

Something's fishy ...

Darwin fish, Jesus fish battle it out on the highways for the crown of doctrinal supremacy

A battle is being waged on the roads of Ag-gieland. Evangelical Christians and humorous evolutionists have taken up arms. The battle of adhesive-elastic car fish has erupted into an all-out holy war.



GLENN JANIK

While the initial fight was limited to plain Jesus fish versus the footed Darwin fish, Darwinists have provoked Christian soldiers into a conflict so insipid that the Jesus fish proponents are left looking silly, hypocritical and definitively unchristian.

For those not familiar with the fish wars, here is a brief recap. To show their devotion to their religion, enterprising Christians began marketing car attachments in the shape of a fish.

The fish — a formerly pagan symbol co-opted by a cult of Roman Christians — is attached to the rear of a car as an outward symbol of love for their religion.

Some non-Christians and Christian evolutionists (yes, they do exist) took the fish symbol as yet another attempt by pushy Protestants to inflict their beliefs on the unwashed masses. They struck back with their own Darwin fish magnet. This Darwin magnet is a Jesus fish with legs added to the body of the fish and the word "Darwin" inscribed in it.

With the initial shots fired in the fish wars, both sides reloaded and attempted to further humiliate their opponents.

The Darwin camp, many of whom hold great disdain for pushy Protestantism, began to modify the original "Darwin" fish.

One version of the fish changed the word "Darwin" into "Evolve" and placed a tool in the hand of the fish.

Two of the more tacky modifications of the Darwin fish are the dead fish and the procreation fish. The "dead" fish is a set of fish bones — the apparent message being "God is Dead." The procreation fish — rated NC-17 — depicts a Darwin fish mounting a Jesus fish.

Given these inflammatory fish, how would

Christians be expected to react? The Bible would urge Christians to respond with loving arms and understanding.

However, in this war, challenges to Christian dogma have been met with intolerant counter-strikes.

The first retaliatory Jesus fish depicts a large, plain Jesus fish eating a miniature Darwin fish. This innocuous response pales in comparison to the second Jesus attack fish.

The second Jesus attack fish depicts a Darwin fish being eaten by a Jesus fish with the word "truth" inscribed inside the Christian fish.

Could the Jesus fish folks pick a more insensitive, intolerant and inflammatory word?

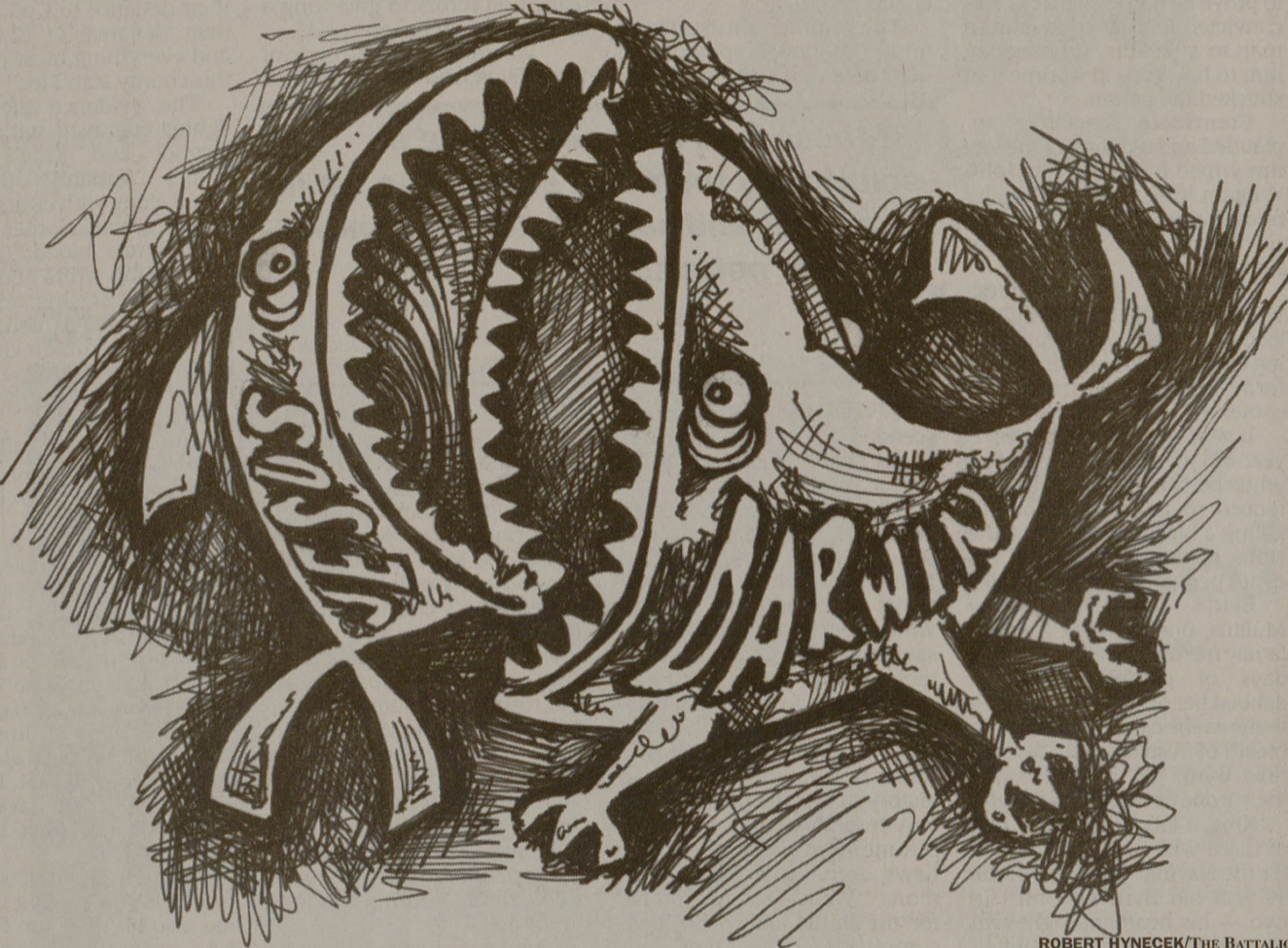
First, the one thing the Jesus fish people do not have on their side is truth. Truth is a secular and scientific word meaning accordance with fact and provable. Religion — Christian or not — operates through faith which is defined as a belief that cannot be proven.

Second, to claim truth trumps Darwinist theory is to ignore provable facts. Opposable thumbs and natural selection are indisputable.

Third, if Christians are so strong in their faith, how can a fossil record or a plastic magnet challenge their faith? Ultimately, these insecure Christians showing off their ignorant revenge fish need to lighten up.

What the Jesus fish people need to realize is the Darwinist backlash has been brought about by their actions. Religion, at its core, is an ideological battle, but how can zealous Christianity reconcile itself with its professed belief in love, tolerance and understanding?

If Darwinist really are pagans on a highway to hell, why would Christians berate them? These statements are made in the context of the fish wars, but the same arguments can be made in re-



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

gards to religious intolerance for people who have abortions, for homosexuals, for non-Christians and for atheists.

Something can be said about hating the sin, but these revenge fish seem to be attacking the so-called sinners.

It seems there is no truce in sight for the fish

wars. However, if the Jesus fish people truly want to be consistent with their words and actions, its time to abandon the attack fish. It is time for Christians, who profess love, to accept all people, not just those who agree with them.

Glenn Janik is a senior political science major.

Materialism actually source of positive change, not problems

Many people think materialism, or coveting new objects, is a bad thing.



LISA FOOX

But there are few people who would actually choose a life without the material benefits that come from "wanting objects."

Materialism is not a bad thing for a variety of reasons.

One advantage of materialism is it causes people to work hard so they can afford what they want. People will strive for success because they want the latest technology and the shiniest new car.

Take, for example, an average college student who is working her way through school. Assume she has always desired the biggest, most beautiful red and black Porsche. Unfortunately, new Porsches

cost a great deal of money.

Materialism — in this case, wanting the new car — will inspire this Aggie to work hard towards a productive and successful job. Making money will become a means to gaining a new car.

Needless to say, positive and successful people are a plus in today's society. When there are hardworking lawyers, doctors, accountants, bankers or business people, everybody benefits.

Hardworking people create benefits that include new jobs, which come from business people who need workers and better service from people who understand that customers will pay more for a job well done.

A common belief held by many professionals is the faster, more efficient and competent somebody is, the more they will get paid. The result of this philosophy is that professionals strive hard to provide the best service possible.

One other benefit of a materialistic so-

ciety is it allows for the society to step out of its third-world skin and into its future. The society can then start manufacturing faster, have an excess of food production and a higher technology level.

More food produced faster means fewer starving people.

An example of the benefits of materialism at work can be seen in New Zealand, where only 10 years ago, the country had few strong businesses, little technology, and too many sheep. While it still has too many sheep, aspiring people have used the country's natural beauty as a tourist attraction, thereby promoting visitation, allowing large companies to take an interest in investing in New Zealand and starting a trend towards the twentieth century.

Other aspiring business people have used the strengths of the country — natural foods, beautiful wood carvings, natural resources, and hard working people — to propel the country out of third-

world status.

And in all honesty, the sheep are sort of pretty.

New Zealand moved from being a country with three television stations and hardly any imports or exports to being a significant competitor for exportation of natural foods and products. This has resulted in a better society for New Zealanders, who now are able to watch CNN, the Real World (Maybe this is not necessarily a benefit.) and have a lower unemployment rate than before.

All thanks to materialism. Besides resulting in a society with more employment and better services, materialism also creates people who are more technologically advanced. If people are craving the latest CD-ROM or the newest DVD technology, they are going to learn how to use it once they own it.

With more people desiring the technological innovations flooding the market, people are going to get smarter.

At least in a technological sense.

This is good because technology makes daily living easier, simpler and faster. And that is what everybody needs, because society is fast-paced.

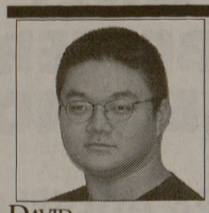
Further, with more people wanting the latest technology, business people will respond by creating more unique and helpful tools for their customers. It is possible that soon, simplicity, stark futuristic beauty, and clever technology will be the order of the day.

Without materialistic aspirations, America might not have been discovered, books might not have been discovered, many occupations, such as computer design, electrical engineering, and flight attendants, might not exist today. So, really, materialism is not the frightening, negative or serious problem that people claim it is, but rather provides a step into a better, more streamlined society.

Lisa Foox is a senior journalism major.

Texas governor's powers overrated, Bush unqualified for United States presidency

Governor George Walker Bush. To the average Texan, three thoughts come to mind at the mention of this name.



DAVID LEE

He is Big George's son, he is used to own the mediocre Texas Rangers baseball club and he is thinking about running for president. Anything else?

With most Texans apathetic to the goings on of state government, few people can name any of Governor Bush's accomplishments during his term in office.

Worse yet, most Texans do not have the slightest clue as to how the state government works. It is just assumed that since things in the state are great, the head honcho should get all of the credit. It is this attitude that explains Governor Bush's popularity.

However, if one were to do a little digging, he or she would discover that the office of the governor of Texas is a relatively weak position. Ultimately, they will discover that Governor Bush is grossly overrated.

When the current state constitution was drafted, it was the end of Reconstruction. Newly elected Democrats wanted to erase every shred of Radical Republican rule that brutally controlled the state after the Civil War.

At the top of the agenda was changing the office of the governor whose centralized power had served the Radical Republican's ruth-

less agenda quite nicely. The Democrats intentionally stripped many of the governor's powers.

Instead of the governor appointing his cabinet or state judges, they were to be elected by the voters every four years. The lieutenant governor was also made an independent entity, running separately from the governor. These changes were made in order to fragment the governor's influence over the other branches of government.

This system may have seemed fine and dandy at the turn of the century, but it has proven to be cumbersome in today's fast-paced political world. The governor today is extremely limited in power when compared to his counterparts in other states.

Neither the cabinet, the attorney general, the comptroller nor the state judges owe the governor a thing and can disregard his agenda completely if they wish to. The lieutenant governor, also independently elected, runs the Senate at his discretion without having to report to the governor.

In a nutshell, the governor can ask the rest of the state government to follow his agenda, but they are by no means obligated to. The governor can either go toe to toe with the legislature in a hopeless battle or stay out of its way. In Bush's case, he has been lucky with the majority of his agenda being promoted by the state legislature.

However, the bottom line is that the majority of the praise of the good times in Texas should go to the legislature, not Governor

Bush.

What about the man's political record? He has had one term as state governor under his belt. That is it. No prior political experience, certainly not enough to prepare him for the responsibilities of acting as president.

President Clinton served multiple terms spanning decades as governor of Arkansas before he ran for the presidency.

It has already been established that the office of the governor in Texas is more or less a lame duck job. What other qualifications or experiences could Bush possibly bring to the table?

In the very different world of the executive branch of the federal government, Bush will find himself in a much more controlled and hostile environment.

It is doubtful the piranhas in Congress will be as cordial and cooperative as the state legislature.

Bush would also face the responsibility of appointing his cabinet as well as federal and Supreme Court judges, in addition to a countless number of administrative positions within the executive branch.

Granted, George W. Bush is a good man with ambitious new ideas. No one disputes that. But until the voters can look past his name and look at his actual track record and experience in politics, they will vote for him to be president for the wrong reasons.

David Lee is a sophomore general studies major.

MAIL CALL

Prostitution needs to be legalized

In response to David Now's Feb. 22 mail call.

It is because of these religious beliefs that laws legalizing and regulating prostitution will never be passed in the U.S.

It is no matter that it will reduce the risk of sexual diseases for the prostitute or her client. It makes no difference if it could help prostitutes to not live in fear of being raped, abused or attacked. Because The Bible says it wrong, obviously these laws could not do our society any good, right?

All I have to say is this: people who choose to follow the word of God will not engage in prostitution, period. People who do not live by the Bible, and who choose to, will engage in prostitution, whether it is legal or not.

Elizabeth Sutherland
Class of '02

Prostitution needs to be legalized

Patrick Henry, the founding father famous for proclaiming "Give me liberty or give me death," said it best when he said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionist, but by

Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!" To deny the Christian foundation of the United States is to ignore the facts about who the founding fathers were: Christians. And they built the United States around their faith and on the Bible.

George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

James Madison said, "We've staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all our heart." Thomas Jefferson said "The Bible is the cornerstone for American liberty."

Our sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Brad English
Class of '01

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