

OPINION

YOU'RE BORING, CHARLIE BROWN

aging comic strip characters found guilty of leaving readers groaning instead of laughing



AARON MEIER

ground. Most of the characters have been around for so long, they are eligible to receive Social Security.

Maybe it's time Charlie Brown got acne and Linus ditched the blanket for a letterman jacket in the wonderful world of high school.

It would be easy for Lucy to turn into one of those Goth chicks from the "Jenny Jones Show."

She already has the jet-black hair and scares the pants off of everyone. Just give her a nose ring, a Marilyn Manson T-shirt and a few dog collars, and she would blend right into any high school in the country.

Also, turn Schroeder into a band geek. Just have him ditch the piano and take up the tuba, put on a few hundred pounds and sell chocolate bars to all the other kids.

Pigpen can stay the same because there was always the kid in school who never bathed.

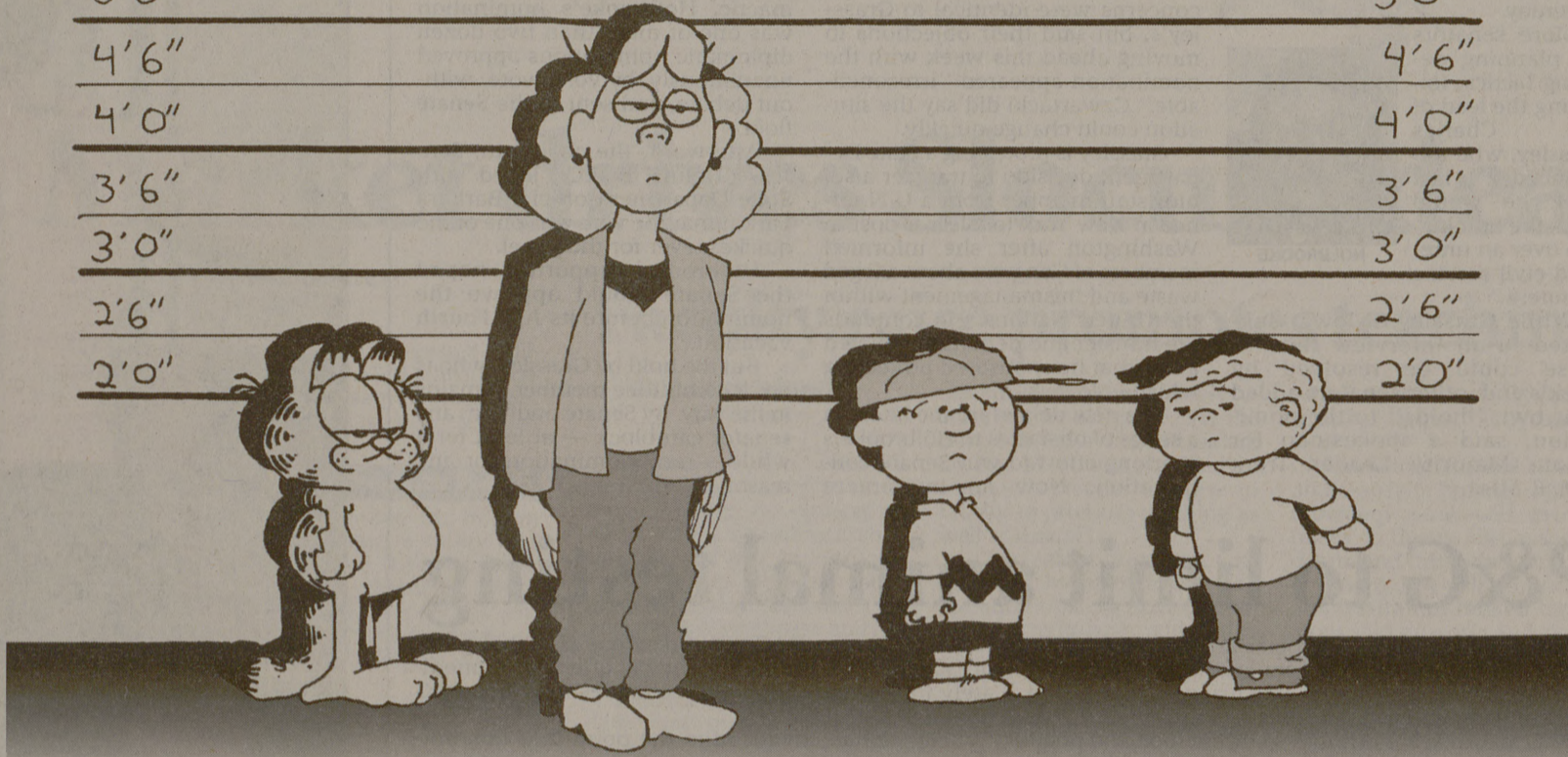
Once the little red-headed girl is turned into Luann, the world of "Saved by the Bell: The Teen Years" would be set.

Or maybe Schultz should consider a spin-off. Snoopy and Woodstock have always been the Laurel and Hardy of the funny pages, so giving them their own strip wouldn't be that big of a stretch. Snoopy has already conquered the dance world and explored his sexuality by smooching with Lucy, so give the pooch and his little bird friend their own six panels.

They could cruise around in Snoopy's doghouse and get into brawls with the other dumb animal comics that litter the funnies.

Have Snoopy poison Garfield's lasagna, neuter Marmaduke and

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2'6"	2'6"
2'0"	2'0"



GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

show Dogbert who has the real brains on the funny pages.

It could be like a cross between "Celebrity Deathmatch" meets "Laffolympics."

Or maybe Schultz could jump on the "gay chic" bandwagon.

There have always been rumors about big name stars and their alleged homosexuality:

Rosie O'Donnell, Ricky Martin, Peppermint Patty and Marcy.

It would send Schultz's cultural currency through the roof and would make lesbians across the country buy Patty and Marcy T-shirts by the truck load. They could be Anne and Ellen without the political rhetoric.

The story line is easy to imag-

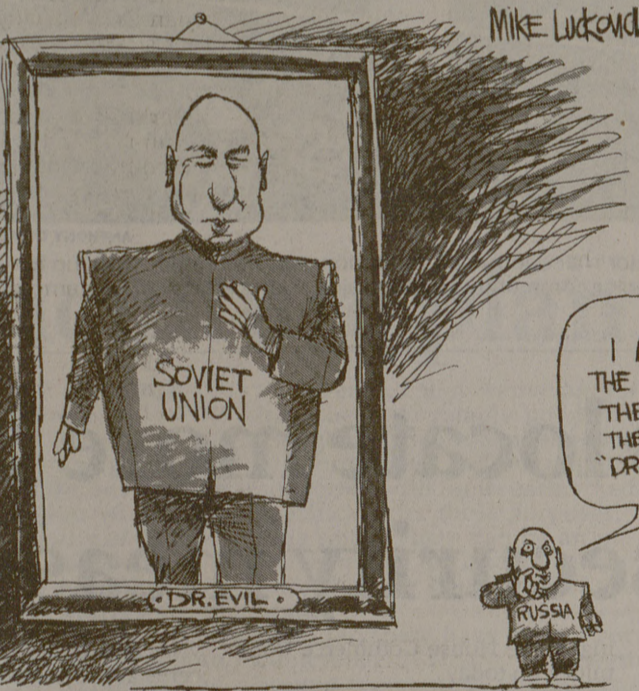
ine. Have the two girls go to Lillith Fair, and in one of the "male repression" tents, Marcy could say, "Sir, I think I love you, sir."

Sure these options might be a little risky. They might even cause a little controversy, but if Superman's death was such a big deal, imagine what Charlie Brown as a drag queen would do.

And it is not like the updates are beyond the scope of Schultz.

Remember "Flashbeagle?" Snoopy in leg warmers worked wonders for the world of dog fashion.

Aaron Meier is a senior political science major.



MIKE LUKOVICH/ATLANTA CHRISTIANITY

I AM "MINI-ME," THE CLONE 1/8 THE SIZE OF THE ORIGINAL "DR. EVIL"...



ACLU strikes out with its suit against minor league ballpark

Throughout the long history of professional baseball in America, there have always been gimmicks to try to get people to come to the ballpark. It happens so often that most of them are not even noticed, unless they go bad like the infamous "Dime Beer Night" in Cleveland and "Disco Demolition Night" in Chicago back in the 1970s.

Now, with the emergence of political correctness, there is one promotion that may become far better known than any one before it, because it may end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Suns, from Hagerstown, Maryland, are a minor league baseball team and have come up with a promotion called "Church Program Night."

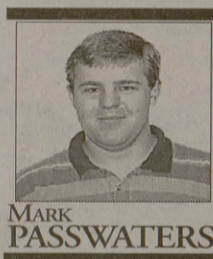
On this night, which occurs one home game a month, families who bring a copy of their church or temple order of services or newsletter may get into the ballpark for \$1 a piece.

As a result, moms and dads can take their kids on a family outing and spend less than \$15 for the whole night — food, drinks and tickets all included.

Of course, not everyone in Hagerstown goes to a church or temple. One agnostic citizen realized that this promotion would not apply to him and is screaming discrimination.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is saying that this promotion is a show of religious bias and is demanding that it be stopped at once.

In recent years, there have been many instances of P.C. being used to fight invisible demons. In this case, P.C. is not being used to right some heinous wrong, but as a tool for people who wish to do battle with organized religion in this nation.



MARK PASSWATERS

The ownership of this baseball team has developed an idea that will do what any promotion is supposed to — put backsides in seats. But since the discount can only be received if people bring a program for a house of worship to the gate, the ACLU is acting like copies of *Mein Kampf* are being handed out to the fans.

In a broad sense, this gimmick can be considered discriminatory. But it can be more reasonably considered good marketing. People who choose not to bring these programs to the ballpark can still get into the game and will not be gouged in the pocketbook. This is not like taking a trip to the Super Bowl, where tickets start at \$100 a piece.

Political correctness is being used "as a tool for people who wish to do battle with organized religion."

This is a trip to a minor league ballpark, where tickets top out at \$6.

And certainly, this is not the only promotion the Suns have during the season.

A common promotion is "Ladies Night," when women can get in for a dollar.

Other minor league parks around the nation have come up with ideas that could be considered discrimination as well.

Examples of these include "Bald Head" night, where people with no hair or shaved heads can get in for free.

But has the ACLU taken up the cause of the oppressed males with full heads of hair?

Of course not. The sound of silence is deafening.

On the other hand, having people show up with a church program is treated as if it were a criminal action.

Lost in all the crying and moaning about keeping God out of the ballparks are a few simple things.

The first is how trivial this promotion is. There will not be a prayer before the game, nor will there be communion during the 7th Inning Stretch. Anyone who claims this idea is an attempt to force religion down the throats of the masses probably also thinks the aliens from Roswell, N.M., killed President Kennedy.

Further, this is not an issue of separation of church and state. This is a promotion that has been developed by a private enterprise in order to strengthen its bottom line. The state of Maryland and the federal government have not gotten involved in the situation to this point nor should they. There is no basis for their involvement. Furthermore, if the ACLU will not protest promotions where there are beer specials at ballgames, which may end up hurting people physically, then it has no business getting involved here.

It is astounding to think there are people out there who actually would consider this promotion, which happens five times in an entire season, religious persecution. This promotion is not the first step toward a new inquisition nor is it like an old-fashioned revival. It is a money-making scheme that just so happens to involve religion.

If people do not like it, that is understandable.

They can come on nights when there is another promotion.

Maybe the ACLU and the ballpark can come to some kind of accommodation, like having "Overly Touchy People Night" or "Crybaby Night." God knows, it could be a winner.

Mark Passwaters is a graduate student in electrical engineering.

MAIL CALL

Readers respond to slavery column

Response to Caleb McDaniel's 28 column.

Once again, Islam is being blamed for the mal-practices of its followers. McDaniel is quick to criticize the "Islamic government" of Sudan for encouraging slavery. Whereas he could have simply called it the "Sudanese government," he had to bring Islam into the picture. Islam has stood firm against slavery and all other ideas of exploitation for 1,400 years of conception, and if modern day so-called Muslim governments pose otherwise, then please do not blame Islam for it.

As a Sudanese citizen, I have read the facts rather than reading listening to them from the media, and the problem of slavery is real.

However, labeling the government as Islamic and thereby giving the false impression that the religion is responsible for the practice of slavery in Sudan is an unfortunate distortion of the facts and a misrepresentation of the Islamic faith.

Yassin M. Elhassan
Faculty Member

I am writing to commend McDaniel on a very thorough, very well-researched and superbly worded article.

His column on the resurgence of slavery in war-torn Sudan made for excellent reading.

By staying within the scope of his subject, he manages to communicate effectively without confusing the issues.

Ayokunle Ogunshola
Graduate Student

NHL made right decision on ruling

In response to Mark Passwaters' June 30 column.

Mark claims the NHL ignored the rules when awarding Brett Hull's goal that clinched the Stanley Cup.

This is not the case. During the regular season, the NHL sent a memo about the crease rule to all 27 NHL teams four times outlining the possession rule.

A similar goal to Hull's was scored by St. Louis's Geoff Courtnall in the regular season that was allowed to stand for the same reasons Hull's was.

In both cases, the correct call

was made. The rule was amended last season after an empty net goal was disallowed because the player entered the crease before shooting the puck in.

Buffalo did not contest the goal until 10 minutes later after seeing TV replays.

But the goal had already been reviewed, and a rule that is in place was correctly applied.

The NHL is guilty of not always knowing its own rule book and following it all the time.

Mark is right about that. But the rules were not ignored on this call.

Rory King
Class of '00

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