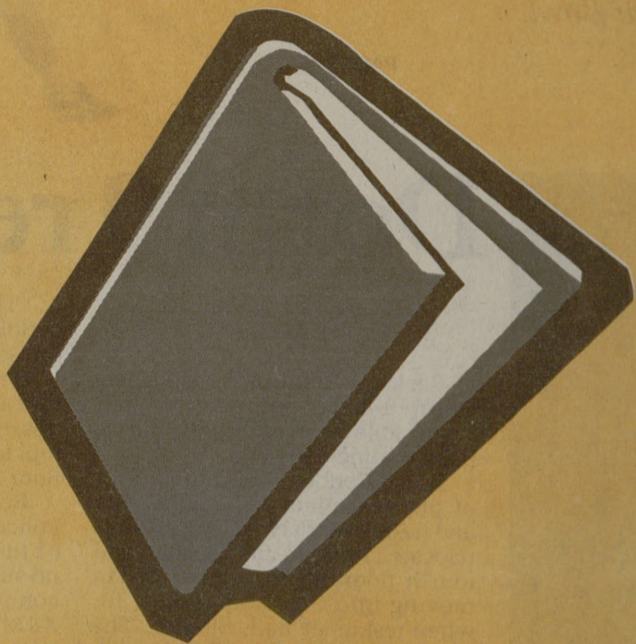


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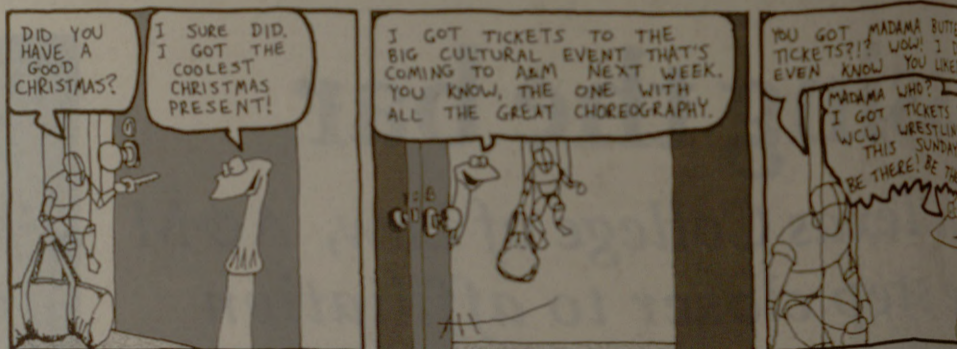


Fish

BY R. DEL



Simel & Lewis



**Eagle Forum to focus on Y2K
in upcoming discussion forum**

BY RONDA COOK
The Battalion

Eagle Forum of Bryan/College Station will meet to discuss the financial, economic and spiritual aspects of the Year 2000 issue tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center at Central Baptist Church in Bryan.

Bo Armstrong, a local computer and financial consultant and a former student of Texas A&M, will lead the discussion.

Susan Lee, former Eagle Forum president and current board member, said the Eagle Forum's main function is to educate people. She said the Y2K issue is pertinent to the community.

Armstrong has researched the Y2K issue and said the problems are difficult to correct. He said although problems may be corrected, it is easy for new problems to occur and time is quickly running out.

Armstrong said institutions that are not Y2K compliant endure additional problems. He said the United States military missile guidance system is not Y2K compliant. Until corrected, missiles will have to be manually targeted so a target in the year 2000 will not respond to

**"I don't think it
will destroy our
economy, but it
will delay it."**

— Bo Armstrong
Financial Consultant

a target for the year 1900.

Armstrong said the Y2K issue will affect people globally and locally. He said he expects economic repercussions in the Bryan/College Station area.

"I don't think it will destroy our economy, but it will delay it," Armstrong said. "My biggest concern would be about the electricity."

He said the loss of electricity could lead to a loss of income, although it may not be as bad as Texas' warm climate. Other states will find the loss of electricity to their daily routine.

Finally, Armstrong will discuss spiritual preparation for 2000.

He believes many new Christians in 2000 as the second coming of Christ, which cause them to rush in fulfilling their responsibilities.

"You cannot rush spiritual preparation. It must be sincere; it must be a part of love," he said.

Armstrong believes the Y2K issue impacts A&M students because most every major will be affected. "The problem reverts to the next 10 to 15 years."

**Christian Tattoo Association promotes
positive message through religious body art**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Randy Mastre, a tattoo artist of Christian themes, inks Jesus into his customers.

His tattooed Biblical inscriptions and portraits of Christ provide startling contrast to more typical flaming skulls and "Born to Raise Hell" markings adorning the leather-clad bikers he rubs elbows with at national tattoo conventions.

It was at one of those convention that he met the Rev. Daniel Ostrowski, a born-again Christian and Word of Faith pastor who runs a tattoo parlor in Wausau, Wis.

Last year the two decided to unite other Christian tattooers; since then almost 100 tattoo parlors across the nation have heard the call of the Christian Tattoo Association.

"Our idea is let's take Christianity out of cloistered halls and put it right in the forum where people live, and let's make it so real, so up-to-date, so today that it impacts peoples' lives," Ostrowski says.

At tattoo conventions they put up a table and work the crowd.

Some members adopt tattoos that cover their entire backs. Tattoos of St. Michael slaying the devil and the Last Supper are popular.

"I've seen hundreds of full-back Christian tattoos," Mastre says.

Mastre says he has wanted to start a Christian tattoo

group for years. He said Christians in the industry to encourage each other.

"We don't want everybody in the world to be tattooing is the work of the devil because it's just a beautiful art form."

Rand Johnson, a tattooer in Willmar, Minn., describes the group as a ministry focused on people in the tattoo industry — and whoever else will listen.

"For the most part, the world of tattoos and such is a pretty dark world, and as a Christian you want to shed a little light in there," Johnson says. Some members of the clergy are not wild about the idea.

Fargo Bishop Rick Foss says that if someone has a tattoo, he would rather it have a Christian meaning. But, he adds, there are better ways to spread the word.

"I'd be really surprised if anybody could make a good case in the Bible or the basis of Christianity that this is somehow a really good thing," says Rev. John H. Johnson, who heads the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Some clergy members who are against tattoos cite a Biblical passage in Leviticus, which they say says, "Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you..."



The Battalion
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