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Should Lou Holtz retire?
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IN OUR OPINION

Visit to Iraq is honorable

Thousands of miles away from friends, family and their own culture, U.S. soldiers are most likely looking for a little personal leadership now and then.

President Bush made the front pages for visiting and boosting morale with U.S. soldiers in Iraq on Thanksgiving.

It is the nature of the president's job that every action and inaction will carry a political edge. If he had not gone to Iraq, critics would have accused him of ignoring the troops, especially with other politicians such as Hillary Clinton making publicized visits.

Despite arguments and agendas, Bush did an honorable thing, and though risky, the trip to Iraq was clearly lined with good intentions.

But Bush went, and, still smarting over the whole "Mission Accomplished" incident on a certain aircraft carrier, risked accusation of manipulating the military for votes.

Presidents throughout American history have visited war-torn countries, including Dwight Eisenhower, who promised during his campaign to visit troops in Korea.

Bush's ultra-secret surprise visit to the troops was purposeful and carried a good message that these men and women are not expendable bodies, and that our government values them.

Despite all possible angles, arguments and agendas, Bush did an honorable thing, and though risky, the trip to Iraq was clearly lined with good intentions.

College Quote Board

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

"The one thing the media's circus left out, amidst interviews with family members and legal consultants and that homeless guy who got Jackson's spare change, was whether Jackson should really be charged with corrupting America's fairy-tale view of the ever-innocent Peter Pan, who symbolizes every American's dream of never growing up."

THE PITTS NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

"Will male birth control replace vasectomies for men who don't want to have any more children? Vasectomies, while fairly routine elective procedures are still invasive surgery, and are generally not reversible. For a man who isn't completely sure he's done reproducing, hormonal birth control may be ideal."



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Curtains have deep meaning



RACHAL HATTON
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A heaping helping of Thanksgiving guilt.

Over Thanksgiving break, I bought fabric for curtains, and while waiting patiently in a ridiculously long line on the biggest shopping day of the year, I found myself thinking about the larger meaning of curtains.

A curtain masks, conceals and prevents others from seeing parts of our lives we wish to keep secret. So then I started thinking of this double curtain — what we keep in our dwellings, and what we keep on our lives.

My heaviest curtain is my sister. My family only speaks of her right before holidays, before a family member drops her off, since she sold the car my parents gave her a few years back. I have learned to keep the draperies pulled and the shutters sealed.

My sister has spent the majority of her life institutionalized,

and when she did spend time living at home, she caused nothing but problems, and would usually run away every few months.

My sister has not held a job her entire life.

This Thanksgiving, she mentioned that she lives off of \$800 a month that she receives in governmental checks.

With that money, she supports herself, her two sons and her abusive live-in boyfriend. I've never been one to blame the victim, but I feel she's completely irresponsible for putting her children in such an abusive environment and not materially providing for them.

I can't forgive her for that lack of foresight and discretion, and all my knowledge about women's studies and the status quo get thrown out the window, curtains and all.

But I digress. I'm ashamed about how much I spend obsessing and concerning myself regarding social ills, while simultaneously giving such little consideration to the impoverished and mentally ill in my own family.

I give money to local charities, and buy sandwiches and soda for the homeless who hang out at the Shell station on College Street.

I could send money, food and clothing to my sister and her two sons. Instead, I blame her for her

poverty and criticize her lifestyle.

This Thanksgiving, when I was with my family, instead of taking time to be thankful for all I had, I was angry with my sister. I felt she was unwilling to make positive changes, and I was angry that my family was so disinclined to help her when she so obviously needed help.

Aren't they also responsible for her? How can they watch her get out of control and harm her children in the process? In the past, my parents had bought her cars, paid her rent and sent her checks.

Financial aid isn't enough; she needs livelihood support as well.

I have a huge sense of guilt, and I have a huge amount of guilt. There's so much I'm willing to do for people, and so many ways I try to help others. But I am just as irresponsible as my heroin-addicted sister.

I could talk to her about going to tech school, I could help her find a job, and I could look into other resources to help her find childcare and assistance. Instead, I further incriminate myself, and draw the curtains tighter.

Hatton is a third-year women's studies student.

Preorder your own GloFish today



ANITA AUTRY
GAMECOCKOPINIONS@HOTMAIL.COM

Brand-new way to beat nature into submission.

In a fast-paced society that is revolutionizing nanotechnology and elucidating the human genome, Matt Groening visualized the future of fish engineering.

It's true that "The Simpsons" three-eyed fish was one created by the freak contamination of a nearby stream by the huge power-sucking nuclear plant, but the similarities to the recent invention of the glow-in-the-dark fish are simply staggering.

Matt Groening's genius must not have been ignored.

This newly engineered fish that has recently been announced to the public has the ability to glow in the dark on command. By on command, I mean when you shine a black light on it.

As a scientist and feminist, I am opposed to genetic engineering in general. There should be long-term research to figure out what the consequences of such advances will be on the ecosystem before these products are introduced to market.

I also think it's just a little odd to recombine material found in nature and patent it, but hey, who am I to get in the way of profit-rewarding hard work?

However, I must praise the inventors of this new "GloFish TM." What better fruits of the genetic engineering conquest could you think of than a glow-in-the-dark fish? I mean, those guys at Greenpeace are so out of line when they call this stroke of genius "Frankenfish."

All the scientists did was help nature hurry up and do what it was meant to do: allow zebrafish and coral to reproduce together!

Imagine the possibilities of mass marketing! "GloFish TM" everywhere! It will be the new betta. I think I'm going to go flush Lucky to make room for my fluorescent fish. He's embarrassingly old, anyway.

I'm so glad they finally found a new way to market black lights. Those things were due for a resurgence in popularity. My Bob Marley and Dead Head posters just weren't motivation to turn mine on anymore.

Those betta fish were just a scam anyway. Down with those greedy betta farmers! Bettas only live for like, three weeks, and what do they do? Swim around. That's it. The least they could do is glow, for Pete's sake.

The most exciting part of this revelation in the fish-making world is the possibility for future GE pets. What I really have use for is a glowing dog.

Think of it: I could have an evening jog with my little puppy and not worry about being able to see the road or other drivers not seeing me on the side of the road. And honestly, what better conversation piece is there than a glowing lapdog?

So my advice for you is to get on eBay as quickly as possible to order your new fish, available in the United States on Jan. 5, 2004, for a reported price of \$5. You're just not going to be respected if you don't have this new fad featured as your dorm pet.

And be sure not to put it in your "nature" corner — that would violate your feng shui because it's not actually a product of nature.

But be sure to put up a shrine to Matt Groening in your genius corner — he's always been the wind beneath my intellectual wings.

Autry is a third-year neuroscience student.

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 21 issue of The Gamecock, photographs of Tigerburns circa 1940 should have been credited to the USC Archives.

The Gamecock regrets the error.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@hotmail.com.

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Pragmatism alone shouldn't guide law

In her column ("Gay marriages are practical," Monday), Allyson Bird discussed opposition by many to the idea of "gay marriage," wondering, "... just what the big deal is."

Well, that's a good question. I don't agree with all of Bird's assertions, but I'm not writing to argue the practicalities of "gay marriage," because I believe very few people feel that pragmatism alone should determine our society's concept of marriage.

So what is the big deal? I would guess there are plenty of people on either side of the "gay marriage" issue who don't fully understand what it's really about. I say it's not just about homosexuals — it's about all of us and how we relate to our Creator.

I'll go ahead and acknowledge that I'm writing from a decidedly Christian perspective — at least that's what I'm trying to do — in order to present an explanation as to why many Christians are passionate about this issue. You won't find anger or hate here, though I expect many will disagree strongly when I use the word "sin" in connection with homosexuality.

Why do I use the word "sin"? In simplest terms, I believe the Bible. There are parts of scripture, taken in as much context as you like, that make it pretty clear, in my opinion. One of them is chapter one of Romans.

We must understand that this issue is not about passing judgment on people because the very next chapter in scripture (literally in the same

IN YOUR OPINION

train of thought and discussion) says: "... at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things."

What is this telling us? I believe it is telling us that we all sin, and the nature of all sin is the same. God created us. He loves us. He wants us to be happy, and to that end, He has a plan and a will for our lives. He gives us our lives and says (big paraphrase here) "Here's life — use as directed."

But we all want to ignore His direction. It's as if we're prescribed medication to take once a day and we say, "That's crazy, I'll take 5 at a time as often as I like." Well, that can hurt us, can't it?

Just like kids, we think "Because I said so" isn't reason enough. We're too intelligent — too sophisticated — to be told what is and what isn't good for us. So we covet, we lust, we indulge ourselves, viewing His guidelines with suspicion and missing out on the joy He meant us to experience. This rejection of God's authority in our lives is the hallmark of all sin, not just homosexuality.

And a careful reading of the aforementioned chapter 1 of Romans will plainly reveal that the social acceptance of homosexual behavior is an indicator that society in general has rejected God's authority. This is why our government must not equate same-sex unions with marriage or in the process grant a civil stamp of approval to immorality.

For the same reason, the prospect of "gay marriage" is one that should provoke introspection, not judgment,

among those who oppose it. "How have I been rejecting God's authority in my own life?" is what I should ask myself when I think about this issue.

Thankfully, God's grace and forgiveness are available to all of us if we trust in His risen son, Jesus Christ.

JEFF MOBLEY

GRADUATE STUDENT IN STATISTICS

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We want to hear it!



Er — read it.

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