

Ronda Shepherd
Columnist

Evil doesn't prove there is no God

Does God really exist? Many believe he doesn't.

Some people believe each man is the captain of his own fate. They believe luck, along with self-determination and willpower, are more effective than prayer.

Many non-believers feel that you are your own God. Each man has all power within himself, but lacking courage and faith in his own abilities man reaches out to a god.... To a god that doesn't exist.

Does God really exist? Many people believe he doesn't.

The absence of a god or supreme being would account for a lot of things people on earth must deal with. It would explain why there is starvation, racism, hatred, war and corruption.

A loving and merciful God could certainly not let "his children" whom he "loves" exist in such a state.

If God is all powerful, then why won't he use his power to make a better world? In his infinite wisdom has he decided that the world is better off like it is?

As Christians, we often enter into heated debate with atheists about these questions, but why?

The existence of evil is not proof of the non-existence of God.

Instead of allowing hate to be used as proof that there is no God, use love as proof that God exists.

Ask the atheists to explain why there is so much love in the world.

Ask them to explain the intensity of romantic love, explain the bond between parent and child, explain friendships, explain compassion, empathy, kindness, consideration.

When they have done all that, then ask them why all the charitable organizations exist.

Let's make it easier, we'll stick to those organizations in Bryan/College Station. Why is there a Brazos Valley AIDS Foundation? A Crisis Hotline? Brazos Valley Food Bank? Students Against Apartheid? Aggie Partners for Special Olympics? Service sororities and fraternities? The Twin City Mission? Sheltering Arms?

As Christians we believe that all these organizations came about because people allowed God's love to manifest itself and reach out to those in need.

But God is so much more than simply love, he is action (as evidenced by these organizations); God is forgiveness.

Why else would Oliver North have nationwide support, Betty Ford still be a woman of prestige or Roy Tarpley still allowed to play for the Dallas Mavericks. God's love allows us to love even though we've been hurt.

Yes, there is starvation, poverty, disease, homelessness and hatred.

But there is also USA for Africa, the Peace Corps, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, food banks, temporary shelters and countless other organizations that combat these problems.

For every Adolf Hitler, there's a Martin Luther King.

For every Marquis de Sade, there's a Mother Theresa.

For every Botha, there's a Nelson Mandela.

For every lie, there is a truth.

And for every evil, there is a greater good.

Atheists have the right not to believe, but they are wrong if they think that evil is proof that God doesn't exist.

Ronda Shepperd is a senior journalism major.

Kroger strikers may not find bargains

I don't know about you, but the Kroger strike sure is cramping my style. In case you haven't heard, Kroger employees have gone on strike. It seems that they are upset about the loss of benefits and lack of any sort of pay raises in the last few years.

And I can respect anyone who can stand up for what they feel is an injustice. (Not to mention anyone who can stand outside in the rain, day after day, trying to get shoppers not to cross picket lines.)

But I admit it. I crossed the lines. I was in one of those, "I can't believe that I have to stop at the store at 11 p.m.," moods. So I very reluctantly turned into the parking lot of the Kroger that is conveniently situated near my residence.

That's when I saw them, picketing in front of the automatic double doors — trying to persuade people not to shop at Kroger.

At that moment, I had to decide between driving to Winn Dixie or Apple



Damon Arhos
Assistant Opinion Page Editor

Tree or crossing the picket lines. I decided to go ahead and cross the lines. I went in and bought my toothpaste and went home.

On the way home, however, I started thinking about how effective a strike like this would actually be. Will the Kroger employees be respected by management for walking out of their jobs? Will benefits and salaries actually improve because these employees go on strike?

Tommy Blair, a business representative for Local 455 of the

United Food & Commercial Workers Union, said union and Kroger officials could not come to an agreement as of 2 a.m. Sunday (The old contract expired Saturday at midnight.)

And when management and employees cannot come to an agreement, a strike is the answer, right?

There are better alternatives to approaching contract negotiations than walking away from the table. While Blair said that almost two-thirds of Kroger's employees would walk out, Carmen Pate, a spokeswoman for Kroger, said that vacancies will be filled with management employees and with employees brought in from other cities. If worse comes to worse, Pate said, temporary employees will be hired.

The Kroger that I saw that night was not having very many problems keeping up with customer's demands. In fact, they seemed to be doing OK. Granted, it was 11 p.m. on a Sunday night, which isn't the busiest shopping time of the week, but with the number of employees that I saw striking, I don't

think Kroger will have much of a problem. There is little evidence that this strike will force Kroger to come

If the Kroger employees are serious about their demands, they need to return to their jobs. As long as they are on strike, there will be tension between them and Kroger management. The presence of this tension, little as it is, being accomplished. And there is the chance that these workers could permanently lose their jobs, like those of the air traffic controllers. What benefits will the striking employees if they have no jobs?

I do not think that the Kroger employees should "give in" to all the demands that management makes. Obviously, if the employees were able to go on strike, they should have listened to. But the key to successful communication is the ability to listen and to compromise, and as long as Kroger employees are on the picket lines, there is little of either going

Damon Arhos is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

Corps promotes narrow-mindedness

EDITOR:

In response to Cary Moore's letter that asks all of us cry babies to stop complaining about the Corps, I would like to make a few comments. First, I am one of those people who attend this University who simply does not like the existence of the Corps, *period*. But, I would argue this is the result of anything but an inferiority complex.

In fact, I'll do my best to badger and belittle any organization that promotes conformity, narrow-mindedness, and the promotion of seniority over knowledge. Serve your conscience, not your country, *please!*

As for tradition, well I guess it only proves mankind really isn't that far out of the caves yet. Which isn't necessarily bad, but there comes a point where tradition impedes progress.

Aggies, please wake up and stop referring to the University of Texas as "t.u." I can't even walk around campus in a Texas t-shirt without getting smirks and some snide comments. If you have any friends who attend the University of Texas, which I really hope you do since no tradition should be taken so literally, they'll tell you they're barely even aware of our so-called rivalry. Let's treat Texas for the institution of higher learning and open-mindedness it is.

I'm not suggesting A&M is any lesser of a university, but it certainly is (I invite argument) less open-minded. Sports rivalries are fine, but this has been carried way too far.

Lastly, in response to Moore's ponderance of why Aggies hire Aggies, I would like to say that I hope to be hired on the basis of my abilities and achievements, not for my affiliation with any group. Maybe Moore believes whites should hire only whites, or Jews only Jews. This is the kind of mentality that is really holding this university back competitively.

If you're hired solely because you're an Aggie, don't expect the firm you're working for to stay in business long. Try marketing a product to minorities with only Aggies on your staff, and be sure to send me the embarrassing stereotypes you come up with.

Oh, and don't tell me Highway 6 runs both ways, I have yet to see a highway that doesn't.

Marcus Johnson '91

Nazi symbols not as bad as policies

EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to those who were apparently upset by the Nazi party arm band that was displayed on the arm of the Sul Ross statue. The arm band display was part of a sociology experiment studying people's understanding and reactions to symbols. The gathering data was going well until some Duddley or Donna Do-right took it upon herself to call the police.

It seems to me that although this person was offended by the symbol, the appear to have no problem with what the symbol stands for. After all, using police force to stifle free expression is right on the Nazi party line. In being anxious to defend the statue, it appears that our super-hero has no real problem with other symbols of genocide, racism and anti-Americanism being displayed on our campus.

Sul Ross, as a Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army, led troops to attack the United States of America and kill young men who carried the American flag, in defense of (among other things) a state's right to own other human beings as property. Sul Ross also led troops in Texas on a campaign to rid the territory of native Americans under the assumption that the only good Indian is a dead Indian.

So while I can appreciate someone being offended by a Nazi party symbol, I am more offended by actual Nazi party policy. I feel that instead of fighting against certain symbols we should fight against what those symbols represent. I realize that the Ross statue is a tribute to Texas A&M's first president, but the arm band fits....

Bryan Skipworth '90

Have an opinion? Express it!

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address, telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Time for African-American mid-term

As I studied for my SCOM 103 mid-term, I decided to make up my own mid-term. This is not a mid-term that you will take in HIST 105 or 106 — but the history of African-Americans.

You have had 18, 19, 20 and 21 years to study for this test, so I am sure you won't have any problems with it. You may begin.

1. Who was the first African-American woman millionaire in the United States?
2. What famous African-American actor, singer, activist, scholar, author, graduated valedictorian of his 1919 Rutgers class, earned 15 varsity letters in sports, named All-American twice, graduated from the Columbia Law School, admitted to the Bar and gave the greatest performance of Othello?
3. Who wrote "The Count of Monte Cristo," "The Corsican Brothers" and "The Three Musketeers"?
4. What famous African-American started her own college with a cash outlay of \$1.50 and advised four U.S. Presidents?
5. What African-American invented the gas mask and the street light?

Roland S. Martin

Reader's Opinion

6. Who was the first four-star African-American General in the U.S. Air Force?
7. Who invented modern jazz?
8. Name four black writers you won't read in AMER LIT 228.
9. Who were the first two African-American winners of the Nobel Peace Prize?
10. Who founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters?
11. Who led the famous "Back to Africa" movement?
12. Name five leaders during the Civil Rights Movement.
13. Who was the first African-American governor in the United States?

14. Who is the first elected African-American governor in the United States?
15. Who was the first black U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations?
16. What famous African-American argued 65 cases in front of the Supreme Court and won 65 times?

You have had 18, 19, 20 and 21 years to study for this test, so I am sure you won't have any problems with it. You may begin.

17. Who is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League?
18. Name five members of the Congressional Black Caucus.
19. Who is the most powerful

African-American in the U.S. How

and what is his position?

20. How many African-Americans are in the U.S. Senate and name them.

Your time is up. Lay down your pencils and send in your answer sheet to:

Roland S. Martin
National Association of Black Journalists
Dept. of Journalism
230 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-9999

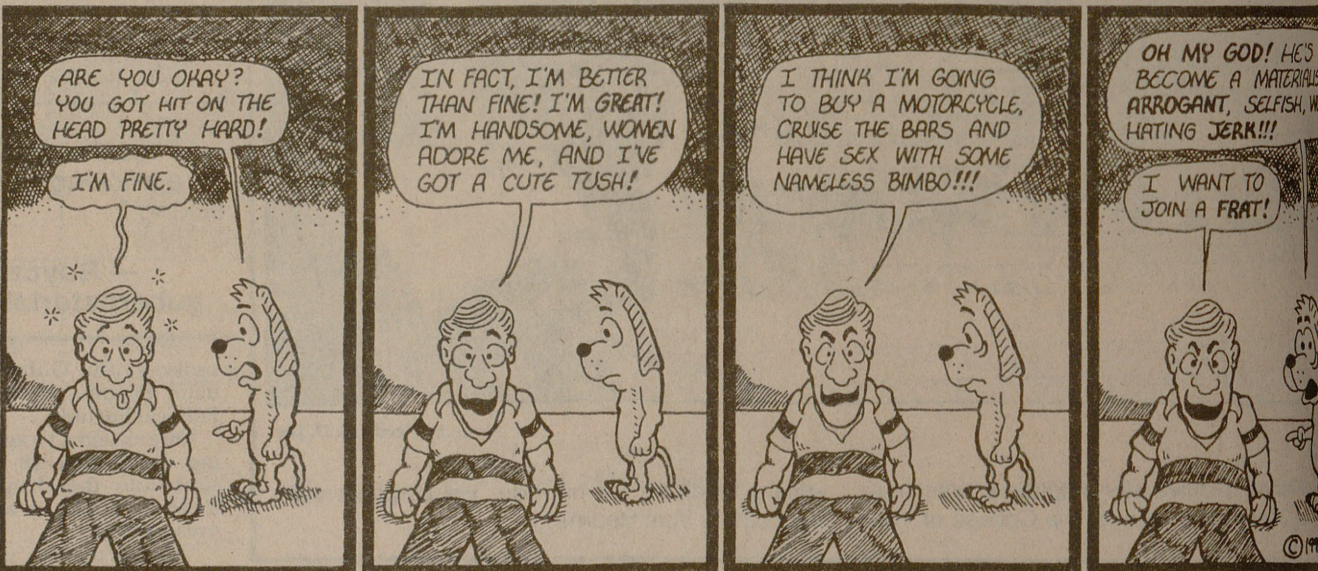
Your mid-term results will be returned in one week. Have a good day!

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As with all columns, viewpoints expressed in Reader's Opinions are not necessarily those of The Battalion. Persons interested in submitting Reader's Opinion should contact Opinion Page Editor at 845-3314.

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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