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# Conventional minds think alike

## Religious gathering attempts to condemn Disney Company, affiliates



Columnist  
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The Southern Baptists are going to be hard-pressed to completely avoid everything which represents Disney. Even the evening news on ABC affiliates falls into the off-limits zone.

Some might wonder why the Southern Baptists would go to all this trouble, and why in this day of trash TV and sex-laced films, would one of America's largest producers of

family fare be boycotted. The Convention has had grievances with Disney for a while.

In fact, there was a partial boycott last year with the release of the animated film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Baptists said Disney was growing increasingly anti-Christian and immoral, and this was just a taste of the future if Disney did not clean up its act. The irony here is so thick, one can taste it; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was one of the most religious and moral films released last year.

Southern Baptists are angry at what they have decided is a "gay-friendly" environment at Disney. They are angry with Disney-sponsored "Gay Days" at the Walt Disney World and Disneyland theme parks.

Delegates also are upset with the content of films such as *Pulp Fiction* and *Kids* produced by Disney subsidiaries. One of the biggest beefs is that Disney offers health benefits to same-sex partners for its employees. The Baptists cite this as proof that Disney is "anti-family" and anti-Christian.

Sorry for the rude awakening, but this is what's known as economics, and Disney is not the only company with the practice. In fact, according to KPMG Peat Marwick said 13 percent of all United States employers are quietly extending benefits to gay partners. In Hollywood, it is considered critical to attract mid-level executives.

So if this Disney boycott is a hint of things to come, the Baptists are going to find themselves between a rock and a hard place. Some of the other companies with gay benefits include IBM, Apple Computer, Microsoft, Bank of America and even the San Francisco 49ers. Even MCA, Inc., owner of Warner Brothers, has jumped on the bandwagon. So what's next, are the Baptists going to be looking for homosexual undertones in the Roadrunner and Coyote cartoons?

Gays and lesbians currently comprise between two and 10 percent of the work force, according to a recent Associated Press report. For the most part, these workers are highly skilled and educated. Many Disney animators



GRAPHIC: Brad Graeber

The Southern Baptists are again in the spotlight as the self-appointed moral barometer of America. In the recent Southern Baptist Convention, the organization's 12,000 delegates voted overwhelmingly for a boycott of the Disney Company and the "gay-friendly" environment the Baptists feel the company promotes.

The Southern Baptists seem to be slipping over a few pages in the good book they claim to champion. Unless the Baptists have revised it, the Bible never promoted hatred, discrimination or bigotry. The very fact that a group claiming to be Christian can be against being "friendly" to any group is ludicrous.

It is hypocrisy such as this that is turning Americans away from religion. Teaching hate and advocating intolerance and ignorance is only going to make people seek other spiritual outlets. David M. Smith of the Human Rights Campaign said it well: "Unlike the Southern Baptist Convention, most people of faith recognize that they can disagree over whether or not homosexuality is right and still agree that discriminating against gay people is wrong."

The Baptists are the nation's largest Protestant denomination, numbering around 15.7 million members. The delegates hope this action, though non-binding, will influence enough followers in its 40,613 affiliated churches so that the Disney Company will feel the pinch.

The boycott asks members to refrain from frequenting or watching anything that is affiliated with Disney. One member summed up the sentiment of the convention, "We love Jesus more than we love entertainment."

If only it were as black and white as that. The Disney Company is a huge conglomerate. Not only does it produce cartoon classics that made it famous, but it has holdings across the spectrum of entertainment and multimedia.

There are the 530 outlets of the Disney store. In addition to its own Disney Channel, the company owns stock in other cable networks: A&E, Lifetime and 80 percent of ESPN.

They also own the ABC network, including its programs "Ellen" and "Home Improvement." Of course there are also theme parks, colleges, sports teams, newspapers, Touchstone Pictures, Miramax, Hollywood Pictures and Caravan Pictures. And don't forget everyone's favorite, "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee." The point is, Disney is everywhere.

do. As for the rest of America, hopefully logic will come into play. If you don't like a program or movie's content, don't watch. If you are offended by "Gay Days," take your family to Epcot another time.

As far as Disney films go, don't punish your children from seeing classic, family-oriented films simply because you cannot see past your own hate and stupidity.

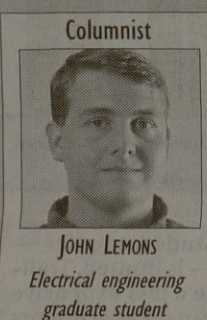
The Baptists are probably relying on hearsay; they probably did not even see the program.

These comments sound glaringly like paranoia; only someone who was unsure of their own sexuality could ever possibly come up with such an outlandish statement.

The Baptists are going to do whatever their closed minds direct them to

# Baptists stand up for boycotting rights

## Disney Company cloaks true motives behind family-oriented name



Columnist  
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Obviously, the Disney Company's agenda always has been to destroy the moral fiber of America. Consider Disney's film releases throughout the years. *Snow White* was a strumpet. This was a young woman living with seven dirty little old men — a scandalous action, even in the increasingly tolerant '90s.

Recently, the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, passed a resolution to boycott Disney. This boycott has created considerable criticism from the American public. The Baptists, however, are justified in taking action on their convictions despite the unpopularity of their move.

The boycott resolution asks the 15.7 million members of the denomination to "refrain from patronizing the Disney Company and any of its related entities," because Disney is "increasingly promoting immoral ideologies such as homosexuality, infidelity and adultery, which are biblically reprehensible and abhorrent to God and His plan for the world that He loves."

Critics claim this move is a publicity stunt by the Southern Baptist Convention, and an attempt to persecute homosexuals. These criticisms, however, neglect the motivation behind the Baptist's extreme action.

Disney is the world's largest and best-known provider of family entertainment. Through their entertainment and policies, however, many people feel Disney is promoting ideas which are anti-family and unbiblical. The Baptists have decided they cannot, in good conscience, support a company whose actions compromise their faith.

This issue is not a matter of the Baptists trying to attack any specific group, but an attempt to encourage denominational members to follow through in their beliefs. The boycott resolution itself states, "This is not an attempt to bring the Disney Company down, but to bring Southern Baptists up to the moral standard of God."

This resolution aimed toward Disney, also asks Baptists to "refrain from patronizing any

company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices." Although one may not agree with the Southern Baptist Convention's opinion on Disney's practices, the Baptists deserve respect for taking a public stand on their convictions. In a time when many people are unwilling to embrace any sense of right and wrong, it is admirable that somebody is willing to use moral judgment.

The Southern Baptist Convention does have good reason to find fault with the "Magic Kingdom of Debauchery." Disney is not as family friendly as it proclaims itself.

Disney owns many other entertainment companies including ABC, ESPN, Hollywood Records and Touchstone Pictures. Through its other companies, Disney discretely releases materials which the public would never accept under the Disney title.

Disney's Miramax Pictures, in particular, is guilty of producing movies which are unacceptable for family viewing. The critically acclaimed *Pulp Fiction* is a Miramax production filled with graphic and gratuitous violence. *Priest* is a film which features five dysfunctional Roman Catholic priests — critics called the movie anti-Christian. *Kids* is a borderline-pornographic release which deals with the lives of adolescent teenagers living on the streets of New York. This film was so controversial that Disney had Miramax release it under a different movie studio name. The movie's opening scene depicts the deflowering of a barely-pubescent looking girl. *Exotica*, another quality Miramax release, is the poignant story of strippers working in a nightclub.

If Disney solely exists to provide quality entertainment for children, then there is no justification for graphically portraying children having sex in a film like *Kids*. Obviously, Disney's first priority is not to create movies which bring parents and children together — it is to make money. A company who unscrupulously unloads children's cartoons and clear child

pornography on the public in the name of making a buck is not interested in benefiting America's families or its culture.

It is dual-faced for Disney, who has carefully crafted its family reputation, to hide its trashy adult entertainment under an assumed name. Disney cannot expect, however, to play to both sides of the entertainment spectrum forever — eventually, the public will realize Mickey Mouse is a porn-pusher.



MAIL CALL

### Air bag innovations require 'whole' view

In response to General Franklin's June 26 column and a June 30 mail call letter concerning air bag technology:

I had not read Franklin's column on air bags. After reading Peter Winter's letter in this column, I expected to find a heavily politicized argument for government control of our driving habits.

On my first read of the column, though, I could not see the liberal media bias that Winter found. The column was a well-written piece on the positive and negative aspects of air bags. In case I had missed the column's liberal ideals that had offended Winter, I used my web browser to search the column for keywords that are signs of liberalism I must have overlooked.

First, I searched for "government," as in the big government all liberals love. It was not in the column. Next, I tried "regulate," which is how liberals create big government. It was not there, either. "Statute," which is a way to regulate, was not in the column. "Law," "rule" and "mandate" also could not be found. I searched for the word "sex" too, since that is something with which all liberals are obsessed — it was not there.

Maybe Winter was wrong about Franklin's column being

liberally biased. Winter also claimed that the liberals forced air bags upon us. After searching the web, I found this also to be false.

Most groups I found that support air bags had both conservative and liberal supporters. One such group is the Air Bag Safety Campaign, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes maximizing air bag benefits while minimizing their risks.

The group's list of supporters contains both conservative and liberal companies and organizations. (The list is online at [www.nsc.org/partners/camcips.htm](http://www.nsc.org/partners/camcips.htm)).

Issues, such as the ones concerning air bags, are more complex than an "Us versus Them" view. Examining a problem from one viewpoint, as Winter did in his letter, will hide any useful information.

Examining a problem from many viewpoints, as Franklin did in his column, will offer the best understanding of the problem. This usually leads to the best solution.

Rob Ignatowski  
 Class of '89

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