

# Opinion

## Say goodbye to poor old, decrepit Goodwin Hall

I work in the oldest (and possibly most dangerous) building on campus. Welcome to Goodwin Hall, the building from the Cenozoic Era.



Mark Nair

The cornerstone of Goodwin Hall says that it was built in 1908. I, of course, have many interesting discussions with cornerstones, and I am sure that this one is telling the truth about its birthday. But regardless, you really don't have to know the exact date to tell that Goodwin is old. Just looking at it will tell you the same thing.

For example, notice the outside walls. Cracks run rampant, like wiggled-out varicose veins. The structural support is, of course, supplied by the roaches, winged whatchamaycallits and other various species, phyla and orders of other various ugly crawling things that have nasty habits of crawling in your mouth after chapter four of Macroeconomics Made Easy has knocked you unconscious for at least 25 years, give or take.

But I digress. Back in the Stone Age, they built Goodwin to be a dorm. Even now, when I'm up in the building late at night, my pup tent pipped and my flashlight flashing, my camera ready to capture that one elusive shot of the Ghost of Goodwin Hall, I can hear the voices of the old cadets drifting down the halls:

"I sure do love living in Goodwin Hall, old Chap."

"Ah, yes. It certainly was a good idea to build old Goodwin Hall with load-bearing masonry walls, old Sprout."

"Yes, that was a good idea, seeing as though the ground around here is not conducive to that type of wall, old Rutabaga."

"Golly, gee, they sure will have fun in the future with this building and its lack of structure, old Tuna Salad."

"Boy, I wonder if they will renovate it, old Harmonic Convergence."

"I doubt it, old Sauerkraut. It'll probably be too much money. Why do that when they can easily spend 90 times that amount building a completely new and improved building."

"And then the whole campus can look

like downtown Houston. All right, old Lima Beans, all right."

Then the ghostly voices drift away to join the ghostly voices of long-gone ELI students upstairs. (By the by, Goodwin Hall houses a veritable melting pot of offices. The English Language Institute used to belong to the third floor. It has since become very smart and moved away, although traces of it still exist in Goodwin, i.e. "ELI — Gateway to Hell" lives immortal on the men's bathroom wall. Odd offices, whose purpose I have yet to fathom, exist on the first floor. The second floor owns those psychology experiment rooms — you know, Psc. 107, let's look at slides, pictures and stuff — measuring insanity in freshmen, etc. Awful stuff. I used to run some experiments, so I know what I'm talking about. Believe me. And then, of course, there's the Faculty Senate office. It has nice air conditioning and a nice core curriculum.)

Nowadays, though, it seems as if everyone is leaving. I don't blame them. When doors start to stick and windows start to crack when the building shifts, you know it's time to go. Actually, standing in one of the rooms in Goodwin is similar to standing in one of those

rooms in the Goony Goofy House at Astroworld or some place like that. People look different sizes when positioned in different parts of the room because of the way the floor tilts. If it weren't so buggin' goofy, it would be dangerous.

So now the school is going to demolish the oldest building on campus. It's all in the name of progress, something that A&M (without benefit of the Corps) should be able to handle quite well. It's still a mystery when this demolition is supposed to take place; what the school is going to put in Goodwin's vacant space is also a mystery. Two years ago there was a proposal to put a liberal arts building in the space. At least, that's what I read in the *Eagle*. I think they're just trying to appease me. Good old Goodwin is going to go the way of the southside married student housing abnormalities, new liberal arts building or not.

Regent X: Well, Richard, what about Goodwin Hall?

Regent Y: I'll tell you, William, let's do demolition in, oh, say, two years.

Regent X: Gimme some feedback, gimme some feedback. We'll make them sweat, right?

Regent Y: You're with the poor William. I can dig it. Let them have that godforsaken poor excuse for a bombed-out Nazi bunker for another two years, then we'll move out.

Regent X: Sure the roaches mind?

Regent Y: Nah. I've got my work on it. Spam?

Regent X: No thanks, I'm down.

I think my greatest problem, with the de-evolution and atomization of Goodwin is that, after the fact, will be the oldest building on campus. Yeech.

First, Old Main burns down and Goodwin is about to snuff it. Now stuck with Nagle to tell all our friends and neighbors' friends, "Hey, look, the oldest building on campus. It's New."

And if those aren't fighting, you don't know what is.

Mark Nair is a graduate student, line brain surgery and opinion editor for *The Battalion*.

## Mail Call

### Clearing up the confusion

EDITOR:

There have been some misunderstandings in the July 26 edition of *The Battalion*, in response to Ian Dick's letter of July 20.

First of all, Ms. Livingston, as you so correctly stated, Jesus Christ certainly "ascended into heaven seranaded by angels." I would like to point out that He certainly did arrive on earth that same way: "But the angel said to them (the shepherds), 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:10-11). The point you raised of the humanity of Christ is well taken. If God could have chosen any vehicle for His Message other than the frail human form, why didn't He? Because He wanted to give us a perfect Example.

Mr. Normandun, the Webster definition of censorship: "the act or process of examining films and printed material in order to change what is objectionable." Censorship is an ugly term, and quite definitely contrary to the ideals present in the Constitution of the United States. However, boycotting is "the abstention from buying or using (something) to express protest" (again from Webster). This is what Mr. Dick is advocating.

Loris Salinas, you are right. It was inevitable that this film be written. However, I would like to point out that Christians do not "deify" Jesus Christ; that action is done by none other than God Himself. As your statement that "Universal Truths . . . will ultimately prevail regardless of what Universal Pictures does to their man on the cross," I agree. However, Jesus did not call the apostles to follow His "Universal Truths," He told them to "Follow me" (Matthew 5:19). We follow the risen Person of Jesus Christ, a holy and perfect Person. That is why we Christians are outraged by the movie.

In answer to Mr. Huddleston's provocative questions concerning "what would it be like to have to be pure beyond reason" and the possible temptation of Mary Magdalene to Christ, I have only one rebuttal. Hebrews 4:15 states "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin."

We as Christians describe the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ* as blasphemous because it ridicules and smears the perfect image of the One who died for all of our sins. By depicting Jesus Christ as succumbing to temptation, it seriously questions the sovereignty of Almighty God. This issue is one which must be settled by every person for himself. However, please be gracious and respect Mr. Dick's beliefs.

Irene MacLean '88

### Behind the times

EDITOR:

First, Christ was not just in "human form" — as if he were a body snatcher from outer space — he was 100 percent man and 100 percent God at the same time. However unbelievable or mathematically improbable this may seem, it was the requirement to fulfill old testament prophecy on the Messiah.

Jesus' purpose here on earth was to pay the sins of mankind by taking them upon his own shoulders. God's laws says that the penalty is death and so Jesus died for mankind's sins. All we have to do is believe in faith that this is the truth and we won't have to pay that "bill" ourselves.

Second, I'd like to comment that sex itself is not a sin. As a matter of fact, God designed sex as part of his plan for marriage to provide enjoyment, fulfillment and unity between a couple. Besides, without it we would not be so eager to fulfill God's command to "be fruitful and multiply." It is how we misuse and distort sex which causes it to be a sin.

Yes, Jesus may have been tempted by sex. He was certainly human and was tempted in other areas. But, to be tempted is not in itself a sin. Something tempting is that which has the ability to entice or appeal. Temptation is different than sin in that temptation is not the act of sin itself.

Now to say that Jesus' character was not pure or to hint that he sinned would nullify God's requirement for someone who was perfect to die in our place and thus deny him as being Messiah. Rather than having "opened your mind" you have simply closed your mind to Jesus Christ and his truth.

Christopher Harris '92

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.

## You've come a long way, Library

Last week *The Battalion* editorial page featured two opinions about the Evans Library in one day. Although praise is always preferred over criticism, there was a time at Texas A&M when no one would have cared enough to say anything, either positive or negative, about the Library. It is gratifying to know that today many people do care, and they are concerned that the Library is not all that the University community needs or deserves.

Maybe the Evans Library is not where it should be, but it is necessary to look where it has come from in the past 13 years:

	1986/87	1974/75
Collections	1,723,660	926,882
Budget	9,022,614	2,439,522
Space	469,649 SF	235,503 SF
Ranking	48th	87th
Faculty(FTE)	1,935	1,141
Students	39,079	24,876

The major problem has been the foundation which was laid during the first 100 years of the University. The base collections were meager and they were centered on the curriculum which existed at that point, hence the lack of retrospective collections in the humanities and social sciences. It is not possible to make up for 100 years in a mere 20 years.

Recognizing that there were more needs than could be met, decisions were made about how best to use the resources available. One of the first decisions was to be sure that the Evans Library was keeping up with current publications so we did not get further behind. That has been done for the past 13 years although our ability to continue to keep up in the future is seriously threatened by the increasing cost of journals. This decision has meant that the Evans Library now has good current collections and collections which satisfy the needs of most undergraduates. A second decision was to improve access services so if the item was not available locally, we would know where it was and could get it for the users. As a result, the Evans Library has become a leader in the development of computerized access services. There is a wider array of these services available to faculty and students at Texas A&M than at most institutions in the U.S.

With the beginning of the availability to the Library of AUF funds five years ago, considerable effort has been made in developing research collections in some disciplines, the funds were used to focus in specific areas. It was also realized that many of the materials that were needed were no longer available or available at unreasonable prices so many of the retro-

spective materials that needed to be acquired were acquired in microforms. This was particularly true of materials in the humanities and social sciences. Only with a substantial commitment of continuing funding could the Evans Library more completely the collections required by our expanded liberal arts program.

While the collections grew so did the student body. Evans Library has about 4,500 seats for student and a population of about 42,000. The recommended standard is to have seating for 25 percent of the student body. One result is the crowded conditions in the Evans Library. This is one of the factors contributing to the noise problem. Other factor which contributed to the noise is the assignment of group projects for classes. When the noise is combined with the food and drink situation, there is a real problem.

One of the proposed solutions is to open space in front that could also be used for study purposes. It is hoped some progress will be made toward this end for the semester 1988. The Evans Library has also used a monitoring the evening hours, but this has had only limited success. It would probably require a uniformed police officer to have any real effect and that is not considered a desirable solution. Consideration is also being given to building a study area but such a solution, if approved, would be five or six years away.

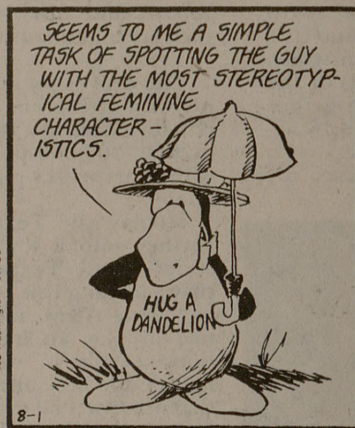
The noise and heavy use of the Evans Library do create a problem for more serious users of the Library. On the other hand, it is gratifying and a credit to the faculty that students use the library even if the resulting environment is not desirable. What is needed is a combined effort by the faculty and the student population to change the environment and restore the Evans Library to a place for study, scholarship and research.

The Evans Library is facing many problems besides noise, collection growth, and they are problems which do not have easy answers. The administration and staff of the Evans Library cannot solve them in a vacuum. The support and cooperation of the faculty and students is needed. Support of adequate budgets, for help in identifying focuses, for collection development and for proper library use behavior are only some of the ways in which faculty and students can help. This is a case of "us" and "them;" it should be a situation of everyone pulling together to create the type of library that Texas A&M deserves.

Dr. Irene B. Hoadley is the Director of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

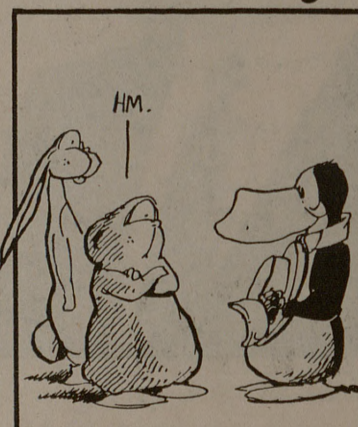
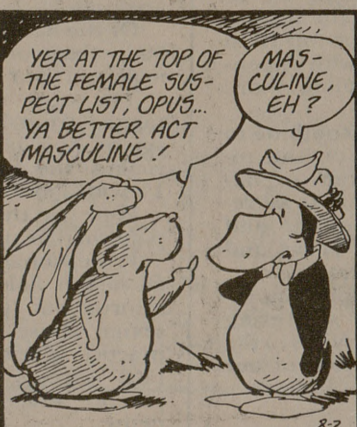
Dr. Irene Hoadley  
Guest Columnist

### BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

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