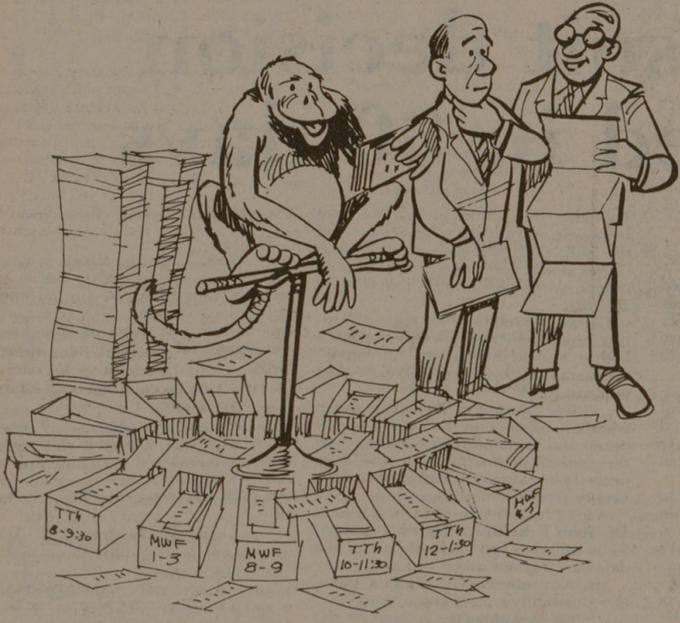


Slouch By Jim Earle



"Of course he's not as fast as a computer, but his logic is better at developing schedules. If it's all the same to you, let's keep it under wraps for the time being!"

Scientific creationism is definite misnomer

The other day I had the dubious pleasure of reading a comic book entitled "Big Daddy?" You know the type I mean; the comics handed out by young men with ecstatic looks on their faces. Anyway, this comic book dramatized a situation in which a wild-eyed, mouth-foaming professor asks a class: "Who believes in evolution?" The class, a rabid collection of wild-eyed long-hairs, peace-niks, Afro-ed blacks and lesbians, is seen raising clenched fists in support. One person dares disagree with the professor, the hero: a young, clean-cut (if the strip was in color, he would have been blonde-haired and blue-eyed too, I bet) Christian lad. In the argument which ensues between professor and student, the student brings up a series of devastating contradictions in the theory of evolution. The professor, frustrated, quits his job and stalks out of the room, while our erstwhile student proceeds to save the class. End of story.

I'm not going to waste ink in rebutting the arguments printed in this piece of trash; other people have done so repeatedly, and apparently to no avail. I prefer to talk about how creationists misuse science to back up their beliefs, and what this reveals about their faith.

The term "scientific creationism" implies that a standard scientific approach is used. The approach, which has been in practice for hundreds of years, is called the scientific method. It works as follows. One, observation: phenomenon is observed; in this case, the phenomenon is the Universe and life on earth. Two, hypothesis: a possible cause for this phenomenon is proposed; according to the "scientific" creationists, the cause is God. Three, testing of hypothesis: a controlled examination and test of the cause and its relation to the phenomenon.

Oh, oh — this is where the "scientific" creationists screw up. God (assuming there is one) is not exactly available for scientific testing; he/she has got better things to do than hang around a dusty laboratory all day re-creating the universe and molding clay.

Reader's Forum

Since the hypothesis cannot be tested, the fourth step, formulation of theory, cannot be taken. Therefore, creationism is not "scientific" as we define it because it cannot complete the required steps of the scientific method. "Scientific" creationism is a misnomer.

I do hate stooping to the level of semanticists, however. There is something more important at issue in the debate over creationism, and that is the appalling lack of faith among the creationists. A good creationist who believes in a world created in 6 days and the molding of man from dust does not need scientific proof; he accepts it as a matter of faith. The rise of "scientific" creationism in my mind indicates not a valiant attempt to substantiate creationist "theory" with scientific fact, but an attempt to shore up a crippled faith. And that saddens even a heretic like me.

There really should be not controversy at all between Christians who believe in creationism and Christians (and Jews and Buddhists and Hindus and atheists and Bokononists and etc.) who believe in the theory of evolution and the antiquity of the universe. Scientists are never going to address questions such as: was evolution an orchestrated event? Or what made the universe decide to form? We prefer instead to talk about mechanisms and patterns and history. Primal causes are not our concern, because they are fundamentally unobservable (and hence only inferred) and untestable. We consider ideas about primal causes to be matters of personal opinion — faith, if you will.

Jim Mazzullo
Assistant Professor of Geology

Students should 'clean up their act' during midnight yell

Editor:

This letter was inspired by Friday night's yell practice. There were a few things I saw that really disappointed me, but I didn't let them get me down. First of all, to clear up one point, it is tradition that no one should wear a hat in Kyle Field. This is out of respect for the 55 Aggies who died in World War I. To commemorate these brave men, there are 55 flags which fly over Kyle Field at every game. This is the reason no one should wear hats in the stands of Kyle Field. However, there are some people who do not believe this and refuse to take their hats off even after being asked to do so. To these people, does it accomplish anything to wear your hat in Kyle Field? It would be a lot easier to just leave your hat at home or hook it around your belt loop. It's not too much to ask out of respect for those men who gave their life in service to their country. I hope more Aggs will honor this tradition in the future.

Another thing that surprised me at yell practice was the announcement that the

Reader's Forum

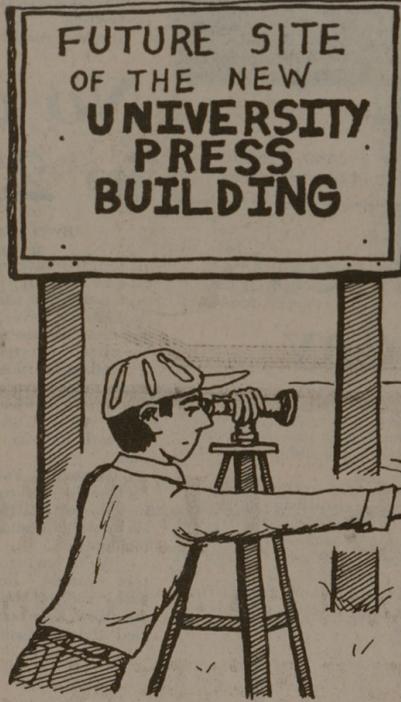
Corps of Cadets held an early yell practice for the football team. I asked a couple of ct's why the entire student body wasn't invited, but received no answer. I would have loved to see the entire squad and show them my support, but I had heard nothing about it. I think the team would have been even more inspired with a larger turnout, not consisting solely of the Corps of Cadets, but the Fightin' Texas Aggie Twelfth Man. I am anxious to learn the reason non-regs weren't invited to participate in this yell practice.

One last thing that annoyed me was the condition of the parking lots after midnight yell. I have nothing against drinking before

yell practice because I often do it myself, but why do people have to leave their empties in the parking lot for someone to pick up or run over in their car? Throw them away when they get home. Use the numerous trash cans around the entrances to Kyle Field upon entering. You would be totally embarrassed if someone didn't clean up the lots surrounding Kyle Field before visitors came for the Saturday morning.

I know I'm not perfect, but if I do something that offends someone, I expect to bring it to my attention and I'll respect their feelings and opinions. That's what we're doing now and I'm sure a large number of students share my opinions, even though they might be able to express it better. Finally, I would like to congratulate the Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team for well done. Ya'll played a great game. More than ever, we can't give up hope because the season isn't over and, believe or not, we still have a chance for "com-

John R. Williams



It's your turn

The ants come marching into A&M

Editor:

There is a problem at Texas A&M that has nothing to do with the human element. This problem concerns ants. Some people might feel that hoards of ants couldn't be a problem (since they aren't Greek, homosexual or sword wielding) but these little buggers can invade and eventually commandeer a person's dorm or apartment room. They get in your food. They are all over the wall and floor. They will even keep you company at night. My roommate and I tried to remedy the situation ourselves with a can of Raid, but we were overwhelmed again within a few days.

No one is immune. We live on the third floor of a dorm, and like many other dorms, we are being marched upon as if we bathed ourselves in honey and then stood in an antbed.

This University is known for its great College of Agriculture and its Department of Entomology. It is ironic that Texas A&M, itself, is the victim of this little monster.

Mike Whelan '85

The only thing that lacked from the play, however, was the audience. I don't know the exact figure, but there couldn't have been more than 50 people in attendance. It was very disappointing to me and to the actors I'm sure, to realize that out of 30,000 students only 50 came to the play on opening night. I encourage anyone interested to see "The Rimers of Eldritch" before it closes on Saturday.

Neil Hall '85

Look for good, not bad

Editor:

After reading The Battalion in recent weeks, it has come to my attention that some people are unhappy with life at Texas A&M.

Surely our school cannot please everybody, but it is doing its best with facilities such as the MSC and Student Programs Office. If you're unhappy where you are, move to another dorm, move off campus, or join a different organization, but don't just sit there and expect things to change for you.

Among such diversity, a school this size is subject to a lot of tension. In spite of this, we should remember one important thing. We are all Aggies! We all chose this school for one reason or another and we all live here together. Even though I don't agree with everything that happens at Texas A&M, I'm still proud to be an Aggie and I'll do my best to honor as many of our traditions that I can.

I know it's hard, but let's put smiles on our faces and think of the far greater things about this University rather than picking apart the bad.

Being a Co-op student and being on the campus for a semester has made me realize I miss A&M more than I thought I would. Ask any old Aggie and I'm sure will agree "absence" does indeed "make heart grow fonder." So let's be proud, positive about our University for we've gone from it sooner than we realize. After all, we are Aggies because we want to be Aggies.

Gig 'em.

David Brown
David Davenport
Edwin Felt
Todd Martin
James McGee
Ric Thompson

Editor's note: All are A&M students in the Dallas area. Five are Co-op students.

Letters policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Articles for Reader's Forum are also welcome, and are not subject to the length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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tion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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

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