

## Helping feed the valley's hungry

Dear Sir, I want some more."

— Oliver Twist

Who wouldn't be moved by the scene in Dickens' *Oliver Twist* in which the boy Oliver holds up a bowl and, on behalf of his fellow children, asks for the meager gruel that is the steady diet in the cruel house?

Enough there are no workhouses locally, too many in the Brazos Valley still survive on the equivalent of a bowl of gruel, never sure whether their bowl will be refilled when tomorrow comes.

Our Valley residents have a chance Saturday to help our hungry children and families. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, people are invited to the Frame Gallery at 216 N. Bryan St. in downtown Bryan. For a donation of at least \$15, they will receive a bowl of soup and a slice of bread — and they will get to help feed the area's hungry families. The task is immense and each one is unique. There will be at least 25 bowls from which to choose, but you'd better be there to have the best selection.

The soup will be offered in several varieties, some made by local restaurants and some by the artists themselves. The proceeds from Saturday's event will be donated to the Brazos Valley Food Bank, which works day in and day out to feed the area's hungry families. The task is immense and each one is unique. There will be at least 25 bowls from which to choose, but you'd better be there to have the best selection.

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### at event

behalf of the Brazos Animal Shelter board, the Brazos Animal Shelter staff and animals, we would like to invite you to help us in making "The Paws and Paws" fund-raiser such a success.

It is to everyone at Boston's event, from marketing manager Lee to the wonderful staff who worked hard to cater to the large crowd. We deeply appreciate the donations from The Adden Link and Clear Communications. Their help really made this all possible.

special thanks to the staff of our community shelter. The community support of the shelter was felt as it was overwhelming thanks to Kris Clifton and Maggie Gray, who are helping to make the shelter successful fund-raising beyond words.

**NANCY SCHEINOST**  
College Station

### ort our vets

day's Veterans Parade is a success in spite of the turnout of the residents community. Spectators, though few in number, were high in spirit and

### LETTERS

had so many times before, to the music of the Bryan High School Viking Band, which played in a joyful tribute for the generations of soldiers who protected their right to do so.

How nice it was to see so many young people willing to participate to recognize and honor what these Americans have done for them.

Thanks and praise go to these young musicians and their sponsors for welcoming the opportunity to do so.

Yesterday's veterans need to know that the next generation understands duty, service and sacrifice.

Not only did the talents of the Bryan band contribute to the spirit of the celebration, but its mere presence spoke volumes to those whom we were there to honor.

Next year, let's have all of our children lining Main Street on Veterans Day, or better yet, participating in any way we can to say loud and clear, "Thank you and I understand."

**TANA SOUTHERLAND**  
Bryan

I'm curious if I'm the only one who thinks Aggie football ticket prices are outrageous. I can purchase a ticket to the Dallas Cowboys for \$53, yet must pay \$83 to watch a college football game at A&M.

When TCU was ranked 14th in the nation, I watched that team play Brigham Young University and the highest priced ticket in the stadium was \$60.

## THE EMBATTLED DONALD RUMSFELD IS REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION...



## Doing the right thing is worth it

Peter C. Boulay's (*Eagle*, Nov. 8) column suggesting that the Catholic Church is exploring allowing the use of condoms is wrong in its argument and wrong in its conclusion.

Boulay suggests that if the pope does what Boulay considers the "right" thing to do, then not only the teaching on condom use, but the entire teaching of the Catholic Church, is up for grabs. This is not only speculation but poorly reasoned speculation.

MARCEL LEJEUNE



Here is what we know is happening in Rome:

■ Pope Benedict asked one of the Vatican offices (the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care) to prepare a document about the issue of Catholics and condom use to prevent AIDS. This is because some bishops made remarks that the worldwide press presented as favorable to condom use, creating a situation that the pope needs to clarify.

■ The congregation given this task is working on the document.

■ When this process is over, the pope will review it and decide what action to take.

What the document may or may not say is conjecture, but that certainly didn't stop Boulay from making many conclusions based upon such conjecture.

The Catholic Church has consistently taught that sex has a dual purpose of bonding together the spouses and creating life. This is life-giving, love-giving and in accordance with Scripture, contrary to what Boulay claims, as well as natural law, reason, philosophy and the consistent teaching of Christianity for 2,000 years.

Because of this teaching, the Catholic Church says anything that would intentionally separate these two purposes is immoral. Condoms

are immoral because they make the act of sex an act that withholds the gift of fertility. The act of sex is no longer a total gift of self to the other, which means bonding cannot take place either.

Boulay also says that there is a "conscientious objector" catch to the teaching. Yes, we are always bound to follow our consciences, but our consciences can be wrong. This is why we are obliged to form our consciences according to the truths of natural law and revelation. Boulay conveniently ignores this.

The Catholic Church views sex not as something bad but as something so good and holy that it must be safeguarded. To do something that makes it less than this is to make it something less than what it was intended. Condoms do this.

The understanding that sex is connected to procreation has been consistent throughout Christian history. All Christian denominations and churches were against the use of contraception until 1930. It was then that the Anglican Communion allowed its use in limited circumstances.

Of course, Boulay makes all of this into a straw-man argument for the sake of knocking it down. According to Boulay, the Catholic Church's doctrine isn't being "changed," but rather the exploration of the issue shows how the church must respond to modern issues within the umbrella of her teachings. This is the responsible thing to do.

The discussion over whether the church would change this teaching on condoms wasn't whether condoms would be allowed for all people suffering from AIDS, but in the narrow situation in which one spouse has AIDS and the other doesn't. The question then is whether it would be moral to allow the couple to have sex using a condom in order to protect the non-infected spouse if their intent was protection, not contraception.

The discussion about this situation then triggered a dialogue in the Catholic Church on whether or not the non-infected spouse would be "defending" himself or herself

against the AIDS virus carried by the spouse.

Boulay makes it seem that every situation is up for grabs. The Catholic Church is neither naive nor stupid regarding this situation. In fact, I believe it to have the most rational position.

Moving even further into Boulay's argument, he implies, as many before him have, that because of the Catholic Church's stand, people are dying of AIDS. Some have been more forceful calling the pope a murderer for continuing to say that condoms are immoral. But what are the facts? The only country in Africa to really see a drop in AIDS has been Uganda. What did that country do? Ugandan leaders and health-care workers stressed abstinence and faithfulness more than condom use. Uganda decreased AIDS cases from more than 20 percent of the population in the early 1990s to 5 percent in 2003. This is unheard of in other countries.

While the media touts the role of condoms, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said at the last World AIDS Conference in Bangkok that it wasn't condoms that brought the numbers down.

Leaders of the Catholic Church know that life is messy, but to give people condoms — which only work some of the time — and to tell them it is safe to have sex whenever and with whomever is playing Russian roulette with their bodies, souls, families and our culture. This is wrong. It is also irresponsible for Boulay to imply that the pope is to blame for this crisis when the Catholic Church is responsible for about 27 percent of all AIDS care in the world.

Boulay makes many arguments, hoping a few would stick. Not a one has yet.

Yes, living out the Catholic Church's teaching is hard. But doing the right thing is worth it.

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### Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2006. There are 51 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

#### On this date:

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tan-

### TODAY IN HISTORY

dedicated by President Eisenhower in Arlington, Va.

In 1969, the children's educational program *Sesame Street* made its debut on PBS.

In 1975, the ore-hauling ship Edmund Fitzgerald and its crew of 29 vanished during a storm in Lake Superior.

In 1976, the Utah Supreme Court gave the go-ahead for convicted mur-

Hall is 69. Lyricist Tim Rice is 62.

Actress Alaina Reed-Hall is 60. Rock singer-musician Greg Lake (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 59. Actress-dancer Ann Reinking is 57. Actor Jack Scalia is 55. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 51. Actor Matt Craven is 50. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 50. Actress Mackenzie Phillips (*One Day at a Time*) is 47. Author Neil Gaiman is 46. Actor Michael Jai White is 42. Country singer Chris Cagle is 38. Actor-comedian