

# MAIL CALL

## Christianity is exclusive by nature

In response to Dan Alexander's well-stated letter to The Battalion, I have a few things to say in defense of Christians. Christians believe, quite plainly and simply, that Jesus of Nazareth was and is God — and not just a god, but the one and only God who moved through history by revealing Himself to the nation of Israel in preparation for the coming of Messiah. Jesus, who claimed to be both God and Messiah, was quoted as saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life — no one comes to the Father but by Me." It is not Christians who have invented the exclusivity of their faith; it is none less than God who allows but one path to Himself. I do not understand why you have accused the Faculty Friends — albeit unmaliciously and indirectly — of intolerance. Have they coerced anyone by placing their ad? Has any one of them threatened or abused someone else for holding views dissimilar to their own? To say that another road of life exists that does not end in condemnation by God contradicts Jesus' own assertions to the contrary, and that contradiction indeed does make such a view "Anti-Christian by definition." But that exclusivity is not intolerance, for is it not Christianity that holds love for other people (regardless of their views) as its greatest commandment? I congratulate Mr. Alexander on a well-written and unambiguous letter, and I do not begrudge him his beliefs, though I cannot agree with them and I continually labor against them. Every Christian, whether raised in a church or not, at one time held beliefs that were simply anti-Christian. How can I condemn another for being in the same position I once was in myself?

Cory A. Pearce  
Class of '93

## Religious intolerance is un-American

I am writing in response to the letter in the Oct. 19 Battalion by Marilyn Smith. If you were truly the American you claim to be, you would not so blatantly violate my Constitutional right to freedom of religion with your statement that "the Bible is our road map and if we lived by it our world would not be in such a mess..." As for Bob Presley's offer, I commend him for offering an alternative to those of us who were so effectively alienated by the Christians' offer. He did not make his offer on behalf of the University, but as a friend. Therefore, he had no need to act in a "professional" manner. Don't misinterpret my statement — you have every right to practice your religion, but that right ends when you try to enforce that religion on me. How can you blame all the problems in the world on lack of religious structure in the schools? The Bible is not some magical pill that everyone can take and wake up in a perfect world the next day. As for condoms, I suppose you would rather

have a student die of AIDS than get a condom in school. Trust me, it's not required that you take them. You know where they are if you want them. I feel very sorry that you will not open your eyes and see that, although you may not personally agree with someone else's religious beliefs, a true American would respect the First Amendment which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Jeff Gish  
Class of '96

## Greek system still on the defensive

An article in the Oct. 13 issue of The Daily Texan, the student newspaper of the University of Texas, brought to my attention the recent incident involving a Texas A&M fraternity party and its allegedly racist theme. I realize that there is some dispute as to whether the party's theme and the activities engaged in at the function were intended to or actually did embody a racist attitude, but I nonetheless felt compelled to convey a few observations.

Living in Austin and attending the University of Texas for a few years, I have witnessed fraternities at the University of Texas at Austin and elsewhere come under a great deal of criticism due to a perceived attitude of indifference toward issues of interracial tolerance, if not absolute prejudice and bigotry. Although A&M fraternities have never been especially revered on campus, they have in the past managed to avoid such accusations. Until now. I'm not saying that the A&M fraternity involved did anything wrong; I can't because I don't know exactly what happened. What can I say, however, is that the incident has once again brought the issue of racial intolerance in Greek systems to the forefront, and has put fraternities in general on the defensive.

As a former participant in the A&M Greek system, I hoped that A&M fraternities had learned from others' mistakes. Public perception of fraternities in light of this sort of negative publicity, warranted or unwarranted, is certainly not going to improve. I just hope it doesn't continue to nose-dive.

Stephen G. Wohleb  
Class of '90

## Fraternity leaders showed no leadership

It is certainly interesting how liberals defend their own freedom of expression, but when they don't agree, they set out to crucify the "insensitive." The charge of racism against Sigma Alpha Epsilon is a great example. It seems that these tactics have sent the Interfraternity Council and Dr. Leese searching for a new rock to hide under. The fact that some non-Aggie can blow into town, level charges of racism (cry wolf), and put our school in a state of turmoil is pathetic. Worse yet, these "leaders" have seen false charges (against the Corps) disrupt and tarnish the image of A&M before. One letter does not constitute reason enough to trample our rights as students and citizens. Dr. Leese may think "something positive had to happen," but personally I think that persecuting a fraternity with little or no evidence is something negative, and it sets a frightening precedent. The

"change of attitude" Dr. Leese foretells will be one of animosity and apprehension toward him and the IFC. The purpose of a university is to teach students how to think, not what to think. The spineless leadership exhibited by Dr. Leese and the IFC would make Joe McCarthy proud.

Christopher Toland  
Class of '92

## Abortion is the most important issue

I feel a need to respond to Aaron Herndon's letter in the Oct. 13 Battalion. First of all, I would like to say that I am a strict conservative and a very strong supporter of George Bush. However, for those who would like to quickly ridicule my opinion and conclude that it is strictly based on the fact that I am pro-Bush, as liberals so often do, I would like to tell you that it is not about that. It is not that I am pro-Bush, it is that I am pro-life. To me, a presidential candidate's views on such things as the budget deficit and foreign affairs do not outweigh his or her views on abortion.

I understand that many people are going to ask, "How can one base his or her vote on one aspect such as abortion?" I would then ask them, "What political topic could possibly be so important that one would neglect the fact that babies are being murdered by means of abortion?" Everyone deserves a chance to live, and there is not one topic that any candidate can speak of that is more important to us than life is to a baby.

To say that it is impossible to prevent all abortions would be justifiable. However, I find that the usage of this idea is often a cop-out. Don't the lives of the babies that can be saved matter?

It is most devastating to know that there are many people in the world today saying, "I am not pro-choice, but agreeing with everything else this candidate speaks of is reason enough to vote for him and neglect my views on the one simple topic of abortion." Sorry folks, but where I come from life and death is more than a simple topic. Think about it!

Brian Mazzola  
Class of '96

## Pro-choice also pro-responsibility

I am writing this letter in response to Annette Smith's letter of Oct. 12. In my opinion she recklessly portrayed the pro-choice position as being pro-carelessness.

I agree with her that if this was an ideal world few abortions would need to be performed. This, however, is not an ideal world. A child placed into a home that is ill-prepared or is dysfunctional makes that home more dysfunctional. A common argument used by anti-abortion groups is that there are plenty of kind, loving people willing to adopt these unwanted children. If this is so, why are there thousands of children being shuttled back and forth between state institutions and foster homes?

Smith's argument makes it appear that being pro-choice is also being anti-contraception; nothing can be further from the truth. Her letter also makes it appear that current contraceptive methods are foolproof. Printed in the recent

July/August issue of Health magazine (available in the Medical Sciences library) was an article detailing the failure rates of various forms of contraception. The United States lags behind the industrialized nations in the field of reproductive medicine. This is not surprising as our society as a whole does not place much emphasis on this matter. This prejudice extends to our personal values; many men will not use a condom due to some distorted sense of masculinity. I agree with Smith that we need to be more responsible about our sexuality. However to begin by denying reproductive rights to women is totally irresponsible. Let us begin by learning about contraception; there are programs held weekly at the Beutel health center. By learning we become able to make informed decisions and are able to teach each other. Maybe then we can change our society and create an ideal world.

Paul Herrera  
Veterinary student

## Abortion arguments counterproductive

I am writing in response to the recent flurry of letters in The Battalion concerning abortion. I wanted to address those on both sides of the issue who continue to face off as if in the end one position will be declared right or wrong.

Personally, I have been unable to label myself as either pro-life or pro-choice, because I believe that life and children are precious and should be cherished. Yet, I also sympathize with the pain of a rape victim forced to bear her attacker's child. Also, a law against abortion conflicts with what this country is all about — freedom and the right to choose what is right for you. It's almost an unresolvable conflict.

However, maybe we should spend less time fighting between life and choice and start treating the cause of the problem and not the symptoms by preventing unwanted pregnancies. I believe education and compassion are the keys. We should be educating America's kids about sex and protection, encouraging abstinence and giving kids a choice by providing free condoms in schools. By doing this, not only are we helping to prevent unwanted pregnancies but also AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Community and school self-defense classes would give women a better chance in avoiding rape pregnancies.

I feel that if we could all at least try to work together instead of constantly playing tug-of-war between pro-choice and pro-life, then we could actually accomplish something and give everyone a little peace of mind. Stick to your convictions, but every now and then, stop seeing yourself as pro-life or pro-choice and remember that you and those around you are only human beings trying to make the world a little bit better for all those born into it.

Janelle E. Passick  
Class of '93

## Choosing Perot not a waste of a vote

Many believe that voting for Ross Perot will be a wasted vote because he is behind in the polls. Is this a valid concern? Absolutely not.

The only wasted vote is one that is

cast against a candidate instead of for a candidate. Remember, every vote carries equal weight. A candidate can only win if those who believe that their candidate is the best choice actually vote for that candidate. If you truly believe that one particular candidate will do the job, the only way he can be for you to vote proactively rather than reactively.

The above applies to anybody and everybody. I would delight in a Perot victory, but more importantly, I would like to see a candidate win rather than two candidates lose. Tuesday, Nov. 3, vote for who you want to be president, not against those you don't.

Alan Dahlberg  
Class of '92

## Not all news is necessarily bad news

With all the negative issues ranging from politics to gay rights to the lack of multicultural awareness, I was honestly beginning to wonder if anything positive was happening in Aggieland besides our football team and Bonfire. However, when I read Gina Howard's article in Friday's Battalion about the fund raising ideas to assist Kyle Kepple and his family, everything was put back into perspective about the Aggies and our commitment to others. I would just like to greatly commend the Walton Hall Council and Curtis Couch for their determined and red-ass efforts to assist Kepple with his recovery. Many campus organizations always perform charitable deeds that often go unnoticed, but this particular contribution epitomizes the spirit of Aggieland and the dedication of Walton Hall to their fellow residents. Good bull, Walton, not only for your efforts, but for showing the rest of us what being a true Ag is all about.

Angela Leskovic  
Class of '95

## God isn't against a Clinton victory

As I walked across campus toward the Northside parking garage, I was handed a flier by the title "the Bible, Morals, and the election." I thought it sounded very informative, but as I read it I became extremely disappointed. The entire passage described an immoral Bill Clinton for supporting abortion and homosexual rights. It also further explained that by taking the lives of children for a better economy we are committing a form of idolatry.

First of all, I am a Christian and a Democrat. Yes, the two of these are able to exist together. I also believe it is in very bad taste to misuse God's word for one's own purposes. Scriptures are open to interpretation as long as they are consistent with the rest of His word.

I do not think it would be right to say to a person you can not have an abortion. I do not think judging Bill Clinton as an immoral person or relating voting for him as a confession to God of our sins is very appropriate for this election. By voting for Bill Clinton, I am not denouncing God, but choosing the man I feel will make a difference in our country. I truly do not believe he is "a man who would lead our country deeper into sin."

Kristina M. Perez  
Class of '95

## So you think that you know about politics!?! Present:



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**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**MSC HALLWAY**

Various political speakers will speak from 11:30 - 1:00 in the MSC Flagroom.



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