

Opinion

Mail Call

Don't be an Ian

EDITOR:
 Ian Dick, I will be one Christian who is unwilling to make the "minimal effort" of following your prescribed plan of censorship against The Last Temptation of Christ. Christ may (or may not) have ascended into heaven surrounded by cherubs and serenaded by angels, but He certainly did not arrive on earth that way. His entrance here as a baby underscores the most fascinating thing about Him — His humanity. The true blasphemy would be for us to assume that God presented Himself on earth through Jesus because this method was the only way He could approach us; God must therefore have chosen to speak through the human Jesus for a reason. Jesus, as a human form, yet not a human, would seem to imply that God really didn't need a human messenger after all, and therefore just as easily could have (and maybe should have) chosen another vehicle for His message. I applaud the filmmaker's desire to emphasize the humanity of Christ. This portrayal should not be a threat to Christians — it should be a comfort. Sex is not "evil;" eating, sleeping and being afraid are not evil — they are human. As was Jesus Christ.

Lynda Livingston, grad student

Ian's lesson #2

EDITOR:
 Since the first days of this nation, censorship has constantly been around to alter what people see, hear, learn and inevitably know. Censorship allowed once for "good reason" opens the door to censorship for some "not-so-good reasons." Freedom's struggle with censorship will hopefully end someday, but not on this day.

Ian Dick (in his letter to the Editor on July 20) spoke of doing evil to stop evil. Mr. Dick's message is clearly an attempt to censor the movie, The Last Temptation of Christ. Without ever having viewed this film, Mr. Dick finds it blasphemous. Even when I agree that blasphemy is wrong, I cannot condone censorship. I can merely hope that assertions of the truth will out weigh the atrocities of fiction. By avoiding evil and temptation, the truth can be found by all individuals. But by censoring any ideas in life, be they true or false or in between, we have allowed someone else to decide what is true and what is false, what is right and what is wrong, what is evil and what is good.

As a nation must, like individuals, avoid the temptation of censorship. Let each person see and hear what he chooses and through facts and scriptures let him find truth within himself. If I were to say *The Battalion* should not print Mr. Dick's letter, I am censoring his thoughts. Instead I say print my ideas as well and let individuals decide. In this, I have advocated the truth and only censorship can hide it!

Paul Normandin '84

Ian, the truth is the truth

EDITOR:
 It was inevitable. A film depicting Jesus of Nazareth as less than holy is due for release and all those who deify him go crazy. One can hardly blame them for being less close-minded than they usually are.

I'm referring in particular to Ian Dick's letter in which he calls on all Christians to, among other things, threaten theaters that show The Last Temptation of Christ with non-patronage of their theaters in the future.

Mr. Dick, if you take offense to this film's depiction of Jesus then I take offense to your infringement upon my right to see Jesus as he may have lived his life. You see the film as "patently blasphemous." As you describe it, I don't. Besides, the filmmakers can do what they want with their portrayal of Jesus. It's his philosophy of life and his words of wisdom and sagacity which have outlived his physical existence and will undoubtedly outlive the life of this film.

If Christians are so sure that exclusively Jesus spoke the Universal Truths then what harm can a mere film do to Truth, which will ultimately prevail regardless of what Universal Pictures does to the film?

As for me, I'll wait to pass judgment on the film until I see it, which is only logical after all.

Loris Salinas '88

More truth, Mr. Dick

EDITOR:
 This letter is in response to a letter by Ian Dick published in Mail Call on Wednesday, July 20. Come on, snap out of it Ian.

In your letter you claim that the film, The Last Temptation of Christ, focuses on a fictitious erotic relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Suppose, just for a second that this relationship was real. Does it really make any difference? I would say that if Christ's words were true, then Christ's character matters little. As far as I'm concerned, the truth is true whether it is written in gold leaf on fine velum or in crayon on the outside of a garbage can.

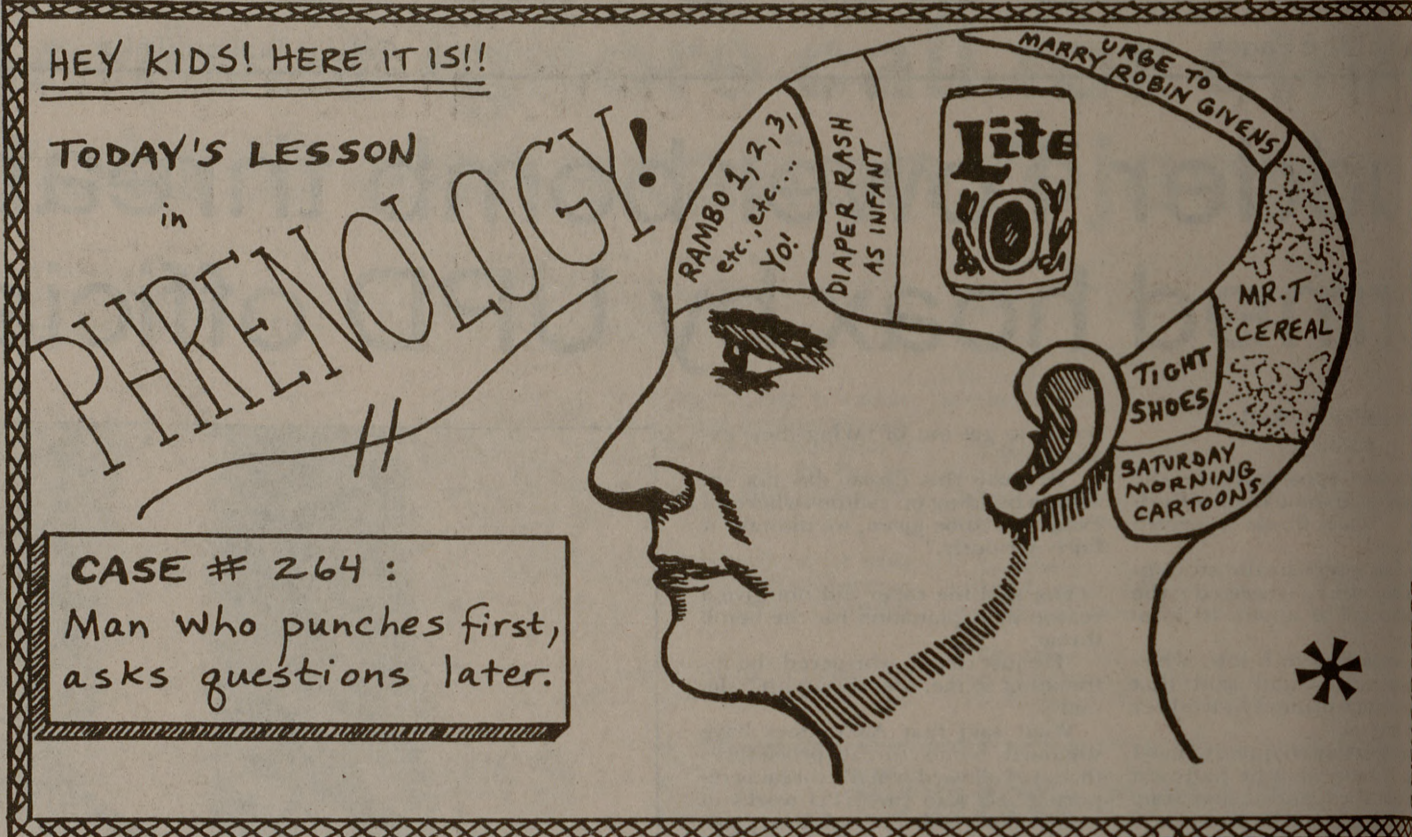
You claim to know that this movie is not worth watching because it is blasphemous. Since when was fitting into any religious belief system a blasphemy for having value. I, for one, might want to go see this movie. It sounds like it could have some interesting things to say about Jesus Christ. Can you imagine what it would be like to have to be pure beyond reason? Mary Magdalene was a prostitute that worshipped Christ as God. Can you see the kind of temptation that would be? There may be some possibilities for this film that you have not even considered and you would like to have it banned before you see it and judge for yourself. You said that the erotic relationship that you refer to is only presented in dream sequences. Are you suggesting that sex never crossed Jesus' mind? Wasn't Christ supposed to be human as well as God?

I have a feeling that I know why you want this film to close before it opens. If the film has no social or entertainment value, it will flop. Few people will go to see it. The producers will lose a ton of money, and you can sit back and consider it a sign from God that the movie was packed with lies. If the movie is a big success, however, it might shake your christian values. You might have to open your mind to some more modern points of view.

I suggest that you give this movie a chance to entertain or maybe enlighten you before you decide that it should not be seen. Or, are you afraid that the Christian God is not powerful enough to prevent His flock from being tempted. If this is the case, then you need a new all powerful being to worship because yours doesn't measure up.

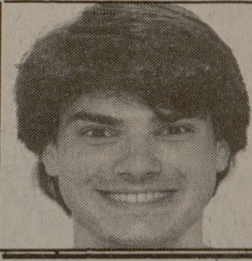
Joel Huddleston '90

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



Nose hazards of highway travel

Last week I went on my merry way to Houston (a city, by the way, that I shall now and forever more rename as The Crime Capital of the World). My motives for the trip were simple enough — get some food, see a play, have a swell time. Little did I know that I would soon be initiated into the less than elite group of VOCASH, Victims Of Crazy Attacking Street Heaters.



Mark Nair

Anyway, here come the DUDES probably at speeds exceeding the speed of sound — certainly at speeds exceeding those posted at obvious intervals along the side of the road to ensure each and every driver a pleasant and safe driving experience. The DUDES, almost killing me and my screaming Swedish friends (who, by now are scarred for life, and if the inclination ever hits them to return to the U.S., will probably choose to die a miserable death by reading about A&M's Board of Regents again and again) now stop a few feet in front of a red light, I suppose waiting for me and my mainly Honda hatchback.

And (my fatal mistake) I couldn't resist. I had to yell, "Catch a clue." But by the time I had uttered the beginning of my witty statement, a mean, drunk passenger DUDE leaped out of the car, aiming a beer can at my car like a baseball. I drove off.

The story goes quickly from here. The DUDES trapped me in an apartment parking lot. The mean, drunk guy with the beer can leaped out again, hit my car with his beer can and his fist and then (I guess not getting enough pleasure from whacking my car with his fist) he slugged me in the face (my window was rolled down — no air conditioning). And then he slugged me in the nose. And then he slugged me in the face. All the time I was sitting in my car, hit me that anyone would want to be me of all people. I'm still bemused at that.

I think he wanted to fight. I, of course, had to politely decline. After all, I didn't want to hurt the guy. (ATTENTION: FOR THOSE OF YOU AT HOME, THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE WAS AN ATTEMPT AT HUMOR. SAID ASSAILANT, IT ONLY HE WERE GREEN, COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR THE HULK. THE AUTHOR DOES NOT WISH THAT YOU THINK HE COULD HAVE HURT SAID DRUNKEN HULKISH ASSAILANT, EVEN WITH THE AUTHOR'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS, WHICH

INCLUDES SEVERAL BRUCE MOVIES AND ONCE SEE CHUCK NORRIS IN PERSON).

Instead, we memorized and called the police. Of course, I was in all this time, "Don't take the law into your own hands; take it to court." I was ecstatic at the thought of J. Wapner, Doug, Rusty and the gang at the People's Court helping out.

But it doesn't work like that. The per said that the punishment for assault and battery was merely a misdemeanor — the equivalent of a fine on the wrist. The fine? About 25 dollars. Not even any time in the joint.

That is, if they can find the guy.

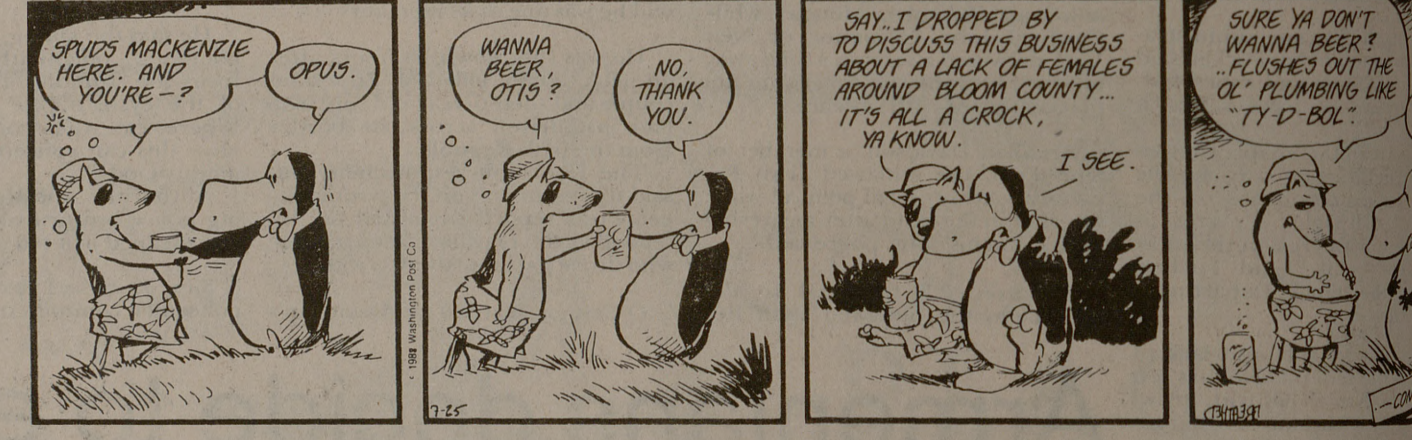
So, this is where I get a little confused. I was in my right. At each in the conflict I did nothing wrong though I did run a stop sign in the speed chase). I was driving safely, I don't think "Catch a clue" was a matry. But regardless, I got hit in the nose and bled all over my band. And it is right that if a over the size Sears Tower strolls over and bon another guy in the face three times out provocation, all he gets is a "slap the wrist" while another guy can cuff the police spot him, in a dark alley if the police spot him, can be charged with a felony for indecent exposure.

I suppose then that if my assailant his business on my tire, he'd be a five-to-10 in the slammer instead working a few hours overtime at Donalds to pay his hefty 25 dollars to the state while I walk around bloody bandanna, a nicely-bruised trum and a dent in my car.

And if that's justice, then I know what injustice is. The whole sounds a little crummy to me right?

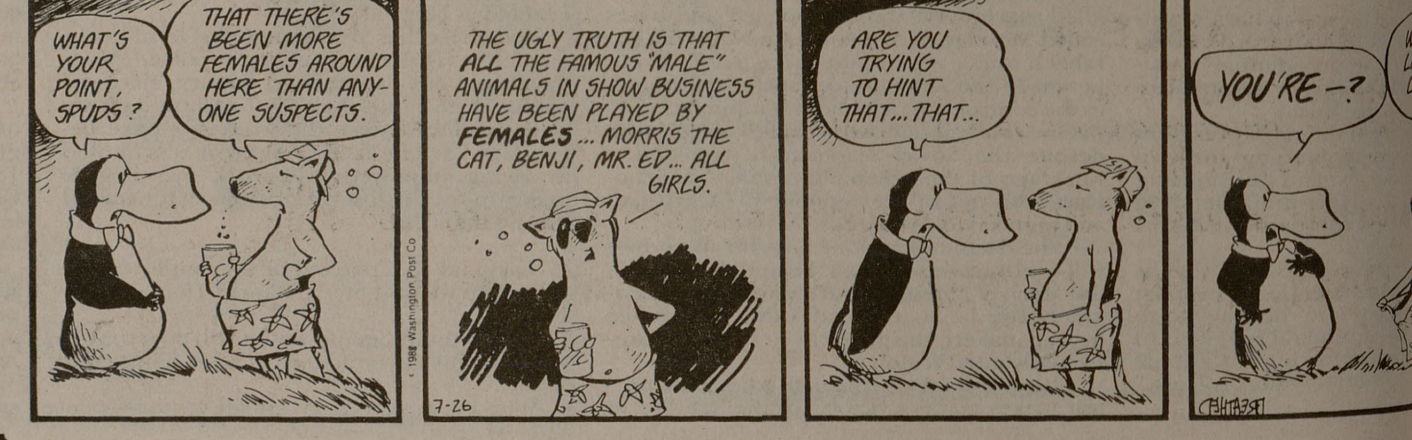
Mark Nair is a graduate student opinion page editor for The Battalion.

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

The Battalion
 (USPS 045 360)
 Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board
 Sue Richard Williams, Editor
 Rickrenek, Managing Editor
 Mark Nair, Opinion Page Editor
 Curtis Culberson, City Editor
 Becky Weisenfels, Editor
 Cindy Milton, News Editor
 Anthony Wilson, Sports Editor
 Jay Janner, Art Director

Editorial Policy
 The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.