

Prof with three jobs a victim of injustice

The mystery professor is going to prison for three to five months.

Paul Crafton, a professor of engineering at George Washington University, was convicted for impersonating a professor at two colleges in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Crafton worked under various assumed names and had used dozens of aliases to apply for jobs at colleges and universities throughout the Northeast.

Crafton pleaded guilty to four counts of forgery, and was ordered to pay restitution and court fees for the colleges. In addition to his prison sentence, he must serve two years probation, pay a \$1,000 fine and do at least 500 hours of public service work.

But did Crafton's "crime" really injure anyone?

His students didn't complain. In fact, when he was first arrested many of his students called him one of their best instructors.

The professor said he was working at three jobs to raise extra money to support his handicapped daughter. Pennsylvania officials argued for a prison sentence, saying that Crafton was motivated by a desire for the thrill of another lifestyle.

Motivation aside, the sentence is not justified. Academics from around the country, including professors here, should complain about this injustice. Crafton, at worst, was a man with multiple identities.

The 60-year-old professor does not belong behind bars.

—The Battalion Editorial Board

Medal to be awarded to Communist-hunter

On March 26, President Reagan will present the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to Whitaker Chambers.

The Medal of Freedom — awarded to one of the chief figures from an era when some of the most cherished American freedoms were snatched from thousands of citizens.

Chambers, who died in 1961, was the central witness in the case against Alger Hiss during the Communist witch hunts of the 1950s.

He was a turncoat communist, a former Soviet spy. He pointed out Hiss as one of the State Department officials who had given him classified government documents in the 1930s.

Chambers was never able to prove he was guilty of treason. Nevertheless, Hiss' career in the State Department — not to mention his life — was ruined by the taint of communism.

He spent three-and-a-half years in prison and devoted himself to years of attempting to clear his name.

Hiss was only one of hundreds of casualties in the witch hunts of the late '40s and early '50s. When the anti-Communist crusade came to an end, the government had checked up on the actions of at least 6½ million American citizens, and the FBI had conducted 250,000 full-scale investigations.

At least 15,000 employees were fired



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or resigned in protest.

At the height of the Red hysteria, the First Amendment was virtually meaningless, and blacklists of suspected Communists abounded. Former members of the Communist party were labeled "dangerous," and a trace of pink in a person's ideology could lead to total ostracism from society.

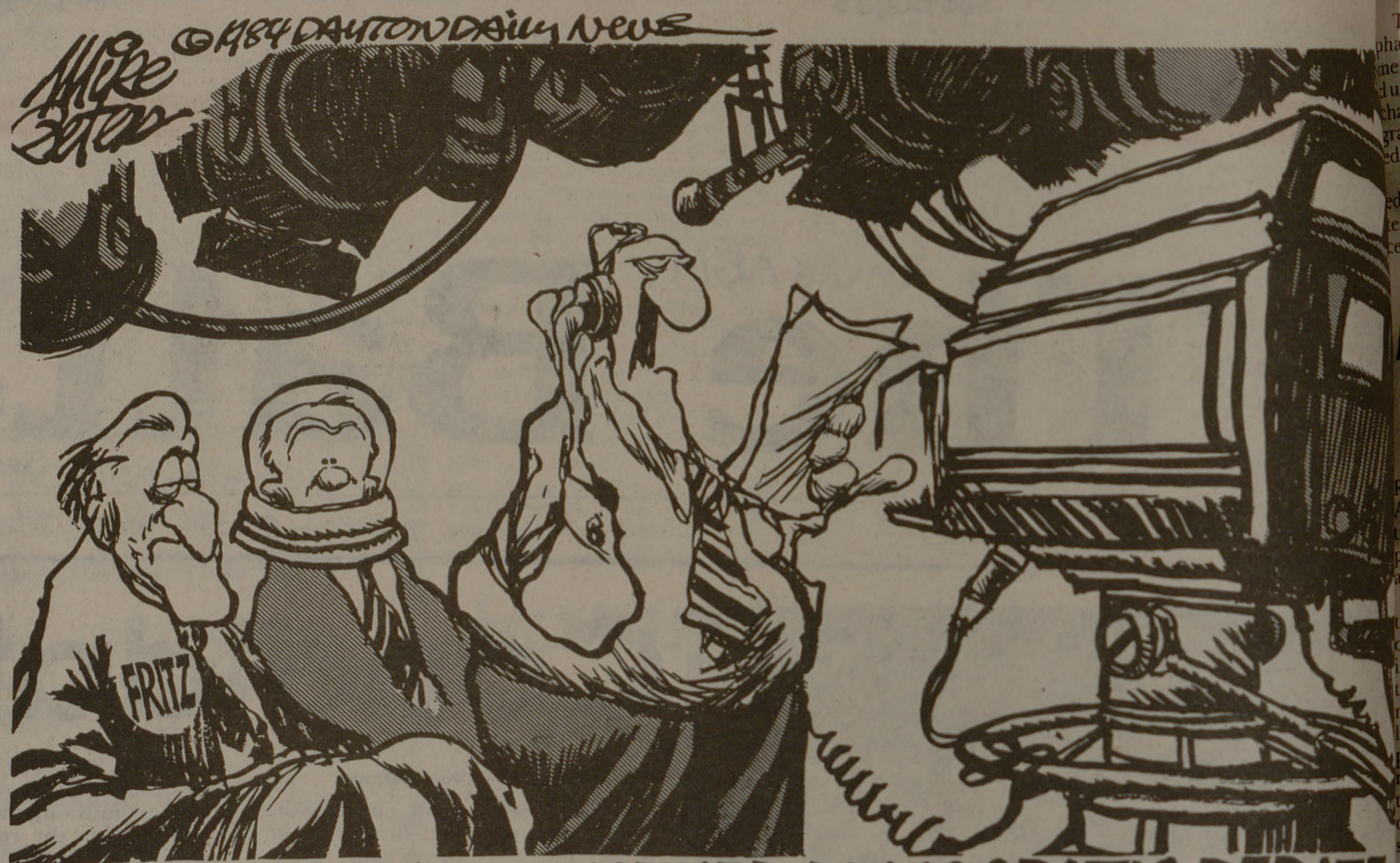
Any slight deviation from the status quo was viewed with suspicion. It wasn't a time for a democracy to look back on with pride.

Strange, then, that Chambers, who accused an innocent man of treason, who took advantage of the publicity he knew he could generate and who was instrumental in increasing the red hysteria of the era, should be awarded the nation's highest civilian award.

The Medal of Freedom — awarded to Chambers, who didn't seem to understand the meaning of the word.

Maybe the Reagan administration doesn't understand, either.

Kathy Wiesepape is a senior journalism major and editorial page editor for The Battalion.



WELCOME TO YET ANOTHER DEMOCRATIC DEBATE OR BETTER KNOWN AS TV BLOOPERS, PRACTICAL JOKES AND LIFE'S MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENTS.

Midterm policy ineffective

Once again the University is inconveniencing tens of thousands of students in order to save some money when there are other, more convenient ways to save.

For the second time in a row, the University is asking students to pick up their own midterm grade reports but is mailing reports to parents. It could just as easily save the money by not sending the grades to parents or by simply discontinuing midterms.

The University should either rely on students to report to their parents themselves or rely on the parents to drag it out of their children.

I work and pay some of my college expenses. While my parents might have the right to be concerned about my final grades — since they help with my finances and since I may be forced to move back with them if I don't get a job — they have no reason to be concerned about midterms.

Thank goodness my parents, after three-and-a-half years of school, have finally realized that the grades appearing on my midterm have no correlation whatsoever with my final grades.

It's true that not all parents receive midterms, so the savings on postage would not be as large as the savings from not mailing grades to students.

However, when the additional costs incurred by hiring people to hand out

the grades to students are added in, the savings would be more substantial.

The University claims that since many students are constantly changing addresses, they're hard to find. But the University always seems able to find students when it comes to sending out bills. If the University wants something important — such as your money — it will find a way to reach you.

If the University really wants to save

they serve as a warning flag for students with Ds or Fs.

His argument for keeping midterms is a great argument for mailing the reports. How many students who know they have a D or F in a class will be likely to take the time to go to the vilion to pick up their grades?

Teachers don't seem to like the work it takes to figure midterm grades either. Many don't bother to correct the grades or don't give tests at the midterm and end up giving "blatant As or Bs."

This doesn't do much for the dents except give them a false idea how their grades stand.

Last semester about 50 percent of student body neglected to pick up reports. Either those students or their parents about their grades probably did not care about their midterm grades.

The best solution would be to discontinue midterms. Maybe then students who were worried about their grades would go to class and ask their teachers.

However, since midterm reports are around for a while, at least mail them to the students, who earned the grades first. Then, if there is enough money they can be sent to the parents.

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money it can do away with midterms all together. Associate Registrar Donald Carter has said he foresees this happening one day. Why not now? Students waiting to order their senior rings might be distraught, but others probably would get over not having midterms.

Carter says that midterm reports have not been discontinued yet because

Words, meanings conflict

By HELEN THOMAS

It's 1984, and the era of doublespeak at the White House is well under way on several fronts.

The most prominent instances of words that don't jibe with the facts concern the U.S. easing away from the problems of Lebanon and generally denying all around that it's actually happening.

When the president accused Speaker Thomas O'Neill of wanting to "surrender" because the speaker advocated a withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut, Reagan had already decided to redeploy the forces offshore and out of the risky airport area.

When Reagan told a news conference "we're not bugging out," the Marines were preparing to depart lock, stock and barrel.

To hear it from the insiders, the administration has just about given up the prospect of a U.S.-instigated political solution to Lebanon's bitter problems.

But words are used to save face.

Doublespeak is also glaring on the question of how the administration plans to deal with the \$185 billion deficit. The president, who used to attack the opposition for red ink spending, now rages against the "born-again budget balancers."

He initiated a bipartisan group of Democratic and Republican lawmakers to help solve the issue. "Everything is on the table," he and his aides told reporters on numerous occasions.

But the words had a slightly different meaning. He meant everything except raising taxes and cutting defense spending. All suggestions that would slash Pentagon spending or defer the third

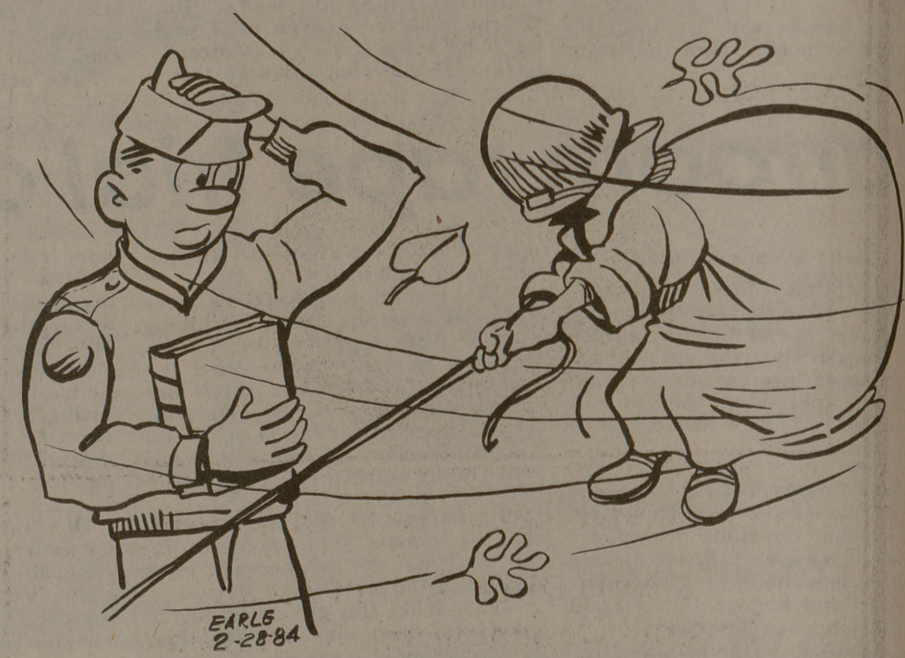
year tax cut are promptly rejected by the White House.

Another front for the doublespeakers is arms control. In a recent interview with the New York Times, Kenneth L. Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said, "I am very happy with the way the year (1983) has gone."

Late last year, the Soviet Union broke off nuclear arms control negotiations on two fronts in Geneva and has yet to give any indication of when they will return. The talks on intermediate range missiles also are in a state of suspension. And, Kremlin has walked out of the negotiations on long-range strategic intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Slouch

by Jim Egan



"I don't want any wisecracks or jokes, just get me out of this raincoat!"

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