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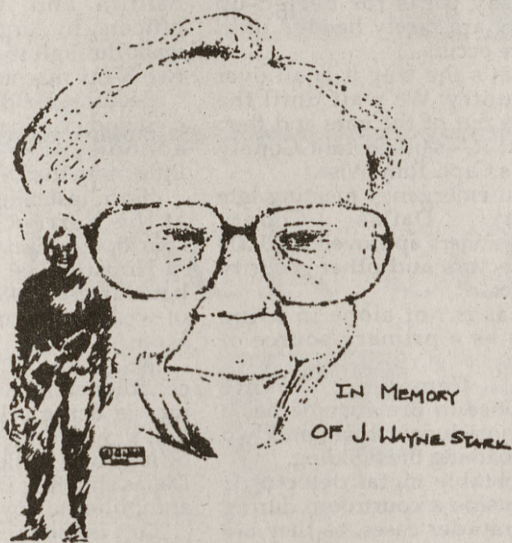
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OPINION

The Battalion

Page 11

Thursday, January 21, 1993



EDITORIALS

J. Wayne Stark

1916 -- 1993

Few students may be familiar with the name J. Wayne Stark, though every student has had intimate contact with his visions and dreams.

Stark died Monday at the age of 77 after over 30 years of dedication to the Texas A&M campus and the Bryan-College Station community.

Serving as director of the Memorial Student Center from its inception in 1947 through 1980, Stark fostered the growth of the center from its birth to its current position as the largest student union in the world.

While director of the MSC, Stark created such notable programs as the Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS), the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA), Political Forum and Great Issues in order to expose A&M students to the world beyond College Station.

Stark used his resources with former students and business leaders in order to secure jobs and opportunities for countless Aggies. Encouraging graduate school work and international travel, Stark opened doors for students through his position as the A&M sponsor for the Experiment in International Living program.

Long before terms like "diversity" and "multiculturalism" became buzzwords for forward-thinking individuals, Stark realized the importance of understanding other cultures and championed that understanding through his programs and

endeavors.

Without doubt, many former students remember the mythic "green couch" in Stark's office. According to Jane Bailey, administrative assistant to the director of the MSC, Stark had a habit of pulling aside unsuspecting students who walked down the MSC main hallway and inviting them to have a seat on the green couch. The MSC Director would then assault the students with a barrage of questions ranging from hometowns to majors to grades to aspirations beyond A&M.

In 1991 while addressing the Association of College Unions-International, an organization of over 1,500 colleges and universities over which Stark once presided, keynote speaker Henry Cisneros attributed his success in life to Wayne Stark, saying that Stark was the single greatest influence in directing his life.

Cisneros, a member of the class of 1968 and former president of SCONA, now serves as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the Clinton administration.

As evidenced by Cisneros, J. Wayne Stark left a profound mark on the lives of those he touched and guided.

As evidenced by the Memorial Student Center, its programs, galleries and opportunities, J. Wayne Stark left an indelible mark on the lives of all Texas A&M students both today and tomorrow.

Vote Regis and Kathie Lee in '96

Daytime television revitalizes sagging economy

The latest economic reports tell us that there is no need to fear anymore - the recession is over. Not only is it over, but one report says that it has been over for quite some time now. Apparently, we just weren't aware of it.

Now that it's over and people are supposedly returning to prosperity and good times, I'm sure America would like to know whom to thank for the sudden upswing in financial morale. America knew who was to blame and, as a result, he became unemployed as of yesterday. Talk about irony.

But who gets the credit? President Bill Clinton?

Absolutely not.

What did he do? He's only been in office 24 hours. The middle-aged man from Little Rock might be the best leader since Attila, but even he couldn't have the wherewithal to fix the nation's ails in one day.

Was it Bush? Nope. Even if he did, he probably wouldn't get the credit for it, anyway.

Was it Ross Perot? Unless the entire nation switched over to "Larry King Live" during the last six months, I doubt he had much to do with it.

No, the three most powerful men in America, politically speaking, had nothing to do with the resurgent national economy.

But Regis Philbin did.

For any of you who have had to endure the last month of sitting on the sofa flipping through the channels endlessly from the time you woke up until Mom and Dad came home from work, you should know that America is back on its feet again thanks to daytime television.

No artificial economic stimulant could bring people back to work in droves like the alternative of having to sit through the drivel on the tube every day. It's so terrible that people are desperate to go back to work. And let's face it, working for \$8.50 an hour in a machine plant sounds a whole lot better than sitting through one episode of the "Home Show."

Sitting through one day's worth of programming just makes you want to get off the couch and out of the house. If you don't believe me, witness what a typical television weekday is like.



CHRIS WHITLEY
Columnist

If you're fortunate enough to wake up early, you wake up to the best programs of the day - without saying a whole lot. The morning news shows aren't exactly "breakfast for your head," but at least they don't insult your intelligence. And besides, who could let the day pass by without wondering whether or not Willard Scott is wearing his toupee.

Then, there's the infamous Regis and Kathie Lee. How did this show become popular? Every day that I saw this program, Regis was cooking and Kathie Lee was singing. And they say the Golden Age of Television is dead?

"The Price is Right," which somehow has made it on the air as long as it has, comes next. Maybe it's just me, but the show just hasn't been the same since Bob Barker stopped dying his hair. On a side note, I personally believe that the Clock Game is rigged.

There is an alternative to the lousy programs on the networks: the lousy reruns in syndication. You can find any program that aired in any language from 1945 to 1985 showing somewhere on some station. These are the shows that in their original run were the best on the air. Then, when you watch them at 1:30 in the afternoon, you wonder why they were so great, i.e., "Different Strokes," "Bewitched."

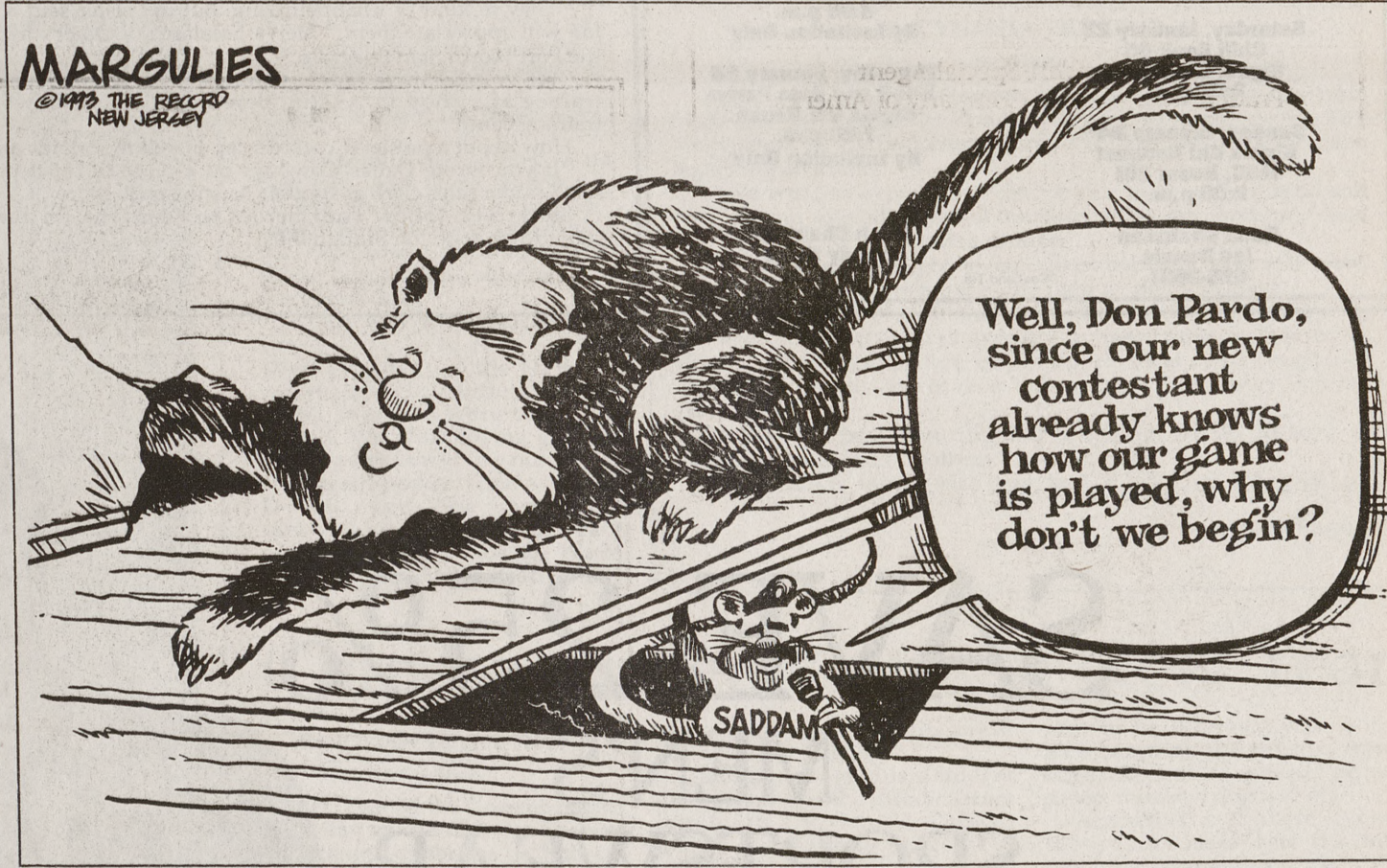
And lately, TV executives are enthralled with shows about love and romance. One show, "Infatuation," hosted by Bob Eubanks, revolves around guests telling a nationally televised audience whom they have a crush on and then having the crushee and the crusher brought on the set for a live confrontation. Now, that's a special moment to be shared by millions of viewers, isn't it?

Notice I failed to mention the largest part of daytime television - soap operas. Personally, soaps never much interested me, but I figure they have such a devoted following that there must be something to them.

Nevertheless, this is the essence of television during the workday. The very essence that will make this country great again.

So as we watch a new president take office, we should remember all the people that really made this era of economic well-being possible. And we should also not get too upset that our new president preempted "Days of Our Lives."

Whitley is a junior journalism major.



COLLEGE STATION, TX
JAN. 21
1993
MAIL CALL

Capital punishment justified by crime

In the recent wake of the hanging of a convicted child killer in Washington state, I would like to address the question of capital punishment.

Over the winter break, my family and I learned that my 17-year-old sister, whom we had thought was missing since July 31, was murdered that same day through multiple stab wounds to her heart by her 19-year-old boyfriend. He has since confessed to this crime.

This man murdered my baby sister because he had another girlfriend, and he did not want his other girlfriend - whom Angel had known - to find out that he was seeing

Angel.

So this man's simple solution to keep his romance with Angel a secret was to kill Angel and dump her body in a secluded drainage ditch just 20 miles from our home in Mentor, Ohio.

Not for one moment did this man think about the loving family and friends that Angel had, nor does he still.

My family and I have suffered severe anguish through these last six months. It reached a peak when we had to bury our Angel on Dec. 21. This, the same girl that I had grown up with and shared the greater part of my life with, was now gone, all at the hands of the man she loved.

When I saw the protest of the hanging of the child killer in Washington, I was upset. I could not understand why someone would

support another person who had murdered children and had caused the same suffering to those children's families.

In the Bible, Genesis 9:6, the scriptures say, "If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed."

By supporting the sadistic life of a killer, a person is defying the word of God. Plus you must take into account what the murdered has done to the victim and also to the victim's friends and family.

I wish this type of tragedy could never happen to anyone, but capital punishment must occur so we can at least attempt to deter anyone from committing these crimes again.

I know that the murderer's family must be going through a tough time as well, but this man committed a serious crime and had to pay the price. Angel died, yet she committed no crime.

I write this letter in memory of my loving sister, Angel.

I love you and I miss you. Your big brother, Chris.

Christopher J. Ormston
Class of '95

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