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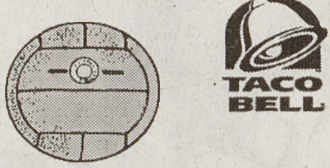
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MAIL CALL

Campaigns reflect poorly on freshmen

As the class of 2001 completes its initiation into the practice of class elections, I personally cannot help but reflect on the pathetic and undignified way in which most of the campaigns were run. With countless names on the ballot, what's a fish to do? A tough question that I fear most of my classmates answering wrong. Voters are so uninformed of a candidate's credentials that it's scary.

To win over an electorate of thousands, candidates provided the least amount of information they could get away with and relied on simple name recognition. By flaunting the brightest colored poster with their name and maybe even a slogan splashed amply across the front, the candidate can get what he wants without having to tell the voter anything. Do you think Craig Woods would have ever gained as much support had Tiger never been born?

Consider the case of Candidate X. X has slapped his flyers and billboards all over Southside with some clever motto like "X marks the spot - VOTE 4 X." Along comes a voter who wants to be a good Ag and participate in class elections. He has decided that X would make a good VP because, besides those informative advertisements, his friend's girlfriend's brother told him that X was a cool guy. So along with the votes of hundreds of other good Ags, X wins. Forget that he only wants the position as an exclamation point on his resume and

he hasn't held a leadership position since he was football captain during recess in the third grade.

This is an abstract scenario, true, but a frighteningly real one nonetheless. Today's vote-grabbers work name recognition for all it's worth, and Aggies all over campus follow the plan, just happy to take part in class elections.

Eric Dickens
Class of '01

Christian hypocrisy evident in letters

In response to David Grotheim's and Aaron Hendrick's Oct. 7 Mail Call letters:

As I read the statements that Grotheim and Hendrick made in their letters, I was somewhat bemused. Their intent to "clarify" the supposed "misconceptions" and "inaccuracies" of the columnists' columns were done so with misconceptions and inaccuracies of their own.

First of all, Jesus Christ was not crucified for being perfect or sinless. Did he die for the sins of mankind? Well, that's up to you to decide.

The Romans crucified Jesus Christ because his religious teachings presented a threat from the oppressed masses to the stability of the pagan empire which the Romans had built.

Secondly, Christianity, as a whole, is the most hypocritical religion to ever exist. I do agree that the Bible speaks out against homosexuality. However, it is my understanding that one of the Ten Commandments states, "Thou shalt not kill."

I guess Moses forgot to put: "Unless it's in the name of God," afterwards. Remember the Crusades from history class? Christians even managed to get children involved in that one.

Third, homosexuality is not a choice. I am straight myself, but a very good friend of mine "came out" to me during the last Christmas break. I had previously been a

homophobe and swore that I would never have a gay friend. My love for my friends and the fact that I truly care about people as a whole made me realize how much in error I had been, and he is still one of my best friends.

With the attitude of the general public being much like that of Grotheim and Hendrick, who would honestly choose to be gay? I know my friend sure wouldn't. Don't pray for homosexuals to "convert" and become straight. Just accept them for the people they are. They deserve that.

Jeff Cardwell
Class of '99

Promise Keepers coverage absent

Monday, I opened the Battalion looking for coverage of, among other things, the Promise Keepers gathering in the National Mall in Washington D.C. on Saturday. This was one of the largest gatherings of people in the history of the nation, if not the largest, and the largest collection of people worshipping God together since certain gatherings of the nation of Israel in Old Testament times.

Instead, I read seven articles (out of about sixteen total articles in the whole paper) covering "Coming Out Week" and homosexuality in general. Several of them seemed to paint Christianity as the enemy of "tolerance." I suppose that's fair because the Bible teaches that God is very intolerant toward sin. This includes what the Bible calls immorality (any sex outside of the marriage between a man and a woman), hatred, lying, stealing, murder, envy, greed, and speaking ill of others. Things that hurt ourselves and those around us. Things that separate us from God. God will not tolerate sin and demands punishment for disobedience from His creation.

Fortunately, God also loves us in spite of our sin and put the punishment on Jesus when He died on the cross. Three days later, Jesus

rose from the dead, showing power over death, and offering forgiveness, cleansing from ungodliness, and eternal life to those who will accept it. Otherwise, will not tolerate anyone.

Hundreds of thousands of Promise Keepers met to thank God for His forgiveness and to help each other change their ways in order to better live for God and support their families. I thought this was newsworthy.

Steve
Graduate

Hating sinners Bible's message

In response to Michael Schmitt's Oct. 6 column:

After reading your column, I have been left with the feeling that you hold a wrong impression of Christianity. The essence of Christianity is that God loves people, but God hates all sin. Acts of violence and cruelty which some people claim to be Christians practicing are obviously not in keeping with the love that God teaches us to have for one another. However, Christianity, the Bible is considered to be truth, and, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the Bible very clearly states that acts of homosexuality are wrong.

Yes, the primary message of the Bible is love. If we choose to receive God's love and forgiveness for everything we do wrong in our lives by believing in Jesus. The only condition for that is that with the help of God, we have to try to turn away from sin in our lives. According to the Bible, all sin does include homosexuality, but it also includes lying, cheating, stealing and hating.

In conclusion, there is no excuse for hating people, but the attitude of disagreement with homosexual acts is Biblically based.

Kimberly
Class of '00

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