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Fish Day, like E-Walk, a special day for Corps

This letter is in response to the disgruntled Duncan employee who disagreed with cadets' behavior on 'fish day.'

The employee stated that on this particular day cadets act "worse than animals," displaying a behavior that A&M surely wouldn't allow in its classrooms. The employee is right, and neither would other activities that occur regularly in Duncan such as eating, drinking, dances, parties, and banquets occur in classrooms.

The Duncan employee states the "university hierarchy" would be appalled if they witnessed the activities of 'fish day.' I agree: They probably would be shocked, but so would a corporate recruiter who came to interview seniors during Elephant Walk or while seniors were mugging down with their dates during midnight yell.

Fish day, like Elephant Walk, Fish Camp, yell practices and many other 'out of the ordinary' events that happen on this campus, is a special time for cadets. This annual activity is something I thoroughly enjoyed and looked forward to both as a freshman and an upper-classman cadet. Fish day has provided me with many lifetime memories which I cherish.

I regret that the activities of 'fish day' may result in an extra burden for the Duncan employees. I would, however, like to remind them that on almost everyday of the school year, the freshmen in the Corps take every dish and tray, empty and throw-away all excess food and drinks, stack the dishes and trays, carry the dishes and trays to the washroom, and finally, wipe and clean the tables. This routine occurs after every breakfast and dinner and saves the Duncan employees a significant amount of time, and thus the University a significant amount of money.

I am sure the freshmen's daily efforts and contributions far outweigh the inconvenience caused once a year by 'fish day.'

David Hawkins
Class of '92

Now, I don't profess to know what Dean considers spirituality, but if it doesn't include those things, how good can it be? Perhaps Dean should look beyond the tired sermons of his Christian elders to find spiritual awareness within himself.

Seth K. Adelson
Graduate Student

Just a word of appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the Resurrection Week activities were planned and carried out. The results, which have not yet been fully realized, were also a blessing. As a former student and passer-by for some of the activities it is so encouraging to see that today's Christian students at Texas A&M are committed to Jesus as their only hope and to sharing this with their fellow students in a loving, caring way. Jesus truly is the great liberator and equalizer of mankind.

The efforts of these Aggie Christians were totally unselfish and directed toward the benefit of others rather than in some self-serving, what's-in-it-for-me attitude as are so many other efforts that we see in today's world. Thanks again for being true to the faith.

Until we meet again, I will remain in his easy yoke.

Frank Cox
Class of '65

We, the members of the Texas A&M Baha'i club, would like to offer the Baha'i teachings concerning the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In 1904, Abdul-Baha, son of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, stated that some Biblical stories are spiritual metaphors rather than physical facts.

As an example, he cited John 3:13 where Christ says, "and no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Although Christ came from the womb of Mary and walked on the earth, He says that He came from heaven and was in heaven; this is obviously a spiritual fact not a material one. Therefore, His resurrection and ascension unto heaven is also symbolic. Abdul-Baha explains this story as follows:

"The disciples were troubled and agitated after the martyrdom of Christ. The Reality of Christ, which signifies His teachings, His bounties, His perfections, and His spiritual power, was hidden and concealed for two or three days after His martyrdom, and was not resplendent and manifest. No, rather it was lost, for the believers were few in number and were troubled and agitated. When after three days the disciples became assured and steadfast, and began to serve the Cause of Christ... the Reality of Christ became resplendent and His bounty appeared; His religion found life; His teachings and His admonitions became evident and visible."

Likewise, when Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33), He was referring to the spiritual teachings of Christianity; spiritual teachings which remain the same. The social laws and ordinances, however, change with the revelation of a new Prophet according to the needs and understanding of people. Thus

Jesus is "the Way," in the same manner the Abraham, Moses, Mohammed, Baha'u'llah and all other Prophets of God are "the Way." They all teach the same spiritual lessons and all come from the same Reality, that is God. "No distinction do we make between any of His Messengers." (Qur'an 2:285)

The purpose of man is to know and worship the one God. By sharing our views, we hope to encourage others to seek the hidden Truths in God's Holy Writings. Then will the rich guidance within be released to lead our lives, enabling humanity to live as one loving family and to realize that "Jesus Christ gave His life upon the cross for the unity of mankind."

Leslie McIntosh
President of the Baha'i club

This is in response to Bobby Dean's offensive guest column from April 8. Like fundamentalists the world over, he is sure the Way is the only way; this is a very dangerous thing. It shouldn't matter what name one calls God: Hashem, Allah, Jesus, Krishna, the Great Spirit, etc...; what does matter is what one does with one's belief.

I don't think we were put here on this earth to blindly believe, say, in Jesus, and use this as an excuse to absolve us of all responsibility for our actions as we merrily go on our way murdering, raping, hating, and generally not doing anything to make the world a better place.

If someone's belief in Jesus helps him or her be a better person, that's fine. I personally do not believe he was anything more than a teacher, but I accept that someone with beliefs that differ from mine can still be a righteous person.

The problems come, as stated before, when people like Dean proclaim theirs the only way. Let's not forget those "good Christians" who murdered, raped, tortured, robbed, plundered and destroyed entire cultures during the Crusades, the Inquisition, the conquest of the New World, the Holocaust, and now the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia. All in the name of Jesus. The world would be a much better place if people like Dean stopped trying to force their religious beliefs on others and instead inspired others by their righteous actions to follow their paths.

Sharon Semel
Grad Student

Editor's Note: The Battalion does not endorse any particular religious practice or lack thereof. The opinions expressed in guest columns or in Mail Call represent the opinions of the authors and do not reflect those of the Battalion editorial board. These are the last letters that will run on the subject of Resurrection Week or any organized religion for that matter.

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff. Columns, guest columns, and Mail Call items express the opinions of the authors. The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. Due to space restrictions, guest columns will not be accepted unless the author contacts the opinion page for prior approval before submitting columns. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

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Readers respond to Resurrection Week

Corps Chaplain Bobby Dean's guest column (ARISE! Resurrection Week explained for all Aggies, April 8) disturbed me greatly. While Dean suggested that Christians should seek ways "to proclaim [their] message to non-Christians without offending them or belittling them," he managed to offend this non-Christian reader.

Dean states, "All people are either dead spiritually in their hearts or they are alive in Christ." In doing so, he alienates a significant portion of the Battalion's readership. I do not accept Jesus as the messiah, and indeed I find historical evidence of his existence rather flimsy. But I am not, as Dean says, "dead spiritually in my heart." On the contrary, I am a highly spiritual person. I read, think and love. I appreciate art and music, nature, good friends and good food. How can I be "dead spiritually"?

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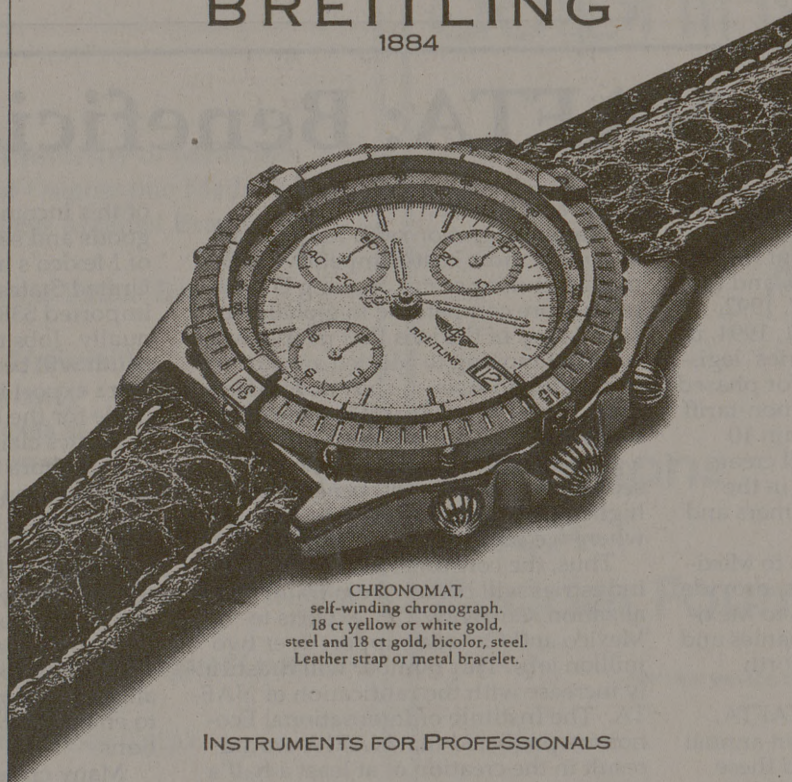
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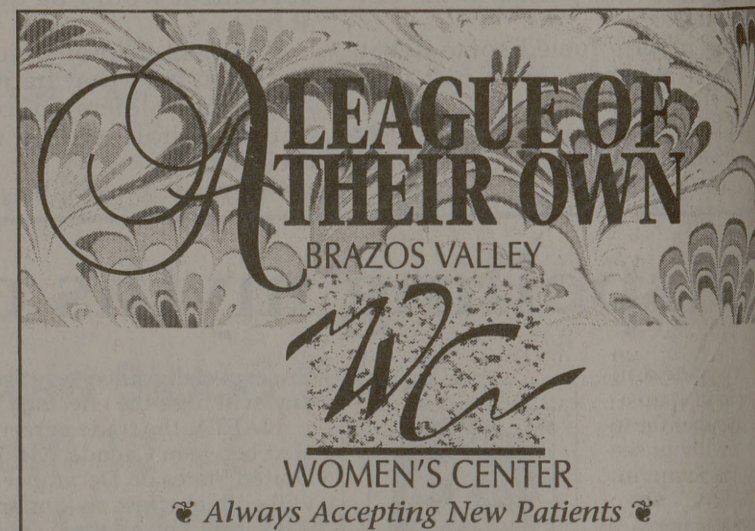
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