

Mail Call

Cartoon warrants apology

EDITOR:

Until The Battalion ceases to allow such garbage as Don Atkinson's cartoon in the Feb. 20, 1990 edition, fraternities will never get a fair chance on this campus. The reputation which Atkinson portrays and the true fraternity brotherhood are in complete contrast. This attitude warrants an apology to all 26 fraternities and to all 3,500 men who choose to be those "materialistic, arrogant, selfish woman-hating jerks." The Spirit of Aggieland might as well be put on hold until each organization is equally important.

Jason K. Dodd '91

Raising children a full time job

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to "Ivana trumps Donald with divorce," the editorial written by Matt McBurnett on Friday, February 16, 1990. We do not wish to criticize his topic, but we would like to inform him, and others sharing the same attitudes, that his article degraded the roles women take.

We are not disputing the fact that Ivana Trump did indeed sign a prenuptial agreement and should stand by it. What we do not agree with is the way McBurnett falsely characterized women in their marriage roles. He stated that women do "nothing in a marriage but raise the children and other necessary tasks." According to McBurnett, unless women had a 9 to 5 job, they "did not have to receive a paycheck to be doing work. Raising children and keeping up the home is not a 9 to 5 job, with weekends and holidays off. It is a 24 hour, 7 day a week, 52 weeks a year, lifetime job for which one does not receive monetary compensation. The next time you talk to your mom, ask her about how "easy" it is to raise a family — and be prepared to actually listen!

Amy Semple '92

accompanied by two signatures

Steps are pulpit for free speech

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Denise Thompson's letter published in The Battalion on Feb. 16, 1990. She asks, "When did the steps become a pulpit for religious zealots?" The Rudder Tower steps are the location that Texas A&M University has preserved as the free speech area on campus. It's assumed that the University picked this area because of its centralized location and the accessibility for reaching large numbers of people.

Your implication that the "religious zealot" speaking on the Rudder Tower steps is not a "professional with factual knowledge" was an unjust statement. Jeff Snodgrass, a pastor of a local church and campus minister, is very much a professional in his field. He loves the Lord with all his heart and is very knowledgeable about the Scriptures. If you think you have hurt anyone with your harsh words, you're wrong. Jesus Christ says in the Bible that anyone suffering persecution in his name is truly blessed. Your words, meant cruelly, have actually blessed Jeff Snodgrass in God's eyes. With this in mind, feel free to persecute Christians everywhere.

Of the hundreds of people who passed by, I didn't see that Snodgrass singled anyone out. Your assumption that he was speaking directly to you could possibly be God's way of securing your attention to spirituality. Since you seem so concerned about receiving knowledge from professionals, stop asking your friends about any aspect of God or the Bible. Going to an occasional church service won't help, either. This is a complex topic and a superficial delving into it will not benefit you. Go to someone who has devoted their life to studying God's Word. It will be the greatest favor you've ever done for yourself.

Loretta Cortez
TAES staff assistant

United States should 'stay course'

EDITOR:

There is a simple fact of human existence. Throughout the history of mankind, countries and men have gone to war. As long as men with feelings, passion and patriotism lead countries, a Utopian world of peace is unrealistic.

The United States was able to survive being militarily unprepared for both global conflicts of the last 75 years because of the incredible industrial might of this country. In recent times, warfare has changed radically. It is now more swift, deadly and final. The scenario in which the United States tries to rapidly mobilize an unprepared, demilitarized nation to face a similar crisis will not repeat itself. We will lose.

Presently, we are facing the most uncertain time in Europe and the Soviet Union in the past 45 years. The fact that the United States is disarming while the most powerful military force the world has ever seen is undergoing political upheaval is incredulous. It is imperative that our country stay the course and make certain of what we are doing, and more importantly, of what the Soviet Union is doing.

William Sims '89

Take witnessing to church

EDITOR:

As a devout atheist, I feel obligated to respond to Ronda Shepherd's column, "Evil doesn't prove there is no God." Any logical person would have to agree that the existence of evil is not a proof of the non-existence of God anymore than the existence of "love in the world ... and charitable organizations" are a proof of the existence of God, as Ronda would have us believe. There is no proof of God's existence or non-existence; that is why all religions are called faiths. They ask for belief without proof.

Atheists do not believe that luck is more effective than prayer, nor that they are their own God, as Ronda stated. Most atheists believe that God does not exist because there is no proof otherwise. After 12 years of religious schooling, I am unswayed in my belief that there is no God. I will not try to force this belief on you, so please do not try to force your faith on me. Texas A&M and The Battalion are not the place for your personal witnessing. Take it to a church.

Paul Junghans
Graduate student

Drivers, cyclists key to safety

EDITOR:

As an avid recreational, competitive and commuting cyclist, I was moved by a recent editorial urging cyclists to be more adherent to traffic laws. I heartily agree.

Due to the parking problem on campus, many students have wisely chosen to commute by bicycle. However, with that choice comes the responsibility of yielding to other cyclists, pedestrians and motor vehicles. Careful, slow riding on the sidewalks is a must. All the "hotdogging" should be reserved for the open road.

Just as it is important for cyclists to be more aware of pedestrians and traffic laws, it is also important for motorists to be considerate of cyclists. My fellow cyclists and I have had objects thrown at us, curses shouted and even people swerving deliberately to try to run us off the highway. Is this some sort of game? We don't care to play.

When driving, especially near campus, please be careful when making right-hand turns. There may be a cyclist in your blind spot. When passing a cyclist, moving over to the left as much as possible is appreciated. Thank you to all who already give us a wide berth on the highway.

To everyone riding bikes, I implore you to be more considerate. If you don't make a full stop at a stopsign, at least stop long enough to yield to pedestrians and vehicles entering the intersection. And keep it slow on the sidewalks!

If both cyclists and drivers will ride and drive friendly we'll have a much safer campus.

Robbie Rose '93

'Called' should preach elsewhere

EDITOR:

Thank you for printing the letter from Denise Thompson. I've felt the same way myself as I've gone from job site to job site on campus. These so-called "called" people irk me to no end. What gives them the right to tell me I'm sinning against God. How do they know what God really wants me to hear? Only I know how I feel about heaven. So please, do me, Denise and about 36,500 other people on this campus a favor and preach your sermons elsewhere. We deserve to learn and work in a place without religious harassment.

Our founding fathers were all religious and pious men, however they also believed in the freedom to worship or not as you see fit — not as others wish you to. That is why we have laws separating our churches and the state.

Jerry W. Chatham
planner estimator II

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.



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