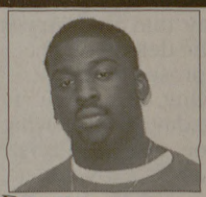


Teletubbies more than telebuddies?

Falwell crosses line in denouncing Tinky-Winky as gay, omitting other 'homosexual characters'

If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all. Just when it seems people can not get any stunner, they do. The Rev. Jerry Falwell, the leader of the Moral Majority, has come out of the closet denouncing Tinky-Winky as a homosexual character.



DEMOND REID

The Rev must be sneaking a couple of extra chugs of wine to say something that insane.

For those who do not know, the Teletubbies are a multi-colored foursome who host their own children's show. They are lecherous creatures with television sets on their stomachs.

Questioning the sexual orientation of an imaginary creature shows that Falwell has a little too much time on his hands. Does the Rev really expect the American public to believe that Tinky-Winky is a gay?

The Rev questioning which way Tinky-Winky's door swings due to the fact that Tinky-Winky has a triangle on his head, is purple, and carries a red purse.

That eliminates him from the class homosexual right there. No self-respecting homosexual male would ever be a purple suit with a red handbag. The first tenant of the gay lifestyle is probably "Thou shalt not color clash."

The Rev would not have been so quick to say Tinky-Winky was gay if inside that red purse Tinky-Winky carried a Larry White CD, a 12-pack of ribbed condoms and directions to Barbie's house.

Just for a moment, ignore all national thoughts and accept Falwell's assertion as true. Does it really matter if Tinky-Winky likes to butter his bread on the other side?

Homosexual characters in children shows are a fixture in television history. Nearly every-

one in the 18 to 25 demographic grew up watching shows with homosexual characters.

For example, those little blue sodomizers, the Smurfs, are more homosexual than monogrammed "His & His" towels. With a hundred guys and one

girl it was only a matter of time before they started experimenting.

They were always running around the village laughing and giggling. Unless those smurfberries were filled with cocaine, the Smurfs could not have been

that happy without having some sort of sexual relations.

Peppermint Patty and Marcia, of Peanuts fame, were the Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche of the cartoon world.

They were lesbian lovers before being lesbian lovers was

cool. The way they were always together and the affectionate way Marcia always referred to Patty as "sir" signifies a typical dominant/submissive relationship.

If that is not proof enough, both of them played for the girls

field hockey team. The sport of field hockey has probably attracted more lesbians than a 3-for-1 k.d. lang CD sale.

Bert and Ernie were the quintessential homosexual couple. In all the time they lived together they never once had a female over. Strange, isn't it?

What is even more strange is that they lived in a two-bedroom apartment, yet they slept in the same room. It does not matter how good of friends they were, the only place where adult heterosexual males should share a bedroom is prison.

The Reverend and his flock are worried about the wrong thing. It should not matter how Tinky-Winky gets his groove on. It is not important what vehicle people use to reach the state of orgasm, just as long as they travel through that state on a regular basis.

It is the people who are not sexually gratified that the Rev should be worried about. Sexual juices tend to build up and then they have to get vented some kind of way.

The Unabomber was not getting any, and look what he did.

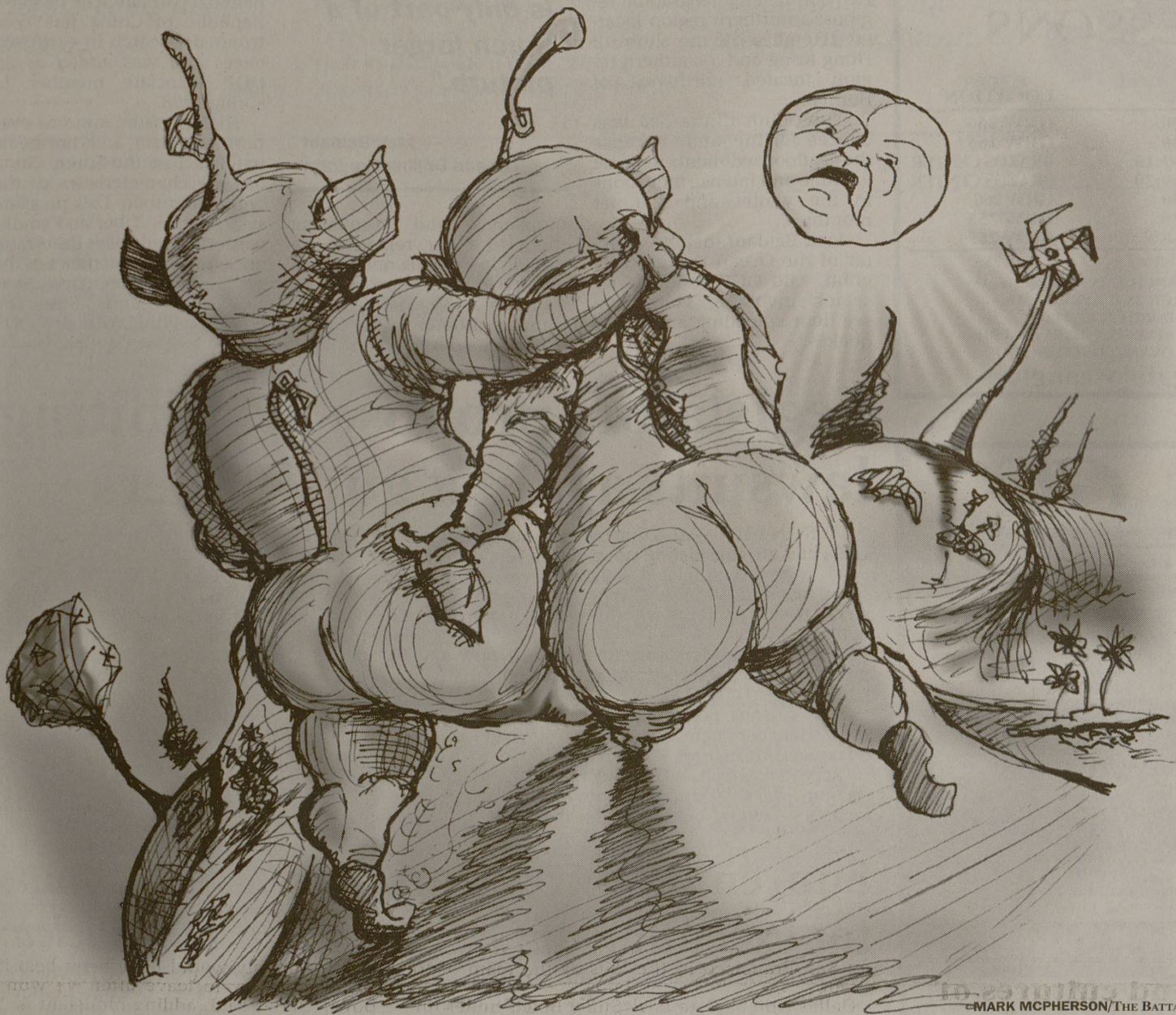
Also keep in mind that as long as Monica was smoking the presidential peace pipe, space aliens could have tried to take over this country and Clinton would not have order an attack.

But as soon as she stopped, the President dropped bombs on Sudan, shot missiles at Afghanistan and he has plans to invade Ontario next week. Many people wrongly thought he was doing those things to draw attention away from his sexual scandal, the Wag the Dog scenario.

Tinky-Winky, or any other fictitious character, does not deserve to have his sexual orientation brought into the public eye.

The sexual practices of imaginary characters should be left to the imagination of the ones who watch those characters.

Demond Reid is a sophomore journalism major.



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

Romantic relationships should start from friendship, not lust

Something is seriously wrong with society's dating habits when many people give their hearts and relationships away with the wave of a hand.

Today's method of dating usually consists of two people entering a committed relationship before they truly understand each other, only to leave as soon as something better comes along. This can leave serious emotional scars that are many times tossed aside with each new relationship, causing nothing but a sea of more mistakes. It is time for a change.

Still need convincing? According to the United States Census Bureau in July 1998, the marriage to divorce ratio was two to one, and has changed little since 1980. Based on these statistics it would seem America is stuck in an unsuccessful dating pattern that leads to divorce 50 percent of the time.

The current method of dating is essentially defective because it does not help people practice marriage, as many claim, but instead it leads people down a habitual practice of divorce. Couples pretend to be committed to each other when in reality they can leave at any time.

Marriage however should be a lifelong commitment that is never abandoned because of differences. This "love 'em and leave 'em" strategy is hurtful in the future because it creates poor habits of giving up.

A radical new perspective on dating needs to be looked at, one in

which commitment occurs only after a couple truly knows and understands each other. The best way to achieve this is by setting aside romantic feelings and developing a deep friendship first.

Writer Joshua Harris explains that one aspect of society's dating habits is it very often skips this friendship phase. The premise of dating is "We are attracted to each other, so let's get to know each other." The very premise of friendship is "We have common interests, so let's share them together."

He addresses the fact that sometimes a romantic atmosphere can cause people to behave differently than normal.

Many couples begin their relationships in an exclusive setting where very often several months are spent presenting a fake persona. People tiptoe into the water and reveal the not-so-appealing stuff one thing at a time.

In a friendship however, people are more likely to act like themselves. When two people are able to discover each other in a more genuine setting, most often the relationships that form are much stronger.

Any commitment after this stage has a better chance of being based on a true realization of each other, and can have a much greater survival rate.

By its definition, dating is about two people focusing on each other. Unfortunately, this tends to cause everything else in the word to fade into the background. It consumes all thoughts, conversations and especially time.

Today's dating methods also isolate a couple from other vital relationships such as family and friends. Diving so ardently into a relationship not grounded in com-

mitment can be dangerous. And when the walls crumble many people find their ties to other relationships permanently severed.

Harris both discuss the importance of viewing singleness as a gift. A single person is better able to explore his or her interests. It is a season of life that contains unmatched opportunities for growth, learning, and service.

Another important aspect of today's dating is the development of fake love through physical feelings. Many times when evaluating the merits of their relationship, a couple will immediately picture their intimacy and passion instead of common points of interest they share together.

Harris points out that many dating relationships begin with physical attraction; the underlying attitude is that a person's primary value comes from the way he or she looks and performs as a date. Because society tends to regard the words "sex" and "love" as interchangeable, it should come as no surprise that many dating relationships mistake physical attraction and intimacy as real love.

Sex is a concrete method of expressing love. It can be dangerous and hurtful before marriage. Yes, there are times physical involvement can make two people feel close, but just because lips have locked does not mean hearts have joined.

If society made an effort at deep friendship prior to romantic involvement, a lot of heartache could be avoided.

Developing a relationship on a more stable ground with a lot more flexibility would bring more success in future relationships.

Christina Barrows is a sophomore English major.

MAIL CALL

Jesus fish means a lot to Christians

In response to Glenn Janik's Feb. 24 opinion column.

First of all no one is attacking anyone. The Christians are just defending their belief and a symbol that means a lot to them. They were the ones who came up with the fish in the first place.

The symbol was invented due to Christians being killed for being open about their religion.

They came up with this symbol in order to keep themselves safe for being a Christian, but at the same time able to identify others who were hiding because they were Christian as well.

The way this worked was that one Christian drew half the fish and some other Christian recognized it and drew the other half. By being able to recognize other Christians through this system, they were able to be open about religion without being killed for it.

Now you can see how important this symbol is to Christians and why they defend this symbol when people like Darwinists are taunting it.

So no one is battling any one just defending what he or she believes in, something that has been going on for a long time. How is that hypocritical and unchristian?

Secondly, the Jesus fish people do have truth on their side. Jesus is a factual and historical person.

He was seen and documented to have walked on this earth performing miracles, teaching the word of God, and dying on the cross. These are facts.

So if I am not mistaken truth is part of the Christian religion. Lastly, all I have to say is Darwin is dead. Now he knows the

truth ... Jesus lives!

Ryan McMullan
Class of '00

Materialism not always beneficial

In response to Lisa Fox's Feb. 24 opinion column.

Materialism, like most other ideals, has both positive and negative aspects.

Needless to say there is nothing wrong with people working hard to improve themselves. Hard working citizens are necessary for a strong nation. But examine the motives behind the desire to work hard and gain new material objects. Providing for a family or your family's future is a noble thing. However, constantly buying the newest car, computer, VCR, video game, etc. leads to selfishness. Greed and gluttony can otherwise be called "applied materialism."

Too many hard working professionals, such as lawyers, bankers, accountants, etc. create stagnation in their field as there is a surplus of these professionals. As the surplus mounts, the quality of service these professionals can provide is lessened as they lose money and business to the crowd of rival businessmen. Is this a plus for society?

The most common belief held by most every businessman is to make as much money as possible. If this coincides with good service, so be it. But if the ways to make the most money are blue and white collar layoffs, downsizing and globalization, be sure that shrewd businessmen will employ them.

Should the desire to possess new, shiny objects drive your everyday life? As a last note, I will leave you with this; there is a heaven for those who only want. There is a place where all materi-

alists can find succor and safety. It's called the mall.

Cary Allen
Class of '01

Students need to look beyond group

In response to all Irfan Shaikh's Feb. 22 mail call.

On a campus this large, where people with so many different backgrounds come together to receive an outstanding education, and learn more about themselves and life in general, it amazes me that so many people get so irritated by a choice that somebody else makes for himself.

I think people are all too quick to jump on the anti-Greek bandwagon before they take the time to see the similarities of the groups and organizations they choose to join. Why does it bother someone else if a person chooses to belong to a group that wears T-shirts with Greek letters or T-shirts with department names? Should we not wear T-shirts anymore?

I thought when I graduated from high school I left the narrow minded person who believed if they meet one person in a group, then they had met them all.

Courtney Clinton
Class of '00

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:
The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111
Campus Mail: 1111
Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu