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Members only

Focus on belonging to organization categorizes some students as outsiders



MASON JACKSON
columnist

tall, a buck sixty and couldn't grow a beard if my life depended on it, but even I would have given a hell of a good fight before being scalped.

Would he join the Catholic Students Association? No, I doubt that the missing link's views on evolution would jive with creationism.

So when somebody asks Skunk Ape what he is, who his crew is, what does he say?

Who does he hang out with?
Nobody! Then how does he know who he is?

I mean, he walks the campus alone. Sure they accept him on Northgate, but that's no accomplishment.

He has no shirt telling what event he last took part in and who sponsored it.

Skunk Ape is a loner. But what if Skunk Ape is happy and contented despite all of this? Perhaps even because of it.

Maybe he grew to like solitude in all those years in the Everglades.

Skunk Ape might be the naturally introspective type — in touch with his inner monkey.

But other people aren't going to like such self-reliance.

They may not want him in their group, but they want him in some group. Then they would know what they were dealing with.

Because a freelance Bigfoot is a dangerous Bigfoot.

At least that's what we've been genetically conditioned to think. Herds are rarely seen as a threat, but predators usually travel alone.

Yet I don't think people have anything

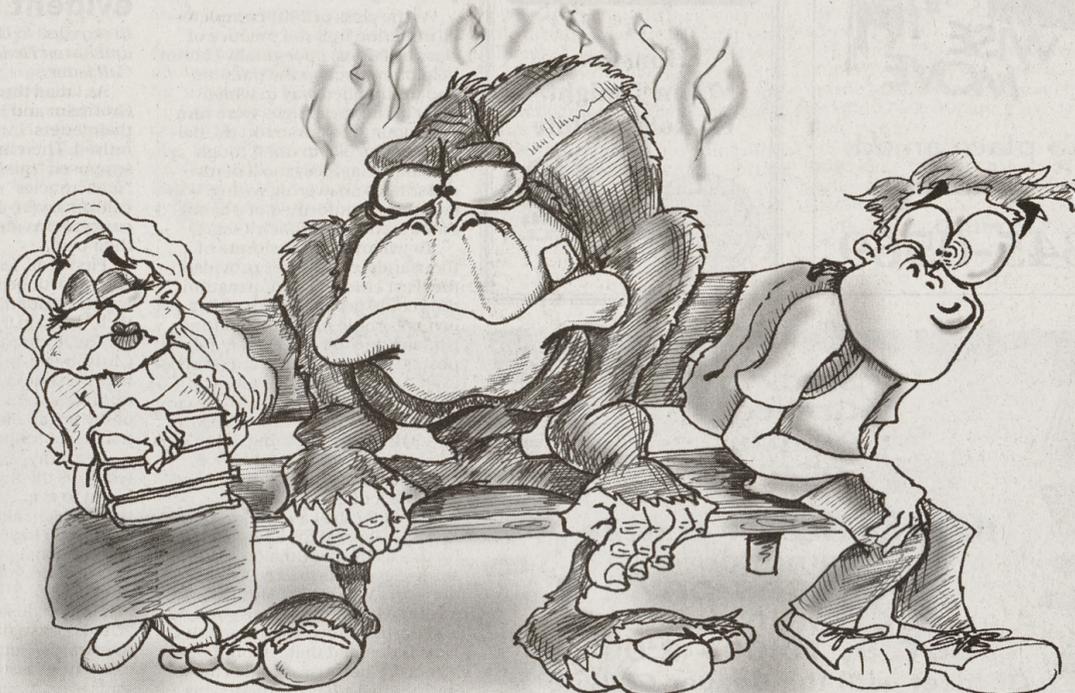
to fear from Skunk Ape, he just wants to get his degree (genetic engineering with a minor in animal psychology), make a few friends (but not so many as to force disingenuous behavior) and do whatever feels

right in his gut.

Sure it may be a little more difficult for him to get a job if most of his life experiences didn't come with a title or a membership card, but so be it.

Life is a journey, and Skunk Ape is a traveling man.

Mason Jackson is a senior marketing major.



Promise Keepers' overall message mired by NOW

Practicing moral purity, honoring and respecting women, combating racism and promoting love; to the Promise Keepers, it is a way of life.



DONNY FERGUSON
columnist

To the National Organization for Women, it is a deadly movement which must be stopped.

The feminist fringe group, notorious for its divisive, ultra-radical agenda, vehemently protested the Christian organization's Saturday prayer assembly in Washington, D.C.

As the near-million participants formed a crowd four blocks wide and a mile and a half long to hear African-American, Native-American, Asian and Hispanic ministers promote racial healing and family unity, they endured NOW's mean-spirited assaults and a visit by the "Lesbian Avengers," who pushed their way through the mass prayer telling Christians they, "are not welcome here."

Disgusted by a society in which men abuse their wives, abandon their children and destroy their families, former Colorado University football coach Bill McCartney founded the organization in 1990 with just 72 members, growing to 2.6 million in only seven years.

Promise Keepers pledge to stay faithful to their wives, fight racism, build a stronger family and volunteer in their community, among other things.

But if you believe NOW, Promise Keepers is actually a plot by the "religious right" to, as NOW president Patricia Ireland puts it, create an "authoritarian, religion-based government."

According to NOW, Promise Keepers is actually a racist, misogynist political movement ready to turn the United States into a patriarchal state.

Congratulations NOW, you have surpassed the Republic of Texas as America's most paranoid, conspiratorial fringe group.

Among NOW's more dubious claims is the contention Promise Keepers secretly promotes the subjugation of women (despite the fact Promise Keepers was founded to combat problems such as the improper treatment of women by men.)

Relying on a twisted interpretation, NOW asserts when Promise Keepers urge their members to accept responsibility as head of the household, they are ordering men to take on a dictatorial role.

In reality, Promise Keepers continually command men to treat their wives as equals and, as Promise Keeper speaker Tony Evans said, "treat the lady gently and lovingly."

They even go so far as to say that "men, not women are the problem," a line which could have been taken straight from "Thelma and Louise."

Central to the Promise Keepers message is the equal and decent treatment of women, something deadly to a feminist organization which lives off sexual division and is proud to call a woman cheating on her husband with another woman their president.

But NOW's most crackpot theory is their belief Promise Keepers is actually a cleverly disguised political movement. Once again, they are about as accurate as the "Elvis is alive" crowd.

The anti-Promise Keeper rabble claim the organization is a political movement because its founder has supported pro-family legislation in the past and the group has received some support from political activists.

However, political activity has never been part of the organization's activities.

If Promise Keepers is a political movement, they should fire their director.

Promise Keepers have never handed out voter guides, never passed out voter registration cards, never told members how to vote, never mentioned a candidate or piece of legislation and refuses to let politicians speak at rallies.

In fact, Saturday's "sacred assembly" was originally scheduled for 1996, but was canceled after organizers agreed it would appear political.

If NOW's numbskulled logic were true, the North Zulch Quilting Club is really just a front for the conservative wing of the Republican Party because ol' Bernice voted for Barry Goldwater in 1964 (even though she only did it because LBJ dumped her in high school.)

Obviously, Promise Keepers has nothing to do with politics and politics has never been a part of Promise Keepers.

NOW fears the Promise Keepers because the organization represents America's recommitment to conservative family values.

More concerned with preserving its ultra-radical, pro-homosexual, pro-taxpayer funded abortion on demand agenda than it is about the equal treatment of women, NOW waged an anti-Christian hate campaign against the Promise Keepers in a pathetic effort to breath life into a dead feminist movement.

Clinging to a handful of poorly grounded, intellectually transparent assumptions, NOW attempted to misrepresent the Promise Keepers as a Nazi-like horde of racist, misogynist extremists, only to fail miserably.

The near-million crowd of white, black, Latino, Asian and Native American men gathered to peacefully pledge to renew their marriages, honor their families, promote racial reconciliation and serve their communities.

In effect, they exposed the National Organization for Women for what it really is, a crumbling fringe group more concerned about pushing a radical, divisive agenda down America's throat than the rights and status of America's women.

After centuries of oppression, degradation and abuse, America's women and families are finally being honored by a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting racial and gender reconciliation.

Too bad the National Organization for Women is too obsessed with political power and a fanatical agenda to stand up for America's families.

Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.

Sexual myths miss focus of where beauty truly resides

Bigger is not better in human sexuality, and the cultural myth to the contrary produces a totally unnecessary, mass inferiority complex.



JOSHUA HILL
columnist

Since the subject of sex is hardly ever discussed outside the contexts of jokes and ads, the sexual ignorance of the public is staggering.

Add to this ignorance many media sources that simultaneously elevate the importance of sex and emphasize the average person's sexual inadequacy, and the formula for inferiority is complete.

The phrase "bigger is better" is now almost a requirement for action films, and the number of actresses that look like the average woman can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Let's not forget the inventive obscenity of the Big Johnson T-shirts.

The big problem is that people are bombarded with these subtle (or not so subtle) messages all their lives with no one to tell them anything different.

The result is that many people live their lives believing, consciously or subconsciously, that they were born into this world so physically deficient that they cannot perform human functions at the normal level.

Therefore, many women ex-

haust themselves trying to stay 20 pounds underweight and are haunted by guilt when they cannot meet their goals.

The Wonderbra probably was not invented for comfort.

As for men, many hide their "small" penises behind big egos and brash talk and worry about being able to satisfy their partners.

The facts that dispel the myths are not difficult to find.

According to a sex information site on the internet in connection with the Free Speech Online Blue Ribbon Campaign, the average penis length is about inches and the average girth about 4.8 inches.

The overwhelming majority of men are between five and seven inches in length.

Darlene Mininni, coordinator of the Sexual Health Education Program of the UCLA Student Health Service, addressed the myth in a 1995 Daily Bruin SexTalk Column.

"For men who have sex with women, it's important to know that most of a woman's sexual pleasure during sex comes from the clitoris (which is on the outside of her body) and the first two inches of the vagina.

Therefore, unless a man's erect penis is less than two inches long, it should not cause a sexual problem."

There is no part of the female body that could hinder the sex function by its size or the lack thereof.

The myth here is that a woman has to be buff, busty and leggy to stand a chance with any decent male.

Buff, busty and leggy are requirements for some males, but none of them decent.

The tragic theme running through the myths of both sexes is that appearance is paramount.

Many men are so hooked on appearances they will not use the public urinals for fear that their flaccid penises will not be up to size with the next man.

"When penises are not erect they vary in size, but the erection is the great equalizer," Mininni said, "... most individuals, regardless of whether they had a penis size preference, were ultimately more concerned with the quality of the man attached to the penis than the penis itself."

The world of supermodels, not to mention the growing pornography industry, inundate the women of America with an "ideal" they cannot reach.

Both sexes are affected, regardless of their intellectual convictions, because these sexual "ideals" bombard a fundamental physiological desire — to be attractive to the opposite sex.

These "ideals" are too widespread to be destroyed on a worldwide cultural basis, but people should not have to live in fear of not being sexually "normal."

If more people would develop their inside beauty and set their sights on the supermodel souls of the opposite sex, this culture of inferiority and fear would lose much of its power.

Joshua Hill is a junior English major.

