

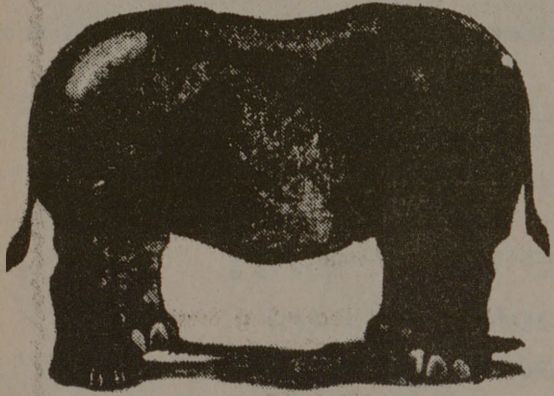
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Good Books collecting dust on shelves

Bible Week to promote study

United Press International
Americans revere the Bible. They buy copies of it in enormous quantities, give them to their children on confirmation and have one or two or more laying about the house.

But they don't read it. According to a report by the Gallup Organization and the Princeton Religion Research Center, just about every home has at least one Bible, but they have been collecting a lot of dust.

"Only about 12 percent of Americans read the Bible daily or more often," researchers said. "One-fourth of all teenagers have never read the Bible."

They reported that only one-third of all teens and only half who attend church were able to name the four Gospels of the New Testament and 20 percent of those

teens who attend church regularly did not know what Easter com-

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memorates.

The results, according to the report in "Religion in America 1981," represent further evidence of the low state of Biblical knowledge among the youth of this country.

A small but growing band of influential laymen, including politicians, corporate heads and civic leaders, have labored for some 41 years to turn that situation around.

Known as Laymen's National Bible Committee, the efforts of the interfaith, non-sectarian lay organization, come to fruition once again this year with National Bible Week, to be marked Nov. 22 to 29.

The group's simply stated purpose is to make all Americans aware of the importance of the Bible through public service media campaign which will use radio and television spot announcements, print ads in national magazines, ads and feature material for newspapers and over 2,000 donated billboard spaces.

According to officials of the group, National Bible Week will be marked with local observances in over 4,000 communities, with activities conducted by civic groups, labor unions, schools, libraries, bookstores as well as churches and synagogues.

**National Bible Week
Nov. 22 to 29**

ble, to motivate Bible reading and study, and to reaffirm the founding principles of the United States.

To do that motivation, the committee has developed a host of activities and enlisted some high-powered leaders, including President and Mrs. Reagan, who are

serving as honorary chairpersons, and Thomas L. Phillips, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Raytheon Co., who is national chairman.

Reagan, in his proclamation of Bible Week, said the Bible "galvanizes our heart to weather the trials of life, and it rewards us with strength, comfort, and meaning. It touches the heart, orders the mind, and refreshes the soul."

He added: "I hope Americans will read and study the Bible more thoroughly, for it is my firm belief that the transcendent values presented within its pages have great meaning for each of us and our nation."

Theme of the 1981 observance is: The Bible. Read it for yourself. To promote that theme, the committee is sponsoring a week-

Ag department funds war on weeds

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has allocated contingency funds to fight a tenacious, deep-rooted weed called leafy spurge that threatens to reduce rangeland available for grazing cattle in the West.

The short-term emergency project will focus on ways to make herbicides against the weed more

specific and less costly for ranchers. For the long term, agricultural scientists are studying insects to control the weed biologically.

If let unchecked, the lowly weed hurts livestock producers, incomes, and could make beef more expensive to consumers. Ranchers and state officials have complained loudly about the

weed. "If it wasn't for that pressure we wouldn't be getting these contingency funds," said Calvin Messersmith, a North Dakota State University scientist working on the project.

The villain leafy spurge is difficult to control because its roots penetrate 3 feet into soil and new shoots grow from those deep

roots. The weed's roots can go as deep as eight feet and there have been cases in which the roots went down 25 feet.

Terry Kinney, head of the Agriculture Department's Agricultural Research Service, said he has allocated an extra \$200,000 from contingency funds for short-term research. Another \$250,000 a year is spent on long-term efforts.

Acres infested by the weed has doubled each year in the past 25 years. It has spread on 3 million acres of north central and western range. Kinney said it threatens 3 million acres more.

Cattle and wild animals refuse to eat it because it is toxic.

If unchecked, the weed's greatest threat is in Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Idaho and neighboring states. It also is a problem in Canada, where control research has been going on a little longer than in the United States.

In the United States, the threat is greatest in rangeland where livestock graze. It can be controlled on cultivated farmland with traditional methods of tillage and cultivation crop rotation and herbicides.

The \$200,000 allocated for the emergency program will go to agricultural experiment stations at Montana State University, North Dakota State University and the University of Wyoming.

Tordon, the herbicide used against leafy spurge, is less toxic than table salt so toxicity is not a problem, Messersmith said.

However, costs to ranchers are a problem. The new research money will be directed at refining chemical technology.

Scientists are looking at the best way to apply herbicide with wicks, rollers and controlled droplets so it is applied only to the leafy spurge and not the vegetation around it. Reducing the amount of herbicide used saves money and protects other plants near the weed.

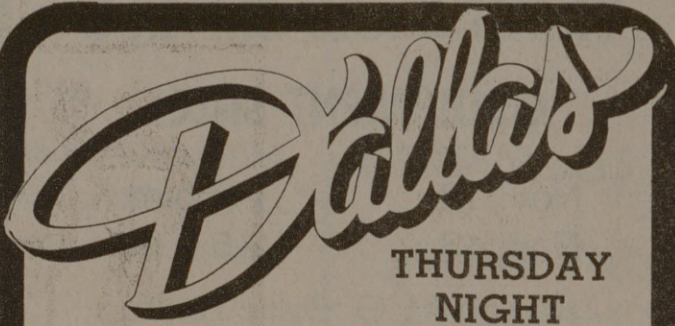
The leafy spurge is 18 to 24 inches high.

The more exciting long-term research is focused on a number of insects that control the leafy spurge in Europe. Scientists hope that insects and diseases can be found to a

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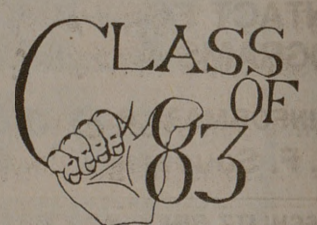
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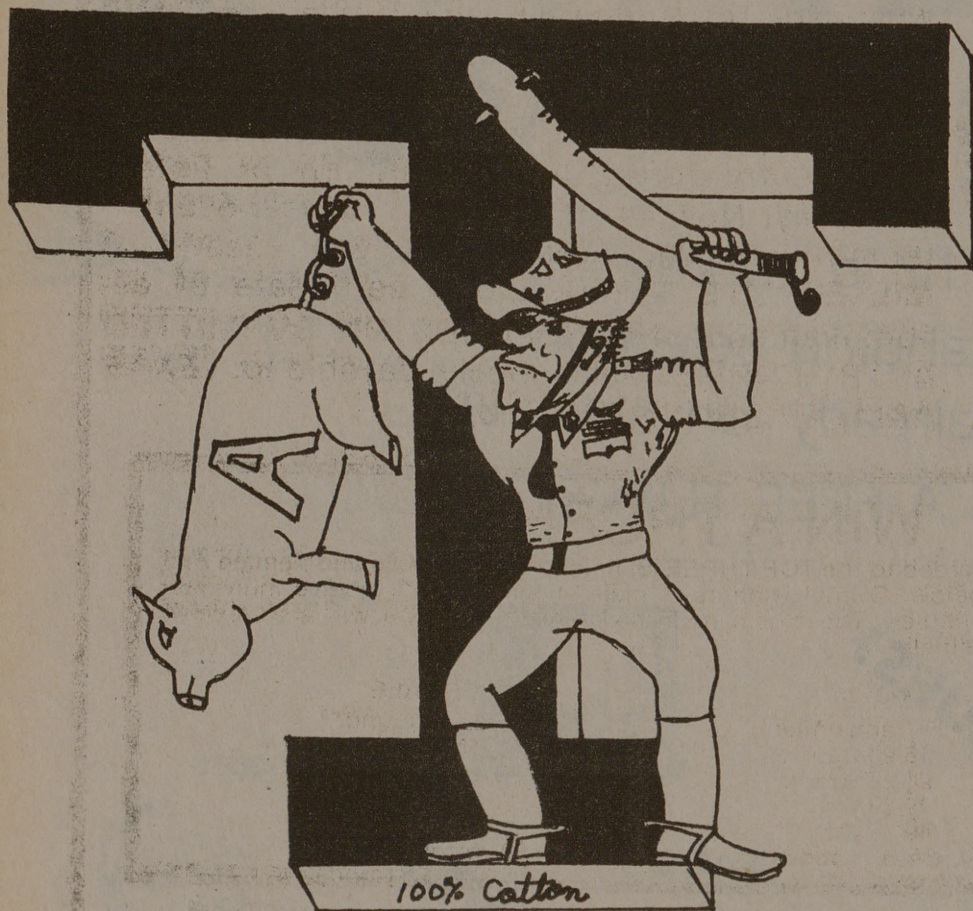
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