

Opinion

Mail Call

Invocation was 'tactless'

EDITOR:

I was appalled at the "invocation" given by the CT chaplain at Thursday's football game. For those of you who missed it, I'd like to paraphrase three sentences:

- Lord, thank you for finally letting Alabama get here.
- Thank you for the wonderful weather.
- At the end of the game, let the score reflect the hard work of the Aggie team and Jackie Sherrill.

I thought this was in VERY poor taste. I realize that the "Hurricane Bowl" has become a big joke around here and it has been fun to laugh at Alabama. But I believe these statements were totally inappropriate for an invocation.

They made a mockery of what should be a solemn, unbiased prayer.

I am embarrassed that such a tactless invocation was given at an Aggie function.

Julia Rosprim '88

Graphic suggests racism

EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to the article written in last week's *At Ease* on poverty.

Desiree Keenon presented a well-written informational story that explained efforts of the Bryan-College Station community to help the poor make ends meet. That's great. But I have some quarrels about how the black member of poverty was depicted in the graphics that accompanied the article.

This racist graphic composed by Lynn Lytton displays her ignorance concerning the typical black person living in poverty. I'm sorry, but just because a person lives in poverty does not mean that they cannot grow an adequate amount of hair or has hair that sticks straight up as if they have been scared to death.

Hell, I couldn't even tell whether this person was male or female, even though he/she/it (it looked like an alien to me) was holding a doll.

Ms. Lytton, please go into a local poverty-stricken neighborhood and try to find someone who looks anything remotely close to the black person in your graphic. Let me know if you do.

I'm very aware that discrimination exists on this campus, but it should not stain the pages of our school newspaper, which serves the "entire" student body.

Cherita Montgomery '90

Super Aggies save the day

EDITOR:

I was driving through Wichita Falls on my way to my grandmother's house for Thanksgiving when I suddenly had a blow out. This situation was alarming since it was 11:30 p.m. and I was all alone in a strange city.

I pulled into a nearby 7-eleven only to encounter a group of loyal Ags having yell practice in front of the store!

Two fine Aggies, Anthony and Thomas, changed my tire right away. I was soon back on the road after briefly joining their yell practice for "Farmers Fight."

Thank you Anthony, Thomas and your other Aggie friends for helping me out of a bad situation. I know I'll always remember your good deed.

Debbie Byars '88

Sex is a battlefield

EDITOR:

In response to Ms. Gilliland's letter concerning AIDS and morality, I would like to point out a few things to Ms. Gilliland.

She states that "we need to be reminded of what a sexual relationship was intended to be from the beginning of time: complete and total oneness between two people who make a solemn promise to love only each other until death."

Ms. Gilliland, only a casual reading of the Old Testament brings forth many examples of polygamy. And as any scholar will inform you, it was Jewish law that man had to take in his brother's wife and have children by her if his brother died without leaving children. No doubt these Jews of the Old Testament came before the beginning of time, so let's look at the Christian societies and see if they practiced the morality that you find so desirable.

It is well documented that many early Christians interpreted Christ's message of universal love to not only mean spiritual love, but also physical love. These Christian sects practiced what was known in the 60s as "free love" and might have influenced western Christianity if they had not been quashed by a patriarchal church that labeled their ideas "heresy" and crushed them. (Gee, isn't it funny how often true Christians, filled with love for all mankind, feel compelled to oppress anyone who has a different idea of what the Bible means?) However, the same idea has come up again and again in history — most notably during the Protestant reformation and in the Onelda colonies here in the United States during the 19th century.

As always, these groups have been viciously persecuted by the "true" Christians, but the point I wish to make is that isn't it funny how different people can read the same book and come up with completely different ideas about what God said about sex.

Ms. Gilliland, take off your blinders. The morality you speak so glowingly of has never existed for any length of time in any society. One need only read Chaucer to see what kind of sexual morality Europeans of the Middle Ages practiced. Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" points out the hypocrisy that in as many as 40 percent of all marriages during that period of American independence, the bride was pregnant.

Sex is something that few people ever will be willing to give up. So for God's sake and their own, they had better learn how to be safe.

Richard Bender
A&M Research Foundation Staff

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



Locals enjoy more than car greasing during Christmas

In a week or two, many of you will be gone. You'll be in your respective hometowns with your family and friends. Do you ever wonder what happens here while you're away? Do you ever ask the burning questions,

"Where does College Station go for Christmas?" or "Is there life after students?"

Because I've been a "local" far longer than I've been a student, I feel qualified to give you the somewhat elusive answers to these questions.

The locals can't pack up and go home for the holidays — they're already here. This isn't a tourist resort that closes out of season. College Station doesn't become one of those ghost towns like the ones you see in Hollywood westerns, with sagebrush blowing lazily across Texas Avenue, and the sound of creaking double doors coming from the Chicken.

While you're home making merry with family and friends, so are the locals. But they don't have to leave to get there. They even have relatives from out of town leave their own homes to spend Christmas in College Station. Truth is stranger than fiction...

Now, there may be some of you out there saying: "I know what the locals do over the holidays. They go down to the Gulf station and watch 'em grease cars!"

Real funny. But you couldn't be more off-base, buddy. I think they deserve just a little more credit than that. They are not so easily entertained. Although, if you've ever had the opportunity to observe the intrinsic beauty of a mechanic in action...

Despite what you might have heard, life in College Station over the holidays can become a virtual mecca for those who choose to make it so. There are lots of things to do — fun things. There are even some things they do that have nothing to do with Texas A&M University.

First, let me tell you what they don't do. I think it's important to dispel any myth that may exist. Then I'll tell you what they really do.

There has never been a city-wide



Stephanie Stribling
Columnist

party commemorating a student's departure. Don't get me wrong, they have plenty of parties. Some of our professors look better in a lampshade than we do.

To my knowledge, there has never been a rap session where our professors sat around laughing at all the stupid things we did last semester. They are too discreet for that. Although, I have heard of "faculty get-togethers" where some of the more obnoxious students were given the honor of being the bull's-eye in a friendly game of darts.

There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that the locals pick up stray students over the holidays and impound them on the drag in Austin. Quite the opposite. They provide deluxe incarceration facilities — I mean recreational facilities — where an abundance of bread and water is shared by all. In addition, you can sit back and enjoy the easy-listening sounds of Frank Sinatra while you catch up on all those "Masterpiece Theaters" you missed last semester.

The locals have never broken into your dorms or apartments for the purpose of having a party. That's not it at all. They just want to get a good look at some of your personal items.

Contrary to popular belief, there is still running water and electricity in College Station over the holidays. The locals periodically stock up on canned goods and other non-perishables, but they don't mind. Houston's not that far and it's a lovely drive.

Last but not least, locals have the utmost respect for students and their traditions. They never once put horns on "Sully".

Now you know what they don't do, let me tell you what they do.

After finals, they're just sitting

around waiting for that ol' school bell to ring, kind of like teenagers waiting for mom and dad to go out of town. When they're absolutely certain all of you are gone — let the fun begin.

Some of the "locals" relish the thought of being able to drive unimpeded right down the middle of Texas Avenue at 5 o'clock. On any given day, it's not unusual to spot two or three cars planted smack in the middle of Texas Avenue, just driving up and down, up and down...

Others like to go to the most popular restaurant in town on a Saturday night, request a table for twenty, get seated immediately and then get up and leave — just because they can.

Then there are those who frequent Northgate. They like to buy a pitcher, pick a table and sit down, drink one beer, then move to another table — just because they can.

NOTE: For those of you interested in local trivia, here's something you may want to know. It's entirely possible to walk the full length of the Dixie Chicken without touching a single person. However, this should never be attempted while school is in session, as you may find yourself violated — more than once.

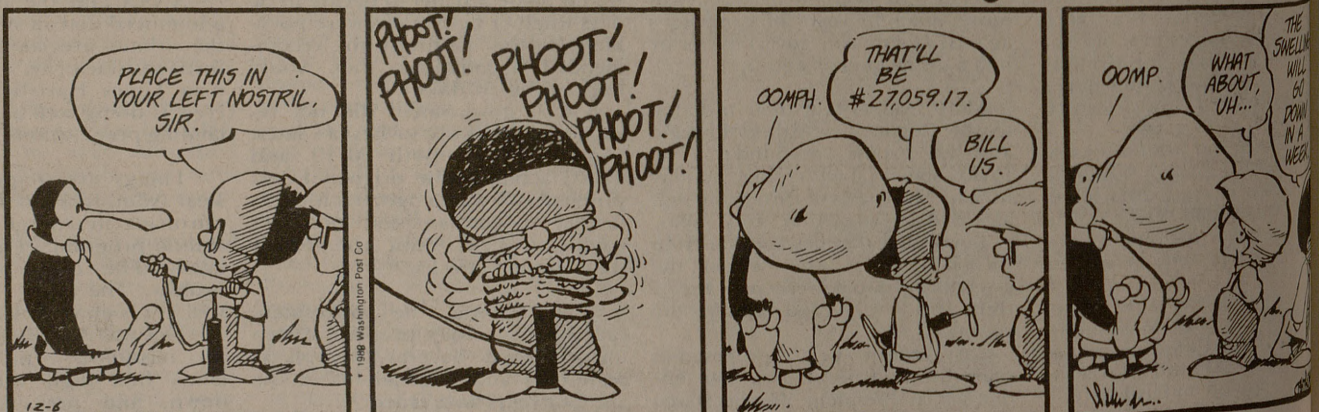
ADDITIONAL NOTE: For those of you who have never seen more than the back of someone's head at the Chicken (I can personally testify to that), in addition to tables and chairs, there are also items of decor on the walls. It's a "must see" if you ever get the chance.

Then there's my personal favorite. Because I'm a student as well as a local, I like to pick a nice sunny day, get in my car, drive to campus and park in every single lot at least once — sometimes two or three times!

Last but not least, some poor fools who are particularly desperate gather together at the Gulf station — for those of you who've ever had the opportunity to observe the intrinsic beauty of a mechanic in action...

Stephanie Stribling is a senior journalism major and columnist for The Battalion.

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion

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