

OPINION PACES

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Our VIEW

'You bastards!' Thank the Internet for 'South Park'

Disclaimer: The following editorial contains graphic language and adult situations, and therefore should not be read by anyone.

Comedy Central is trying to kill "South Park" on the Internet. You bastards!

For the unfamiliar (most of whom have probably been living in a cave for the past few months), "South Park" is an animated series that has taken the television world and the Internet by storm.

And although the series may have been a hit on its own, the abundance of "South Park" sites on the Web has undoubtedly contributed to the series' success. In other words, without the Internet, "South Park" could have been just a cult favorite, rather than the four-assed beefcake of a show it is now.

But let's not put the Cartman before the horse.

The cardboard cutout world of Stan, Kyle, Kenny and Cartman first saw the light of day in the form of a four-minute short entitled, "The Spirit of Christmas." Co-creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone created the short as a video Christmas card for a television executive, and "The Spirit of Christmas" was never intended for broadcast.

But some of the recipients of this "card" — in which Jesus and Santa Claus battle for commercial supremacy — posted the 53-megabyte file on the Internet, and a craze began. Soon, "The Spirit of Christmas" was all over the Internet like rats on Kenny's lifeless body.

And when the announcement was made that "South Park" was about to make its television debut, new sites sprang up everywhere. The series, with its amateurish animation and toilet humor, became one of the most widely hyped phenomena the Internet has ever seen.

"South Park" became Comedy Central's highest-rated original show ever.

And now, Comedy Central wants to take "South Park" back from the people who helped make it a success, the Webmasters whose unofficial "South Park" sites encouraged people to watch the show in the first place.

Copyright infringement on the Internet has been a popular source of debate lately, and Comedy Central may be well within its rights to demand that "South Park" not be rebroadcast without their permission. But in the case of "South Park," a show that the Internet helped build, it seems as though Comedy Central is biting the hand that has fed it Snacky Cakes.

Perhaps Comedy Central should leave the Internet alone in this case. Or, as Cartman might say, "You get your bitch-ass back in the studio, and make us some more episodes!"

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Goodbye

The death of Dr. Robert Miewald represents a tragic loss to the Department of Political Science and to the entire UNL community. He was a gifted teacher who found a way to effectively bring the importance of government and the responsibilities of citizenship alive to his undergraduate classes.

Along with sharing his talent and dedication as a teacher to his undergraduate students, he gave a special gift to all of his graduate students, both present and past. From North Dakota, to California to Texas, his former students are mourning the loss of a mentor. His depth of insight as a scholar and humanist will serve as an inspiration throughout our own careers as academicians. May we as teachers do justice to his teachings and serve his memory well.

Pamela Imperato
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks

Put your Dukes up

This is referring to Todd Munson's comments about the Dukes of Hazzard show. It appears that Todd doesn't know what really went on in Hazzard County.

Bo and Luke were far from being criminals. In fact it was the authorities, Boss Hogg and Roscoe P. Coltrane, who were always up to trouble and breaking the law. They were always setting up Bo, Luke, and the rest of the Dukes. That's why Bo and Luke were in jail so often. The Dukes were the good guys. They worked with other people to catch the bad guys.

And what's this about incest? Daisy, the only lady I know who wears hose and heels with jean shorts, was being pursued by one of the Hazzard County police officers. Todd obviously hasn't seen the last episode.

What we really need, Todd, are more people like the Duke family: honest and hardworking. Next time pay a little bit more attention to the show

when it is on. Do you even know the name of their car?

Heather Swanson
junior nursing
Dukes of Hazzard watcher

The 'Face' of television

In response to Todd Munson's column, "Clash of the Titans," I would just like to say, "I love it when a plan comes together."

Despite the fact that I am a fan of both "Dukes of Hazzard" and "CHiPs" vehicular mayhem, they are both inferior programs. Even though the masters of disaster did not begin their powerful reign until the '80s, both of the latter shows combined cannot even hope to overcome the awesome godly powers unleashed by the one and only "A-Team!"

So show some respect because "I pity the fool who does not respect the 'A-Team.'"

Tim Lawler
senior undeclared

More Duking it out

You know, I don't really have anything against CHiPs, but there's just no reason for you to go around Dukes-bashing.

When CHiPs debuted, it was a new low for television. Together, Ponch and John showed us a cardboard front of life in California so utterly fake it made Lost in Space look like a NASA documentary. Two highway patrolmen who never had to draw their guns in years on the job? Anyone living in L.A. naive enough to turn their head in the direction of CHiPs' "positive message" for longer than a second or two was probably mugged or shot in the back.

In 1979, "Dukes of Hazzard" hit the airwaves. In America, it seems, we simply have to have a group of people we can all feel superior to. But by 1979, most of the usual targets had been able to stand up for themselves. Lucky for

us, though, there was the American South, which hadn't stood up for itself ever since the Civil War. It was clearly the Dukes, and no doubt the rest of the South, that undid the next generation's sense of respect for police, their parents, and authority in general. Certainly it had nothing to do with the cultural rot brought upon us in the last 30 years by the Yankees in Hollywood and the rest of urban America. And even if it wasn't, who was going to stop us from saying so? A bunch of hillbillies with Confederate flags on the cars they were using to outrun the idiot police they have in the South? Hardly.

Yes, the Dukes made a safe target, or at least, so it ought to have been.

But it turned out that everyone loved the show, especially Southerners. It was all fake, just like "CHiPs" and everything else in Hollywood, but it was the right kind of fake, the kind of fake that makes a truly great TV show. It was a story just for fun, not an absurd farce. The Dukes weren't running from The Law, they were running from Boss Hogg and Roscoe. Now, some people might not understand the difference there (one guy comes to mind real fast), but as the Nielsen ratings showed us for six years, most of America did understand. The Dukes always got away, and there was nothing wrong with that.

So it really is no surprise that UNL is a "Dukes of Hazzard" school. Most of the people you meet here are friendly, easy going, and hip to a truly great TV show, not too different from the Dukes themselves.

But watch out for the other kind of students, busting through stop lights and running over bicyclists. They must have been trying to beat their deadlines at the DN.

Brian Linnell
sophomore, music

P.S. Write Back

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