

Letters

Propaganda

Bert Tryba's "Freethought" (ODE, March 9) is a fine example of the "irrational propaganda" style he strongly criticizes.

First: The "reductio ad absurdum" of categorizing all religions together as "theism" shows no accurate representation of any of them. They are diverse, often incompatible systems. Furthermore, the failure of a few religious leaders is not equivalent to the intent of the whole.

Second: adjectives, quote-marks and obscure words like "anomie" are used to induce trust and bias in the reader's mind without any evidence or rational basis.

Third: insubstantial statements abound. Religious groups don't monopolize the media, and religion seldom cooperates with the press, much less collaborates. The evidence Tryba presents is grossly incomplete and poorly applied. I would prefer rational thought with solid assumptions and balanced, complete evidence.

Clear, careful deliberation, and honest, rational communication are more effective weapons against propaganda than more propaganda. Don't be confused by empty ideas.

A.M. Sauerwein
Music

Mix

I would like to respond to Rudy Asercion's comment about Johnmichael Monteith's earlier letter (ODE, March 2).

Insulting Monteith's ability to analyze what industry is using, in itself, is naive. I have seen many software and computer companies settle into a

mix of the IBM and Macintosh systems.

Clearly IBM computers have their stronghold — a widely accepted base, many titles and applications, an easily expandable and sometimes very cheap system. And Macintosh computers have their own — a stringent single manufacturer with high standards, ease of use, uniformity in user interface, and little change in the system architecture.

It is true, however, that the likelihood of a university graduate using an IBM is high. Maybe in 10 years, if Apple has decided to progress with technology, Asercion's statement will be valid.

Macintosh can definitely help a user serve his purpose in

the short run. But after a few months, going through six menus to do four things becomes a burden. And by that time, most people would be able to function well on the IBM, especially using windows.

Finally, it is a cold, hard fact that Macs are overpriced. They have been fighting attempted clones for six years; a sign that they are definitely not prepared for competition, and don't want to be bothered with being forced to improve their product. Only now can a University student purchase one for under a thousand. You can get an IBM for \$600.

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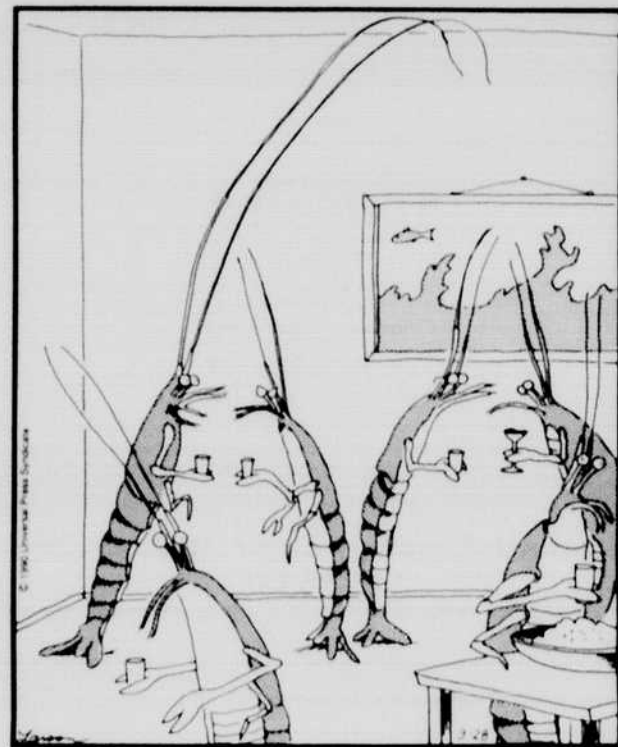
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