

OPINION

Don't customers matter anymore?

If you think the battle of the burgers is ridiculous, get a load of the battle of the shopping centers.

College Station's Post Oak Mall isn't playing nice with its smaller neighbor, Post Oak Square. The mall refuses to go along with a driveway between the two shopping centers — a driveway that would be convenient and practical for its customers. When the owner of Post Oak Square had a driveway paved, the mall immediately erected a barricade and now has ripped up the driveway.

The mall's management is acting like a bunch of bratty kids who won't share their toys with the younger ones. The mall doesn't want to lose any business to its neighbor. But how could a small shopping center with grocery stores, restaurants and a tanning salon compete with Post Oak Mall?

The two shopping centers provide two different kinds of services to their customers. They should be trying to cultivate a symbiotic relationship from which they could both profit.

Shoppers at one center are more likely to run over to the other while they are already out. But if getting from one to the other means fighting traffic to pull out onto Harvey Road and immediately turning off again, it's often not worth the effort, and many potential shoppers give up and go home.

If Post Oak Mall is so concerned with losing business to neighboring stores, then why isn't it thinking more about the convenience and safety of its customers? Stores can lose business not only from competing stores, but also from neglecting their customers. The management and owners should remember that the customer is supposed to come first.

The Battalion Editorial Board

LETTERS:

Stereotypes about atheists untrue

EDITOR:

I am writing this letter in response to Edmond R. LaBelle's letter in April 23 issue of The Battalion. I strongly believe in God with all my heart, and am a very religious person.

My question is how can he dare to claim that atheists know no love — that they hate their fellow man and themselves? Such a claim shows complete ignorance and closed-mindedness. I know many atheists very well and know this claim is utterly without truth, not to mention unkind.

One of my closest friends is an atheist, and she is capable of showing great love. She is kind, caring, and loving to everyone, no matter what their personal beliefs, and her kindness is without bias or any desire for personal gain. She always tries to help others.

Another atheist I know is as counselor for abused elementary school students. For many of these children she is their only source of happiness and love. She also has an autistic son who she raised willingly and lovingly, putting him above herself at all times. Is this hate?

God has given us all minds to think with, and simply because someone else's thoughts differ with yours gives you no right to claim yourself better. Is what religion has taught you, Mr. LaBelle — to denounce your fellowmen because of their opinions? I think you should closely examine your own ability to show kindness to others before you make cruel, rash and untrue judgements based on a personal belief!

Adela A. Rico

Not enough people think for themselves

EDITOR:

When Madalyn O'Hair came here last week, she raised many points on religion and people. A major theme in her speech was the fact that too many people go along with the crowd when it comes to religion.

Too many people have been going to their same church just because they have always done it. They rely on the preacher to teach them the ways of God without caring if what is being said is true. In fact the doctrine of Jesus Christ is different than the doctrine of the Christian churches. Time, in my opinion, has done damage to the religion preached in churches.

Since the beginning of Christianity, the priorities of many churches have shifted from a religion that worries about men existing in peace to one that concentrates solely on saving people. This religion has stifled progress; because people are more worried about getting into heaven than whether or not the human race continues to advance.

Some may even desire it to fail; this would quicken the second coming.

Yet O'Hair was wrong when she said there is nothing of value in the Bible; only her interpretations have no value to her. The doctrine of Christ means something different to everyone. There lies the reason so many denominations of Christianity exist. My interpretations differ from most churches and atheism. I see a God who believes in his creation and its evolution, rather than a God worried about making room for all the saved people. If someone else interprets the Bible as something else, that's fine. They have not just accepted another man's ideas, but have judged it for what it's worth to them.

People need to decide what is best for themselves; whether it's religion or just a life style. Thinking for yourself is a great personal virtue to have. Unfortunately, too many people do not have this virtue.

Robert Martin, '87

Germans allowed Hitler's Nazis to thrive

EDITOR:

The letter by James Korenek (in which he tried to put the blame for the Nazi Holocaust on few barbarians of the past) blatantly falsifies the facts. All the soldiers in the German army and all the civilians who worked in Germany at that time and did not resist the regime were aiding it and provided the military and industrial opportunity for the SS to murder six million of the Jewish victims. There is no excuse for that. And all tens of millions of Germans and their allies who fought and worked for the powerful military machine aided in the Holocaust (and not just few as Korenek purports).

The word "Germany" will always be associated with Hitler and Nazism, for you cannot erase the Holocaust from the history books. In Korenek's mind "to heal the past" means to heal the guilty consciousness of Nazi's by justifying the past and identifying oneself with the murderers. I suggest that Korenek follow his line of thinking to its logical end and join the Nazi party (if he is not there already). Korenek demagogically states that most of the German soldiers sincerely believed in what they were doing and just protected themselves and their "loved ones" (what a touching word!) I have no doubt in sincerity of Hitler and his henchmen. And while the German army provided a shield for the SS to murder and torture millions, their "loved ones" worked for the civilian support and washed themselves with soap made from human flesh. And when a senile idiot is laying a wreath on the cemetery where 47 SS officers are buried he is playing in a bad movie.

Leon Luxemburg
Electrical Engineering
Graduate Student

THE ALBUM...

U.F.A. FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

UNION FOR A FLORAL AGGIELAND

FEATURES THE HIT SINGLE

WE ARE FLORA
WE ARE THE PLANT LIFE

ALL PROFITS GO TO THE 'SAVE THE FLORAL TEST GARDENS' FUND.

LANE 87

You'll never know what you can achieve until you try

The other kids said I couldn't do it but I knew I could. As I rapidly approached the ramp, I felt confident that I could make it — and I did. I jumped my bicycle further than any of the other kids in the neighborhood. I got a little scraped up on the landing, but I did it.



Kevin Inda

My friends told me I couldn't do it, but I didn't listen to them. You see, ever since I was a child, I've been the type of person who likes to bet against the odds and prove people wrong when they tell me I can't do something. It just makes what I call the greatest challenge, life, that more challenging.

Jeff Blatnick faced a great challenge in his life, which he met head on. Two years ago he had his spleen removed due to cancer. Blatnick, an amateur

wrestler, was told by doctors and friends his wrestling career was over. Jeff responded to their diagnoses by winning a gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling in the 1984 Summer Olympics. It was the first time the United States had ever won a medal in Greco-Roman wrestling.

Or, take the son of a poor Scottish hand loom weaver who became one of the wealthiest men in America. Andrew Carnegie was 12 in 1847 when his family moved to Pennsylvania. Forty years later his steel empire alone was worth over \$200 million.

Another man came from a humble family to hold the highest office in the land. Ronald Reagan's father was a shoe salesman and his mother coached the local drama group.

Blatnick, Carnegie, and Reagan are just three of the countless examples of people who have done what others said couldn't be done. They set goals for themselves and set out to accomplish those goals. With nothing but a positive attitude and a will to win, they overcame the odds.

Even if Blatnick, Carnegie and Reagan hadn't accomplished their goals they still could be proud. They would have at least tried. A founder of the Olympic Games once said, "It's not whether you win or lose, but rather how you play the game."

Playing is just as important as winning. If you never make an attempt to play you have no chance of winning. It's sometimes hard to set aside expectations and begin pursuing your goals. The odds are against you and people are saying that you're setting your sights too high. But, all it takes is a little confidence and initiative.

Who knows, some of us may become Blatnicks, Reagans or Carnegies. We won't know until we try.

As for me, I'll just start by moving my ramp back a little further.

Kevin S. Inda is a graduating journalism major and a weekly columnist in The Battalion.

Aid to Nicaragua question of honor

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

As everyone knows, I'm very generous when it comes to financing revolutions in Central America. So when I was asked by a White House lobbyist to help the administration's efforts to wrest \$14 million out of Congress to support our Nicaraguan freedom fighters I told the man, "I not only support Mr. Reagan, but tell the president he doesn't have to go to Congress. Just charge the \$14 million to my VISA credit card."

"We don't want you to put up the money," he said. "All we're asking you to do is stand behind the president in the Oval Office when he says, 'The Sandinista government is the greatest threat to mankind since the world began.'"

"I'll be there," I assured him. "But why don't you let me pick up the tab as well? It's only peanuts, and in this way the president won't have to go to Congress on his knees."

He said, "It is no longer a question of money with Mr. Reagan, but of honor. The president has put his reputation on the line over Nicaragua. If he loses the fight on this one, we will be sending a message that any government in the Western world can stomp on us."

"I'll tell you what. I'll give the money anonymously," I said. "Then when the contras overthrow the Sandinistas you can pay me back."

"It will take more than \$14 million to bring down the Sandinista government."

"Then why doesn't the president ask the members on the Hill for the exact sum it will take to wipe them out?"

"Because it might cost a billion dollars before we're through, and we know Congress won't go for that."

"That is a lot of coffee beans," I admitted. "I'm curious. How did you arrive at the original \$14 million figure?"

"It seemed like a nice compromise between nothing and a billion. You can't even buy a used American fighter plane for that kind of dough, and we felt Congress would consider it chicken feed. But word leaked out that once we used up the \$14 million we were going back to ask them for more. If we had known how much trouble we were going to have we would have asked for the full amount. Then if we were rejected it would look as if Congress was voting against the money and not the president on his Central American policy."

"I can see where you blew it. By asking for such a meager sum you tipped them off that Mr. Reagan was making them stand up and be counted as to where they really stood on Communist subversion in Nicaragua."

"There may be something to that," he admitted. "But our main concern now is public support for the president in what he's trying to do down there."

I said, "Look, I can't give you a billion dollars because I'm thinking of buying CBS. But if the president wants 10 or 20 million for the freedom fighters until Congress sees a light at the end of the tunnel, I'll send my kid over with a check."

"It won't be necessary," the White House man said. "At the moment we just need people of your high caliber to come out for what we're doing."

"You got it," I assured him. "Who else have you lined up?"

"The Pope has come out for President Reagan's Nicaraguan policy."

"I read the Pope denied it," I said. "Who is lying?"

"Neither one. Let's just say the Pope's support got lost in the translation."

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

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length but will make every effort to retain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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