

LIFE AND ART

COLUMN

Mother Goose isn't even safe

By Shelley MaGee
■ The Gamecock
U. of South Carolina

Remember mom sitting by your bedside reading you "Mother Goose" tales as you nodded off to sleep?

Well, there are many 5-year-olds out there right now who could be losing sleep. And if they're not, their parents should be. It's illegal in some places to sell the very same tales that ushered us into slumber as children.

Why? For the most part, the parties responsible are special-interest groups who find parts of these stories offensive and have the political clout to empty library shelves of them.

Bedtime favorites like "Mother Goose," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Little Red Riding Hood" are being banned daily from public libraries all across the United States.

A recent example: A church group in a small place like Flagler County, Fla., had "The Wizard of Oz" pulled off a middle school's shelf on the grounds that it is occultist (the witches in the book supposedly teach young children about the workings of Satan.)

Even if you aren't much into "Mother Goose," maybe you like Stephen King. Well, all but one book he's written has been banned somewhere in the country at one time or another.

And he's not alone. Kurt Vonnegut, J.D. Salinger and John Steinbeck are all commonly banned authors.

Oh, and if you're planning a trip to Florida this winter break, you might want to make sure you bring a modest bathing suit. You could spend more time in the slammer than on the beach if you are caught wearing a G-string bikini that exposes your "anal cleft."

Now, you may have no desire to wear a G-string. You may not care about "Mother Goose." But no matter what someone's personal preference may be, it is his inalienable right to make that choice.

The real "Fahrenheit 451" — Ray Bradbury's account of a government-dictated society in which book burning and other mind-controlling measures are the norm — is going around us everyday.

Coincidentally, that book was censored, too.

FACE TRACK

Getting a head start

While some 19-year-olds are finishing high school, others are graduating from college, like several students at the U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana who are ahead of their time.

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MUSIC

A U. & A session with Erasure singer

The eccentric Andy Bell tells why Erasure has finally become one of the hottest new wave crossover groups, as well as what he thinks about the competition.

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A real character

Cartoonist fits in with figures in his strip

By David Frese
■ Kansas State Collegian
Kansas State U.

He looks quite a bit like the character Jim in his strip. Or is it Joe?

"I'll admit it, I gave them really blah names," admits cartoonist Bob Berry. "Now I've offended everyone named Jim and Joe."

Jim and Joe are characters in Bob's comic strip "Making the Grade," which appears daily in the Kansas State U. Collegian. Like Jim and Joe, Bob, a senior art major, has a youthful sort of exuberance. He's funny. His eyes are aglow with ideas, making one wonder just what is going on in his head.

Despite the fact that he is a married man, Berry is hardly



GARY LYTLE/BOB BERRY, KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN, KANSAS STATE U.

a "grown-up." Berry, who's awaiting the Kansas snowfall so he can put his sleds to use, looks — and acts — a little like a kid you'd expect to be reading comics.

And after spending most of his adult life in college — nine years to be exact — it doesn't appear he's going to grow up any time soon, either.

"Making the Grade" has a simple premise. Like Bob, Jim and Joe go to college. But Jim and Joe live with a walking, talking, beer-drinking 7-foot Kodiak bear named Filbert.

But why the bear? "Merchandising," Berry said. "It's all merchandising. Those Filbert the Bear lunchboxes. Snoopy's not going to hold that corner forever, he and Garfield."

Berry, a Kansas City native, has attended four colleges in his quest for a somewhat elusive undergraduate degree.

"Well, I started in pre-law," Berry
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Backfire

'Warning' labels spur sales

By Jennifer Cole
■ The Ball State Daily News
Ball State U.

In the wake of some record companies voluntarily labeling albums containing "explicit lyrics" with warning stickers, managers of three record stores near Ball State U. say the effort has had little impact.

And Erin Adams, manager of Karma Records, claims that, if anything, the stickers help create hype for the albums.

Daniel Walter, manager of Musicland in the Muncie Mall, agreed that the labels make the records more appealing and do little to keep children from obtaining them.

"I'm not very impressed with labeling," he said. "It makes kids want to buy them more."

But the labels are intended to be a signal to parents, not the kids; in theory, the labels help parents discriminate between a clean and potentially distasteful record when making a purchase for their children.

Yet there are no widespread laws — at national or state levels — prohibiting the sale of albums found in most music stores to minors. So kids who can get the money can buy albums without parental consent.

And some do. Adams said children of the parents who have complained "may be under 18, but they are 16 or 17 — old enough to know what they're doing."

But Connie Higgins, manager of Discount Den, said she hasn't run into problems with young children buying controversial records. "They may look at some of them, but they aren't buying," she added.

Higgins said records selling this fall that have caused some squabbles include Jane's Addiction's latest LP, the cover of which shows the lead singer with images of two nude females. To combat the controversy, a "white version" of the album's cover is carried by the store.

