

U. VIEWS



The naked truth

Just because Tom Carter has never seen a naked woman before doesn't make it obscene [U-Mail, May 1995]. I'm sure that the young woman in the photograph was shocked to learn that he considers her a barnyard animal. I hope that Mr. Carter doesn't make this his latest crusade in his ongoing effort to make a name for himself in right-wing circles. Get off the soapbox and start working on solving real problems.

Robert Fernandez, senior,
U. of South Florida

If you believe in God (Judeo-Christian, and 75 percent of us do, according to the poll), and you believe that humans are created in God's image, then finding the human form "obscene" is to find God's image obscene as well. If ya don't like the merchandise, the fault lies with the manufacturer.

Simon Rubenstein, senior,
UCLA

Land of the free
I read "Banner Yet Waves" [May 1995], and I was appalled that so many people find it difficult to acknowledge our

national flag. Are we, as one melting pot of individual cultures, no longer believers in true diversity? Or is it that because we are so diverse, we fail to realize what plucked the strings in our ancestors' hearts to create this wonderful nation?

Although many would say America has many strengths and weaknesses, would we not rather say that throughout it all, our national flag has been a symbol of what the entire world has sought to be? Stand up and honor our nation's flag.

A.J. Werner,
sophomore, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U., Ariz.

Getting to U.

OD on sarcasm [Welcome to U. 1995], but I found the information insightful. How do I enter these contests? Can I write for *U. Magazine*? How?

Beckie Cheung, freshman,
U. of California, Davis

Editor's Note: For more info on our contests, see page 37 of this issue. If you'd like to write for U., send clips and story ideas to Frances Huffman, Editor, U. The National College Magazine, 1800 Century Park East, #820, Los Angeles, CA 90067-1511.

Preview blues

I am upset with the [coverage of] the new Ron Howard film, *Apollo 13* [May 1995]. This is by far one of the greatest rescue operations ever. Due to an explosion, mission control, as well as the astronauts, had no idea what was wrong or if the capsule was able to be brought back. They were not lost in space, as you were led to believe by [the] comments. I am a movie fan. This is a story that is long overdue in being told, and it should not lose its significance by people misinterpreting the story.

And an added "!!@@" to whoever is responsible for the caption in the photograph ("Riding mower, space shuttle. Same difference, right?"). Space travel is not something to be taken lightly, much less to be made fun of! It was far from funny.

Todd Christopher, junior,
Ohio State U.

Anti-opinion poll?

I'm writing in regard to your May student opinion poll, "Are you pro-choice or anti-abortion?" The polling revealed 57 percent pro-choice and 43 percent anti-abortion. But upon reading the students' comments, I noticed an incredibly high number of anti-abortion views printed in comparison with those pro-choice. To be exact, I found only three statements, out of the 12 expressed, to be consistent with the 57 percent pro-choice. Are the people in charge of the polling subtly revealing their own opinion? Or do you just feel that because anti-abortionists have been so loud, outspoken and sometimes violent in expressing their beliefs, you need to give them more space in your magazine? It greatly disturbs me that you can so easily distort the information that's been given to you. Is this what your magazine has come to? I hope not.

A.E.B., senior,
U. of Houston

I would like to make a suggestion for you when preparing an opinion poll. When you ask the question, "Are you pro-choice or anti-abortion?" you are already, by means of the way your question is phrased, biasing your readers. "Anti-" causes a negative emotion in readers, whereas "pro-" causes a positive feeling. "Pro-abortion" and "pro-life" would be more appropriate. You would be omitting the "anti-" bias-producing word. I would suggest that you repoll your readers using language that is consistent with an unbiased philosophy of journalism — one that promotes objectivity, not liberalism.

Actually, when you really analyze the situation, "pro-choice" denotes that a choice is available for all involved. However, the baby is given no choice in an abortion. Consider the possibility that you and your staff could have been aborted babies as a result of the misguided irresponsibility of the parents.

J. Kim Cook, grad student,
Texas A&M U.

O.J.: What's your verdict?

Guilty: 57 %
Innocent: 31 %
Not Sure: 5 %
Don't Care: 4 %
Other: 3 %

I think O.J. is guilty, but America is drawing this thing out so much that he'll probably get off. **Phillip Kraft, junior,**
U. of Maryland

Just because he was a wife beater doesn't mean he's a murderer. **Megan Hollmann, junior,**
U. of Maryland, College Park

Guilty as sin. **Tim Smith, senior,**
Eastern Michigan U.

If he were a Hispanic man who worked in a diner, he'd already be convicted and in jail. Perhaps this trial will prove one thing: that money can buy anything in this country, even justice. **Stacey Cohen, junior,**
U. of Alabama

I don't believe anybody could be so stupid as to leave that much evidence around. **Chenoa Sykes, grad student,**
U. of Cincinnati

When was the last time you saw an innocent man fleeing from a crime scene? **Dennis Dobbs, senior,**
U. of Minnesota

I think that Nicole's best friend, Faye Resnick, did it. **Jennifer Logan, freshman,**
Sam Houston State U., Texas

Three letters for you: D-N-A. He's guilty. **Katherine Patterson, freshman,**
Kent State U.

My verdict is: Who cares? **Nick Rupp, grad student,**
U. of North Carolina, Greensboro

I hope that justice will [prevail] and that if he's guilty he'll be dealt with severely. If he isn't guilty, let him go and let's move on. **Gregory Casey, sophomore,**
Grambling State U., La.

Nothing is for Everyone

Experts say our generation values nothing, knows nothing and will become nothing. What's the problem?

Nothing is the great natural resource it once was. Nothing is a wise investment. Nothing lasts forever, and an ever-growing slice of America has nothing to call its own.

Nothing is in our wallets, in our leaders, in our media. We're given nothing every day, and every day we have nothing to show for it.

Our very dollar — the essence of American being — is backed by debt, backed by nothing. What do Wall Street traders really trade? Nothing. Hog futures? Hogs that do not yet exist? Nothing.

Nothing is keeping American industry alive. U.S. companies are producing nothing in America; U.S. auto makers are selling nothing at a fair price; and we're exporting nothing to Japan.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has promised nothing for public broadcasting, nothing for the arts and nothing for education. In return, many Democrats say Gingrich is good for nothing. Interesting.

But the Republicans credit the media for nothing. I think they're right. The entire media-created and media-sustained idea of Generation X is based on the premise that we do nothing. "There's nothing to it," media executives say. I agree.

The mega-hit fixture of NBC's entire programming week — *Seinfeld* — is a self-proclaimed show about nothing. The satirical wit of syndicated columnist Dave Barry is about nothing.

Angst and indifference are nothing. The collective cultural derivative of an aborted Pearl Jam tour — nothing. (Nothing should be written in stone.)

What do we have after eight months of the O.J. trial? Nothing.

Kato Kaelin. Joey Buttafuoco. Puck. These people did nothing. And their message is simple — nothing guarantees a successful Hollywood career.

Late-night infomercials are nothing. "You too can make nothing by doing nothing at home. Send nothing for our new self-help video 'You'll do nothing, and you'll like it.' Just call 1-800-NOTHING."

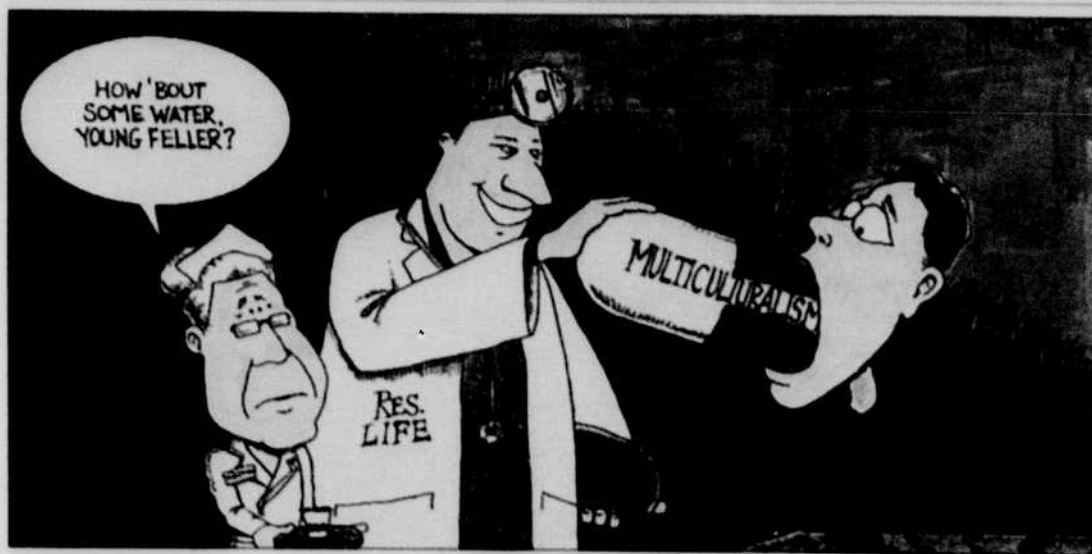
Scholars, politicians and half-kooky columnists, all with sweeping psychobabble stereotypes of our generation. All — nothing.

So next time someone tries to lump you in with everybody else, just tell 'em that nothing is for everyone.

"Thanks," you say?
It's nothing.

By Robert Manker, Assistant Editor

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This Month's Question

Should the government regulate Internet activity?

800/6U-VIEWS
688-4397
Ext. 63