

Opinion

Meaning of winter depends on the beholder

Cold weather means more than heavy socks and wool sweaters.

Up north it means a lot of work. When it gets cold there, it really gets cold and it takes effort to survive.

Here, in a more temperate region, cold is no threat to survival. We can easily withstand the cold blasts Mother Nature dishes out. In the South, cold weather is more of an excuse to light the fireplace. So when



Camille Brown

December rolls around all there is to worry about is our Christmas lists.

Not so in the North. There, cold means snow. They plug in their cars to keep them warm, we roll up the windows.

They slide down the street, we walk.

Their dogs get stuck in the snow while our dogs get stuck out in the rain. Their beer taps freeze at outdoor parties, we face no such disaster. They get up early to shovel snow from the driveway, we roll out of bed just in time to scrape frost off the windshield.

Two inches of snow here means a week off from school. To northern

folks, a mere two-inch snowfall is a blessing — school as usual.

Cold can conjure up totally different meanings, depending on the perspective of the beholder.

To me, the onset of cold weather means it's time for the biggest struggle of the year: sending Christmas cards.

When that first blast of chilling wind hits me, the resulting goose bumps are not from the cold. The goose bumps are my signal to start worrying about this year's Christmas card.

How will I make it? Abstract or traditional design? Printed or hand painted? But most importantly, how will I find the time?

Decisions like these rip through my mind. And what about the Christmas tree? It takes several stops to get the best deal on the prettiest tree, then when it's finally home, one of the Christmas tree lights is burned out. Or the stand doesn't quite fit. That's just as frustrating.

Finding the perfect gift is always stressful, and traffic and lines at the shopping malls are usually at their peak during the holidays.

Cold starts it all.

With that first chill of winter, a sleigh full of undue stress is pulled in, whether we like it or not.

For me, Christmas stress comes wrap-

ped in one pretty package: Christmas cards. Maybe when I graduate I'll get this fetish behind, but for now, I have to work in the time and money I have out about 60 friendly little Christmas greetings.

Let's do away with the Christmas tradition, and then we won't be sending them, or trying to find a place to play them. Then all of us procrastinators won't feel so bad when — we wait so late to send cards — we just blow it off and promise to do them next year.

Camille Brown is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Keep up the good work

EDITOR:

In reply to Rob Farrell's letter stating that The Battalion is a bigger waste of time, energy and wood than bonfire:

Please remember that the pen is mightier than the chainsaw, and keep up the good work. Not all of us are conservatives, and even those who are can benefit from a different opinion once in a while.

Jerri Sosville
Department of English

Commendation deserved

EDITOR:

The Texas Aggie APOs deserve commendation for completing yet another community service clean-up project for Brazos Beautiful and Timbercrest/Woodmeadow Homeowner's Association Nov. 23 on N. Graham Road in College Station. Over 75 trash bags were filled by APOs and, through County Commissioner Bill Cooley's assistance, disposed of by the county. The APOs were rewarded with refreshments donated by the two homeowner's associations and Rolling Ridge Grocery.

Renee Barsalou Frisbie
Director of Marketing
Stanford Associates, Inc.

Please return the film

EDITOR:

There was a party in the Parkway Apartments party room on bonfire night and two cameras were taken. If it was an Aggie who took them (yes, it could have been a t-sip) you will realize how important the film is. The pictures were of the road trip to TCU, push and bonfire.

Now Ags, the cameras are replaceable, but the pictures of these Aggie traditions and our friends aren't. If there is any good Ag who knows where the cameras are, we would appreciate at least getting the film back because it really means a lot to us. No questions will be asked.

Tracey Rutledge
Roni Hermes

Not good Aggie conduct

EDITOR:

I attended the Corps trip festivities in Fort Worth last weekend and enjoyed all — the parade, the goose bumps of the trumpets at the beginning of the fight song and Patton's theme. There was, however, one activity that was new and left me with a very bad taste.

I do not believe the cheerleading (and I said cheerleading) by the towel-waving "12th man" squad is in keeping with the Aggie conduct, spirit and good sportsmanship that I have been so proud of for the last forty years. It is perceived as taunting, especially when the score is 40 to 0, and left the defeated school with a very bitter taste and an unhealthy revenue now.

Clive Sloan
Class of '47

Defacing our pride

EDITOR:

I am just as happy that Texas A&M beat the University of Texas as the next Aggie. I think it was a great game, and I can understand the need to celebrate. It was a triumphant night, but I have also seen the results of the 12th man's celebration throughout our campus.

Texas A&M is supposed to be our pride. The beauty is what makes our campus. What was seen on campus Monday morning following the Thursday night game was a sad sight indeed. Grounds maintenance workers spent all day cleaning up the debris from the celebration. Beer cans, liquor bottles, and trash littered the streets and lawns of our beautiful campus. Is this the kind of example that we want to set for future generations of Aggies? We Aggies should be more conscientious about the appearance of our beloved University.

When we win the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day, I hope that Dallas is not left in the same condition that our campus was on Thanksgiving night.

Debbie Maggs

Defining cults

EDITOR:

There seems to be some confusion of what exactly a cult is. If I can be so bold, let me try to shine some light on the subject.

Josh McDowell, a well-known Christian speaker and author of *Handbook of Today's Religions*, defines a cult as "a perversion, a distortion of Biblical Christianity and/or a rejection of the historical teachings of the Christian church."



What are some of these distortions and perversions? The most common is a doctrine of salvation by works. The Apostle Paul says its by GRACE we are saved and it's a FREE gift from God.

Another distortion is a doctrine that doesn't recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, and the second person of the Holy Trinity. The Bible clearly explains that Jesus was God who became man to be a total and complete sacrifice for a sinful world. It explains that Christ died for us so we could inherit the kingdom of God if we accept Him as Lord and Savior. Some cults clearly distort these facts making Jesus something less than what it says in the Bible.

One more distortion is that many cults use other sources that are non-biblical as their authority. Many say that they believe the Bible is the word of God but use other sources to justify what they believe.

There are many organizations that use these distortions as their doctrine. Some of the more popular are Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Worldwide Church of God, Christian Science, Hare Krishna and The Unification Church ("Moonies").

The Apostle Paul warns us of false prophets in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. I encourage you if you have any questions to search for yourself. Don't take my word for it nor anyone else's, but look for yourself and you make the decision of what a cult is.

Michael Cooper '87

No corner on the truth

EDITOR:

Both guest columnist Podesti and student Tom Gowart demonstrated their intolerance of the New Right, by charging the group "Accuracy in Academia" with attempting to stifle academic freedom.

Gowart had a good point: learning about and wrestling with challenging views is what makes education worthwhile. However, he still resents the voice of the New Right which is attempting to influence our pluralistic society.

What the New Right is trying to do is swing back the secular, materialistic world view that clearly gained dominance in science and education in the 1960s and 1970s.

This was not always the case. Early scientists like Newton, Galileo and Kepler studied nature to learn more about the mysteries of God through his creation. They looked for regularities, symmetries, and underlying principles in his design. Maxwell's Equations are a prime example of this search for symmetry and order.

Today the scientific approach is reversed. The basic assumption is that reality is exclusively physical and the universe is random, chaotic and without purpose. The scientific and educational communities not only use this approach, they belittle students, Ph.D. candidates and professors who persist on using a God-based world view.

I agree with Podesti and Tom Cowart that academic freedom is essential to a dynamic and wholesome education. Therefore, let's become tolerant of voices like the New Right. Sure, they don't have a corner on the truth, but neither does the present status of science and education.

Douglas Dow
Class of '87

Resist the temptation

EDITOR:

"Open up little pig, let me in!" When the Big Bad Wolf opened the three little pigs hissed and booed. Yet when a Biology teaching assistant walks in with fetal pigs we line up and say, "How much is that piggy in the bucket? I do hope that piggy sale."

After purchasing an unborn domestic animal, Biology students tenderly cradle the infant pig to their table and proceed to generally dismember all of the fetal pig's major organs. This painful organ dislocation is used — in addition to plastic models — to further scientific education.

Dissection is necessary to the education of Biology and other Science majors, but will a sociologist, engineer, journalist, business major, etc. apply major organ exploration and removal to daily lives? Students often complain about unnecessary dissections which are seldom, if ever, applied to their future lives.

Learning about human anatomy with the aid of plastic models of the human body will definitely benefit all Biology 123 students regardless of their chosen field of study. The real question is: beneficial if fetal pig dissection to students studying in fields other than the Biological and/or Medical sciences? I hope the Biology department will make use of the existing plastic models of human anatomy and allow the fetal pigs to mature and develop, and thereby contribute to the solution of world hunger. So, next time Biology 123 TA offers you a fetal pig, resist temptation and buy a plastic model in the corner of the classroom instead.

D.L. Adams

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