

HUMOR

The people who count will get it

Rumsfeld commissions Imperial Walkers for ANWAR invasion



Chris Hvizdak/THE BEHREND BEACON

Rumsfeld rides BigBoy into ANWAR leading his new Imperial Army.

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Following the resignation of Secretary of the Interior Gail Norton, Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, is picking up the slack and carrying out some of former secretary Norton's initiatives with military pizzazz. Rumsfeld's first action as acting Secretary of the Interior has been to launch a massive shock and awe campaign against the forces of Congressional opposition by declaring Alaska's oil rich ANWAR wildlife preserve a "rebel stronghold" and initiating a \$50 billion program to construct a new generation of military vehicles capable of navigating ANWAR's icy terrain.

Unveiled to the nation last week was "BigBoy," a horse sized, four-legged, walking robot that is the first product of Rumsfeld's

new "Star Wars" program. When questioned if his intent was to breathe new life into former President Reagan's notoriously expensive and ineffective space laser program, which carried the same name, Mr. Rumsfeld responded, "That wimp Reagan only used the name 'Star Wars' to scare the Ruskies. It's my objective to make the U.S. Army every bit as cool and terrifying as the 'Imperial Army'."

When questioned as to why the ANWAR preserve had been classified as a "rebel stronghold," Secretary Rumsfeld nervously muttered an unintelligible phrase, which, upon expert analysis of an audio recording of the briefing, was declared to be "Snow Ewoks."

At this point, the Secretary radically shifted the focus of the briefing to his life-long appreciation of the Star Wars Saga and which elements of the films he enjoyed the most. Rumsfeld continued at length, focusing on his disappointment that "Imperial Walkers" were

not depicted in the most recent Star Wars films. After stating that he "likes Chewbacca more than Boba Fett" and artfully declining to further explain his position by avoiding more than 15 minutes of questions on the topic from the White House press pool, Rumsfeld offered some additional information on President Bush's Moon-Mars Initiative.

"We're going back to the Moon so we can hollow it out and make it into the 'Death Star.' That way, when the Rebels think it's a moon, it really will be a moon!"

Those present for the briefing were largely confused by Rumsfeld's obscure Star Wars references. Before departing, Rumsfeld indicated that another \$37 billion of Defense spending was to be allocated to the Dubanese. "We need some folks with the kind of experience running ports that the Dubanese have to figure out how to get these things on the ground. That wasn't covered in 'Empire'."

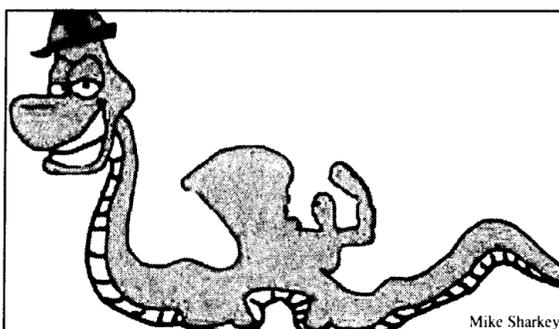
Saint Patrick accused of specism

By Bryce Sayers
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Saint Patrick's Day is a holiday that, I am afraid to say, should not be celebrated. Not because of the rising consumption of alcohol or whatever controversy you may be able to drum up over it being a Catholic holiday. I am protesting Saint Patrick's Day because it is a celebration of bigotry and ethnic cleansing. Saint Patrick's is a celebration of a so-called "hero" who drove away – and quite possibly drowned – snakes from Ireland. I am one for defending the oppressed and downtrodden, and no one has fallen lower due to prejudice, discrimination and not having legs than snakes.

Since the time of the Bible snakes have been feared and despised. Adam and Eve blamed the serpent in the Garden of Eden for bringing Original Sin to the world. They convinced God to curse the poor creature when they should have been thanking it for recommending such delicious fruit. Have you ever even tried apple-of-the-knowledge-of-good-and-evil pie?

And don't get me started on that specist Indiana Jones, always going on and on about how he hates snakes. I saw "The Last Crusade," and apparently the only reason why



seem to always have when they're looking for snakes. Whenever he touches the snake it finally stands up (figuratively speaking) and bites the interloper. Irwin usually calls it a "bad snake" – well you would be a bad snake too if you were minding your own business with a good molt, and suddenly this crazy Australian starts prodding you with a metal pole, right? If it was me he'd be lucky to get away with just a bite on the arm and paralyzing venom coursing through his bloodstream.

he hates snakes is because he fell into a train car full of them. If everyone developed a fear and loathing of something they fell into a room full of, then Scrooge McDuck would have had a grand mal seizure every time he dove into the vault full of treasure at the beginning of every Duck Tales (Ah-WOO-oo!) episode.

J.K. Rowling and her Harry Potter books continue to demonize snakes by using them as symbols for both the scheming Slytherin house and the dreaded Lord Voldemort (That's right wizards, I said his name). Where is the Harry Potter book that talks about how the Slytherins ran the Hogwarts bakesale, or when Voldemort saved a puppy?

Steve Irwin is another one of these types that grinds my gears. Normally he goes crocodile hunting, but every now and then he has the gall to ferret out a snake or two and starts prodding them with those metal rods that reptile people

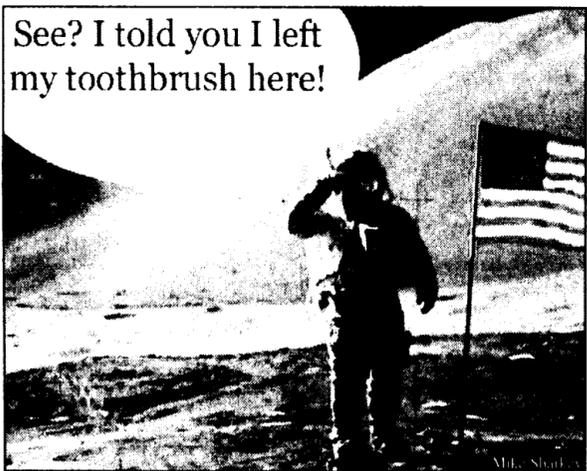
What people fail to realize is that snakes do a lot to help us out. They gave us the feather boa, snake oil and Cobra Commander. Whenever Konami needs another sequel to sell and the free world is in danger from nuclear war, they can count on a snake to save the day. Okay, so "a snake" was actually a human secret agent codenamed "Snake," but still... Also, snakes unhinge their jaws and swallow things whole. When was the last time you ate an entire egg without chewing and spit up the shell? I thought so.

To make a long story slightly shorter, snakes are getting the raw deal when they should be getting a frozen rat. As an American who loves equality and buffalo wings, I call for a war on Saint Patrick's Day. As much as it pains me to do so, because I'm a quarter Irish, I recognize that the underlying themes of anti-reptilianism must be fought.

Space: the failing frontier

By Adam Zewe
york correspondent

Have you ever looked up into the night sky and wondered who or what was up there gazing back at you? Of course you haven't. Nobody cares about space except those geeks at NASA with their \$4 million pocket protectors and \$6 million horn-rimmed glasses. Those guys spend money like water, and all they seem to do is waste it on "pictures of new galaxies" that look a lot like "a nicely filled Kleenex after a big sneeze." I am sick of these NASA people wasting



America's money and I'm going to rant about it until I get bored.

The newest failure of NASA is the Genesis space capsule, which was supposed to gather vitally important dust bunny samples from some planet out there somewhere. I'm too lazy to do proper research. The problem is that it crashed in Utah instead of landing gracefully in Houston, so now all those vital dust bunny specimens have seeped into Utah's water supply and made Utah residents even more gap-toothed and slack-jawed than they already were.

So, as a taxpayer, I am concerned about NASA spending billions of dollars just to send robots up into space so they can crash. Plenty of things crash here on Earth that we can study. Take cars, for example; they crash all the time. Or friends you forgot you had who lost all their money in technology stocks; they're always crashing somewhere, usually on my couch. Why doesn't NASA just watch a few "Worst Car Crashes in History" shows on FOX and be done with it? But they can't; it's not in their mission statement.

Neil Armstrong epitomized the NASA mission statement best in his famous 1969 remarks from the moon. "That's one small step for mankind, one giant leap for NASA's budget."

Think about it. When has NASA ever done anything useful for you? When was the last time a

rocket scientist cleaned your windshield, installed your air conditioner or made you a sandwich? Never. And you know why? Because they're getting rich off money the government is giving them to explore space. Who needs space? Why don't we spend those billions of dollars on something really important, like commercial free TV?

NASA sucks in billions of dollars a year without turning out any useful results. All they do is "speculate," "theorize" and "take long lunch breaks." I say we dissolve NASA and spend those billions of dollars on paying off advertisers so they stop with the commercials. Think of the benefits. You could watch an entire episode of "The View" and never be interrupted. Obesity would decline because Americans couldn't get up and eat refried Twinkies during commercial breaks. Crime would decline because criminals couldn't go rob banks and pass laws in Congress on commercial breaks. Also, the welfare of society would be greatly improved because I would be happy, and that's all that really matters anyway.

So, in closing, space sucks, and so do commercials. NASA needs to go before we become so space-obsessed that we forget about the problems of Earth, and, most importantly, the problem of long, drawn out, commercial breaks. The next time you look up at the night sky, spit at it, and then promptly move or you'll get a wet surprise.

Questionable Quips Mitch Hedberg

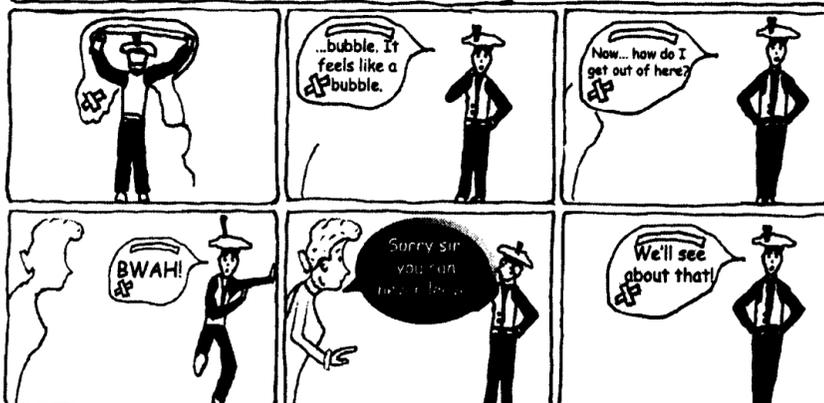
"I bought myself a parrot. The parrot talked. But it did not say, 'I'm hungry,' ... so it died."

Top 10 Most Attractive Politicians

By KJ Margraff
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1. Janet Reno – Got to love those thighs.
2. Ross Perot – Those aren't ears, they're handlebars.
3. Linda Bevko Jones – You don't have to drive far.
4. Phil English – A little something to hold on to.
5. Linda Trip – She won't mind the tape recorder.
6. The Queen of England – Royalty rocks.
7. Newt Gingrich – With a name like Newt, who can resist?
8. Monica Lewinski – Hey, if she's good enough for Bill...
9. Chuck Norris – Roundhouse kicked himself onto this list.
10. George W. Bush – It was going to be Al Gore, but Florida got confused.

The Life of a Comic, as told by Herbert Filby



Mike Sharkey
March 16, 2006