

State and Local

Wiley Lecture Series

Ford, Carter to discuss interventionism at A&M seminar

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, historian Dr. Stephen Ambrose and journalist George Will will share the Rudder Auditorium stage Tuesday night as participants in the Memorial Student Center's sold-out Wiley Lecture Series.

The discussion topic is "U.S. Interventionism: Resolving International Conflict." The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Tracy Tomac, public relations director for the lecture series, said the program each year deals with a foreign policy topic. She said this year's topic is particularly timely in light of the rise in terrorism and international crises.

Ford, who took over the presidency following the resignation of Richard Nixon in 1974, was narrowly defeated by Carter in the 1976 election.

One of his most famous foreign policy moves was his handling of the Mayaguez incident in May 1975.

After Kampuchean Communist troops seized the Mayaguez, a U.S. merchant ship, in the Gulf of Siam, Ford sent 200 Marines to the area. The Marines recaptured the ship and rescued its 39 crew members.

Ford earned a law degree from Yale University and has honorary degrees from more than 25 other universities.

His autobiography, "A Time to Heal," was published in 1979.

He currently serves on the board of directors of several companies.

Carter's foreign policy focused on human rights. He limited, and in some cases banned, U.S. aid to some nations whose governments he believed violated human rights.

His foreign policy decisions also included the establishment of full diplomatic ties with China, peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel, and dealing with both the Iranian

hostage crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Carter currently is a distinguished professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. He has written several books, including "Why Not the Best?" "A Government as Good as its People," "Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President" and "The Blood of Abraham."

Ambrose is a distinguished professor of history at the University of New Orleans. He has written more than a dozen books on military affairs and foreign policy, including "Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938."

Will, a Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist, also is a contributing analyst for ABC News and a regular on that network's Sunday morning program, "This Week With David Brinkley." Will will moderate the Wiley program.

Tomac said the cost of the program will be about \$95,000. About half is covered by an endowment estab-

lished in the spring of 1984 by James E. Wiley Sr. and A.P. Wiley Jr., who both graduated from Texas A&M in 1946.

The rest of the cost is covered through fundraising drives, Tomac said.

She said the Wiley Lecture Series Committee is comprised of about 50 students who are responsible for planning and arranging the program.

Initial plans for the annual spring program are made by members of the Wiley executive committee during the summer prior to the program.

Each September the group conducts a membership drive. During the fall semester committee members concentrate on planning and fund raising, Tomac said, and final preparations are made during spring semester.

The committee tries to have its speakers and date confirmed by January, as it did this year, she said.

Man claiming cyanide poisoning disappears

TYLER, Texas (AP) — A man who captured headlines by claiming he was poisoned with cyanide after taking Tylenol capsules has left town, apparently with more than \$20,000 he promised to invest for friends, but police said Thursday they have no case against him.

Bill Case, 41, who collapsed in convulsions at his job on Feb. 4 after taking two Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules, has not been seen for about a week, his friends said.

Tyler Police Lt. W.D. Richardson said he had been told that Case was spotted in Murchison on Wednesday when he picked up a deer rifle he had loaned to a friend. But Richardson said the police aren't looking for him.

"We haven't had any dealings with him . . . except for the Tylenol thing," Richardson said. "We don't have any plans of finding him."

Just before dropping from sight, Case was fired from his job at the Mental Health Mental Retardation Regional Center of East Texas for falsifying his job application, said Dick DeSanto, executive director of MHMR in Tyler.

He said Case was fired after officials determined during a background check that he had lied about obtaining a degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

DeSanto said MHMR conducts a background check on its employees during their first six months.

"We had excellent recommendations on him, excellent," DeSanto said. "He just didn't have the degree he said he did."

In addition, records show Case has three convictions for felony fraud, three for theft, one for forgery and one for auto theft and that he had served three years in prison.

Three of Case's neighbors say they entrusted him with money to invest for them in Krugerrands and oil but never saw a full return.

Bill Atteberry, manager of the mobile home park where Case lived, said he invested \$20,000 with Case in Krugerrands after Case told him he would get a return of \$35,000.

Atteberry said he had known Case for four years.

"When someone you've known that long comes up and tells you that if you invest \$20,000 at 8 o'clock in the morning (and) he'll turn it into \$35,000 by 5 o'clock that night, who wouldn't go for it?" Atteberry said.

But Case has yet to return with the cash or gold, Atteberry said, adding that Case repeatedly balked when asked for an explanation.

Atteberry could not be reached for further comment Thursday.

Six days after Atteberry turned over the \$20,000, Case collapsed at MHMR where he worked as a lab technician and said he was poisoned by a Tylenol capsule tainted by cyanide.

The FBI, investigating the claim, has refused to say whether cyanide was found in his blood, although Case's doctor said officials with the federal Food and Drug Administration confirmed the presence of the poison days after the incident.

Case's neighbors, even those who invested with him, described him as an exemplary father, husband and friend.

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