

# Opinion

Battalion

## Campus religious organizations key element in student growth

Two activities related to A&M, Resurrection Week and Breakaway, have very apparent and significant impacts. In the week preceding Easter, it is hard not to notice the shirts, people, and many activities that accompany Resurrection Week. Celebrating the significance of Christ's resurrection, this week is accompanied by an array of praise and worship led by student leaders and guests.

A non-member organization is having a tremendous spiritual impact on Aggies. Each week, 3,000 students and up flock to the sanctuary of Central Baptist Church to sing praises and hear college-centered, Biblical messages from former A&M student Greg Matte.

Breakaway is a non-denominational Bible study that was created in 1989 with twelve Aggies. Through many blessings, it is now the huge success that it is today.

The increase in student involvement with Christian organizations is no accident. Christian organizations transcend most organizational benefits by what they offer to students: accountability, discernment and revealing the benefits of faith.

Everyone is accountable to God for their actions, even if they do not realize it. Surrounding one's self with other students who can challenge each other and keep each other accountable to one's self, others, and God, leads to growth.

Discernment is an attribute to cherish. Everyone has to recognize the right choices to make at all points in their lives. Students can be influenced through their organizational memberships to make good, discernible decisions.

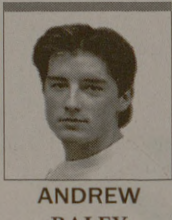
While A&M's religious and organizational systems are growing, the influence of A&M's religious organizations is growing. The Aggie Men's Club was founded in 1984, but a growth in Christian activities, area churches, and Greek organizations was on the way.

In 1998, the University and are great places for Christian involvement and provide an alternative to traditional organizations.

The early nineties saw the rise of BUCCS, Brothers Under Christ. The Brotherhood of Christ-Aggies is only a few years old and growing. Aggie's for Christ, started almost 10 years ago, is one of the largest on-campus organizations.

The Christian influence in our community is not new just to Christian fraternities and sororities. Churches have prospered in recent years due to increased student memberships and involvement.

The Central Baptist Church, currently enjoying updated sanctuary, now has plans to build an even larger, newer church facility. First Baptist Church in Bryan and College Station's Saint Mary's Catholic Church have made significant additions to complexes.



ANDREW BALEY

Confidence in things unseen is faith. With it, students can move mountains, have hope, and keep their optimism. It is when people lose their faith that despair enters their lives. Money situations, bad grades and relationship problems are some of the many things that can lead a person to despair. But, if one can rely on a higher faith, any problem will seem minuscule and conquerable.

Christian organizations, through a God-focused ministry, can help any student realize these attributes. Meeting and developing relationships with students who view life this way can also strengthen members.

Although, the brightest spot in all of this discussion is that friends may come and go, let you down, lift you up, but it is God, his son and his word that are forever available and present in everyone's life.

Andrew Baley is a junior political science major.

## Continued mourning for princess prevents emotional healing, closure

One year has passed since the life of Princess Diana ended and her undying popularity began.

Today, tears are still filling buckets on her behalf. Pounds of flowers worth hundreds of pounds are still being stacked at her palacious London home. And people still shell out thousands of dollars for dresses the princess wore.

Many people believe Diana deserves this year of mourning and more. After all, she was the benefactor of many noble causes, including feeding hungry children and campaigning against land mines.

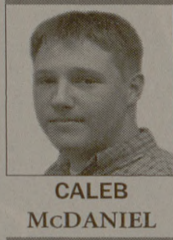
With such defenders of Diana's legacy, we must, in part, agree. Indeed, the princess did many laudable things. A certain grief over her loss is sensible.

But even if this grief is not without grounds, it seems to be without boundaries as well. Most of all, it seems misplaced. Princess Diana did many charitable deeds, but so have other well-known philanthropists who died in the past year.

Mother Teresa, for instance, is beyond comparison. But no one goes to auctions at Sotheby's to spend thousands of dollars on one of Mother Teresa's habits. Nor does she have her own memorial line of Beanie Babies. Nor does she need them. Mother Teresa's good deeds speak wholly for themselves.

But it must at least be conceded that Diana's good deeds are not what made her most famous in her lifetime.

Many of her inconsolable fans knew the princess mainly from standing in line at the grocery store and flipping through tabloids. It is doubtful that they



CALEB McDANIEL

picked up the magazines thinking, "Diana is a great figure." They more likely thought, "Diana has a great figure." So surely all can agree that she has been given a reverence in death that she scarcely enjoyed in life.

on the Lifetime Channel, one must say, with as much tenderness as possible, "Get over it."

Do not think this admonition cruel. On the contrary, believe it is what Diana herself would want. It is what any deceased person would want. Mourners should not dishonor the dead with a grief that paralyzes the living.

This is especially so of Diana. In truth, the world has lost a true and kind altruist in the princess. But it is time to perpetuate her legacy instead of just remembering it. And glossy portfolios of her evening gowns inspire little and achieve less.

So perhaps at this anniversary milestone, a resolution would be in order. The world should resolve to redirect the emotions provoked by her death to the accomplishment of her worthy aims. Instead of lavishing their tears on her memory, her fans should use them to further her projects.

For if Diana truly was a hero, she would want tears to be shed over the starving children she helped to feed, not on herself. And if this is not what she would want, then our tears are really wasted on her.

A real hero does not delight in attention.

Either way, it is time for old wounds to be closed and new healing to begin. There is a time for mourning, but that time is quickly passing away. It may have passed already.

Caleb McDaniel is a sophomore history major.



Understand this is not entirely bad. Not all memorials to Princess Di are marked by insincerity. To English citizens, for instance, one can extend a greater modicum of sympathy. And for Diana's family, and especially for her sons, we surely offer our condolences and our prayers.

But to the American audience that still empties a box of Kleenex with every new "Dianamentary"

### MAIL CALL

#### University Drive repairs necessary

In response to the Sept. 3 editorial:

First, University Drive was in desperate need of work. Anyone who regularly traveled the road could have told you that. There was severe rutting, areas of failure, potholes and areas where the pavement was jutting up in long fissures that crossed the road at near-right angles.

In fact, the damage was so bad it indirectly caused the delay in the project.

Second, the city of College Station has nothing to do with the project. University Drive is a farm to market road, and as

such is maintained by the state. Third, the contractor who was supposed to do the work walked off the job because the damage was more than anticipated. No one at the Texas Department of Transportation could have foreseen that kind of delay.

The work would have undoubtedly been finished before the school semester began if the contractor would have started on time, but instead, a new contractor had to be found.

If you want to write a scathing editorial calling for severe penalties for the contractor that walked off the job, fine. Next time do your homework first.

Tim Kalafut  
Toxicology graduate student

**MAIL CALL ONLINE**  
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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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## Michigan gubernatorial candidate embarrasses Democratic Party

The Democrats are now ally the party path and er taxes." his comment Betsy De-Michigan blican state nittee chair, ctually be considered ac- now, thanks to Michigan De-atic gubernatorial candidate irey Fieger.

ieger (pronounced like Tiger) haps most well-known as ack Kevorkian's lawyer, and that he is finished represent- r. Death, he is planning on ing death to the masses with ased taxes and support for ted suicide.

ome know Fieger for his ten- y to spray rooms with his mous spitfire of words. e are scared of his outspo- ideas.

Sis vehement support of as- d suicide is frightening in it- While representing one of rkian's patients, Fieger was ted by her brother's concern. n angry speech, he told the er to "come on up" if he ed to pick a fight.



LISA FOOM

This sort of temper is a great trait for a governor. Is he going to pick a fight with all of his detractors? Are Michigan citizens going to get used to barroom brawls at their political meetings?

When not issuing challenges to family members of Kevorkian's patients, he is often heard offending the religious right.

At one point, Fieger called Jesus a "goofball" and likened Christian followers to the crazy fanatics who support Elvis. He even went further and claimed that Elvis could be the next god.

This lunatic does not even support the party he is supposed to represent, claiming that the Democratic Party is run by a select group of people who "don't give a damn what the rank and file feel."

His opponents for the Democratic nomination feel the sting of his insults. In referring to one of his close competitors, his commentary caused only laughter. He ridiculed the man, saying, "he also has more hair coming out of his ears than out of the top of his head. It must be guzzled out of his brain. It's fuzzed up his thinking."

Fieger does not step at his fellow Democratic candidates, but

also taunts his Republican political opponents.

He compared the current governor to Adolf Hitler and Stalin and drove home the point by claiming the man was the "result of a miscegenation between human beings and barnyard animals."

Already his language and rhetoric has Republicans and fellow Democrats extremely agitated. Democrats will not acknowledge him and Republicans are denouncing him.

In a recent state committee meeting, DeVos tore into Fieger, calling him names and insisting he back down on some of his more extremist viewpoints.

Frankly, the man is crazy. However, even crazy people should cause concern amongst average citizens, because these loonies are an indication of the state of the country.

Comments like Fieger's, while entertaining, make a mockery of the political system. In a society that is taught to respect their leaders, from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln, it is becoming harder and harder to claim pride in the future of the states.

Lisa Foom is a senior journalism major.

MIKE LUCKONICH  
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

