

THE TALKING DONKEY

Cedarville University's Premiere News Source

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Administration Prepares for "EQUALITY RIDE"

STUDENT LIFE OFFICE—Like a mother osprey protecting her fledglings, the administration is mobilizing a task force to foil any negative influence that Soul Force's "Equality Riders" might have on Cedarville's innocent campus. Carl Ruby, leader of the recently formed Equality Ride Task Force Response Team Action Squad, has been working tirelessly to lay down groundwork for interaction between the Riders and the few select students deemed strong enough in their faith to get involved.

"We can't simply let *any* student talk to the Riders," said Carl Ruby. "The free exchange of information could prove doctrinally fatal to their impressionable minds. That's why we're implementing a rigorous selection process for those interested in involvement."

Starting February 22, students may begin the process by signing up on-line for training workshops. After attending four out of seven of these workshops, Dr. Ruby hopes to administer a test to find the keenest apologists. These elite students will receive their certification for interaction in the form of a "Straight-Talker" badge, displayed at center.

According to a leaked document detailing the day of the visit, specially trained staff wearing biohazard suits and carrying mace will transport and monitor the Riders during their protest. The staff will also prevent any unauthorized distribution of literature and strongly encourage the riders to shorten their protest to one day. Should Soul Force choose to extend their visit, the staff will attempt to ward off the Riders by playing Michael W. Smith music.

In reaction to concerns expressed by some parents, Dr. Ruby personally assured *The Talking Donkey* that parents have no need to worry about the safety of their children as they boldly

proclaim the truth.

"Straight-Talkers will approach the Equality Riders one at a time while I hold their hand. They will not make eye contact and will recite an administration-approved document refuting homosexuality and then walk away immediately without taking questions."

Nevertheless, some students consider the guidelines and safety measures too oppressive for meaningful engagement. A female sophomore offered her comments:

"I kind of wanted to get to know the riders personally before trying to share the gospel, but such a controlling atmosphere will make that difficult."

Other students, however, enjoy the challenge of earning an elite status among their peers.

"I'm looking forward to earning my badge," noted a pre-seminary major who is already awaiting approval for his written polemic. "I can imagine that most of the selected students will be Bible majors, since they tend to understand the Bible better than those with worldly majors."

Even Dr. Brown has expressed enthusiasm over the stratagem:

"Basically, we're putting the Bible minor into action. In class and chapel we like to emphasize that the truth has nothing to hide, and this is a great opportunity to realistically apply that. In fact, we see our approach as very similar to Daniel's interaction with the Babylonian rulers and Paul's interaction with the Athenian philosophers."

-Guido Valentine

[Per administrative request, we would ask that you please forward this article to your parents.]



Designed by Carl Ruby himself, few will earn the privilege to wear it.

Parents Told: "Talk to the Cartoons"

COLORADO SPRINGS—Parents have clashed with producers at Big Idea, Inc. over the increasing emphasis on feelings instead of doctrine in recent episodes of "Veggie Tales." The conflict began after parents sent letters of complaint to Focus on the Family, the parent company of Big Idea, Inc. At a recent press conference, administrators from Big Idea, Inc. demanded nothing less than an apology for the "unfounded charges" of parents, claiming also that the parents failed to properly deal with the issue.

"Didn't we thoroughly dismiss these criticisms in our Feelings and Doctrine Statement?" asked one producer. "What more do they want?"

One such letter addressed the song titled "I Can Be Your Friend" from the episode *Are You My Neighbor?* The song features Jimmy and Jerry Gourd promoting friendships and encouraging children to care for others, regardless of physical appearance or popularity: "It's OK if we are different / We can still play 'cause I can be your friend!"

The letter argued that the song failed to warn children against potentially dangerous friendships with "the unchurched, pagans, and Catholics." The author encouraged Veggie Tales producers to consider the implicit religious pluralism cultivated in the song and suggested, "Perhaps James and Jeremiah Gourd could sing about being friends with other members of their denomination's conference."

Big Idea, Inc. has finally wearied of fielding questions and is now referencing all letters of complaint to the characters themselves. "After all, they're the ones in question," shrugged an intern. "It only makes sense to me."

Of course, the characters themselves are more than glad to deal to with parents directly, in the spirit of Matthew 18.

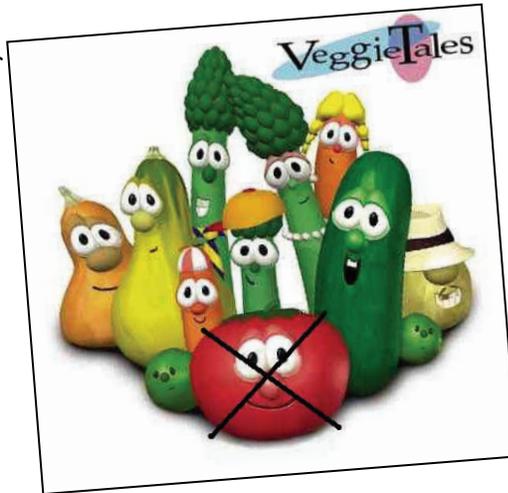
"It's deeply annoying to think that no parents have come to me, if not downright angering," said Jean-Claude the Pea with piercing eyes. "Can you believe they won't approach me? CAN YOU?!"

Likewise, parents have shown an attitude of humility towards the accusation that they never understood the issue in the first place:

"I know exactly what the issue entails, thank you very much. Don't expect me to

waste my time with one-on-one appointments with the cartoons to work out what we already know—that I'm right."

Compounding the problem is Big Idea, Inc.'s recent removal of several key Veggie Tales' characters from future episodes.



Bob just had to open his mouth to another animation studio.

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An obedient Christian family is hard to come by these days. At one time, having ten or more children was normal. Once the righteous way of life, we have now succumbed to the ways of the world.

We obsess over careers and whether we can "handle" that many kids in our busy schedule. But God's word is clear—"be fruitful, and multiply" (Gen. 1:28). We forget that "increase" is always associated with blessing, and this includes an increase of children in the home (Ps. 127:3,4). God blessed Israel in many ways, especially with regard to bearing children. Even in times of captivity, God made His people abundant because He desires a godly, mighty seed (Jer. 29:5,6, Deut. 6:3).

Clearly, then, the highest calling of a woman is to make

WELL-INTENTIONED OPINION

Ladies, Are You Neglecting God's Plain Command?

by guest writer Nancy Hoskins

babies. I am saddened to see so many young girls who want to get a college degree and "establish" themselves in the world before pumping out the

little ones. This is not God's will for your life, ladies! You were born to reproduce. If you have yet to find a young man willing to sow bountifully, do so quickly. Old age is approaching fast and God wants simple, obedient women to drown out the heathens with swarms of godly children. This is what the devil hates.

How often do I hear mothers asking selfish questions like, "Can I provide for all these children?" Have they no faith in God? Whether you have ten, twenty, or

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Ladies, pg. 2 thirty children, God *always* provides for His people. Don't tell me, "Oh, well if I had that many children I couldn't afford this or that." You weren't *meant* to afford "this or that," you were *meant* to care for a flock! Delight not in passing pleasures, but rather the knowledge that you will spend the next thirty years of your life waking up to a small army that needs breastfeeding.

Mothers, quit looking for colleges for your daughters and start looking for husbands. *At least* instruct your daughters to make the search for a husband their main task while at a good Christian school. (I praise God for the good reports I hear from Cedarville in this regard!) Wait in joyful anticipation for the days in which they can start putting their bodies to use and you can be known as the propagator of a grand lineage, as innumerable as the stars of heaven (Gen. 15).

May God bless you in your fruitfulness, young women of Cedarville! May you always remember that a happy womb is a busy womb.

Nancy Hoskins spent one semester at Baptist Bible College before meeting her husband, Henry. She is the happy mother of thirteen boys and twelve girls: Daniel, Noah, Sarah, Paul, Silas, Rebecca, Samuel, Othniel, Charity, Josiah, Faith, Hope, Bartholomew, Belshazzar, Christian, Christiana, Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. When not in labor, Nancy enjoys cooking and tidying up. A ruthless pundit for homeschooling and denim jumpers, her contributions to mothering journals have been well-respected since the publication of her 1979 essay, "If I Never Stop Having Babies It Will Be Too Soon."

Cedarville Curling Team Establishes Itself After Recent Success

CALLAN BASEMENT—The Cedarville University varsity curling team is basking in new-found glory after an impressive top-four placement in the North American College Curling Bonspiel, held last weekend in Regina, Saskatchewan. Overshadowed by basketball and indoor track, the curling team



Sarah Olsted, practicing her delivery

is a tight-knit group of athletes who have chosen to work hard despite little recognition.

"The fan support is great, but we've learned to not rely upon it," admitted Lyle Cooper, the team skip. "Even if we can't attract more interest with our recent wins, we'll still keep going, just out of a love for the game and a desire to use the talents that God has given us."

Other than Lyle, a senior, the team members include Sarah Olsted and Roger Yoatz, both freshmen, and Jennifer Worthington, a sophomore. They are coached by Bernie Setterfield, a Xenia resident who helped start the team in 1982.

"I'm encouraged to see so many freshmen out this year," said Mr. Setterfield at a recent practice. "We're losing Lyle after this season, but the team carries a lot of potential. Sarah has a really clean delivery and I'm looking forward to seeing that skill mature."

The team members, however, are pleased enough with their current abilities. Roger Yoatz recalls the defining moment in the semifinals:

"The ice was pretty fast and the opposing lead burned her rock sometime in the third end. We left it in as a guard and Lyle delivered a beautiful hack, with Jennifer and I sweeping. Hammer on the button or not, they were finished."

The competition lasted two days and featured thirty-four college teams from the northern United States and all provinces of Canada. Mexico also entered a team, but mainly to take advantage of the free snow cones available to all athletes.

For more information on the curling team, please contact Sports Information Director Mark Womack.

-Yoshima Takahashi

Cartoons, pg. 2 "Bob the Tomato was always my boy's favorite," commented a parent. "How can they possibly do this and not give an explanation? Such silence only generates more confusion and rumors about what's really going on below the surface."

Yet Big Idea, Inc. has made it clear that they do not respect such demands:

"To think that the consumer might question our product is offensive, to say the least," remarked a producer. "Silence is standard procedure among animation studios... Parents just need to buy the product, no questions asked."

James Dobson himself has offered assurance to troubled parents.

"I have personally interviewed each of the vegetables in question and found nothing aberrant in their lyrics. There's nothing doubtful about our cartoons. In fact, I have held mandatory meetings for all characters in which they discussed the issues with one another and came to this conclusion on their own. Just ask them."

Curious, *The Talking Donkey* questioned an asparagus along these very lines.

"James Dobson has personally interviewed each of the vegetables in question and found nothing aberrant in their lyrics," she answered in a nervous voice. "There's nothing doubtful about our cartoons."

"You see? Perfect unity. No intimidation at all. Everything's just fine."

- Wilhelm von Schelldorf III

MAILBAG

For most of us, Valentine's Day is a celebration of relationships, chocolate, and Aphrodite. For others, it is a painful reminder of these very things. Why am I single? Why doesn't he slash she like me? You won't find the answers to these questions on a candy heart (though you might come close) or Facebook (though you'll spend at least four hours looking). You won't even find it at Counseling Services (no offense, Dr. Mrs. Hoffeditz) or on a Finding Nemo Valentine's note (as though Finding Nemo has anything to do with love—way to milk the cash cow, Disney). So come to us—we understand you. Because deep within your heart, beyond all the superficial consumerism and forced affections, a left ventricle is pumping blood. And that's why we're here—to be that proverbial shoulder on which you rest your proverbial head and shed your proverbial tears, as the old proverb goes. And now, the mailbag.

To the editor:

I'm going crazy! You see, there's this guy that I met in my small group that I've liked for a while. We did some stuff together and he seemed to enjoy it but he never really pursued anything. And now we're in Foundations together and he always jokes with me in class and seems to send me signals, but then out of class like on Facebook he won't return any comments on my wall, or when we're chatting I'll tell him how my day went and he's just like "oh"... the classic conversation killer. So I sent him some stupid Valentine's note anyway and he called and I was really excited! And he thanked me and then said he'd call again sometime and that was two days ago and he hasn't called back. So these mixed signals are driving me crazy and I'm just tired of all the ambiguity and triteness and just want to know what he wants. Does he like me or not? Should I call him back? How do I explain all of this to him without sounding desperate? *~SaRaH~*

Yes.

ANNOUNCEMENT :

The Talking Donkey is online!

That's right. Our gnomes have been hard at work for you, dear readers. Just think, whether sipping your morning OJ, enjoying a pleasant spot of tea, or shopping Amazon during WV Development, you need never find yourself in want of our beloved publication again. Indulge in our new and archived issues at <http://talkingdonkeyonline.blogspot.com>. Available in .pdf or ASCII.

. . . NEWS NOTES...

- ◇ Local Free-Will Baptist Church adopts TULIPS theology:
 - Total Depravity
 - Unconditional Election
 - Limited Atonement
 - Irresistible Grace
 - Perseverance of the Saints
 - Suckers! Just kidding about those last five.

- ◇ Recent student-led probe forces Pastor Rohm to admit that he “borrowed heavily” from Mark Driscoll for his doubt sermons.
 - “We take these matters very seriously. Which is why I will be e-mailing myself shortly.”

- ◇ Culture Week reminds students that not every Yellow Jacket is a WASP.
 - In fact, only 95%..

- ◇ Cold weather forces some girls to wear two layers of skin-tight clothing instead of just one.
 - “My RA doesn't mention it to me, so I must be okay.”

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This issue is dedicated to the twelve ferrets that died during its production.