

No Good Friday holiday this year

Classes will not be dismissed on April 20 for Good Friday this year. That's no surprise. Good Friday isn't usually a holiday for state employees or for this University.

Last year, the Texas Legislature and Gov. Mark White proclaimed a half-day holiday, but the news didn't reach Texas A&M until 11 a.m. on Good Friday.

Good Friday was also April Fool's day, so Texas A&M students who heard the news were wary. Was it for real, was it an unfounded rumor or was it just another April Fool's gag, they wondered.

The result was a great deal of misunderstanding and not much of a holiday.

Students who had planned to skip class anyway didn't miss anything. Students who didn't hear the rumor walked into empty classrooms and wondered what was going on.

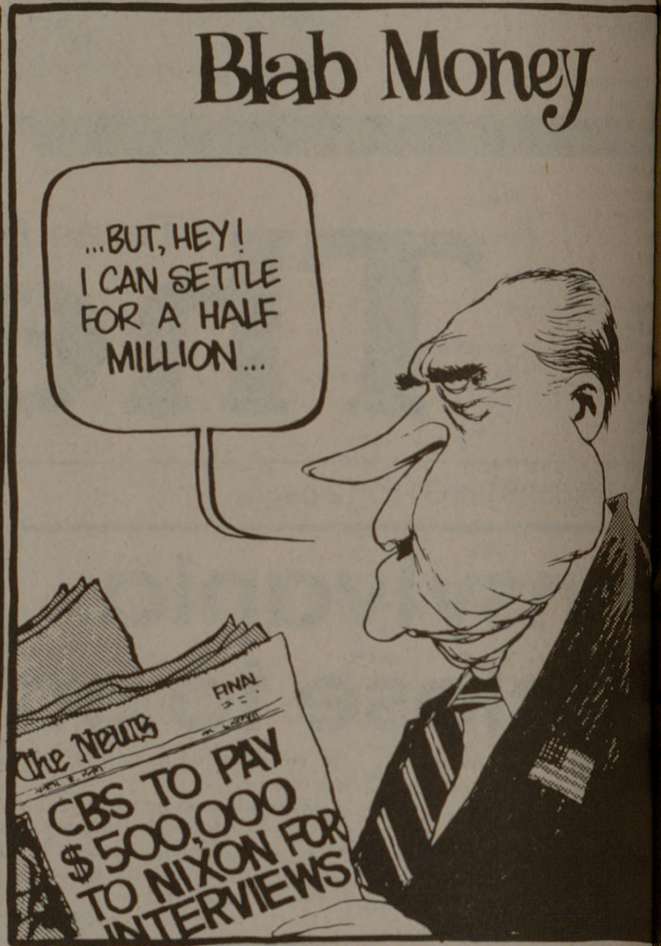
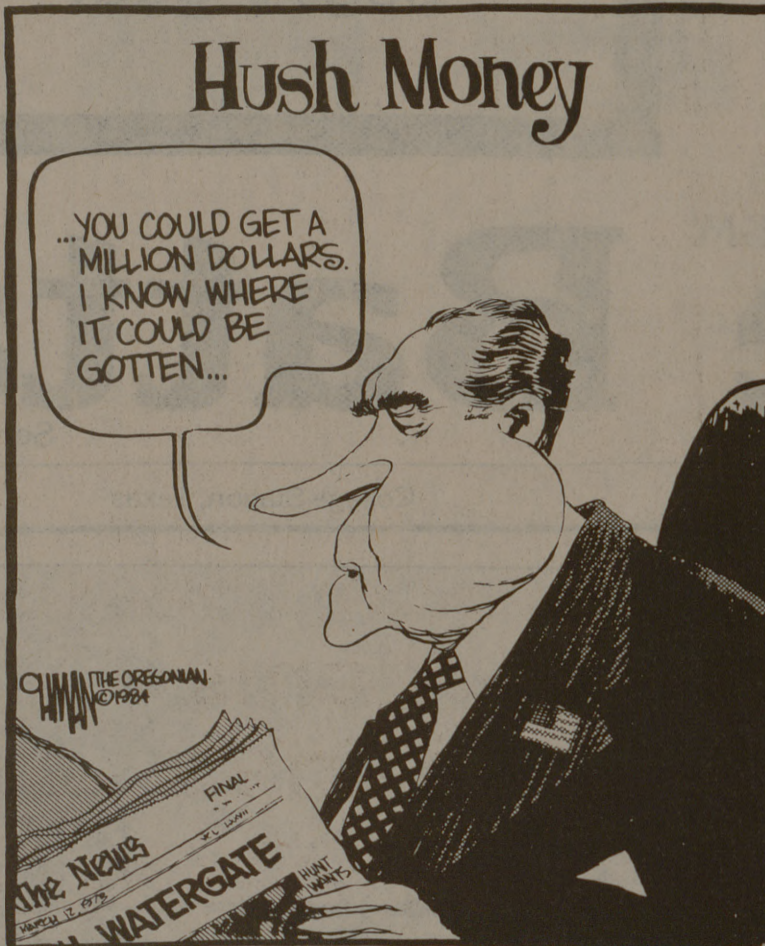
We could all have benefited from a little advance notice. Nothing is quite so annoying as the missed opportunity for a little time off.

This year, we have the advance notice. Classes will be held as scheduled — no matter what. Although a day off would be nice, the decision to hold classes is no big deal.

We know there will be no holiday. But we appreciate the advance notice.

So, holiday or no holiday, thanks go to the University administration for letting us know.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Letters

Meese hearings aren't a Democratic ploy

Editor: John C. Mills' letter on Ed Meese's Senate hearings was a paranoid collection of unfounded suppositions. His fanciful allegations were in no way inhibited by facts and rationality.

He accuses the Democrats of conspiring with the press to scandalize the Reagan administration. Even if there were evidence of a conspiracy, there is no motive. With William Casey's insider stock dealings, Rita Lavelle's mismanagement of the Superfund and James Watt's sweetheart deals on government coal leases, the Reagan administration does a fine job of scandalizing itself without any help from the Democrats.

Furthermore, the Democrats had little control over the investigation. Meese himself requested the appointment of a special investigator after questions were raised during his Senate confirmation hearings.

Hearings are conducted whenever any President, Democrat or Republican, appoints a cabinet level official. Meese came under intense scrutiny, not because of a Democratic conspiracy, but because of some very suspicious actions in his past.

Four persons responsible for \$550,000 in loans to Meese later received jobs with the Reagan administration. Meese violated the Ethics in Government Act by failing to disclose some of his financial dealings. He claimed to know nothing of the Carter debate briefs, although memos about the documents were sent to him.

While none of these facts are grounds for criminal charges, they should certainly be looked into before we give Ed Meese control of the Justice Department.

The facts indicate that the Meese investigation is perfectly justified, but that doesn't prevent Mills from denouncing it as a conspiracy by the wicked Democrats and that old conservative bogey man, the liberal press.

His attitude seems to embody the prevalent theme of a great deal of reactionary rhetoric: "If the truth disagrees with my position, the truth should be disregarded."

T. S. Drummond
Hart Hall

Profs criticize Corps

Editor: Recently, a young high school friend of ours visited Texas A&M. Before his visit, he wanted to get an engineering degree and fly with the Air Force. Now he is totally against the Corps of Cadets. This young man might not have stayed in the Corps even one semester, but I began to wonder. I recalled my experience during Freshman Orientation with my own son.

At our orientation, the professors and counselors seemed helpful and encouraging until my son indicated he would be a member of the Corps. Then his past scholastic record and his future potential dropped to "rock bottom." They implied that nothing good could come from being a part of the Corps.

My question is, should an employee of any organization be permitted to be so outspoken in criticizing the most famous and outstanding segment of that organization? Should the professors at Texas A&M discourage prospective students from becoming members of the Corps of Cadets or any other accepted organization?

Personally, I do not advocate the military as a career. However, I do think it

should be the choice of the individual. We, as parents, teachers and leaders, should help guide our young people toward realizing their hopes, dreams and goals without burdening them with our prejudices and fears.

If so many professors and counselors downgrade one of Texas A&M's outstanding traditions, do they convince potential students that they can't make it in the Corps, that the professors at Texas A&M aren't patriotic or perhaps, that the students shouldn't attend Texas A&M at all?

Mrs. K. W. Varner, Jr.
San Antonio

Death penalty is moral

Editor: On April 2 you published the following opinion: "The Battalion Editorial Board agrees with Manganaro that the taking of anyone's life is wrong."

I disagree. In some situations, taking someone's life is the only proper action. If someone is trying to take your life, should you just die, or should you fight back?

The only fundamental right is the right to life. When a person violates your rights, he contradicts the moral premise on which all rights are based and abdicates his own rights.

If someone uses force against you, he violates your rights. Anything you do to retaliate is self-defense.

Anything that is moral for one person to do is moral for a group to do. The morality of punishment given to an individual who has violated the rights of another is never in question. This includes the death penalty.

John Hall
Class of '84

Hospital advertising includes free surgery

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The latest news from the medical world is that hospitals are having more difficulty attracting patients. Occupancy rates are down, and many institutions are now resorting to advertising and hiring marketing people to get patients to use their beds.

The competition is getting fierce, and no one can predict what kind of perks a hospital will offer to get a patient to use one of its rooms.

I visited a marketing consultant who works for one of the major hospitals in the Washington area.

He was very excited about a new idea he had just come up with.

"What do you think about an 'Operation of the Month Club'?" he asked me.

"It sounds good," I told him. "What do you get if you join?"

He showed me a full-page layout he had designed. Battered on the top: "SAVE ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ON EVERY OPERATION. Join the Operation of the Month Club." Then there were photographs of different parts of the body and large type: "WHEN YOU JOIN YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ANY ONE OF THESE OPERATIONS FREE." Then in smaller type: "All you have to do is have four operations a year and you will be entitled to another AT NO COST TO YOU."

"Wow," I said, "that's really a buy. How does it work?"

"Every month we will have a distinguished panel of surgeons choose the 'Operation of the Month,'" he said. "Let's say the main selection for April would be an appendectomy. You would get a notice in the mail that it is being offered. If you don't return the card within ten days, we'll send an ambulance to your house and whisk you off to the hospital and perform the operation for one-half of what it would cost if you just went in and asked for one."

"Suppose I don't want an appendectomy?"

"Then you will have the choice of 30 alternate selections, anything from a tonsillectomy to implanting a pacemaker, at the same low prices. And remember you only have to choose four a

year, and you get a free one as a bonus.

"What an ingenious marketing ploy! As a member of the 'Book of the Month Club,' I always forget to send my card back and I'm stuck with the selection. I'll bet the same thing happens with the 'Operation of the Month Club.' Will major medical pay for membership?"

"I'm working on that now," he said. "The savings from our operation as a club member should be very attractive to all the medical plans."

"How do the doctors feel about it?"

"Most of them are very excited because they'll get a large advance. For example if an artificial hip is chosen, the 'Operation of the Month' the hip specialist to make a fortune, particularly the surgery becomes a best seller."

My friend showed me the most interesting "Operation of the Month Newsletter."

"When you become a member you receive 15 issues of this beautiful, color, illustrated magazine outlining various operations the hospital performs and biographical information on the surgeons who perform them. It also has reviews by medical students of the various surgeons' techniques."

"Here's one on Dr. Paramedic, viewing his skill at removing gallstones."

My friend read it to me. "Dr. Paramedic has performed 2,000 gallstone operations in his time. Once he got the scalpel in his hand he can't put it down. Fast paced, and riveting, a Paramedic gallstone operation is a must for anyone who is looking for an exciting operation, with no pain. The New York Times says, 'When it comes to a gallstone, Paramedic is in a class by himself.'"

"You've got this all thought out, said admirably. If the 'Operation of the Month Club' catches on, hospitals will never have to worry about their beds again."

He seemed pleased with my reaction. "I'll tell you what. If you sign up as a first member I'll arrange a hernia operation for you for nothing."

"But I don't need a hernia operation," I told him.

"Then choose one of the alternate operations. It's all the same to us."



The Battalion

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 100 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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