



End put off—nation shook

The Jehovah's witnesses, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, last week once again postponed the end of the world. The stock market promptly plummeted 17 points.

Outside the financial community, however, the word that the world would not end on Sept. 5 as predicted was generally received with favor. A nationwide Trotter Poll indicated that 28.2 per cent were "heartened" by the postponement, 12.4 per cent "disheartened" and the remaining 59.4 per cent held "no opinion".

Most newspapers contented themselves with man-on-the-street queries to gauge the public's reaction to the news. Responses ranged from "Yeah, I guess it's a pretty good thing" to "Jeez, I hope they know what they're doing."

The *New York Times*, however, carried an eight-column in depth interview with Miss Mathilda Innisfree, a retired belly dancing teacher of Pensacola, Fla. She said she was "delighted" because the hurricane season would be over by September and she could resume lawn bowling without fear of being carried away.

Reports were vigorously denied that the postponement had been caused by pressure from the television networks, who feared the event would conflict with Monday Night Football.

"Actually, we're quite relieved," said Homer T. Pettibone, program director for National Inspirational Television (NIT), the public broadcasting network, which had obtained exclusive coverage of the historic affair.

"The commercial channels wouldn't touch a thing like that with a ten-foot pole," he said. "It's a real downer. The ratings invariably show that a good situation comedy will outdraw that kind of stuff two-to-one."

As a public service, NIT had planned a

two-hour special in prime time on Sept. 5, interspersed with tasteful commercial saying only, "This program was made possible by The Armageddon Munitions Cartel, Ltd."

It was to have opened with the last known photo of the planet, taken by the Apollo astronauts. This was to be followed by a panel discussion featuring a Protestant historian, a Catholic bishop, a Jewish psychiatrist, two black sociologists and an Oriental philosopher hopefully from mainland China and not Taiwan.

Once they had all assessed in depth the significance of the occasion and wound up not speaking to each other, the program would conclude with a film clip of Mr. Nixon saying, "This is the greatest event since the Creation"—despite the risk, as Pettibone put it, "of giving offense to our Christian viewers."

arthur hoppe innocent bystander

Pettibone said the special will now be replaced with a two-hour feature on "How to Bud and Graft Your Aspidistra." NIT executives, he said, "feel this will have far more audience appeal."

Unfortunately, the Jehovah's Witnesses have not yet publicly rescheduled the event. But the trial run has served to prepare the nation's media.

NIT is preserving its program script and the more sensational newspapers have already set bold banner headlines in type. They are being kept in bins marked, "Hold for Release at Any Time."

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to the editor

Dear editor:

When Ron Nessen, White House press secretary, recently turned his WIN button upside down, he softly stated, "it stands for No-Immediate Miracles!" That jest is certainly indicative of the present state of economy from which students, especially, are feeling the squeeze. With speculation of student fees rising again, everyone seems to be looking for means to alleviate their own financial situation. That's why I'm enthusiastic about the Air National Guard.

Air National Guard members receive half tuition at the university for any number of credit hours carried. A student maintaining a minimum full-time load of 12 hours, for instance, will save \$216 each semester and \$432 a year. Air Guard members also earn at least \$50 every month for attending one weekend training session—on a Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. That's over \$3 per hour for 16 hours work.

Students who have no prior service and need a full-time job this summer should consider the Air Guard. We offer the individual more than \$1,200 to attend a six-week basic training course at San Antonio, Tex., and then attend one of many schools available in such fields as finance, communications, administration and others.

Students who have prior service (any branch) may enlist at their pay rate at discharge and their inactive obligation time is applicable for pay and promotion purposes. Many additional benefits are available to members of the Air National Guard. Anyone interested in further information can call 473-1218 or 799-2547.

SSgt. Ellis
Air National Guard

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