

Warped

by Scott McCullar



## Faculty Friends offers help on questions about religion

By LIBBY SCHIMMER  
Reporter

Advertisements today supposedly can sell anything. In some cases advertisements may not sell anything, but only provide exposure.

"Faculty Friends is a group of faculty who are united by their common experience that Jesus Christ provides intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions," a Battalion advertisement reads. "We wish to make ourselves available to students who might like to discuss such questions with us."

The advertisement is followed by a list of Texas A&M faculty, their departments and phone numbers.

Faculty friends began a few years ago at a workshop for Christian faculty, Dr. W.J. Lane, professor of economics, says. Initially four men decided to run an ad in The Battalion expressing their common beliefs in Christianity and making themselves available to talk to students, he says.

The name Faculty Friends was chosen to identify them as faculty members and to tell students that the faculty members wanted to be their friends, Lane says.

The Evangelical Orthodox group now has grown to 58 members and represents a wide variety of denominations and churches.

"People we have include prominent people in the University in terms of background and education," Lane says.

The purpose of Faculty Friends, as stated in the membership application, is fourfold. First, it serves as a testimony to both students and faculty that well-respected, highly educated faculty members, who are not afraid to claim Jesus as the Son of God and as their personal Savior, exist at this University.

Second, it helps students to know that Christianity is an intellectually viable worldview and not just a religion for the ignorant. Third, it will let others know that the members care enough to volunteer their time to listen to students' problems and help them to find answers. Finally, for those who seek counseling, members can share their testimony in a personal way and use God's Word to help answer their questions.

The membership application states five basic doctrinal beliefs, which the applicant must profess to hold.

- The unique divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.

- The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The necessity and efficacy of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world, and the historic fact of His bodily resurrection.

- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.

- The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Along with this application, each member is asked to donate \$10 a year to cover the cost of running the advertisement in The Battalion.

"We are concerned that often times in classes if Christian ideas are ever considered they are considered in a belittling or ridiculing way, and it's easy for the student to get the impression that all faculty are extremely skeptical of Christian ideas and values," Dr. Walter Bradley, professor of mechanical engineering, says.

"By placing that advertisement, we are making the clear statement that there are many faculty at A&M who feel there is no fundamental conflict between education at its highest level and traditional Christian values," he says. "If Faculty Friends does nothing else than say that it's OK to hold traditional Christian beliefs in a vigorous academic environment, which we believe A&M is, we have accomplished our purpose."

The idea has caught on and similar advertisements are being run at the University of Texas, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Alabama, Southern Methodist University and Auburn University, Bradley says.

## Men restoring old Alaskan town; loneliness prompts ad for women

Associated Press

PAYSTREKE, Alaska — Out in the boonies where the dirt road shrinks to a rock-strewn path, Tom Williams and some of his crew are willing to put up with no telephones, electricity or running water. But they're tired of doing without women.

"We were all sitting around the cookhouse talking," Williams, a bear of a man with a hand-made Bowie knife strapped to his hip, said. "They were kidding me, 'Where are the girls?' and I told them I'm not about to be a pimp, but I'd see what I could do."

About half the men on his 10-man crew, who are trying to turn this old gold claim into a tourist attraction, are unmarried. The nearest civilization

is Hope, a tiny community of 150 people some 80 road miles south of Anchorage. It is not Las Vegas North. There are no bars, no dance-halls and few single women.

"Most of the people in the area are older and retired," John Lueders, an unmarried carpenter working for Williams, said. "It's kind of an out-of-the-way place."

Williams, himself unmarried, seized upon the idea of advertising last week for "mail-order" brides in an Anchorage newspaper. Within a day of publication, there were four responses, and two of the women said they wanted to visit the 1800s replica gold mining camp that Williams and his men started building last year on 15 acres.

One woman showed up and spent

the weekend in a cabin at the site, where tree stumps serve as stools at the cookhouse table.

"It was mutually agreed between her and the guys that there was no spark there," Williams said. "We still have outhouses, no running water. She said she thought it would be a little more complete. None of the men were interested in her and she wasn't interested in them."

Williams says he found his way to Alaska in 1969 after tossing a dime onto a map in an Illinois bar. He once mined the area where Paystrecke now stands, five miles from the nearest hard road and surrounded by federal land.

Williams lives in a one-room cabin. He carries the Bowie knife because a scrape with the law as a teenager left him legally unable to own firearms, and in this neck of the woods there sometimes are bad-tempered critters in the bushes.

Paystrecke's name comes from the original patent granted by President Calvin Coolidge. The land patent was supposed to be for the Paystrecke Placer Mine, but somehow on the documents it came out Paystrecke.

Nowadays, Williams, 40, is financing its development by selling gold jewelry and cans of dirt and rocks containing ore in Alaska stores. When finished in a few years, the facility will have cabins, a non-alcoholic 1800s saloon, can-can girls, gifts shops and other facilities.

His laborers, some of them recruited from the ranks of the homeless in Anchorage, put in 10- to 14-hour days for no pay. He takes care of their food, housing and other expenses.

## UT regents to hear students' pleas for divestiture of funds from S. Africa

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The University of Texas System Board of Regents has granted a student group 30 minutes next month to urge divestiture of university funds from South Africa.

The Steve Biko Committee originally was given 15 minutes to make its case at the regents' Oct. 10 meeting in Arlington. An additional 15 minutes has been granted, Arthur Dilly, secretary for the board, said.

The committee will argue that the UT system should divest itself

of \$716.4 million in shares in U.S. companies that are operating in South Africa because of that nation's racial segregation policies.

At the board's December meeting in El Paso last year, the regents voted unanimously to retain holdings in those companies.

But Chairman Jess Hay on Tuesday said the Biko committee should be allowed to present its views again.

"I want to accommodate them," Hay said. "It's not a gesture. It's a continuing public discussion."

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