

Editorial cartoon raises controversial questions

On Friday, the Emerald printed an editorial cartoon that carried significant meaning. The caption read, "Organize for a safe campus," and we must. Each week, too many crimes are committed against women. If you don't believe that, notice that half of the reported crimes on campus last week were rape or sexual harassment (ODE, Nov. 9, Police Beat).

However, the caption was the only positive part of that cartoon. If a picture is worth a



Friday's editorial cartoon that sparked controversy.

crimes? Where was the artist coming from?

The illustration in my opinion is not an example of racism, but ignorance. Ignorance out of which racism is born. It was not only unfair to black men, but women, black and white alike. The staff of the ODE should be ashamed for allowing this thoughtless cartoon to be printed.

I have spoken to the person responsible for the printing of this cartoon, whose apology was accepted. However, it is important that we realize that lies, reinforced, become harmful stereotypes.

David Sarju
Director, Black Student Union

Commentary

thousand words, that cartoon is worth many more. Is it saying that men should lead women as illustrated in the cartoon? Is that the way to a safer campus? Or, even more pronounced, is the cartoon message saying that "black men rape white women?" Who else does that black hand belong to but a black man? It is a lie that black men rape white women. Again, if you don't believe me, read the ODE's Friday Police Beat.

You say symbolism, I say no. The picture shows (not implies) three white women and a white man concerned for their safety. The black hand, not glove, is committing the crime. After all, why wasn't a white hand used. Haven't most if not all the identifiable crimes been committed by white men? And what about black women, are they safe from these

letters

Wage peace

Sociologists are sure to have a field day evaluating the reelection of Reagan and its implications. After 25 years on university campuses, both as student and staff member, I'm most perplexed by the development of an active, visible conservative student wing on this campus, and perhaps around the country.

While I've been appalled by the self-centered, me-first state of mind it seems to reflect, I think I've overreacted. Just as the leftist-rebellious attitudes of previous college generations eventually evolved into a more moderate approach to life, so will the current right-wing aberration.

In the meantime, maybe the campus conservatives might still have a valuable effect on the sword-rattlers they've re-elected. If they have the influence they claim, let them urge them to wage peace at the conference table instead of

strutting to ultimate nuclear catastrophe.

George Beres
Speakers Bureau

Judging others

Poor Brandon Shepard and Fred Elledge. I cannot help but feel pity and embarrassment for two people who profess to believe in Christianity, the religion of love and forgiveness, yet preach prejudice and hatred as they did in their recent diatribes against homosexuality.

How can a "Christian" like Brandon Shepard take Biblical verses out of context to attack a group of people, and ignore Christ's admonition to not judge others, to take the log from your own eye before taking the speck from your brother's or sister's eye? Perhaps both Shepard and Elledge should examine their own motivations and personal lives before presuming to judge others.

It is very easy to quote Scripture and generalize about

groups of people. It is more difficult to understand Scripture and live without bigotry.

Melissa Mentzer
Graduate, English

Summing it up

In the Nov. 7 Emerald the statement in the "perversion" letter, "Homosexuality must be a mental disorder" is supported by Lynn Pinckney's example when she closes her "oppression" letter with the psychotic statement, "...you make me angry. My anger makes me stronger. Today I am invincible."

But the "rage and pity" letter sums it up nicely by concluding, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." Because Christ concluded that scene by saying, (John 8:11) "Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more," thus giving perverts the right to live reformed lives.

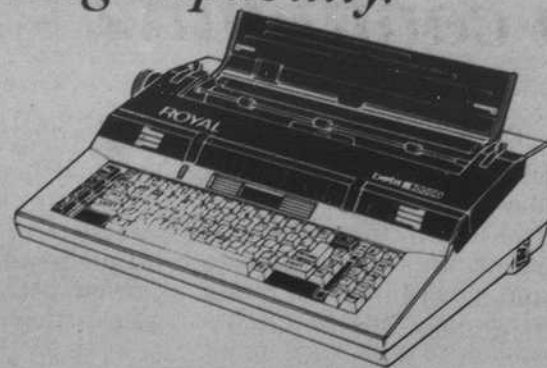
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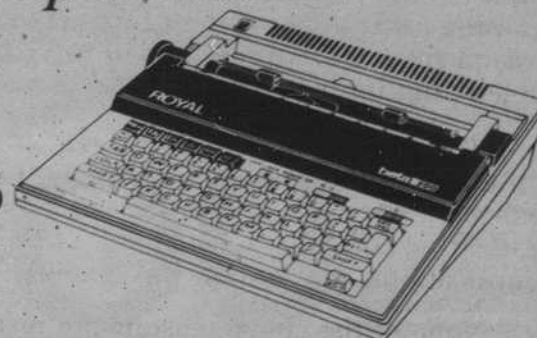
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