

Martians, great leaders all contaminate earth

■ OUR OPINION: Life forces across the galaxy should learn some tact

As you walk through the EMU Courtyard this week, it is most likely that you will hear environmentalists' cries for an end to logging, an increase in recycling, and the need for civil disobedience to obtain the necessary reforms. What you probably won't hear are environmentalists' concerns about NASA bringing virulent Martian life to planet Earth.

It seems that NASA is planning a trip to Mars in the year 2005. The purpose of this mission will be to obtain rocks and ice from the planet and bring them back to Earth for further study. A special panel has been formed by the National Academy of Sciences to ascertain the potential hazards of this mission, including the possible contamination of the Earth.

NASA plans to use this panel to help explain to the Environmental Protection Agency the worst case scenarios that could occur as a result of this mission. If the mission is approved, and NASA is allowed to study the materials not in space, but within the familiar confines of the Earth's atmosphere, the organization will then have to register the materials with the Department of Agriculture, apply for emergency landing permits in every state — possibly in other countries — and develop proper quarantine procedures.

While our nation's space and environmental organizations are busy worrying about the arrival of alien species on Earth, the deputy commander of Russia's

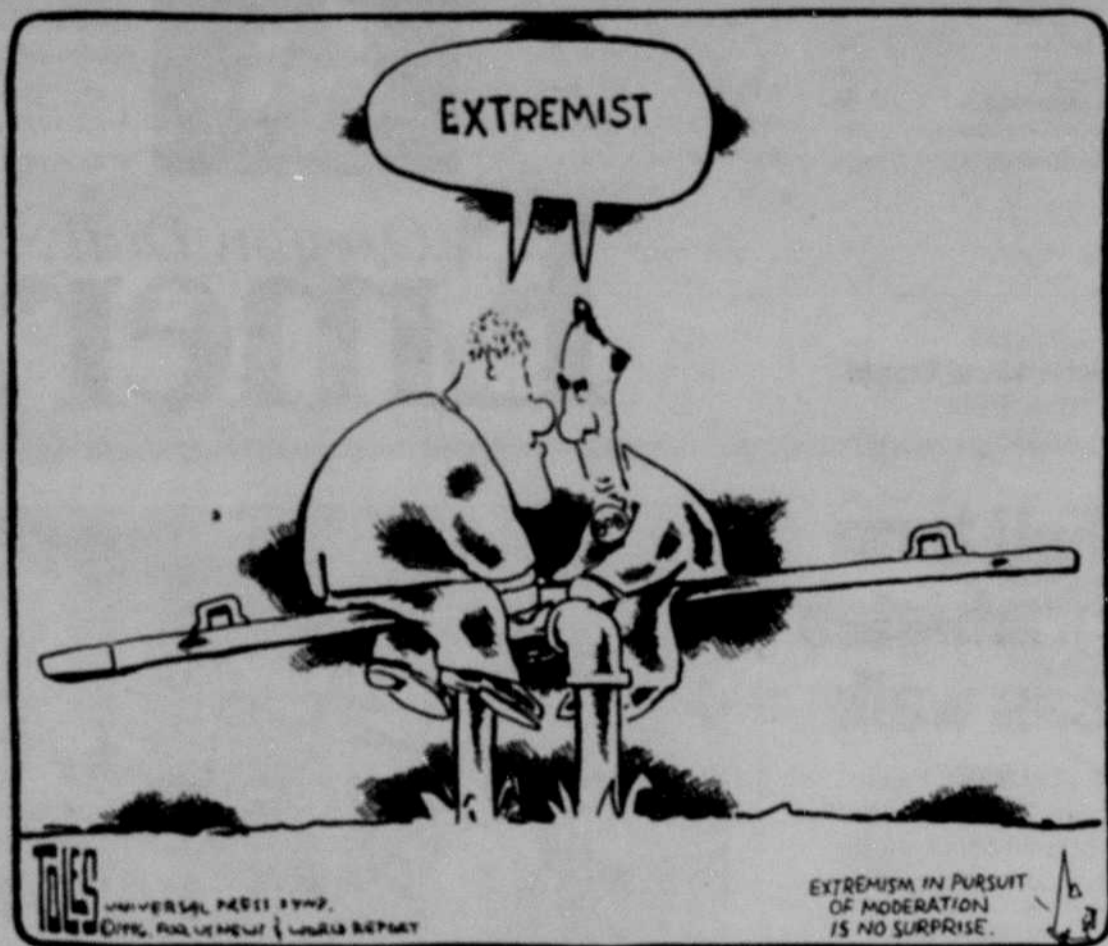
Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, General Yuri Glazkov, is obviously not worried about contamination aboard the Mir space station. When asked why American astronaut Shannon Lucid would be welcomed on Mir, Glazkov said, "We know that women love to clean."

Maybe his quote is an indication that our country should be a little less concerned about the possibility of Martians multiplying on our planet's surface, and a little more concerned with the increasing number of sexist pigs that seem to be taking over space stations in our part of the galaxy.

Back on planet Earth, sexism is breeding at an incredible rate, as President Boris Yeltsin deflects Secretary of State Warren Christopher's attempt to engage him in a discussion of barriers to trade in chicken parts, saying, "Presidents don't do chicken legs. If, however, they were women's legs ..."

And as American newspapers steer clear of remarks of this nature this week, they report that women have greater tendencies to vote for the Democratic Party. Marion Hammer, the first woman National Rifle Association president, however, does not vote like the majority of women. She does not favor ridding the nation of all firearms, but rather of all liberals.

So this Earth Week, as you remember all of the stars in the galaxy and in the public eye, feel free to wonder if they would like a little salt sprinkled on their feet as they proceed on their mission toward our planet's great (and often not so great) leaders' mouths.



EXTREMISM IN PURSUIT OF MODERATION IS NO SURPRISE.

Wild Duck pub 'working out the details'

I have never felt compelled to write a letter to a newspaper until I read Kelly Andersson's review of the Wild Duck (*ODE*, April 18).

I found her juvenile name-calling and endless complaining quite boring. She complained about everything, but offered no solutions. She says the Wild Duck is a "crash course in how not to design a brewery," but does not mention trying the beer at all.

If you were expecting a sit-down dinner show, then of course you would have been disappointed. Our entertainment venue is not a dinner theater; it is a dance hall annexed to our restaurant. You can sit down in our restaurant and have dinner before moving into the venue to enjoy a show. A sit-down dinner show is a great idea, and it is something we will consider doing in the future.

I agree that our seating arrangement is not the best in the world, but it isn't permanent either. Understand that we are a new club and it will take a little time to work out all the details. Many of our shows are standing room only, or dancing room only, so we cannot offer seating for 300 people.

I also understand that drinking good cognac out of a plastic glass is like driving a BMW down a logging road. We do not allow glass in the venue for safety reasons. A slippery floor covered with broken glass presents a considerable safety risk. After finding that our venue was not what she expected, had I served Andersson a double cognac in a glass snifter, I'm sure she would have complained that it was half empty.

She goes on to complain about the price of drinks. For the mathematically challenged, two double cognacs means four full shots. Seventeen dollars divided by four is \$4.25 per drink — certainly a fair price for good cognac in any town.

Andersson says "\$17 dollars worth of alcohol at Rennie's will get four people passed out

COMMENTARY

Ryland Bryant

under the table." If this is the kind of experience you are interested in having, then call me — I'll buy the first round of drinks.

The break between music sets is normally half an hour, but if the performers run a little late, the best we can do is politely mention to them that it is time to take the stage. The technical difficulty that you think our sound man experienced that night was actually a blown fuse in Duke Robillard's amp. Guitar strings break and fuses blow; these circumstances beyond our control.

Andersson claimed that "in a past life, [she] mixed sound for a rock 'n' roll band." Does this appear on your resume? Did they believe it? If so, let me know. At my next interview for a pilot's job, I may mention that I am type rated in the space shuttle, and I've logged three lunar landings.

I am sorry you did not enjoy our artichoke and parmesan bread. I would like to invite you back to our restaurant for dinner. We have some great entrees and sandwiches. I'm sure you could find something you would like — if you would give us a second chance. I would like to buy your dinner and give you the opportunity to sample our beers.

Please do not let one bad experience keep you away. If I had read one poorly written article in the *New York Times* business section, I would not stop reading the whole paper.

The Wild Duck has something for everybody — a great restaurant, a brew pub, and an entertainment venue. Why else would I hear so many people say, "Eugene has needed a place like this for a long time."

Ryland Bryant is a bartender at the Wild Duck.

LETTERS

Software stealing

Sonja Sherwood should know that computer software is the "intellectual property" of the author, whether that be a huge multinational corporation such as Microsoft or an individual (*ODE*, April 15).

Stealing by the subterfuge of rental, or purchasing and returning is still stealing. This same mentality says it is OK to go to Meier and Frank, buy a beautiful garment, wear that garment to an important event, and then return the garment. However, there are two added differences:

Meier and Frank doesn't get the restocking fee, and in the software rental scam, you simply never return the garment.

Sherwood said, "Companies like Microsoft lose thousands every year to pirating." The figure is in the hundreds of millions for Microsoft and in the billions for all software companies. Without these losses, these companies would indeed be richer, but a very large percentage of those funds would go to employees and toward improving their company and products.

In addition, software companies take these losses into

account in their product pricing. Therefore, consumers pay for the product and for those who steal the product, raising prices and causing the very situation you are complaining about.

If Sherwood doesn't like the policies and pricing of the products, then she shouldn't use them. You could use one of the many shareware desktop publishing programs. If you need the latest version of PageMaker, then pay the author for the right to use his property.

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