

Opinion

The effects of too much TV

The Palestine Liberation Organization has conjured an absurd fairy tale to shift the blame for their terrorist acts to the innocent victims of PLO crimes.

Farouk Kaddoumi, a top aide to PLO chief Yassir Arafat, said Wednesday that no evidence was produced that proved Leon Klinghoffer was murdered during the hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro. Kaddoumi proposed that Klinghoffer's wife might have "pushed him over into the sea to have the insurance."

Apparently the PLO has been watching too many Columbo reruns. The bullet hole in Klinghoffer's head and the blood-covered terrorists on board the ship reveal the idiocy of Kaddoumi's story.

If the PLO is going to disguise its terrorist activities in fantasy, it's going to have to fabricate better stories than late night cop-show rip-offs.

The Battalion Editorial Board



A&M-UT game rekindles burnt-out Aggie Spirit

I've often been accused of being a two-percenter. I've often been told that Highway 6 runs both ways. I've also been told several other things that can't be printed in a family newspaper.



Karl Pallmeyer

I've never considered myself to be full of the "Aggie Spirit." It all started when I went to Fish Camp. It was similar to the Viet Cong brainwashing camps in "The Deer Hunter." They took me and about 500 other kids out in the middle of nowhere where we were exposed, over-exposed, over-over-exposed and over-over-over-exposed to more than a hundred years of traditions in just three days.

My impression of Fish Camp was the same as the impression I had from the tent revivals I've attended — I never could figure out what the all the yelling was about.

My freshman year I did all of the traditional things. I went to midnight yell practice, I went to all of the games and I went to the yell practice at the YMCA Building if we won or stayed for yell practice if we lost. After four years of mediocre games from a mediocre football team I got tired of yelling. I lost whatever spirit I might have had. I found it easier to sit at home and watch the game on television with a beer or three instead of standing in uncomfortable weather with over-expensive, watered-down soft drinks being the only form of refreshment. I also found it easier to study when everyone else is at the game.

At the beginning of this semester I went to only a few games. If I went to a game I would leave early to avoid the crowd. I didn't have much faith in Jackie Sherrill, the highest paid coach in the Southwest Conference, or his team. Jackie and I came here the same year. My grades and his team have been similar — nothing spectacular, just enough to get by.

By now things have changed. Jackie and the team did a good job. Last week I went to the game knowing that the Cotton Bowl and the Southwest Conference Title depended on our "beating the hell outta t.u."

It was cold. My roommates and I got in the car and drove to the stadium. We had to park in Southeast Asia and walk an incredible distance to get to our seats — third deck seats (I hadn't been up to

the third deck since I was a freshman). When we got to our seats some other students got irate and claimed we were in their seats. They went and found an usher who told them they were in the wrong place.

With these events in my mind, I wasn't too fired up for the game. When the guy standing in front of me started waving his 12th Man Towel I realized it wouldn't be long before I was hit in the face with it. Three minutes later, after a good play, it happened. When I tapped him on the shoulder to ask him to be a little more careful with the towel he gave me a high five. It was the first high five of my college career. We got the towel problem worked out without any argument.

As the game progressed, things got interesting. The Aggies made some excellent plays that even got a whoop out

of me. Before long I was hoarse yelling. I won't go in to any details of the game is common knowledge.

It was the best game I've ever attended at Texas A&M. We played excellent football, the crowd was wonderful without being too offensive, even got to like the guy with the towel. Thanksgiving I made sure that everyone knew that my team was going to Cotton Bowl.

Now I have a little dose of the "Aggie Spirit." Now I am proud of Jackie and his team. Now we are the best in the Southwest Conference in the world. Now we get to go to the Cotton Bowl. Now if they would only let us have some tickets.

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

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By CR
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A&M
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Mail Call

Meaningful traditions

EDITOR:

In Ken Ankele's letter (Dec. 3) he made the statement that Silver Taps was probably the second most meaningful tradition at Texas A&M. Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't honoring a departed Aggie infinitely more meaningful than a ritual before a football game? In terms of being meaningful, I would rate Silver Taps over bonflicker, er, uh, bonfire '85 any day of the week.

Randy Trosper

Sincere thanks

EDITOR:

We spent Thanksgiving Day on campus with our Aggie "fish" and were on our way to the game when my younger daughter twisted her ankle.

If it had not been for the help of one extremely fine young cadet, we never would have made it. He helped carry her a while then flagged down a fellow Aggie on a motorcycle who gave her a ride to the gate where more help arrived.

The gentlemen there provided a wheelchair. We wheeled her to the first aid station where she was checked over, iced down, wrapped up and sent on her way to our (luckily) front row seats from which we watched our Aggies become the Southwest Conference Champs.

Since we failed to get names, I do hope everyone who helped will accept this letter as our sincere thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Garvis White

Understanding fraternities

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Ken Ankele's letter. It seems you and I have much in common, Ankele. Like you, I am a first generation Aggie. Like you, I entered Texas A&M blindly. We both are sophomores who have come to love this institution and the traditions which follow.

It is here that we go our separate ways, however. You say fraternities serve no purpose? I can tell a lot of thought went into that statement. Fraternities are social organizations designed to bring people together in a brotherhood that transcends the everyday boredom of school life. The preamble to our constitution outlines a very definite purpose, in short, "We . . . (believe) that great advantages are to be derived from a brotherhood of college and university men, (appreciate) that close association may promote friendship, develop character, advance justice, and assist in the acquisition of a sound education . . ."

I would like to hear how a fraternity is detrimental to the unity of A&M. Fraternities bring people closer and the IFC (Inter-Fraternity Council) brings fraternities closer (i.e. activities such as Greek Fest).

Our dues pay for social relations such as rush parties (yes, we pick up the tab when you want to go to a party and drink "free" beer), utilities on our house, and other things; much like activity fees in dorms (we pay more because our parties are bigger, better and more frequent). I'm sorry that some fraternities were so callous as to party during Silver Taps, rest assured we will do no such thing.

Not only does a fraternity bring one closer to his school, but it also serves as a common bond to people at other schools as well — we

have well over 100 chapters and colonies across the United States and Canada.

Finally, fraternities are active in the school as well as the community through service projects. We, as a fraternity, are currently trying to set up our own push date for next year's bonfire. Also, we are throwing a Christmas party for the children in St. Joseph's hospital as well as actively participating in the Student Y-sponsored Youth Fun Day.

Ken, I'm not asking you to join a fraternity just that you be open-minded about them.

Brian M. Webb
Delta Chi

What is truth?

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Marco Roberts (Nov. 25) quote concerning homosexuality stating "I had faith that truth, though it may struggle and stumble along the way, will prevail in the end."

I agree with the statement that truth will prevail. My question, however, is what is truth? Is it simply the convictions of a particular lifestyle, religion or culture? It is obvious that we do need a foundation of ultimate truth. I believe that the Holy Bible — God's word — is that truth.

Contrary to popular opinion, the Bible is not the ultimate kill-joy. It does not simply try to forbid everything that is "fun." It is the basis of truth upon which to build a full and meaningful life.

The Bible has proved itself for literally thousands of years. We owe it to ourselves to see what it has to say. On our campus, attention seems to often be focused on the "rightness or wrongness" of "gays." I feel, however, that there are some additional problems in our University that need addressing. My concern is for those whose lives are being ruined by ignoring God's truth.

In I Corinthians 6:9, the Bible says that, "Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God." As we see, drunkards and sexually immoral people are included with homosexuals in the same verse. It is obvious to us that these problems are more common than homosexuality, yet society considers these problems "minor" to homosexuality.

I think it is necessary that people straighten out their own lives before they start pointing the finger at others. As in Matthew 7 says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged . . . Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" You don't have to agree with me, but I encourage you to seek answers on your own by reading the Holy Bible. May God bless you.

Eric Kleinhenz '85

Solving racism

EDITOR:

This letter is to Stanley Goodridge and all the others that responded to my letter on racist groups.

Prejudging is a natural reaction for anyone with the ability to associate one idea or object with another idea or object. Your letter is a good example. I never said the NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) restricted its membership. What I implied (and

never said) was that the NSBE probably preferred a black membership and that the title is what gave me that impression. If I did not prejudge then a good first impression at a job interview would not be important.

If the NSBE wants non-blacks and non-engineers to join the society they should adopt a name that is more representative of the membership.

On the other hand, I can imagine a set of circumstances that would give rise to such a misleading title. When the group was organized they held a meeting to decide the name. A Chinese student made a suggestion and the name was so well-received by the rest of the group (consisting of whites, Mexicans, Italians, etc.) that they agreed on and the new society was called "National Society of Black Engineers."

Since I live in a free society I have the right to criticize (with a freedom of speech). I was not directly criticizing any of the groups mentioned. I was criticizing the racial double standard in this country. If a white man tells a racial joke and the story gets out he is criticized (and forced to resign from public office if he happens to be a politician). If a black man tells racial jokes he will be given a job and record contracts.

All I was saying is that if we want to solve the racial problems in this country we will have to fight it everywhere, not just on the other side of the fence.

Michael A. Davis

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