

OPINION

Russian roulette returns to Luther St.

A year ago two A&M students, Lynn Cash McDonald and Katherine Hossley, played Russian roulette with a train at the Luther Street crossing and lost. Another student, Mary Kaye Pahmeier, was seriously injured.

The crossing was marked only with a sign which was hidden behind thick bushes. It had no lights or crossbars to warn drivers of approaching trains. Visibility at the intersection was poor.

The deaths caused much concern in the community for months after they occurred. The bushes that obscured the railroad signs were trimmed to make the crossing more visible. The City of College Station discussed closing Luther Street to through traffic and extending Holleman Road instead. The community pushed for better markings at the crossing.

But a year later, little has been done to improve the deadly intersection.

The crossing is still inadequately marked. The Missouri Pacific Railroad, which is responsible for intersection warning devices, has not installed lights or crossbars. Luther Street has not been closed and Holleman Road has not been extended. The bushes that obscure visibility at the crossing have been allowed to grow back almost to their previous height.

Drivers coming from west of the tracks can only see a few feet on either side of the road. An oncoming train cannot be seen until it's almost in the intersection.

This lack of concern and poor maintenance of this deadly area has put the bullet back in the gun. Motorists, once again, will have a pistol pointed at their heads when they use the Luther Street crossing.

How many more people will have to die before action is taken? The Luther Street crossing must be made and kept safe, before the trigger is pulled again.

The Battalion Editorial Board

List not complete

24 hours to live

I have 24 hours to live.

Not really 24 hours to live, but 24 hours left before graduating from Texas A&M University.

So I have 24 hours to do all the things that I have always wanted to do, but never had the chance. Remember when you first came to A&M and made a list of all the goals you wanted to accomplish and all the new things you wanted to try. Do you also remember all the things you wanted to do but you knew better?

For instance, I know many people who have wanted to go down to the steam tunnels at one time or another. Many have wanted to walk across the band's drill field. Others have wanted to share a passionate moment under the century tree by Bolton Hall.

I'm sure that many of you had made a list in your head things you needed to do before you could successfully graduate from Texas A&M. And I don't mean completing Chemistry 105, Math 151 or English 103.

Fortunately, I have already completed many of the items on my list so I can graduate.

I have been down in the steam tunnels. It was for official business. I work for the Physical Plant.

I have sneaked in and out of the Corps dorm. I feel no explanation is necessary.

I have gotten my car towed for excessive tickets. That was a big moment in my life.

I have gotten inebriated before a major project was due. Somehow I was able to complete the project on time despite my headache.

I have been thrown in Rudder Fountain courtesy of some friends. Just wait til they graduate.

I have gotten several of my underclassmen friends in trouble with their upper classmen when I really didn't mean to. The underclassmen had to push. Sorry guys.

I got a red dot beside my name for graduation.

But there are many things on my list that I haven't done.

I have never pulled an all-nighter. That was an important goal of mine.

I haven't danced on the tables at the Chicken. For that matter, I haven't carved my name in any of the tables.



Cheryl Clark

I haven't had my picture taken with Reveille IV or V.

There is one person who I want to meet. We have talked on the phone about 12 times, but have yet had the chance to meet. Hear that Tom Sames?

I haven't gotten a good mug under the century tree yet.

I want my picture taken on the Texas A&M University sign outside the east gate of campus.

I really would like to run across the band's drill field, but since the band is out of town, I'll have to come back in the fall.

I would love to go up in the dome of the Academic building and sign my name.

For the last 24 hours I am trying to accomplish all that I have listed. It isn't always easy to fit a five year list into 24 hours. But I'm going to give it the Aggie try.

Bottom line — if I don't finish, I'll just have to come back!

Cheryl Clark is a graduating senior journalism major and will not be a columnist for The Battalion after this issue.



"MY JAPANESE PAL PROMISES THAT THIS TIME HE'S REALLY GOING TO OPEN HIS DOOR TO TRADE."

Rock 'n' roll: Satan's music or Christian rock model?

"Rock 'n' roll music is the tool of the devil!"

How many times have you heard that statement? I know I've heard it several times.

I remember about ten years ago while I was at a church camp, an old man with Bible in hand was preaching about the evils of rock music. He said that the beat of the music was enough to summon demons from the bowels of the earth. More recently a local religious group held a meeting on campus to discuss the evils of rock 'n' roll. This group was prepared to show how Satan was using rock 'n' roll to invade the minds of the American youth. They had pictures of rock album covers that were sexually suggestive or had satanic symbols on them. They also played albums forwards and backwards so that they could point out secret satanic messages that were hidden in the songs.

Religious groups and rock 'n' roll groups have always been at odds. During the 1950s many churches formed organizations to stop Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and other rock stars from corrupting the youth of America. After much prompting from religious and parents groups, there was a congressional committee formed to determine if rock 'n' roll was communist in nature.

When John Lennon of the Beatles made his now famous "We are more popular than Jesus" statement in 1966, many churches held meetings to burn Beatle records. It is interesting to note that Jesus, although he had long hair, never had a hit record.

When Led Zeppelin released their classic "Stairway to Heaven" in 1971, some people discovered "hidden" lyrics in the song. When you play the passage that says "Yes there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run, there's still time to change the road you're on," backwards you are supposed to hear the



Karl Pallmeyer

message: "I know which path I choose, it makes me sad, whose power is Satan." These people say that this shows that the devil had invaded Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Bonham and John Paul Jones, and made them put the secret message in "Stairway to Heaven." If this is true then Satan's grammar is worse than mine.

For years certain Christians have been screaming and pounding their Bibles about the evils of rock 'n' roll. So why, if rock 'n' roll is so evil, are Christian bands trying to sound like rock bands?

Religious music has not often been original. There are several masterpieces of religious music, like Handel's "Messiah," but most of it is taken from other sources. Many church hymns are lyrics, often passages from the Bible, set to melodies by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn and other classical composers. The Methodist Hymnal contains no less than five "different" hymns based on the Forth Movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A great man, the same one who said "We are more popular than Jesus," once said that "Classical music is the nothing but the rock 'n' roll of its day."

There are many "contemporary" Christian bands in the music industry today. These bands are trying to use rock music to spread the word of God. These bands cover a large range of rock styles. You have the soft Christian rock of Amy Grant and the Heavy Metal Christian music of Stryper. These artists do their best to copy the musical styles of popular secular artists but they sing about spiritual matters.

Amy Grant's picture on her new album cover makes her look like Madonna while she tries her best to sound like Pat Benatar on the album. Stryper, the self-proclaimed "Head Bangers for the Lord," pattern themselves after Def Leppard. The members of the Resurrection Band were obviously fans of Rush before they started making Christian music. Petra sounds like Journey at a tent revival.

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"THE GOOD NEWS IS OG JUST DISCOVERED FIRE. THE BAD NEWS IS HE SOLD THE DISCOVERY TO UNION CARBIDE."

Even though the music of Madonna, Pat Benatar, Def Leppard, Rush or Journey is not totally original, they came before Amy Grant, Stryper, the Resurrection Band or Petra.

The worst example of the way religious music "borrows" from secular music came when George Harrison, tribute to the Almighty, "My Sweet Lord," was found to be plagiaristic of the Chiffons' "He's So Fine." Now whenever someone plays "My Sweet Lord," the Chiffons, not George Harrison, receive the royalties.

I have listened to music for all my life. I have listened to all forms of music out of interest and for my part-time position as music reviewer for Ease.

After listening to various contemporary Christian bands I have a few questions. Why, if rock 'n' roll is the tool of the devil, do Christian bands try to sound like rock bands? Can Christian artists find their own style of music instead of stealing from secular artists? Is there not a commandment that says: "Thou shalt not steal?" What happens when you play Amy Grant, Stryper, the Resurrection Band or Petra backwards?

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

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