

Opinion

Khadafy using comet dust to undermine news services

Unless you've been hiding in a cave you've probably heard of the return of Halley's Comet. Every time the comet comes by our little planet some strange things happen. This year is no different.



Karl Pallmeyer

In the 18th century and before people thought that the comet would crash into the earth and kill everybody. Many people became depressed after hearing this news. Many more people became drunk.

By the 19th century science was more sophisticated and people realized that the comet wouldn't crash into the earth. They thought it would release a poison gas that would kill everybody. Many people became depressed, many more became drunk and a few became rich selling whiskey and gas masks. The only thing the comet brought with it in the 19th century was Mark Twain.

When the comet came back in 1910, few people, except Twain, expected any ill effects. Most people looked forward to the return.

Now, in 1986, the comet has come

again. Most people aren't afraid. They don't realize that this visit of the comet has had an influence on the minds of the American people.

The comet has been releasing something that has affected the speech centers of some people's brains. Until recently Halley was pronounced: Hay-lee. Hay (as in the stuff horses eat), lee (as in a person's name). Now Halley is being pronounced: Hall-lee. Hall (as in Monty), lee (same as before). Even though the astronomer, Sir Edmund Halley, pronounced his name like the rock star Buddy Holly, his comet bears the pronunciation of the name of the rock star Bill Haley, who also had some Comets.

The comet has had other effects on people's speech patterns in other ways. On Aug. 6, 1980, exactly 35 years after we dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, something strange happened. People began to pronounce Hiroshima as: Hear-row-shim-ma. Hear (as in listen), row (as in a boat), shim (him with an s), ma (as in your mother). Before 1980, everybody pronounced Hiroshima as: Hero-she-ma. Hero (as in Superman), she (as in a girl), ma (still your mother). It must have been a combination of 35-year-old radiation from the bomb and 70-year-old comet dust that caused the radical change of brain waves.

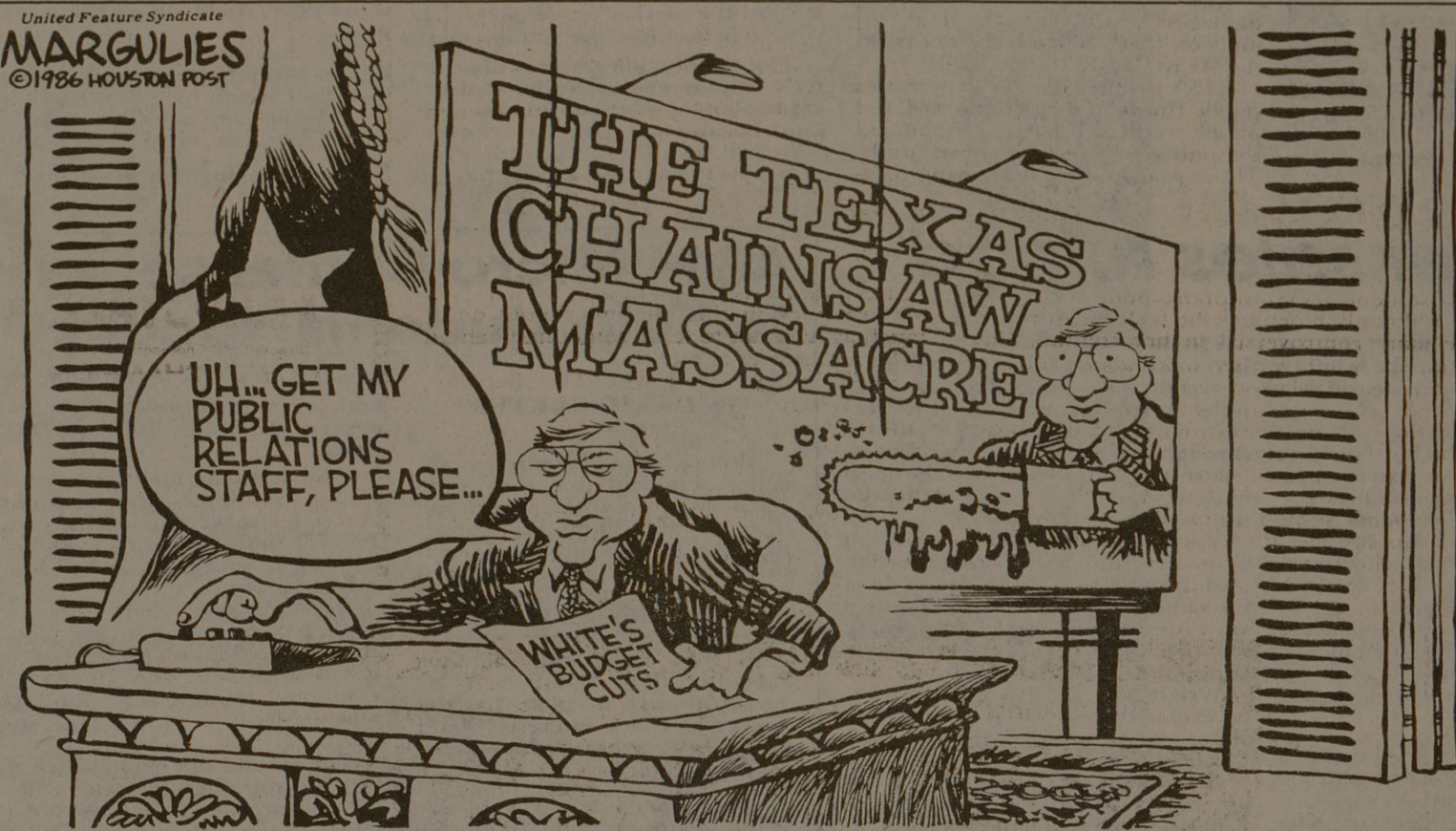
Some of our best scientific minds have been effected by the comet. In 1982, after Voyager II made its trip past Saturn, scientists began to talk about the craft's upcoming trip to Uranus, which they pronounced: Your-un-us. Your (as in something you have), un (as in an uncola), us (as in you and me). Since Voyager was close to the comet at that time something must have happened to alter the brain waves of our greatest astronomers. Or maybe they just got tired of all the dirty jokes people would tell about Uranus, pronounced: Your-anus. Your (as in something you have), anus (as in something else you have).

Those of us in the newspaper business have been affected by the comet too. At *The Battalion* we spell the Libyan leader's name: Khadafy. Other newspapers spell it: Kadafi, Kaddafi, Khaddafi, Khadafi, Kadafy, Kaddafy, Gadaffi or Qaddafi. No one is really sure if his first name is Moammar or Muammar. Isn't it just like that rascal to use Halley's comet to undermine our nation's news services?

Opefully dis comet wil pass soooon. My editors cccann't andle tooooooo mush ore ob dis-

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

United Feature Syndicate
MARGULIES
©1986 HOUSTON POST



Not conflicting interests, just interesting conflicts

There has been some huffing and puffing in Washington about former White House employees representing foreign governments whose policies may not jibe with those of the United States.



Art Buchwald

The governments are paying juicy fees not only for advice but for what they believe is the ear of a person or persons now working at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

When I accused Myron Steakknife, a former doorknob polisher at the White House, of putting his client before his country he denied it. "I have never used my connections, high though they may be, to attract business for my public firm."

"Then why does your telephone play 'Hail to the Chief' when the receptionist puts someone on hold?"

"The song came with the office when we moved in. The press must get it through their heads that when we left the White House we cut all our ties with Ron and Nancy — I mean the President and Mrs. Reagan — and we have no more influence there than any other lobbyist of Republican persuasion. We've gone to extremes to make sure no one thinks we have ties to the Oval Office."

"Then why are you serving coffee in an Air Force One mug?"

"We bought these at a Camp David

garage sale. Frankly, we're in a spot because some people believe we have a White House connection. It hurts business, as our clients are afraid we'll lean over backwards not to use our contacts. We would never do that."

"What do you do?"

"We help people. Take my recent client, the Exalted Emperor of Holihola, otherwise known as Black Dog. His Majesty came to us and said he realized he has a popularity problem in the United States just because he tortures and throws opposition leaders into jail. He said since I know what the thinking on despots is in the White House I would be the perfect person to handle his public reactions."

"I suggested he might start off, as a goodwill gesture, by releasing the opposition leaders from solitary confinement. This angered Black Dog, who said he was paying for good press relations, not good human rights."

"Did you turn down the account?" I asked.

"No, I took it. A public relations counselor is like a lawyer. You defend your client even when you know he is guilty of the crime. Having taken the money, I realized I had only one problem with Black Dog — his image. How could I turn it around overnight? Then it came to me as I was dozing off in the Lincoln Bedroom. The next morning I held a press conference at the West Wing gate of the White House and announced that Black Dog had just been chosen 'Freedom Fighter of the Year.' When the press wanted to know about the atrocities committed in Holihola I

pointed out that as a freedom fighter Black Dog is innocent, since he only beats up on opposition leaders to send a message to Commies in the bush."

"That is one of the most brilliant public relations campaigns I've ever heard of. Did the administration go along with it?"

"They would have except for Artie Windowsill, who left the White House about the same time I did to open his own PR firm. Artie signed up General Fffft, who had been fighting in the boondocks for seven years to overthrow Black Dog. Windowsill, without checking with anybody, declared Fffft 'Freedom Fighter of the Year,' which got the president mad as heck, because he didn't even know where Holihola was."

"Has anything been decided?"

"Not yet. It depends on who wins the personality part of the contest."

"It sounds like you run a real fun business."

"Not all the time. Sometimes there is tremendous pressure. We've just signed up a new foreign client. They're trying to get the Defense Department to drop all export regs on superperson computer gear. They're tough regulations."

"How do you know?"

"I was the White House aide who wrote them. That's why they hired me to overturn them."

"Can you really get the regs changed?"

"I don't know, but I'm going to give it the old Rose Garden try."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*.

Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Not a know-it-all

EDITOR:

In the Tuesday's, *Battalion*, Jill Webb wrote a letter that asked some very good questions.

I'd first like to say that as a Christian, I cannot consider myself a know-it-all. This would be impossible for a mere human. I would like to think that very few, if any, Christians could claim to understand ideas like predestination, or three persons in one God, or Jesus as true and true Man, etc.

Jill wondered if Christians recognized a foundation for the beliefs of Judaism, Hinduism and Islam.

Because Christianity is named after a Jew named Yeshua (Jesus), Nazareth, Judaism is considered to be the foundation of Christianity. Islam professes many truths which stem directly from Judaism and Christianity. A Muslim considers Abraham, Moses and Jesus to be prophets.

Hinduism also contains some truth, but most Christians reject the Hindu concept of the existence of approximately 300 million gods.

Jesus Christ said, "I am the Way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Christians accept this and all of God's revelation as meaning that the only way to have a relationship with God is through Christ."

Murray E. Moore

Freedom of choice

EDITOR:

This is in response to Jill E. Webb's Tuesday letter. We would like to try and answer some of her questions which we believe are well worth answering.

We agree with Webb that all people are not alike. Jesus also recognized this and adopted his approach to the individual. God is the God of all people and Christianity is meant to provide an individual relationship with Him, not a conforming religion.

We also agree that Moslems, Jew and Hindus do have a foundation for their beliefs. However, Christianity does differ on some major points. Jesus Christ is the only religious leader who claimed to be God and the only one who rose from the dead. His grave is empty while the others are still occupied — because Christ is God and thus perfect. His death and resurrection is the only possible payment for the sins of imperfect man. Therefore, Christ is the only way to heaven as He himself claimed (John 14:6).

But just because Christ is the only way to heaven doesn't mean that God is for everyone. He gives us the individual choice whether to accept or reject a relationship with Him.

It is likely that the two strangers at Webb's door only intended to present her with this choice that God has said must be made, and not to present their own personal views on her. We would like to challenge Webb to seriously consider the claims of Christ and to make a choice for herself.

Joan Usry '86
Dawn Wright, graduate student
Rhonda Wilburn '86
Lisa Glass '83

Escape to what?

EDITOR:

This is in response to Glenn Murtha's article "Fundamentalism breeds religious tolerance."

Escape to what, Glenn? Escape to an immoral society? Escape to what's destroying this country? Escape to the same atmosphere and way of thinking that destroyed the Roman Empire and Sodom and Gomorrah? Is that what Fundamentalist Anonymous wants us to escape to?

It just doesn't make sense to leave a life of joy (notice happiness is always there but joy is) to enter into a world of no morals and hope. There is a commercial that states, "I can't explain it, you just gotta fly it." The same with Christianity. The Bible can only explain in so many ways what you have to experience the rest.

The Bible says that there will be many things that man (with his limited wisdom) won't be able to understand nor explain.

Yes, I know that there are a few bad Christians but that only shows why Jesus died for us (to forgive us).

You talked about scientific proof. Why didn't you also talk about the fact that scientific findings are correlating with the Bible? Take the flood — scientists have dug deep enough to find out that there seems to have been a great catastrophe where everything died abruptly. Check it. They are even finding proof of Noah's Ark on Mount Sinai. Is that proof or what?

I can go on and on, but I can only write so much so, go ahead and add your own humanistic wisdom. I will stick with the living, loving wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Sir Arthur W. John

The Battalion
USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Editor	.....	Michael
Managing Editor	.....	Karl
Opinion Page Editor	.....	Loren
City Editor	.....	John
News Editor	.....	Cathie
Sports Editor	.....	Travis

Editorial Policy

The *Battalion* is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University, College Station.

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the Editorial Board or the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The *Battalion* also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography through the Department of Communications.

The *Battalion* is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$85 per full year. Rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.