

Mushrooms can be dangerous

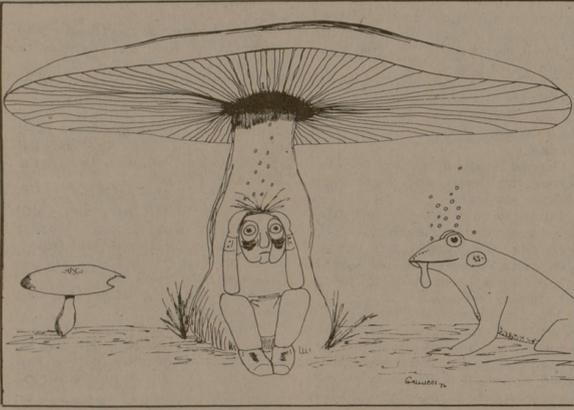
Spring inspires some people to wander through verdant meadows picking flowers. Others slash through muddy pastures scrutinizing piles of cow manure usually in search of mushrooms containing psilocybin, an hallucinogenic drug, that thrives in such conditions.

The health center on the Texas A&M University campus recently admitted a male student who was frightened by his own hallucinations after drinking some mushroom tea. "The only physical ailment he had was what we gave him," said Dr. Claude B. Goswick, director of the hospital. He was referring to a drug administered to induce nausea, in the hope that the student would vomit any unabsorbed mushrooms from his stomach.

"I don't believe that people hallucinating are having fun," Goswick contended, "although they seem perfectly all right afterwards." Goswick said a "clean-cut" all-American male came to the hospital for help last year after the mushrooms he had eaten caused his Playboy center fold to appear three-dimensional, and virtually come to life.

Hospital cases involving drugs are usually reported to either the University Police or Student Affairs.

Possession of psilocybin is a grade misdemeanor punishable by fines



up to \$2,000, one year in prison, or both. Sale of psilocybin is a 3rd degree felony punishable by fines up to \$5,000 and two to ten years in prison.

"I haven't been confronted with a case yet," said Bradley Smith, assistant district attorney, when asked whether possession of mushrooms was considered possession of psilocybin. "It would depend on the

circumstances, and whether the conduct was knowing and intentional." If proof existed that an individual had deliberately picked only mushrooms growing in cow manure, Smith said charges would probably be filed.

Symptoms associated with psilocybin intoxication are varied and include hallucinations, increased blood pressure, sweating, dilation of the pupils, temperature

increase, body hair standing on end, nausea and vomiting. Increased deep muscle tension, distortion of time sense, emotional disturbances such as extreme hilarity and difficulty in concentration, as well as mental and physical depression are also experienced.

Spanish conquerors of Mexico found the Indians using psilocybin mushrooms in religious ceremonies for worshipping deities. The ancient Aztecs referred to such mushrooms as the "flesh of the gods," and in the Indian mind, Christianity offered nothing comparable.

Psilocybe cubensis and Stropharia cubensis are the strains of hallucinogenic mushrooms commonly found near A&M. They have a golden-orange nipple on top, are whitish near the edge (turning black with age), and have black gills underneath. The stem is whitish at top, has a dark circle one-third of the way down and is yellowish with blue-green streaks toward the bottom. When pinched or broken, the stem turns blue.

There are several varieties of poisonous mushrooms which resemble Psilocybe cubensis, and can result in illness and death if eaten. Even experts have difficulty identifying "safe" mushrooms.

Dr. W. A. Taber and his wife Ruth are mycologists (specialists in fungal life) on the A&M campus, specializ-

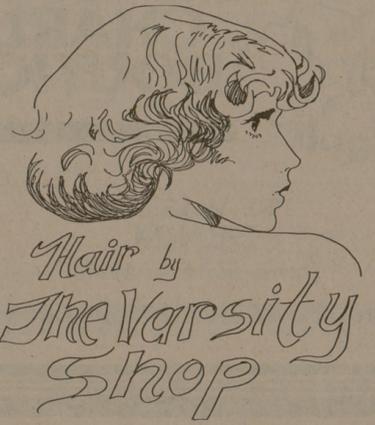
ing in the identification of all varieties of mushrooms. They are often contacted by frightened mothers holding a half-eaten mushroom in one hand and a crying child in the other.

The effect of psilocybin mushrooms varies with dosage, individual mental and physical health, environment, and contact with other people.

"I'd advise people to avoid mushrooms like the plague," said Dr. Goswick. "Hallucinations are dangerous. You're out of touch with reality, and may do things that are potentially harmful or fatal."

**HERCES
CLOTHES CO**

The ONLY Import
Clothes Boutique in
Town.
1403 University
Above McLaughlin's



301 PATRICIA

North Gate

846-7401

Battalion Classified Call 845-2611

Group opposes penal code bill

Associated Press
AUSTIN — A group headed by University of Texas student body president Jay Adkins delivered a petition yesterday to the office of Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., asking him to withdraw his support for the controversial revision of the federal

penal code. Adkins and about 10 other persons gave the 1,500-name petition to Tower aide Shrya Dair. Tower is a cosponsor of Senate Bill 1, but his aide said it was uncertain whether the senator supported all of its provisions.

Aggie dates studied

A survey on dating among Aggies being conducted by the same people who ran the breast-petting survey last semester. Question books and answer sheets can be picked up at the following locations:

On campus: Hughes 324, Krueger 406, Law 2K, Legett 52 & 55, Moses 104, Mosher 317, Puryear 3A, 3A.
Off campus: Barcelona 2406, Bedford 207B, Doux Chene 290, Old College Main 341, Tree House 923.

"SAVE A BUNDLE"

Remember the old, Cash and Carry, money saving trick?

Buy a pizza at the Commons Snack Bar and eat it there or take it anywhere you wish. Prices are right, and the pizzas are great.

Bicentennial Special

Hamburger Pizza1.29
Sausage Pizza1.29
Pepperoni Pizza\$1.29

OPEN

Monday thru Friday
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
4:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

"QUALITY FIRST"

Come To Diamond Country Sankey Park Diamond Salon

213 S. MAIN DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Engagement Rings

Wedding Rings

Diamonds Exclusively

ReElect Tiger Teague

as your
Congressman
in the 6th District

He's working for you on...

AGRICULTURE Tiger Teague continues to work long and hard for American farmers and ranchers, and to encourage full production without interference from the State Department. "Our farmers and ranchers must be allowed to make a fair return on their production, and that means keeping the government out of the market place."—Tiger Teague

ECONOMY Tiger Teague believes the government must stop spending money it does not have and quit strangling private enterprise. He has consistently voted to reduce Federal spending and has supported this record by returning tens of thousands of dollars each year to the U.S. Treasurer from his Congressional staff and office allowances.

"I have introduced a Constitutional amendment to require the Federal government to balance its budget and will strongly support its passage."—Tiger Teague

UTILITIES Tiger Teague is working to lower outrageous utility bills through the development of new energy sources. As Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, he has recently passed legislation to develop America's coal, solar and geothermal energy.

"The best way to provide long-term relief from high utility costs is to become independent of foreign oil producers."—Tiger Teague

BUSING Tiger Teague opposes forced busing of school children. He believes that a constitutional amendment is the only way to stop it and has worked five years to achieve that goal. "If half the money spent on busing was spent on improving the quality of education, all children would be better off."—Tiger Teague

Vote for Tiger Teague in the May 1st
Democratic Primary

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C. Teague for Congress Committee, Dr. James R. Gill, Treasurer

The Sunday Break

America
Cecilio & Kaponno
Peter Frampton
Santana
Gary Wright

Austin, Texas • May 2, 1976
Wolfman Jack as emcee

A day of music and celebration on 130 acres of grassy fields at the intersection of Hwy 290 and I-35 in Austin, easily accessible from Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, The Valley, and all points in-between • Free on-site parking • Excellent facilities Food and beverage service • 11:00 am until dark.
Tickets on sale now! • \$10 in advance • \$12 at the gate • Austin: MG Tapes on the drag next to Texas Theatre, Armadillo World Headquarters, Oat Willie's, Discovery Records and Inner Sanctum • Dallas: Preston Ticket Agency • Houston: All Foley's stores • San Antonio: Record Hole #1 and #2 • Fort Worth: Amusement and Central Ticket Agency • Waco: Lake Air Records • Corpus Christi: Kaleidoscope, Inc. • For mail order tickets send cashiers check or money order to "The Sunday Break," Box 15207, Austin, Texas, 78761.

Presented by Mayday Productions

No glass containers • Show will be presented rain or shine

GOODTIME ★ Charlie's ★

THURSDAY NIGHT
"BEAT
THE CLOCK"

60c BAR DRINKS STARTING AT 7:00
P.M. ON EACH SUCCESSIVE 1/2 HR.
PRICES GO UP 5c UP TO 85c
STARTING THE WEEKEND EARLY
AT
GOODTIME CHARLIES

807 TEXAS AVE.

846-9513