

OPINION

RHA's pettiness not productive

Certainly, the Residence Hall Association is a good organization in that it represents the students in the residence halls and is working toward making those halls a better place to live.

Unfortunately, there seems to be quite a bit of pettiness in RHA politics. Image-consciousness has become more prominent in RHA statements and activities recently.

Earlier this week, RHA refused to pay the \$280 sponsorship for a bus to Moscow Mardi Gras Inc. It seems an advertising error — the ads referred to the "Residence Hall Advisers" instead of "Residence Hall Association" — has given RHA justification to back out on its financial commitment. This time RHA is clearly more interested in getting publicity than serving the students.

RHA should be commended for their original concern for student safety at Mardi Gras by offering to sponsor a party bus. However, this philanthropic attitude changed quickly because of a simple error.

Serving hall residents is the stated goal of RHA, but pettiness has been apparent in other RHA activities of the recent past as well.

A similar controversy last semester almost cost students valuable late-night study space during mid-terms and finals when ASWSU felt slighted by RHA's advertising.

If RHA is so concerned about groups receiving proper name recognition, the organization should have understood ASWSU members' concern over not receiving what they considered "proper" billing for ASWSU's \$175 contribution to the study areas.

At least they're consistent. Earlier this month, the RHA got Domino's Pizza to change its "Dorm Wars" contest to "Residence Hall Wars" because the word "dorm" was involved.

The preoccupation with the words "residence halls" and "dorms" led to time spent fighting to change that pizza promotion instead of more valid student concerns.

This is not to say the RHA is all bad, because the RHA does do a good deal of positive work.

In regards to programming for the halls, the student parking issue, and representing the students with the administration, the RHA does its job by strongly advocating student issues.

But, the point here is that students in the residence halls pay their money to the RHA and deserve better than a nonproductive image-first attitude.

Student concerns should come first.

Jeff Lageson

LETTERS

AIDS isn't the worst epidemic

Dear editor:

We are all aware of the dangers of the AIDS epidemic. But I see a much more dangerous epidemic rearing its ugly head. It is AFRAIDS. AFRAIDS is characterized by a shrinking back from objective, non-judgemental, reasonable knowledge. It manifests itself as prejudice, discrimination, elitism regressive non-critical thinking regarding crucial issues confronting our society. It amazes me that our nation still does not safeguard equal civil rights for all humans regardless of sex, age, race, sexual preference, mental/physical handicap or social-economic background.

It concerns me that we are using neo-nationalism to forestall a unified one-world system: A system where limited resources are made equally available to all; where international problems are resolved through creative problem-solving wherein all parties come out winners rather than through the use of power and intimidation. It appalls me that our society is dividing into innumerable special interest groups unable to communicate with each other, groups which ride roughshod over those who disagree or who wish to exercise a moderating voice in the debate. I am alarmed by the deification of self-interest to the point of apathy regarding the best interests of the community and its members. I hope my children can inherit a more civilized and sensitive world. And I trust that education will be the antidote to this epidemic of the AFRAIDS that has blackened history with immeasurable bloodshed and intolerable unnecessary suffering.

Abraham Valencia

Bible displays awesome truth

Dear editor:

Poor Douglas Harro hasn't read his Bible enough to see its awesomeness of its truth. Taking difficult to understand sections from the Bible as lack of proof for its accuracy reminds me of a 5-year-old saying Calculus is stupid because it doesn't make sense.

There are many archaeological proofs of historic accounts in the Bible including the Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gemorrah and the destruction of Jericho. The prophet Isaiah predicted a ruler named Cyrus would rebuild Jerusalem centuries before Cyrus, king of Persia, did exactly that. The prophecies regarding the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that were fulfilled (mostly beyond His control) are numerous.

The Bible has inspired more movements than any

other single book in all of mankind's history. The Bible inspired the beginning of modern science because the scientists knew that God was rational and created a rational universe. The Bible inspired John Wycliffe, John Huss, and Martin Luther, three of the chief founders of the Reformation. Without the Bible there would be no Christianity. Without the Bible our country is disintegrating as STDs, abortions, murders, rapes, and suicides continue to escalate.

No, Douglas, it's exactly your attitude of hardness and unbelief against the Bible that makes life meaningless and salvation unattainable. I hope and pray that you're unique, and that the readers of this newspaper make the Bible their daily passion.

Richard Backes

Gays are ostracized unfairly by society

Dear editor:

This letter may be somewhat out of date, but oh-well. Some of the responses to the series on gay people and awareness printed by the Evergreen have outraged and offended me.

I have a good friend whose mother is gay; another good friend of mine is from San Francisco and has lots of gay friends; and my aunt has many gay friends as well. These are beautiful, vital people, whom we label "gay" and ostracize in our hearts.

You assholes (you know who you are!) who decry homosexuality as "unnatural," and ignorantly accuse then of bringing AIDS to the United States; and scream that the Bible (and therefore your God!) does not accept homosexuality; you are the evil-doing unnatural ones. You foster intolerance. You falsely accuse. You and your kind incite witchhunts.

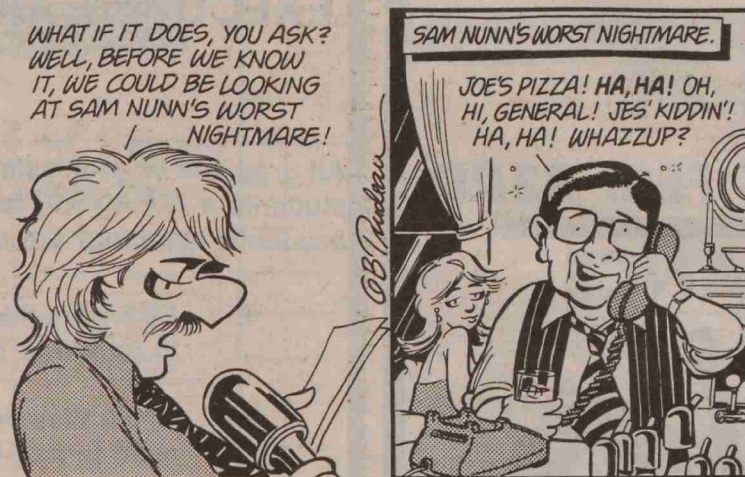
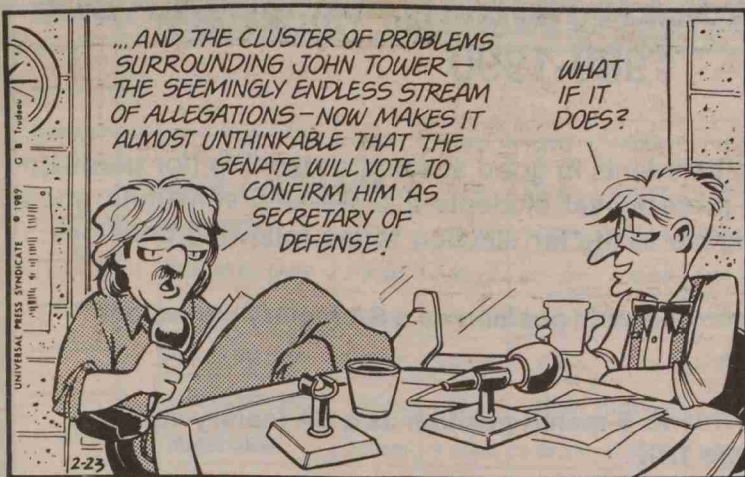
In refutation, that which is unnatural to you may be natural to another. Our individual natures are separate entities linked within the whole of nature.

An epidemic is an epidemic. Scientists now believe AIDS has been with us for centuries; it has only recently been discovered. Just because homosexuals are/were at higher risk and therefore suffer more greatly it does not compute that they are the originators or bringers of the epidemic.

That same Bible also says that should an unruly mob seek to do bodily harm to a male guest in your home, well by gum the logical thing to do is throw 'em your daughter to be ravished to death to prevent such a shameful event from occurring whilst your male guest is under your roof and therefore your protection. I suggest you be extremely selective in believing the truth of the Judeo-Christian Bible. There is much evil mixed in with the truth and beauty.

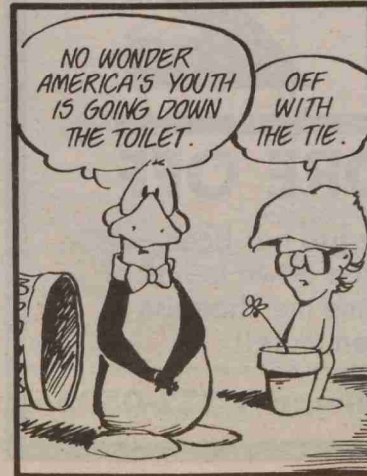
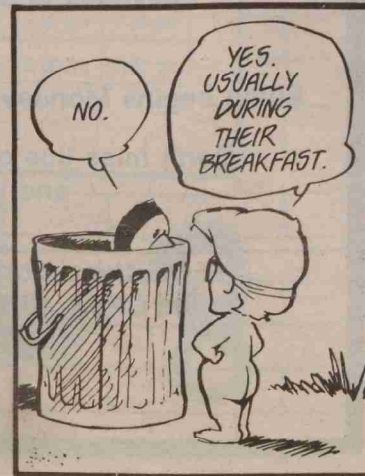
Merrill Franklin Danford

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

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