

Dirty joke

Did you ever hear the one about the state budget?

All these state legislators have been sitting around the Capitol trying to figure out what the state should spend this fiscal year. The budget was due July 1, but it is still not completed.

State police will not be paid on time and there might be layoffs of other state employees because of the delayed budget. Are our representatives studiously at work? Are they burning the midnight oil to get the thing finished? Well, they have just returned from the holiday weekend, and before that, they were shooting rubber bands at each other during the budget debates!

To top it all, the entire budget hassle might have been

avoided if a tax hike proposal, which dragged through the budget appropriation process for months, had been seriously considered.

Gov. Shapp last fall said that a tax hike is necessary to continue providing public services. Rumors now indicate that most legislators realize the necessity for a tax boost. They may have just created a big fuss so that the public will not be too shocked when the inevitable higher tax bill passes. It is not easy to win re-election after taxing the voters more.

University President John W. Oswald obviously is not elated with the budget battle. He has been worrying and sweating blood for months about how much the state will grant the University.

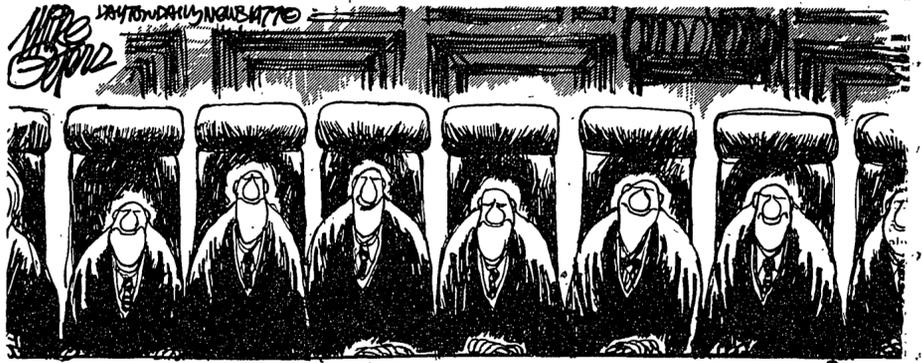
And now that the state budget is late, the University might have to borrow money, which would mean paying interest, which could mean another tuition hike. Winter Term.

Oswald isn't even sure current cutbacks and the new tuition hike will pay the cost of running the University because no one knows for sure how much the state will appropriate.

Here's the clincher: The same thing happens almost every year and still legislation has not been passed that would get the budget out on time.

What's that? You don't think it's very funny?

Maybe if you didn't live in this state, you would.



"I AM NOT A CROOK!"



By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard M. Nixon's paper legacy stands unrivaled, but it turns out that Gerald R. Ford and his aides were no slouches when it came to cranking out official documents.

The government is preparing to sort through some 20 million pages of papers Ford donated before leaving the White House. The documents cover Ford's 25 years in Congress, his tenure as vice president, and his 2½-year presidency.

Ford's White House years account for about 17.6 million pages of documents, which ultimately will be housed in a presidential library at the University of Michigan.

It will take a staff of 14 to sort and catalogue the Ford papers to prepare them for public use. Only documents that bear on national security or infringe on personal privacy are to be sealed.

Nixon's presidential papers run to 42 million pages, in addition to the 880 reels of tape that record some 5,000 hours of White House conversation. Nixon claims

ownership, as have past presidents, but the Supreme Court has ruled that the government properly has custody and control of his documents and tapes.

The official documents include a broad assortment of papers, from various executive agencies, that make up the record of a presidency. Those records seem to be growing longer with each administration.

Nixon piled up presidential documents at a rate equal to more than 20,000 pages for each of his 2,027 days in the White House. And the Ford collection grew at almost that rate.

The rent is a bargain: \$4,085 a year for the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. And Fidel Castro hasn't even been cashing the checks.

"At today's prices, this may well be the first instance in which the United States is a recipient, rather than a donor of foreign aid," said Rep. Charles W. Whalen Jr., R-Ohio.

The matter came up in the House when Whalen said that for the sake of con-

sistency, Congress should stop paying the rent and the salaries of 149 Cubans who work on the base.

Whalen's sardonic reasoning was that the House has twice voted to prohibit aid or trade with Cuba, and should follow its own strictures in the case of Guantanamo. His "antihypocrisy amendment of 1977" got nowhere.

Ronald Reagan's political action organization has urged conservatives to turn up the pressure against legislation that would have the government finance House and Senate election campaigns, a major item on the administration's election law agenda.

Citizens for the Republic called for "a barrage of cards and letters" to Congress in opposition to the campaign finance bill.

At the same time, Reagan advised Republicans to support "a cluster of these volunteer organizations" like the one he launched with leftover presidential campaign funds.

He said that is the way to work ef-

fectively under the federal election laws, which limit to \$5,000 the contribution such an organization can give to a congressional candidate.

If all the Republican volunteer groups merged, Reagan said, they would be limited to a single \$5,000 contribution for each candidate, so they're better off divided.

Civilians have vacations, military men have furloughs, and senators have nonlegislative periods. They took a week off for the Independence Day nonlegislative period, which ends Monday, the same day the House ends its latest district work period.

It certainly sounded like a vacation. Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd went home to West Virginia. "I am going to get reinvigorated, rejuvenated, get back to the iridescent sunsets and the iridescent hills and enjoy the pure water and clean air and the hospitality and good cooking for which West Virginia is known," he said.

Washington bits and pieces

Letters to the Editor

Facts

In reply to the editorial of July 6, entitled "Minority Strike?", how long have you used those blinders?

I was under the impression that reporters, let alone editors, were to become familiar with all the facts before formulating and printing opinions. The news media, as a powerful resource, can sway public thought. For that reason, if for no other, all sides should be stated, even when expressing opinion. I should like, therefore, to submit a few more views, and facts, to the "opinion poll."

In the first place, a large percentage of the union membership was either on vacation (and miles away) or on lay-off by the time of the vote. This automatically diminishes the number of eligible voters. In this case, the 884 members which did vote reflected a percentage slightly less than half the remaining total — a percentage, I might add, which compares favorably with or, in many cases, exceeds the voter turn-out in governmental elections. In fact, if one were to think about it, the President of the United States is actually elected by a

handful of the registered voters. Also, in governmental elections, no fee is charged, either for registration or for voting. This is not always the case where the union is concerned. For members to be eligible, their dues must be up to date. Many times, Local 8 members have, while on lay-off (with no income from PSU), dug into their own pockets to pay the fees just so they could exercise their voting privilege. How many people would do that in a national election?

Another unmentioned fact is that University President John W. Oswald has already stated (in the Collegian itself) that the possibility of a tuition hike is very real anyway (regardless of whether or not Local 8 can get the additional 3.5 per cent wage increase). It should further be kept in mind that the union membership comprises a relatively small percentage of the University's work force. Doesn't the 5 per cent wage increase of the other two-thirds to three-fourths of the people on campus affect tuition at all? It has to.

As a member of Local 8, I'm getting tired of being blamed for the University's ills. I, for one, won't be the "tuition-increase-scape-goat" any more. I don't mind the editor wearing blinders where the full story is concerned — but I

cringe when I see him trying to put blinders on the rest of us as well.

William A. Burns
University employee

Obviously

I cannot understand how the Teamsters Union can expect the students to support their proposed strike. It is obvious that the students will be the ones to bear the burden of the increase in Teamster wages.

It makes little difference whether the Teamster demands are justified. Justified demands cost as much as unjustified ones when they are met. Students are not here to support the Teamsters of any other union.

They are here to get the best possible education for a reasonable price.

As long as students let themselves be conned with this garbage about "just causes," they can expect to be the first to be tapped for funds whenever the University comes up short. The realization had better sink in that, when it comes to money, it's the students against everybody else.

After all, how many Teamsters have protested tuition hikes?

Stephen C. Daily
8th-math

the Collegian

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Letters policy

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.

Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

Oh, what price journalism?

The controversy about "checkbook journalism," at its height during the Watergate years, has been aroused again by the Richard Nixon-David Frost interviews this spring.

Checkbook journalism, which is paying money to news sources in return for exclusive stories, was used when the former President received money for the famous interviews. It was reported last month that Nixon was getting \$1 million plus \$50's worth of merchandise from Weedeater for four interviews with Frost.

Never mentioned when the subject of checkbook journalism comes up are the little known crooks in cells and sanitariums across America writing books and availing themselves of any interviews or lecture opportunities that might come their way. Admittedly, they are not cabinet officers or former members of the Yale debating team, but they are good honest crooks and that should be given some consideration, instead of giving all the big money to the big enchiladas.

I am encouraged to note that these lesser-knowns are beginning to stand up for their rights, in the best American tradition, and are demanding more money for their stories.

One such person is Andrew Caine, who until last Friday was an elevator operator for a hotel in Louisville, Ky. Apparently Caine grew weary of the ups and downs of his job and took to robbing banks.

He walked into the First National Bank in Louisville with a hostage at gun point, then went over to a teller and demanded all the money in her drawer or else he would kill the hostage. The teller laughed uncontrollably, since the hostage was a cow. Caine shot the cow, was arrested shortly afterward and committed to a sanitarium.

Tom Maxwell, a reporter for a reputable New York newspaper, though

that Caine's story would make great reading for his paper's readership. Maxwell approached the editors of the paper and convinced them to run a story about Caine. That same afternoon Maxwell was on a plane to Kentucky to negotiate for the rights to the story.

When Maxwell arrived at the sanitarium he had to fight his way through the crowd of reporters lined up elbow to elbow near the entrance. After presenting his credentials, Maxwell had no trouble getting in, since he had made an appointment with Caine's nurse, who had also taken on the added responsibility of being his agent.

Bill DePaolo

The following is the exclusive transcript of the taped negotiations between Maxwell and Caine:

Maxwell: Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing 1, 2.

Caine: Let's get down to bucks, Mr. Maxwell, shall we?

Maxwell: How does \$10,000 grab you?

Caine: Forget it, there are others who will go much higher than that.

Maxwell: Well, what do you consider a fair price?

Caine: \$25,000.

Maxwell: You're joking, right?

Caine: The way I see it, people will love my story. It's an animal story the whole family can enjoy; and what's more, no one gets hurt. My story is as interesting as Richard Nixon's, and I should be given a piece of the pie.

Maxwell: Look, Nixon got the big money because he was a national figure; he was President at the time, you will recall, and was implicated in a charge of obstruction of justice.

Caine: Why should I be shortchanged just because I wasn't President at the time I committed my crime?

Maxwell: I'm afraid those are the harsh realities of life.

Caine: I should at least get something for originality, shouldn't I?

Maxwell: Creativity has nothing to do with it. What makes a story interesting is how gruesome it is, how important the characters involved are, or the uniqueness of the crime.

Caine: Would more readers be interested in a story of a mass murder rather than a single murder story?

Maxwell: Sure.

Caine: How much more interested?

Maxwell: Maybe \$50,000 more, but it would depend on the circumstances.

Caine: That much! Well, suppose I murder another cow, would that help?

Maxwell: You don't expect me to advocate that you kill a cow just for the sake of making a bigger story out of this, do you?

Caine: Well, I...

Maxwell: I'm appalled at your behavior, Mr. Caine. You have conducted yourself in a highly unethical manner that besmirches the journalism profession. Our final offer is \$15,000, take it or leave it.

Caine: I'm afraid I'll have to pass on that offer, Mr. Maxwell. I have several others to talk to.

Maxwell: What others?

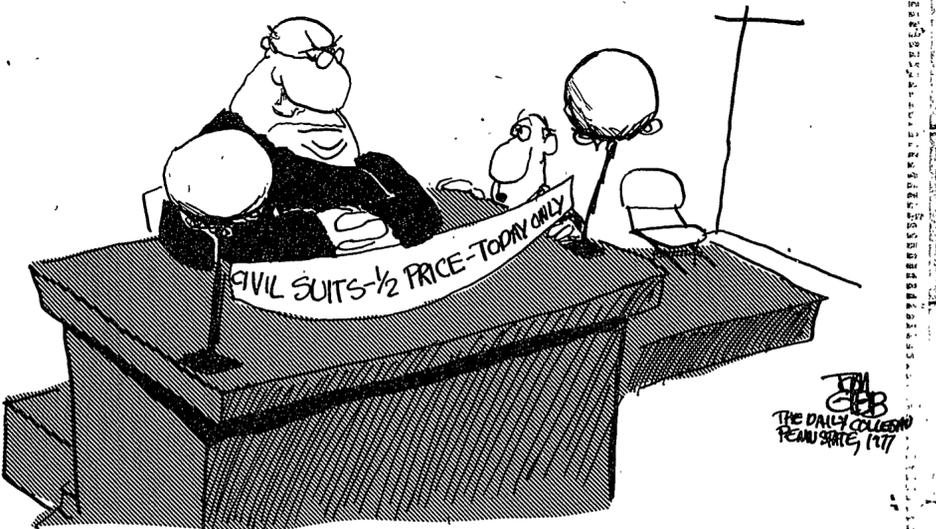
Caine: Well, let's see, there's CBS, the Associated Press, UPI, NBC, Hustler, Swifty Lazar...

Maxwell: Those blood-thirsty... (unintelligible)

Caine: I'm sorry, Mr. Maxwell, but I have another appointment now with the National Enquirer. They're offering me \$20,000 to share the front page with a double-jointed, two-headed, bassett hound. Well, I hope to see you again.

Maxwell: Will you at least call me when you've made up your mind?

Caine: I'll have my agent notify your office when I've made my decision. (Click.)



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