

## Misleading and unfair

### Pro-Life Advertisement a disservice to its cause

The highly controversial issue of abortion seemingly is a debate that will never end. Shouting, praying or protesting, activists on both sides often spare little energy when it comes to stirring up controversy. The Coalition for Life, a group that organizes protests outside abortion clinics, announced the start of its latest installment in the ongoing struggle. It placed a large advertisement headlined "How Planned Parenthood is hurting Brazos Valley," in last week's issue of *The Battalion*.

While the purpose of the ad was to attempt to rally participation for the cause and attack the beliefs of its foe, the message the group had money to convey was laced with inaccurate information and misguided facts. It did nothing more than misconstrue the truth. In this case, one's stance on abortion has no relevance to the issue. The point in question concerns the validity of the information used in the advertisement. The intentions of the advertisement were clear — to begin first by microscopically dissecting the operations of Planned Parenthood and cast them into a negative light, then promote The Coalition for Life's cause of protesting outside abortion clinics as one solution to the problem. Throughout the ad, Planned Parenthood is heavily criticized for the way it serves the Brazos Valley. For example, the coalition writes that it believes Planned Parenthood sells sex in schools, using tax dollars to operate its clinic and spread its message. While it is not a surprise to see the information in advertisements have an advantage toward the person paying for the bill, this advertisement claims Planned Parenthood deceived the public in a mail campaign. These charges are, at best, misleading. Yet the ad commits its own act of deceit further down the page. The end of the advertisement states, "Every time this effort has been organized effectively around the country, it has been successful." The coalition cites a case in Corpus Christi in which "organization of a peaceful presence of prayer volunteers closed every abortion facility within a few years, and the region has been free of abortion clinics for over 10 years."



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This information simply is incorrect. As anyone from Corpus Christi knows, there is an abortion clinic downtown. The coalition's message is lost amid a group of slanted facts.

In addition, this group is boasting of results from its efforts of daily protesting. Even as the reader is extended the invitation to join the coalition's cause a few lines after this alleged "success," one cannot help but question the shameless tactics used as their promotion. To think that people potentially joined this organization after being led to believe that these efforts work so effectively is disturbing.

Although the advertisement begins with the sentence, "the facts about this controversial organization," the information in this ad are not statements of fact, but the coalition's opinion. Before one decides to join their cause, they must be sure that the information being presented is selling is, in fact, correct.

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## One way to show no fear

### Rebuilding the towers would be a sign of strength

The destruction of the World Trade Center has been a topic of discussion for over a month on news shows, in classrooms and at the dinner tables of all Americans. There are questions about how our country should respond, how each individual should react and what the future should hold. People are wondering whether to ride on airplanes or not, whether to be afraid of anthrax, and mostly, whether or not they should live in fear. One more question now faces America. Should the World Trade Center and the Twin Towers be built back up or should the site become a permanent memorial?

It is plain and simple: To not build the buildings back to at least their original form is to admit fear of the people who attacked America. In all of America's history, this country has never run from things in fear. If the United States had feared others, this country would not have any of the success that it holds today. The buildings of the World Trade Center were a symbol of this country and its economic achievement. They were a symbol of this country's strength and freedom, and they were bombed. The bombing took the lives and security away from many people, but the achievements, strengths and freedoms of this country are all still there. The buildings were a great symbol, but they were just a symbol. They were composed of

metal and windows and things that can be broken, and the only thing to do is rebuild them.

When children are young and they play with blocks, they are not taught to just forget about the blocks when their towers fall over. They are taught to pick them up and start from the bottom; building again, stronger and taller than ever before. That is exactly what America must do. We must design these buildings to represent what they truly are. Let them be a symbol again, not only of this country's freedoms, but also of its recovery. Let them be an even bigger and better accomplishment to show the world what they mean to this country.

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When ABC's 20/20 hosted a forum for this question the people's ideas were extraordinary. Ryan Purdon of New Jersey said that the towers should be constructed exactly the same, but "we should make them 111 floors, as opposed to the original 110, just to show the terrorists how we face and overcome adversity."

It does not matter how it is done, as long as these buildings are part of the future, not only part of the past.

The two main fears against building the towers back is that they would be immediate targets for terrorism and that if there is no memorial in that place people would

forget what happened. While it may make people feel better to assume that only certain things are targets for terrorism, that is not the truth. The Statue of Liberty is this country's ultimate symbol of freedom and throughout these events, it has continued to stand tall and proud without any harm.

Any building, large or small, could be a target for terrorism, and there is no use in preventing the rebuilding of the towers out of fear of their destruction. There should most definitely be a memorial, but the fear of forgetting the events of September 11, 2001 should not be a concern of anyone.

Whether or not there is a memorial will not have an effect on the remembrance. In twenty years, parents will have to explain to their children this event in all its horror. Granted there is patriotism in saying "The buildings were demolished, and so now there is a pretty memorial where they used to be."

But there is a much greater pride and stronger patriotism in saying, "Those buildings were demolished, but new buildings were built in their place — and the new buildings are bigger and stronger, just like the country we live in."

That is the example that this country must set. Let there be a memorial in the middle plaza of the two buildings, and let that be a place where people can remember every single victim of this tragedy. But let the world see those buildings and this country rebuilt to stand in their traditional glory.

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## Boy Scouts wronged by A&M athletics

The Aggies may have won the football game Saturday against Iowa State, but the Texas A&M athletic department lost face after withdrawing its offer to give the Boy Scouts free tickets to the game. Scout Day usually is sponsored by A&M for every sport, including football. On the specified day, members of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts are given free tickets to attend the A&M athletic event. The event is usually scheduled for games that are expected to have low attendance.

This year, however, the A&M athletic department realized that the game against Iowa State was going to have a higher attendance than it had anticipated when it scheduled Scout Day at the beginning of the year. As a result, it decided to cancel Scout Day and sell the tickets, because, according to athletic director Wally Groff, the athletic department could not afford to pass up the \$35 per ticket it would get from selling the seats.

Fortunately, where the A&M athletic department failed, the Brazos Valley community found an opportunity to succeed. Led by local businessman Joe Foster, who organized the donations, every Scout who wanted a ticket received one. In all, more than 400 tickets were donated by fans.

In an attempt to make up for the cancellation, the athletic department has scheduled two Scout days for the basketball program this season. The problem with this gesture, however, is that tickets for basketball games are not exactly on everybody's Christmas list this year, making its offer ring hollow.

A&M athletics is undoubtedly a business entity. However, most businesses recognize the importance of honesty in its business dealings. In promoting the Iowa State game as Scout Day, the athletic department lied not only to the local scouting organization, but to its fans as well.

What makes the athletic department's failure to live up to its commitment even worse is that it is the highly visible aspect of a University that prides itself on its code of honor. The athletic department represents not only the athletes who compete in A&M uniforms, it also represents all of the students, faculty, alumni and fans who are associated with the University.

What is truly amazing about this despicable situation is that some good was actually rendered from it. Granted, the A&M athletic department showed an unparalleled level of greed by renegeing, the Bryan-College Station community showed an equal outpouring of generosity that managed to provide tickets for every scout who wanted one.

When Foster began to organize the donations of tickets, he had planned on raffling the available tickets to the Scouts who showed up before the game. This plan, of course, was based on the idea that there would be more Scouts wanting tickets to the game than there would be donated tickets. Thanks to the A&M fans, this was not the case.

The A&M athletic department has sunk to a new low in rescinding its offer of free tickets to the scouts. In going back on its word, it has not only failed the Scouts, but has tarnished the image of everyone associated with varsity athletics. Fortunately, the A&M community has managed to more than restore that image by doing what the athletic department could not — show some generosity and compassion for others rather than looking only at the financial aspect of its decisions.

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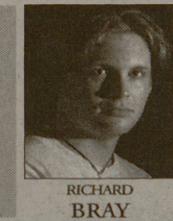
## CARTOON OF THE DAY



J.J. TREVINO



MELISSA BEDSOLE



RICHARD BRAY