitted, "It's better than it used to be."

The poor pay is the reason many women who work 8-hour nights cleaning the university also work all day as housekeepers in private homes.

"We need the money to support our families and live a decent life," said one woman.

A different type of employee who cites poor pay and exploitation by A&M is the secretary.

Three categories were delineated by discussion with women in this group. The woman is working as a secretary as a short term job while her husband goes to school.

The woman wanted a career, but had to begin as a secretary because of limited job opportunities in the Bryan-College Station area. The final group is the career secretary.

Linda Guthery, a secretary who is working while her husband Fred finishes school, says A&M is the best place for her to work. She says the pay is comparable with other jobs in the area, but it's still low. She does see benefits at A&M. She enumerates them as eating with her husband, student scheduled vacations, insurance and a pleasant, interesting atmosphere.

Sherry Garland says she is a career person who'd rather not be a secretary.

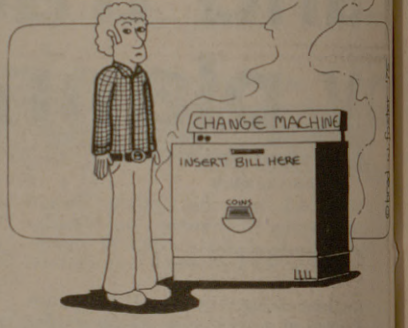
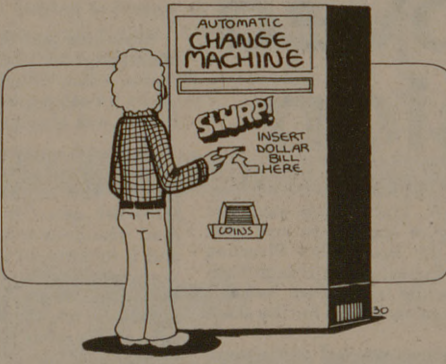
Her linguistics, French and English backgrounds are the sort of credentials which make her eligible for a job in publishing. Career opportunities force her to be a secretary. Garland is a few hours short of a Master of Arts degree.

A secretarial career was the happy choice of Helen Medlock. Medlock, a senior secretary in the educational department, started working as a secretary 25 years ago. She has scores of stories to tell about her work experiences.

Most secretaries interviewed said they command a lower status in society and within the hierarchy.

It's unfortunate since the secretaries are just as important as the deans," said one secretary.

"Everybody has to do her or his share to make A&M a great place. Everybody is important."



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SLOUCH

Jim Earle

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The Battalion

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods. September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester, \$9.50 per school year, \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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