



In a futile attempt at survival, Fluffy tries to show Mr. Carter that he is no ordinary sheep.

W.A.C.O.: We Ain't Comin' Out 'Revelations' didn't mention 'Achy Breaky Heart'

There are wackos in Waco, and I for one don't know who is crazier, the feds or the Branch Davidians. What in heaven, hell or otherwise is going on up there?

Let's look at the players: We have a rock 'n' roll "Jesus" with a machine-gun hand and federal agents who want to be drive-time disk jockeys on Radio Waco. At first, the feds tried the direct approach, but to no avail. Suddenly the key was to wait the Branch Davidians out. Now I think the philosophy is to out crazy them. The feds are blasting those top 40 Tibetan chants and all-time, favorite Christmas carols at the compound from dusk till dawn. Some one even said that the feds had played "Achy Breaky Heart." Though Billy Ray "Yes, I have really bad hair and I can't sing either" Cyrus is bad, I personally would hold out for "Classical Gas" — but that's just me.

I think we're going about this all wrong with respect to the Davidians, the agents and the media carnival. There are three simple approaches that would solve the whole situation and satisfy everyone involved. First of all, we need to knock politely on the door and ask to speak to Jam Master Dave. When the "Great-One-with-the-only-air-conditioner-in-the-whole-compound" emerges, the agents can invite him to play "Double Dare."

And, here's our next contestant Dave Koresch from lovely Mt. Carmel, Texas. He likes rock 'n' roll and heavy artillery. Dave is extremely religious — or is that religiously extremist — and in fact once claimed that he was Jesus Christ.

So now it's time to play "Double Dare." Dave, if you really are who you say you are, let us shoot you right now. If you get up in three days, we'll talk. Think of it as a nap. After all, we're sure you've had some trouble sleeping, what with top 40 Tibetan chants and chorus after rousing chorus of "Ranky Stanky Fart."

But, wait, there's more! The media is having a carnival in Waco. After all, what do you do when you can't really see what's going up at the Ranch Apocalypse? You play frisbee. You mountain bike. You fly kites. You go to the full-frontal-nudity strip bars in Waco — I'm serious; they're



STACY FEDUCIA
Opinion Editor

there. One of the news stations even has a huge barbecue pit parked next to its satellite truck. And what goes better with barbecue than beer?

Which brings me to plan two. Agents should walk up to the compound, knock politely on the door and ask to see the Captain Koresch, whose new breakfast cereal has a fortified compound and whole lotta' flakes. When the "Great-and-Holy-Former-Rock-Vocalist-Turned-Prophet" comes to the door, agents should invite him to an exciting round of "The Price is Right."

"David Koresch, come on down! You're the next contestant on 'The Price is Right!'" Mr. Koresch, if you are who you say you are, we'd like you to take a good, long look at that lovely lake over there. Now, if you can turn that body of water into a pond overflowing with beer — bock, mind you, not clear beer or near beer, but bock beer — we'll leave you alone. After all, we've been out here for about three weeks, and the media folks are hankering for something to drink with their barbecue. We've already had a bit too much to drink, as evidenced by that drinking while driving a tank charge. "Sorry, occifer, I just didn't see that large sedan there, and I just drove the tank right over it. But Dave, just think of the possibilities! We hear you really like women. If you turn that body of water into beer, maybe you could swing the Swedish bikini team, too! Hey, it just doesn't get any better than this!"

Which brings me to solution number three. If Dave-areno likes women, how would he like a whole truckload of women? All the feds would need to do is go up to Baylor, grab a bunch of sorority girls, give them the t-shirts that they're selling in the MSC to commemorate the event, tell them it's a date party and drop them off at Dave's front door. Then OH-MY-GOD! Dave will be out of there faster than Billy Ray "Yes, I have bad hair and I still can't sing" Cyrus can shake his ranky stanky butt. And then we can all go back to our normal lives. And the native Mt. Carmelites can finally get some sleep.

By the way, I'd like to thank everyone in the Batt office who helped me last night: Kyle, Satan, Lance, Bill, Mark, Sue, the academy, my mom and dad. One last thing before I go, is this Koresch guy any relation to that Elijah the prophet who rides his bicycle around town?

You heard it here first.

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The Battalion

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Corps commander

Major issues confronting Haraway

When the changing of the guard takes place in May, and Will Haraway replaces Matt Michaels as commander of the Corps of Cadets, Haraway will be confronted by some of the toughest issues ever to face the Corps and the military.

Haraway has the credentials and experience needed to fulfill the duties of Corps commander. In addition, he has already begun formulating solid policies on how to deal with such pressing issues as public perception of the corps, gays in the military, sexual harassment and minority recruitment.

The first issue, and arguably the most difficult to control, is the perception of the Corps. Haraway said the best way for the Corps to improve its image is for cadets to "get off the quad and join other student organizations." This extra-corps involvement that Haraway speaks of is a good approach to improving Corps relations with the student body, but how is this to be accomplished? Haraway needs to impress upon cadets how important the image of the Corps is. Though the Corps comprises less than 5 percent of the student population, it is considered to be "the heartbeat of Texas A&M."

Gays in the military is a controversial topic that Haraway as Corps commander must confront. Admittedly, Haraway has no direct plan of attack, but said he expects "the policies of the corps to mirror those of the military." In addition, he quickly points out that gays will be held to the same high standards as other cadets and, in addition, no inappro-

appropriate action against gays by other cadets will be tolerated. His is clearly the most responsible manner in which this issue can be handled.

The third issue the Haraway faces is that of sexual harassment. The Corps has had difficulties in the past dealing with charges of this nature. Consequently, the administration established a hierarchical system designed to handle such complaints. In addition the system was implemented to eliminate harassment at the lowest level — between the cadets. However, as the most recent sexual harassment case indicates, the system does not work. Haraway must take charge immediately to ensure the system's effectiveness.

Finally, minority enrollment in the Corps is low. Similar to the demographics of the University, the Corps' numbers are improving. In the wake of recent University-wide racial problems, Haraway must take bold steps in recruiting and advancing qualified minorities.

The problems facing Haraway and the Corps are both large in number and substance. Haraway has immediately taken a strong stance on each issue and believes the Corps can and will change for the better under his leadership. If his qualifications and personal history are any indication of his strength, Haraway will serve the Corps in an excellent manner.

Most importantly, Haraway needs to remember what he said: "the Corps has to become up-to-date to survive." The Corps, like any other organization, can benefit from growth while maintaining tradition.



When is too close too much?

Back Talk Q&A

Before spring break, Back Talk asked readers to offer their opinions concerning how closely the media should be allowed to a crisis situation in order to cover the story accurately.

The media has been criticized for its role in the current standoff with the Branch Davidian Cult in Waco. Some say that news personnel have obstructed the progress of federal operations. Media proponents, however, argue that the public has a right to know.

Initially, we received one response. Over the break, however, other readers replied. Therefore, beginning today, Back Talk will appear every other week in order to allow adequate time for readers to respond.

This letter is in response to the unwarranted criticism that has been directed by the media toward the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in reference to the Mt. Carmel incident. Because I have interned with the ATF in the Firearms Technology Branch in Washington DC for the past three summers and holidays, I write this letter to defend ATF by giving an in-

side perspective.

When the standoff in Waco comes to a close, I am quite positive that many things will be released that will give more insight into the operation than the media has produced. From what I have experienced in my internship, the ATF is an efficient and effective bureau that does its job exceedingly well, usually without any hassle.

Given the small size of the bureau, they are able to train each special agent thoroughly, equip him/her with the latest in firearm technology and effectively coordinate all special operations. Most people hadn't even heard of ATF prior to this incident. The reason being is that ATF has succeeded through the years in maintaining the safety of all high-risk operations that it carries out.

Each year ATF arrests over 10,000 of some of America's most violent criminals without fanfare or incident. The last agent to be killed in the line of duty was approximately 10 years ago. Also, sometimes the media will credit other agencies such as the FBI in conducting certain raids. If one were to follow the news closely, it was actually ATF that made the first steps in solving the Trade Tower bombing in New York, not the FBI.

When one considers the responsibilities of ATF that include explosives, bombings, arson, violent gangs and enforcement of all firearms regulations, one can only wonder why there have not been as many incidents as this. Many people say that ATF had been undermined in this incident. Taking a closer look, there were more than 40 points of fire from the compound where some had 50 caliber Barrets and only

four agents were killed. Whereas the numbers reported through the media have claimed dead cult members from 8 to as high as 15. It was evident that the Cult even had the element of surprise and a fortified compound to shoot from. Now I ask you, was it reasonable to assume that ATF made a mistake in its operations? All that I request is support for the Agents who have died to enforce the laws of these United States. With the increasing number of illegal firearms violations, one of these Agents might save your life someday.

Todd Garner
Class of '92

• My father is an FBI agent in Waco, and I was as anxious for information regarding the shootout and consequences as anyone. However, there is a time for information and there is a time for prudence on the part of the media.

I do not believe that the media was responsible for any of the deaths, but I do feel that the media can be a distraction. They have not been as much of a hindrance in this instance as in others because they have been pushed back by law enforcement officers; this is as it should be.

The agents ought to be allowed to work freely and not be compromised by prying journalists. The job of the media should not be to try and get the "big scoop," but to report the facts in a mature manner without endangering the lives of the people protecting us.

David Seale
Class of '95

Question

What is in a name?

On Friday, March 5, the Texas A&M University System Regents voted to change the names of Texas A&I University, Corpus Christi State University and Laredo State University to Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M International University respectively.

Some argue that this move will devalue a Texas A&M diploma and claim that students and alumni at these universities wanted to keep the original names. Supporters of the name changes say that this move demonstrates greater unity within the A&M system and should strengthen the system with respect to budget appropriations. What do you think?

Address letters to Back Talk, The Battalion - Mail Stop 1111, College Station, TX 77843, or bring them by the Battalion office at Q13 Reed McDonald. We request that you limit the length of your letters to 150 words. Letters will be printed on Thursday, April 8.