

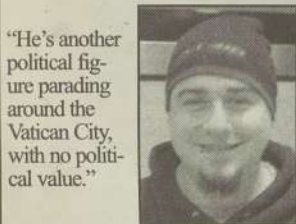
Student Poll

What do you think about the new Pope?



Kristin Morris

"Doesn't concern me, I'm not Catholic."



Josh Yoder

"He's another political figure parading around the Vatican City, with no political value."



James Winfield

"His red shoes are pimp."



Jamey Pierson

"He's doing good, as long as he doesn't change Vatican law."



Loren Ford

"While not Catholic, it's unfortunate he's a hard-line conservative, indictive of the backlash of forward ideas."



Krieg Holland

"He's doing a fine job."



Stephanie Koerner

"I haven't been following it to much."

This week's poll compiled by Kyle Steele

Vatican sides with science

Laura Cameron

Commentary Editor

I don't say this often, so please take note of the following statement: Thank God for the Pope.

I would also especially like to say "thank you" to Fiorenzo Facchini and *L'Osservatore Romano*, the newspaper of the Vatican.

In mid-January, the *L'Osservatore* printed an article by Facchini on "Intelligent Design," which, for those who haven't heard, is a lovely piece of pseudo-science that claims that life is too complex to have arisen by chance and must, therefore, have been created by a superior being. In his article Facchini lambastes I.D., saying that it "doesn't belong to science" and "only creates confusion between the scientific and philosophical and religious planes."

Facchini's article was part of a recent series of interventions by Vatican officials, including the Pope, on the I.D./Evolution debate. While Facchini's article has no legal weight, it's printing in the official Vatican

newspaper represents a major blow to the advocates of I.D.

To my mind, it hasn't come a day too soon.

In America's supposedly advanced civilization, science is coming under attack with increasing frequency, especially on the topic of evolution. Religious hard-liners deride evolution as "just a theory" and claim that it has "holes" that can't adequately explain the rising of life on Earth. Fortunately the separation of church and state keeps them from demanding that Biblical creation be taught in biology classes, but now they're attempting an end run around that restriction with I.D.

Already the anti-Darwin following has gained a toehold.

The Kansas State Board of Education has ruled that I.D. is

science and will be taught as such — though they had to rewrite their definition of science to make I.D. qualify.

In this period of anti-science, when the scientific definition of "theory" is pointedly ignored and religion is badly disguised as science, it is comforting to know that not all religious people treat science as deadly poison. —The printing of Facchini's article — which laments American "creationists" dragging the debate

back to the "dogmatic" 1800s and echoes the statements of Rev. George Coyne, the Vatican's chief astronomer — shines out as a beacon of rational thought in the Catholic Church.

Religion and science need not be mutually exclusive. Facchini, Coyne and the Pope are now making this clear.

Maybe they are proof of some intelligent design.



Photo illustration by E. West Clackamas Print

Pill-popping priest program plagues pious parents

Rev. Sam Krause

The Clackamas Print

After four difficult weeks on the air, NBC pulled "The Book of Daniel" when it failed to gain enough sponsorship and viewers.

"Daniel," one of NBC's best new shows during its brief time on the air, features an Episcopalian priest with a pill addiction who talks to Jesus (and Jesus talks to

him), his drug dealing 16 year-old daughter, his gay son who hides his homosexuality, his cocky and mischievous adopted 16-year-old Asian son, and his alcoholic wife, in addition to a slew of other dysfunctional cast members.

The main pro-family group that claims responsibility for getting "Daniel" pulled, the American Family Association, was calling for the shows cancellation before they even saw it. The following quotes

appeared in a Dec. 30, 2005 online newspaper AgapePress. Allie Martin, a regular contributor to AFA radio, wrote the piece.

"Ed Vitagliano is director of research for the American Family Association ... according to the AFA spokesman, advertisers who [buy advertising time during the] program will be monitored.

"And [we will be] holding advertisers accountable for what appears to be yet one more show that's going to dog the Christian faith."

If you could see me writing this, I'm shaking my head in disapproval. The AFA had no idea what they were doing. Unless God gave AFA chairman and founder Dr. Don Wildom omnipotent power, they jumped the gun.

All of the elements that make a good television series were there. A good ensemble cast, good writing, everyday situations, and the extremes that happen only on TV.

Only on TV do you see Jesus these days. Whether it's through Pat Robertson, the new Pope or actor Jim Caviezel, Jesus is always on TV.

But "Daniel's" Jesus, played by Garret Dillahunt, was different than other portrayals. He's not holier than thou, He's not preachy, and He makes sarcastic remarks that teach

you honest to goodness values.

When Jesus and Daniel talk about the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is heard to say "Feel free to quote me on that," and when Daniel is given credit by a former engaged couple for their decision not to get married, Jesus pops up and gives Daniel a sarcastic thumbs up.

Aidan Quinn played Rev. Daniel Webster, the pill-popping Episcopalian priest the AFA was worried about. Quinn was remarkable in his role, but that's how I've witnessed men of the cloth act. I felt his representation of Christian values authentic and how he balanced his Godly duties with his family duties insightful.

The family of Daniel is degenerate in its own way. But I ask the question, whose isn't? I think one of the biggest stinks with the show was Daniel's seemingly un-Christian family. All the show depicted was a stressed family that deals with diverse social situations while balancing the role of an Episcopal priest's family.

I was all too happy to learn the NBC has put the short lived series on their website. There is a new episode to stream every Friday. The week's episode features the gay son getting beaten and put in a coma. Juicy, eh?

Bus fares go up and up

David Stark

The Clackamas Print

For the second time in less than nine months TriMet has decided to increase their fares, a fact that has caused a great deal of resentment among those who frequently use mass transportation.

The current rate for adults was brought up to \$1.65 for one or two zones, and \$1.95 for all zones. While this is only a 15 cent rate increase and that may seem paltry at first, it adds up. For children and honored citizens the rate increase was a less extreme 10 cents, but this brings the pain of higher fares to those who do not necessarily have the jobs to afford it.

TriMet officials made the decision to raise rates for a number of reasons, primarily in order to combat a \$4.4 million deficit caused by the skyrocketing cost of diesel fuel.

Other reasons for the decision

are the rising cost of many other things that are required for the maintenance of the buses such as tires, engine oil and other assorted parts. Sadly, with fuel rates showing no sign of coming down, TriMet rates will most likely continue to increase.

If TriMet continues its trend of increasing costs then riders will soon be forced to look for new and cheaper ways to get around. In the event that happens, Portland streets will be clogged with a new influx of drivers who simply found it cheaper to drive everywhere.

However, it could work out in the opposite direction, forcing a massive growth of individuals who would choose bicycles as their primary means of transportation.

Since TriMet, like most institutions, seems incapable of being predicted we can only adopt a wait and see attitude for the coming days.



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

It's the trees or us ...



whose side are you on?