

Your Yard Gnome, Your Best Friend

By Crispin Sartwell
Capital Times Advisor

My life has been a nightmare. My father was a woman, and my mother was a fifteen-year-old French poodle who smoked dry-wall.

The fondest memories I retain from childhood were when the family came together in the evening for ritual satanic abuse. Otherwise, they kept me manacled in the basement.

My only companions there were a lawn gnome and his pet flamingoes. He was so non-judgmental. He accepted me for who I was. I was never not good enough for the lawn gnome.

He was my best friend. I told him everything: my hopes and fears, my traumas, my loves. He in turn told me about his crush on the lawn gnome next door, which helped me accept my own sexual orientation toward yard ornaments.

Since then, many of my problems have been caused by people. Every asshole I've ever met

was a person. Many things that people have done really suck.

But name one evil, vicious, or stupid act ever performed by a lawn gnome. Adolf Hitler, Jeffrey Dahmer, Terrence and Phillip, Provost Leathers, Ann-



Photo courtesy of Cartoon Network

Marie Newman: none of them, as far as we know, are lawn gnomes. Coincidence? I hardly think so.

Lawn gnomes are our moral and intellectual superiors. If the

U.S. Senate was replaced entirely by concrete dwarves it would, admittedly, be hard to notice the change. Yet they might accept fewer illegal campaign contributions.

And if lawn gnomes replaced the faculty of Penn State Harrisburg, what a wonderful world it would be. In all honesty, whose lecture would you rather listen to, a yard gnome's or Victor Viser's? Certainly faculty meetings would make more sense.

Lawn gnomes are role models. They don't gamble or smoke cigarettes. They don't exactly say "no" to drugs, but they don't have to: their silence speaks volumes.

Have you ever seen an inebriated lawn gnome? A lawn gnome with a hangover? A lawn gnome at a titty bar? Lawn gnomes aren't greedy, duplicitous, or vicious. We should base all our actions on their example.

It is true that lawn gnomes are inanimate objects. But to deride

them on that ground simply betrays one's bigotry.

Inanimate objects are people too and should have the same constitutional rights as you and me, or, more deeply, as you and I.

The history of our great nation has been a history of liberating the disenfranchised. We are in the process of extending the rights of citizenship to animals and the unborn. My friends: why not the inanimate?

I have a dream. I dream of a world where the people have been herded into internment camps and the lawn gnomes are in charge.

It's a world where no one breaks those big glass purple balls or knocks the little jockeys off the rich people's lawns. It's a world safe for tackiness.

I dream of a world that sucks much less than the current world. Then we'll be able to say, in the words of the old Negro spiritual, free at last free at last, thank God almighty we are free at last.



Letter to the Editor

Editor:

My name is Matthew Watkins. I'm currently incarcerated at Picaway Correctional Institution in Orient, Ohio.

My reason for writing is my hope to find someone in which to correspond with. I am a white male, age 19, with blonde hair and blue eyes.

If you would please place this in your school newspaper/letter. I would very much appreciate it. I will answer any and all letters. Thank you.

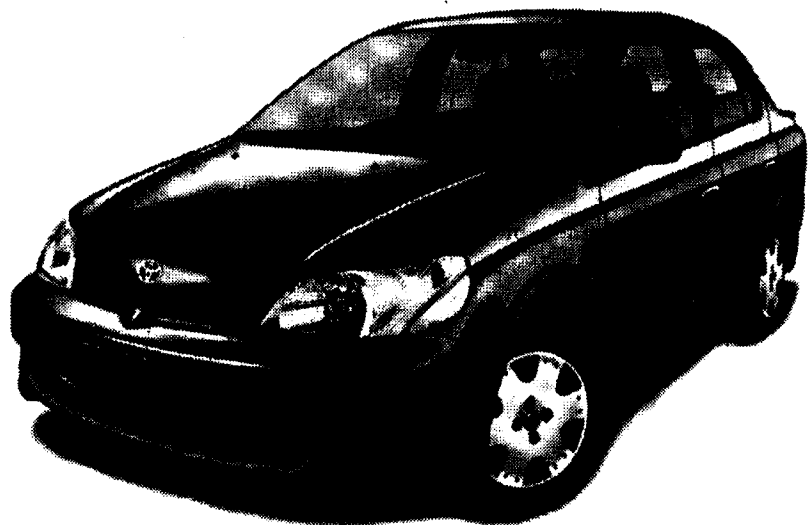
Sincerely,
Matthew R. Watkins 376-597
PCI, P. O. Box 209 (4C-24)
Orient, OH 43146

Correction:

Penn State Behrend was misspelled in the March 15, 2000 edition of the Capital Times



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