

Meese is not fit for Cabinet slot

Monday it was reported that Attorney General French Smith will soon become the sixth member of President Reagan's cabinet to resign.

And it appears the president will nominate his chief adviser, Edwin Meese, to become the next U.S. Attorney General.

Meese. The same Meese who was in the news with his comments regarding the poor in America. Meese. The one who thought there were no truly needy Americans. Meese, who refuses to acknowledge the homeless who sleep on the streets on our downtowns or the 35,000 unemployed who fought for the right to apply for 300 postal jobs in Chicago last week.

He seems to follow the philosophy that all those who want to work, work. And all those left over fight for the scraps that the government throws out in federal programs.

A man without compassion to become the United States chief law enforcement official?

Law enforcement personnel, from the patrolmen on the streets to the Justices of the United States Supreme Court, must have empathy for the people they serve.

And how can a man empathize with the poor and the homeless when he refuses to believe that they even exist?

The United States has survived poor government officials.

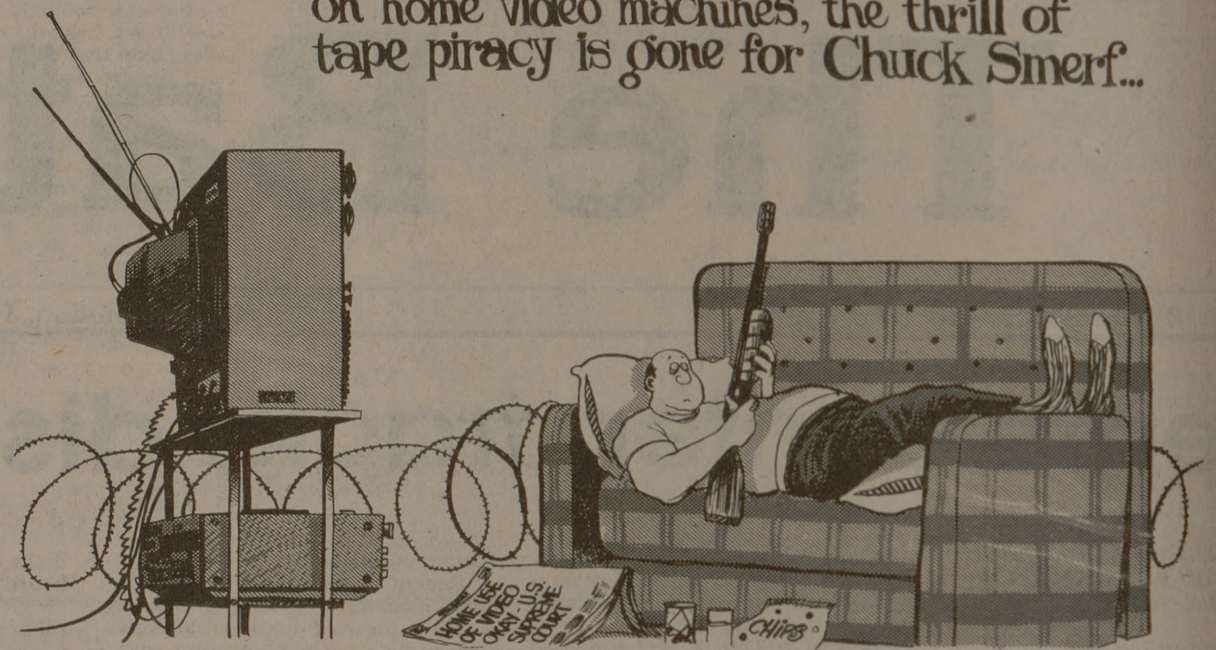
It has survived the appointments of 40 presidents.

The environment was strong enough to survive James Watt.

And the legal system of the country will survive Edwin Meese.

But why should it have to?

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Now that the Supreme Court has ruled on home video machines, the thrill of tape piracy is gone for Chuck Smerf...

Abortion: Basic human rights at stake

By LINDA LEE BRIGHAM

Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion. In other words, an open season was declared for the killing of unborn children. These children do not die in some subtle, quiet, painless way; they are either cut to pieces via D and C, torn to bits by suction, burned alive by saline solution injected into the womb, birthed by caesarian section and killed by either direct act or neglect or crushed to death by abnormally strong contraction of the uterus induced by a new form of chemical abortion.

It is hard to imagine that in a country where we proudly boast of our love for our favorite sports teams, ice cream, grandma's cooking, and our cars, we turn and look the other way while each day 4,400 white paper buckets await incineration. Their contents are 4,400 dead, bruised, aborted babies.

As I sit here trying to write this article, looking at all my facts, I grow sick and angry. A photograph of a six-and-a-half-month old, aborted child lying in one of those buckets waiting to be burned has

seared itself into my mind as the epitome of the brutal murder inflicted upon an aborted child. Six and a half months! I had a teacher who was born prematurely

reader's forum

at six months during the early '50s, and she lived even though few at that time had her mother's hope that she would survive. The child in the picture was not even given a chance to live.

I am appalled that as Americans we can be heard complaining loudly about the lack of human rights for men and women throughout the world, but for some reason the rights of the unborn are not as vocally protested. Our constitution guarantees us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; it seems, however, that modern, post-natal America is more interested in the pursuit of its happiness than the guarantee of the pre-natal's life. As long as abortion is legal, the U.S. Constitution and our so-called Christian nation stand out as blatant hypocrites to the world.

I'm well acquainted with the arguments for pro-choice; I used to believe in pro-choice. I did not see how I could force some woman by law to have her child, but I cannot condone the legalization of the murder of innocent children to continue.

The reason for my change of view has come through the understanding of God's love for each and every one of us. He has created each of us in his own image. Psalm 139:15-16 reads, "When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew I was there — you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began."

The Bible clearly proves that these unborn children have a life waiting for them outside the mother's womb. Due to the Roe v. Wade pro-abortion decision, man is playing God with the lives of unborn children; it is time for man to recognize God as God and to obey God's laws which will put an end to abortion.

Linda Lee Brigham is a secondary education major.

Letters: Seniors deserve finals exemption

Editor:

By now you will have received a mountain of letters concerning the recent Faculty Senate decision to remove the exemption of graduating seniors from taking final exams. Please add this one to the mountain.

There has been considerable discussion during my six graduate and undergraduate years at Texas A&M about "non-functional" traditions. As the folks in Austin would say, "A&M is full of it!"

Bonfire is just one classic example. Certainly it serves no truly useful function. It does, however, drive home the pride and loyalty felt by all Aggies toward Texas A&M. At freshman orientation they told us that if the Bonfire did not make us proud to be Aggies, then nothing would. They were right! A&M is special because of its traditions, but this is not meant to be discursive on the "Spirit of Aggieland."

Exemption from finals does not serve a practical function, either. It is a privilege of rank, not of merit. Tenure is a privilege of rank also. Convenient parking locations are a privilege of rank. Longevity pay is a privilege of rank. We live with these privileges every day. Just ask someone serving in the Armed Forces. Or, better yet, ask a Corps freshman!

The timing of the decision was abominable. I will not, however, vent my ire without proposing two alternatives:

1. Retain the exemption of degree candidates from final examination.
2. Exempt honor graduates from the final examination, both graduate and undergraduate. The undergraduate students will not be seriously deprived academically, while the graduate students have already taken a final (a really comprehensive final!).

I would be willing to discuss this matter with anyone who deems it worthy of consideration. My own self-interests in this issue are minimal. Instead, this is a request for rationality. Good study habits and a fine education are made over years, not during one final examination week.

Bryan E. Stampley
Graduate Research Assistant

opposed to the conservative Christian movement actively involved in censorship. Censorship of many Christian books has prevented best-sellers from making the list (read Thomas' *Born Burning*). Another example is banning voluntary Bible study and prayer in public school.

In conclusion, what I fear most about Darwinism (survival of the fittest) is the even though this "survival" occurs in nature to an extent, if applied socially to those who only regard man as the highest animal form without responsibility (God) we could have another genocide destroying the "less than perfect" ones. Think I am crazy? Eleven years of legalized murder of "less than human" born infants is proof. Think about it.

Gerald T. Helle
Class of '84

Student defends ag econ prof

Editor:

The recent criticism of the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics by certain liberal factions in the state government is unjustified. The criticisms directed primarily at Dr. Ronald Knutson attacks his beliefs and accuses him of being a Reagan puppet. In lieu of evidence submitted, these people have sound logical base from which to speak and are in effect attempting to control and direct the academics of this school mandating the political philosophy of the faculty.

Even though Texas A&M is a state institution, ideology and ideals should be left open for individual choice. If Dr. Knutson chooses to take a conservative stand in his talks, it should be his prerogative. As one of his former students in agricultural policy, I think he does a superb job of presenting both pro and con arguments on both past and present U.S. and world agricultural and food policies.

Intervention and manipulation of the institution by less than well informed outsiders can be conducive to a healthy environment, but it should also be realized that unwarranted interference by groups who do so only for the betterment of their own position is potentially destructive. Before justification of charges such as these against Knutson can be legitimately levied, the parties involved should evaluate the long-term impacts on the institution which is attempting to gain first-class status.

Grant A. Terry

Emotional appeals in bad taste

Monday at Rudder Fountain I saw something that disturbed me. It was not the demonstration against abortion — the demonstrators have the right to do that. What I objected to were the tactics used by the demonstrators to make their point.

On a podium in the center of the crowd was a small casket.

The casket was there obviously to make people groan and become sick at the thought of abortion.

However, emotional appeals, such as those used Monday, can backfire. The protesters can make a sympathetic appeal for the unborn child while the pro-choice people can play for sympathy for the girl who was raped.

Tactics like those used Monday wouldn't help to change my mind. They only tend to make me angry.

I saw the protest, and I'm still a pro-choice person.

If the people who conduct protests such as the one held Monday want to stop abortions, they are being unrealistic. If they really want to cut down on the number, they could employ some better tactics.

The displaying of a casket was distasteful and probably ineffective.

When someone has made the choice to have an abortion, she knows what she has done. At that time she must have felt it was the only thing she could do.

kelley

smith

Instead of passing out brochures that focus on pictures of aborted babies and quotes from the Bible, the brochures could focus more on the alternatives to abortion: What else can the 15-year-old girl do? Where can she find support? Who can she call? Where can she get the financial assistance she needs? How can the rape victim cope with carrying the child of a rapist?

A person faced with the problem of an unwanted pregnancy needs the rational counseling of someone who knows the

alternatives. The emotional appeals often only result in tremendous feelings of guilt after an abortion instead of fewer abortions.

If the protesting organizations could sponsor support groups and telephone hot-lines manned with people who have information the mother needs, they would get more productive responses.

These groups also could support educational programs to help prevent unwanted pregnancies. But too often, these are the same groups that protest against clinics counseling minors on birth control methods.

Appeals such as Monday's probably have the greatest effect on those who already have had abortions. But then it's too late and only adds to the emotional turmoil the person has already suffered.

Kelley Smith is a junior journalism major and a senior staff writer for *The Battalion*.

Darwinism just theory, not fact Southern pride questioned

Editor:

Commenting on Mr. Hanger's letter on Darwinism, I would first like to say that I am not judging him — that would be sin. I will then say that being a creationist does not make one any more anti-scientific than an Evolutionist.

Neither Creationism nor Darwinism (if taken that man and ape came from a common ancestor) is scientific. We have not observed the creator creating nor man begotten from a non-human. Granted, man has changed over the years but to teach that lower species eventually gave rise to man is unscientific (by the scientific method). One can only draw a conclusion from evidence.

Strangely enough, many prominent scientists today (many of these non-creationists) doubt Darwin. They say not constant, gradual change but instantaneous change following many years of static life forms is what the fossil record indicates. We're getting closer to creationism.

The account of the expanse (Gen. 1:6-9) and flood (Gen. 7:10-12), on the other hand, could help explain dinosaur life and extinction around the world. Consider it!

As far as Orwell's 1984, I see a force

Editor:

I am writing to call attention to a recent event that took place in Austin, an event which says something not only about Texas, but about the entire region we call "the South." I am speaking of Confederate Heroes day, a celebration of the lifestyle and people of the Confederate states.

What is significant about this event is that, not to whom the tribute will be paid but to whom it will not be paid. While people emulate the great Robert Lee and the splendor of the antebellum life, will they remember the race who paid for this with their freedom and dignity?

The answer is probably not, and that is an enigmatic characteristic belonging uniquely to southern America. Other cultures that commit great wrongs feel need to find excuses and to deny responsibility for their actions. Such a strategy seems absent in a majority of American today.

This letter was not meant to persuade any white Aggies to bow their heads in shame. It will probably have the reverse effect. Rather, it was intended as an apology to black Aggies and all black Americans. I am white and I am sorry.

Jerry Ross
Class of '84

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Slouch by Jim Earle



"I'll have to admit you're extremely well organized for the semester, but I would suggest that you get a textbook or two."