



PERSPECTIVES

Christmas selling

The scene was a pitiful one. The small child stood outside a variety store, gazing forlornly at the two quarters he had clutched in his grimy fist.

Tears welling up from the depths of his big brown eyes, the child sniffs occasionally, and can only be heard to mutter "But why?"

Indeed, why is this child crying? Is it because he has become aware of the fact that the buying power of his 50-cent holdings has diminished since last year at this same time?

No. He was simply upset at the fact that, when he entered the store to buy Halloween candy on Oct. 29, the aisles of the establishment had been cleared of all Halloween paraphernalia.

They had been cleared to make way for Christmas tree lights, bulbs, icicles, artificial popcorn strings, and so on.

The Christmas buying season has snuck up on us early this year. In fact, the buying season seems to sneak up earlier and earlier each year.

Merchants, in an effort to make their wares known in time for the buying rush, are rushing to the advertising firms to bring themselves to the attention of the public in time through the various media.

As a result, ads begging shoppers to "buy early" can be seen as soon as three months before Christmas.

This, in turn, produces television specials and special issues of newspapers concerning Christmas earlier every year (witness this special Christmas Issue of the Daily Evergreen).

This commercialization of the spirit of the holidays seems to do nothing more than debase the idea on which Christmas is founded.

And yet the merchants seem oblivious to the cry of the public to withhold on such early pre-holiday bombardments.

When will this blatant capitalization on such an important date stop? When the advertisements start arriving on the Fourth of July?

Will we have to wait for the merchants to use their own common sense to stop? Or will we, the consumers, make a more determined effort to decide for them by holding off on gift buying?

The decision is ours to make. Let's make it.
— jim angell

Letter from school

Dear Mom,

I know I wasn't supposed to write home until next week, but something came up that you must hear about.

I was studying last night, and out my window I heard a bunch of screaming and yelling. Well, I went to my window and looked out. What I saw was a bunch of guys out there running around.

At first glance they didn't look any different than any of the guys running around on campus, but I had to take a second look. These guys had on ski masks and tennis shoes. Boy they looked strange.

I came to find out a bit later that the guys I saw were none other than our own college Freshmen. They were so cute mom. Oh, I almost forgot, the

freshmen boys weren't just running around, they were streaking. A game of running around with no clothes on.

You just can't imagine how cute these freshmen boys are Mom. They just have to run around showing off what they just don't have. I must say though, that their cute little game has made my year a tiny bit more interesting.

Next time they come through I might get my camera out and take a picture of them for you. You could even share the picture with Gram and Gramps. They might get a kick out of it. After all, it's not often you get to see the silly side of little kids.

I need to get studying so I'll write more later.

— kris anderson



To the editor

Independent thought deserved

I am writing in response to the letter printed in the Dec. 28 issue of the Daily Evergreen.

While researching the issue of constituency representation I found that others had already written with considerable eloquence on the subject. So I borrowed the following quotations from John F. Kennedy's book *Profiles in Courage*. "...we must on occasion lead, inform, correct, and sometimes even ignore constituent opinion if we are to exercise fully that judgement for which we are elected.

It would be more comfortable to continue to vote in platoons,

joining whomever of our colleagues are equally enslaved by some current fashion, raging prejudice or popular movement. But today this nation (read university) cannot tolerate the luxury of such lazy political habits. Only the strength and progress and peaceful change that come from independent judgement and individual ideas — and even from the unorthodox and the eccentric — can enable us to surpass that foreign ideology that fear free thought more than it fears hydrogen bombs."

Finally, if people wanted someone to count their votes,

add them up, and vote accordingly, they should have elected a robot. In fact, since it really wouldn't matter who held the positions, assembly members could even be appointed.

But I am an individual, and act as one. I occasionally use my own judgement. I personally feel that a constituency expects and deserves some independent thought from their representative — at least enough so that government by the majority considers the opinions of the minority.

— karen sticklin

Argument has white-supremist tinge

Cami Forney commented (Nov. 29) that while Blacks, Indians and Women are born that way, Gays are expressing their freedom of choice.

She uses this as a basis for stating that while Black and Women's committees are funded, a Gay committee should not be. She claims that choice makes homosexuality a religion.

Does everything that involves choice become a religion? I look at auto workers, claim that they do their work by choice, and ask

whether Cami would call the UAW a religious organization.

Sidestepping the psychological studies that cast doubt on the question of freedom of choice, and the fact that freedom of choice is basic to the American system, her argument seems to carry a tinge of white-supremist thinking to it. (Oh, you Blacks were born so wrong, and we whites so right. Don't worry, we'll put right what nature put wrong).

No! We must put right what we white supremacist bigots put wrong over centuries, and we must, in spite of thinking like this, prevent any further such wrongs.

We must stop imposing the opinions of the majority, by physical and economic force, on the minorities that make freedom meaningful and actually constitute the strength and fiber of America.

— albert tramposch

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

Daily Evergreen Staff

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