

Movie effective despite religious attacks

By Kelly Laughlin
Of The Print

Religious groups are taking some hard swings at the new movie, "The Life of Brian," by Monty Python. In a recent Rolling Stone magazine interview, the president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbi Abraham Hecht, called the film "A crime against religion," and continued, "this film is so grievously insulting that we are genuinely concerned that its continued showing would result in serious violence."

Eric Idle, catalyst of "Holy Grail" and "Life of Brian" argued that the movie doesn't intend to insult any religious group. "The movie is about people, it just so happens to take place in Judea. We are laughing at man, not God. Nothing so divides men as their belief in the same god," he said.

The setting seems to portray a foundation for Monty Python's invention. The movie doesn't leave you with a splitting-laugh-ache, and an empty mind. In fact, the movie may provoke the fewest laughs of any two hours of Monty Python, because it deals in such a tender subject. But Monty Python, if nothing else, does the movie with as much taste as they can, without losing their unique style.

"Life of Brian" is performed in the tradition of Monty Python humor. The opening scene is depicted as grand a visual landscape as "Ben Hur" or the movie, "The Ten Commandments." Python humor, however, is geared to biting satire with the motivation of irrelevant humor. They could insult and inspire the human condition in one breath, in or out of Bible texts.

A grand opening scene with
Near Clairmont:

Grapevines amass 30 varieties

It was a good summer for grapes, said Phil Evans, ornamental horticulture instructor. At least it was at the College's table grape plot near Clairmont Hall.

Within four rows of vine, nearly 30 varieties of table grapes can be found. Among them are some of Evan's favorites: Pearl of Casaba, "a

a holy overture, and realistic Jerusalem landscape, turns to the three wise men in the home of Mary, and Brian, in the manger. Mary repurposes their visit, calling it a joke, when they claim he's the Messiah. She lets them in at the discovery they have gold and frankincense. Python, though, doesn't claim that Brian is the representation of Jesus. Brian, "is the boy born down the block from Jesus Christ, who grows up to be mistaken for the Messiah."

Another example of Python technique is when Brian and his mother attend a stoning where a ragged, bearded old man is about to be executed for saying, "that halibut was good enough for Josuah." The old man, certain of his future, continues to repeat the phrase until he is replied by several stones about the head and shoulder. The action of the group (who are all dressed as men, but are really women) is interrupted by the stoning organizer. The phrase is repeated by several members of the group and the organizer finally says it himself. He is stoned, instead.

Brian's anti-Roman involvement begins when he joins a group called "The People's Front," who organize the kidnapping of Pontius Pilate's daughter. Pilate, played by Python Michael Palin, is a half-witted Julius Caesar, who bites his nails and rolls his "r's". He looks like a true leader, dressed in the finery of his office, but when he opens his mouth, he becomes just another Roman.

The front gains access to an underground sewer, and are almost to their destination when they confront another party, who are out on the same scam. After some argument, and liberal comment, "tough



Graham Chapman as Brian becomes an instant prophet. Photo Courtesy Warner Bros.

pity for you pig," the two groups clash while Brian gallantly suggests an alliance. But it's too late. The Pilate army has spotted Brian who stands in the spotlight, his counterparts lie unconscious.

Next Brian encounters the prison cell, where a man, clearly past his prime, is chained to the concrete wall. He begins to paint really grim pictures of crucifixion, calling Brian "lucky. You don't have to be chained to a wall for the rest of your life."

Finally, Brian is taken to the headquarters of Pontius Pilate in possibly the most side-splitting scene of the movie. Pilate's feminine mystique and odd diction break up his guards, whose repressed giggles turn to uncontrollable laughter when Pilate utters his close friend's name of Bikus Dikus. Not even the technique of doing chicken lips could keep one guard from

joining the other officers. Brian makes his escape.

The chase scene that results leads Brian to a high ledge where he jumps to an almost certain death. But much to his surprise, Brian is literally sped off by a space craft, manned by two cyclops, whose eyes are held steady by a hand growing out of their heads. The ship crashes, and Brian nonchalantly leaves the wreckage, and is spotted once again by the Roman soldiers.

Brian escapes to People's Front headquarters, and backs into a rickety porch, which breaks under his weight. Brian falls on an unsuspecting beggar, who seems to be sidelining as a prophet (see photo). Here, Brian has no choice to become an ad-lib prophet, because the Roman army is close at hand. He utters

a few phrases about lilies and birds, which a small audience does not understand, but later begins a profound statement which he doesn't finish.

It is these words, and incomplete sentence; "will be given unto you..." that his followers base their faith on. At the end of the movie they are hundreds in number. All at once they're asking for "a sign" and even worship one of Brian's lost sandals, which he loses while trying to get away from them.

With all the religious content, the plot and message the movie hopes to instill are conveyed by leaving the characters flat, except for Brian, who seems to be completely bewildered by all his attention throughout the movie. At the very least Monty Python could be telling what it's really like to be mistaken for a Messiah.

Crown Jewelers Gem

Of The Holly Farm Mall
S.E. Mc Loughlin, Milwaukie

Gold Filled
and 14K Gold Chains
For Men & Women

Beautiful Pendants
and Earrings



Courtship

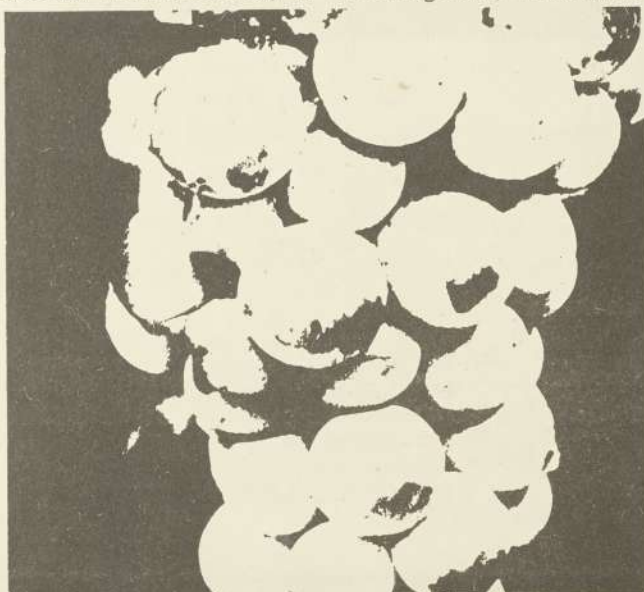
Engagement and Wedding Rings

ALL
WATCHES
25% OFF

654-4291

ALWAYS 10% OFF
ON ALL NON-SALE JEWELRY FOR
Clackamas Community College
Students with a current
student body card.

Clackamas Community College



Page 10

Photo by Kelly Laughlin

inches	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11(A)	12	13	14
L*	39.12	65.43	49.87	44.26	55.56	70.82	63.51	39.92	52.24	92.02	87.34	82.14	72.06	62.15
a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.56	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28
D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer	Density													
	0.04	0.09	0.15	0.22	0.36	0.51	0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42	2.90	3.40