

All about GOD

God, History and Cartoons

My 3 cents, for what they're worth:

1: I agree with the opinion expressed in Scott Phillips' letter (DN, Friday) concerning the overwhelming number of published religious, or non-religious, convictions. The arguments have grown stale and trite and, as a result, so has your opinion page.

2: I anticipate a column from one of your witty columnists on Tuesday breaking a big story on the "true historical context of Thanksgiving," and I cringe.

I believe we, as readers, understand that history can sometimes lie - and we are fine with that.

I, for one, am not really going home over vacation because of my appreciation of English Puritans. I suggest you entertain us with a story we didn't read last year.

3: Planarian Man sucks.

Zach Schomburg
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The Science of God

To Mr. Glazeski (Letters, Thursday), who pointed out that God must not exist because there are so many contradictory ideas about him.

I would like to offer a counter-example. Jake said that religion can be discredited because so many different religions around the world disagree.

He also said science is perfect because the same results have been found around the world and at different times.

Well, once upon a time in ancient Babylonia, the year was defined to have 360 days.

Later, the people of ancient Greece found the year to contain 354 days. The Romans, on the other hand, came up with a year with 355 days.

Of course, today we say a year has 365 days. So, because a few different cultures came up with a few different definitions for a planet-wide constant, does that mean the year doesn't exist?

All through school I have learned all kinds of laws of classical physics that have been proven basically wrong in more recent years because of the advent of modern physics and relativity.

So, does that mean physics doesn't exist either?

Since Jake seems to be smarter than all of the faith believers who are "far less intelligent" than himself, perhaps he will counter by saying "Ahh, but the basic idea of physics has remained the same, and the year is a confusing subject that has taken this long to define."

Have you stopped to use that intelligence to realize that perhaps religion is the same way? Different cultures arise out of different circumstances and in a variety of geographic areas, meaning religion will depend on the environment just as the year depended on planting times and physics depends on constants here on Earth.

But just as physics became more general as knowledge became more available, so can religion.

Perhaps with the ease of communication these days we can create a sort of Grand Unification Theory of religion that will be just as valid as the one they are working on in the sciences.

Then who will have the ultimate intelligence, the believers or the non-believers?

Cory Lueninghoener
junior
computer science

Mr. Glazeski

I also haven't found a reason to put my faith in a higher power. I agree with all your views on why not to believe in one such being.

Along with not believing in a higher power, I also don't understand why people have to bash on religion.

How can something that brings so many people hope and joy be bad?

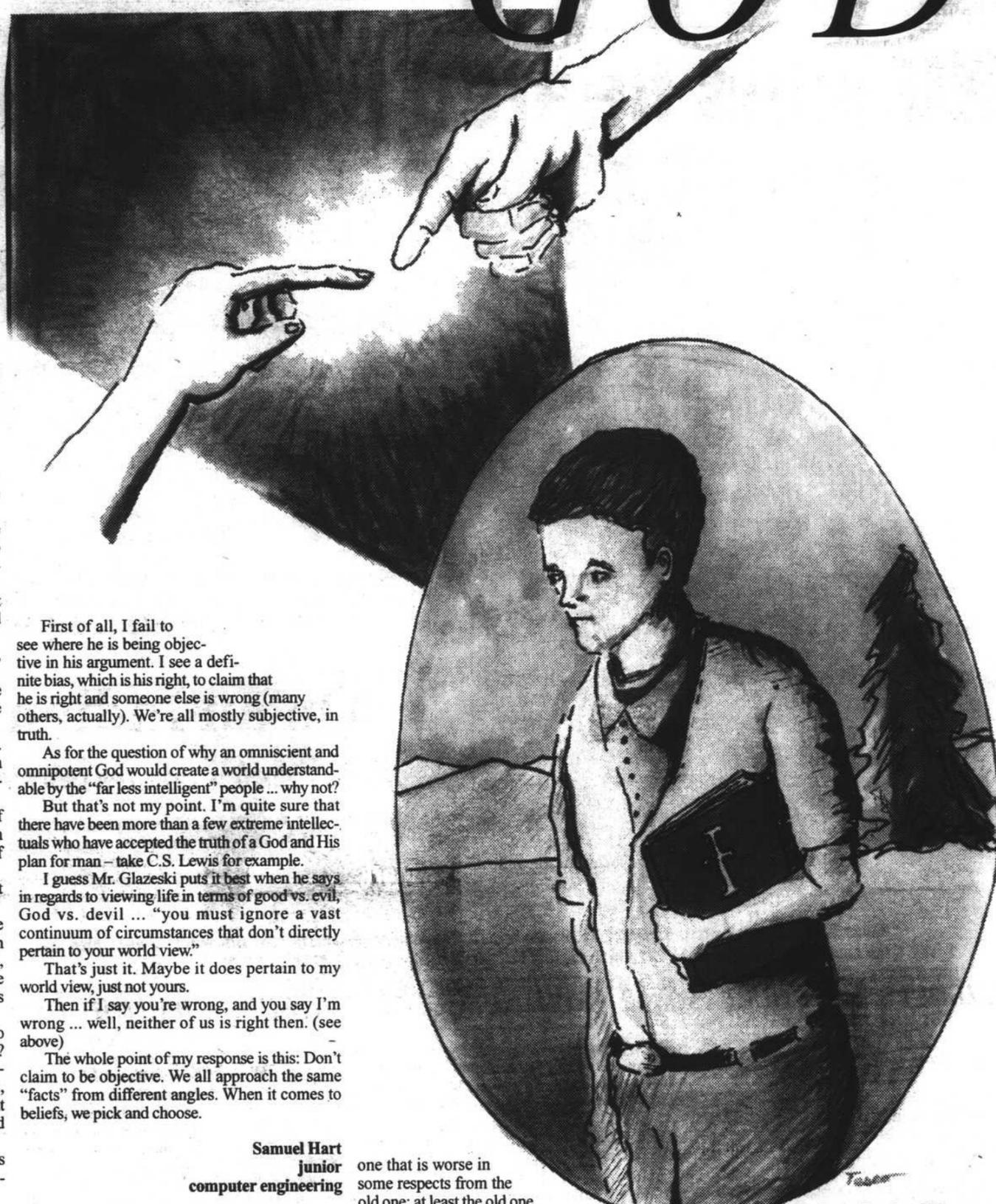
Even if religion is just a "social construct used to facilitate social conditioning," what's wrong with that? I couldn't think of any better form of conditioning that can teach moral principles to so many people in so many diverse cultures.

I don't have any problem with people just walking around loving one another and loving life, but some people obviously do.

Levi Bauer
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Glazeski Again

Somehow, I find Mr. Glazeski's letter humorous. He claims, "There are several objectively observable truths why Christianity (or any other religion that purports to be 'true') is 'wrong.'"



SHAWN BALLARIN/DN

First of all, I fail to see where he is being objective in his argument. I see a definite bias, which is his right, to claim that he is right and someone else is wrong (many others, actually). We're all mostly subjective, in truth.

As for the question of why an omniscient and omnipotent God would create a world understandable by the "far less intelligent" people ... why not? But that's not my point. I'm quite sure that there have been more than a few extreme intellectuals who have accepted the truth of a God and His plan for man - take C.S. Lewis for example.

I guess Mr. Glazeski puts it best when he says in regards to viewing life in terms of good vs. evil, God vs. devil ... "you must ignore a vast continuum of circumstances that don't directly pertain to your world view."

That's just it. Maybe it does pertain to my world view, just not yours.

Then if I say you're wrong, and you say I'm wrong ... well, neither of us is right then. (see above)

The whole point of my response is this: Don't claim to be objective. We all approach the same "facts" from different angles. When it comes to beliefs, we pick and choose.

Samuel Hart
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Eyes Glazeski'd Over

Mr. Glazeski, you are an idiot, and because I believe you are too stupid (or smart) to realize why, I will be glad to enlighten you.

For your "objectively observable reasons" why there is no God; I would have thought a math major would know about physics. Not only is objectivity a widely discarded philosophical concept, it is also impossible.

Ever heard of the Heisenberg uncertainty principle? It is impossible to pull the observer away from the observed without changing the observation.

Mr. Schrodinger (a founding father of quantum mechanics) goes so far as to say that a shift in the observer's "attention" can have real consequences in the physical world.

Objectivity, the disconnected scientific head that floats over all creation, is a myth.

I will answer your next question. How can one religion be right if others disagree? Maybe you have forgotten that Newton's Laws of Physics are incorrect! Relativity proves it.

But if I want to understand billiard balls, I don't ask Einstein because Newton is much simpler. In the same way, religion is an attempt to understand a spiritual world that is much more complex than the physical and much harder to observe.

We use our religious ethics as a guide to the truth, because it gives us good results.

Finally, as for your charge to "idealize reason and rationality"; have you been here for the past three centuries? Ever heard of the enlightenment?

What do you think all this science and self-consuming materialism sprang from? It hasn't been that great either. What happens when reason is almighty powerful is that it becomes a new god,

one that is worse in some respects from the old one; at least the old one had a heart.

The new god, reason, has been responsible for more deaths than the evil Christian God ever was. Remember WWI, WWII, the precision Jew-killing machine of Hitler, the Atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, spray pesticides, the greenhouse effect, the hole in the ozone layer; these are all consequences of our heartless use of reason.

Joe Fraas
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Fundamentally Flawed

This week has seen a fascinating increase in the number of people writing letters involving religion to the Daily Nebraskan. This presumably came about because of the overwhelming number of religion-based opinion columns printed recently.

What I find to be particularly humorous, however, is the continuing trend among a surprising number of college students to lean on the Bible as some sort of argumentative aid.

Religious fundamentalism is not a problem I would expect to encounter to such a high degree among an educated populace. As a former Christian, I am certainly not saying that religion implies a lack of education; rather I am saying that education should dissuade people, for instance, from interpreting the Bible as a factual historical document. It should also be noted that telling someone that they are simply wrong because that's "the way it is" is absurd in any educated debate.

Theologians have previously spent thousands of years attempting to formulate answers to the

unanswerable questions of the universe, but most of what they have decided remains conjecture.

This is true of most other sciences as well; however, with very little possibility of disproving any religious maxims any time soon, there is consequently little hope of establishing new, better hypotheses that would actually lead to some sort of better understanding of theology's core issues.

What is worse is that average people are entirely unaware of the ramifications of their religious reasoning.

Most of the students writing religious columns and/or letters seem to be merely repeating something that someone else told them. I would think that before someone informs the entire student body of how some intricate detail of their religious belief affects the world, they might actually bother to research and learn enough about the subject at hand to deserve to be heard by those of us who have done painstaking research.

Of the hundreds of students who have written in to the Daily Nebraskan to tell us all what the Bible says, I would finally venture to guess that only half at most have ever even read a single page of the Bible themselves.

This ignorance, coupled with the fact that nearly 100 percent of religious arguments are entirely dismissive of any opposing viewpoints, has invalidated the stance of the fundamentalist so much that they no longer have an ounce of credibility.

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