

The problem with paper

One-dollar coin would be more efficient than greenbacks

Is America ready for a buck that jingles instead of folds?

We say it's about time.

For many years, America has dealt with its one-dollar bill much to the dismay of the Treasury Department. Now, a redesigned one-dollar bill is set to hit the market around the same time as the one-dollar coin.

And when it boils down to it, metal is better.

The problem with paper is its lasting power. After about eight years, bills are taken out of circulation because they don't have the endurance to live up to the rigors of time and use.

Coins, on the other hand, have a much longer shelf life.

... Most other countries have coins that have replaced the lowest bill.

It's not uncommon to have a pocketful of coins with at least one out-dating the average college student.

But this idea's been tried before with the Susan B. Anthony. People complained that it looked and felt too much like a quarter.

The new dollar coin is goldish in color, which is the one way it looks different. It bears the image of Sacajawea on it.

The new coin also has rounded edges, not serrated edges like the quarter or Susan B. Anthony. This means when you reach into your pocket, it's the big coin with the smooth edges - easy to find without a lot of work.

Most other countries have coins that have replaced the lowest bill. In England, the one-pound note was phased out and replaced with coins.

It just makes sense.

Coins last longer.

Some people complain that it means their pockets will be heavier, but, honestly, how many one-dollar bills does the average person keep on him?

If you're walking around with two dozen one-dollar bills on you, you need to go get a ten-dollar bill anyway.

Granted, if America begins an eventual transition to using coins instead of bills for one dollar, some changes will need to be made.

Parking meters will need to be replaced with new meters that can take the coins. Vending machines will need to be updated.

While it sounds like a lot of work up front, the long-term benefits go a long ways.

Changes will need to be made.

But changes make for good change.

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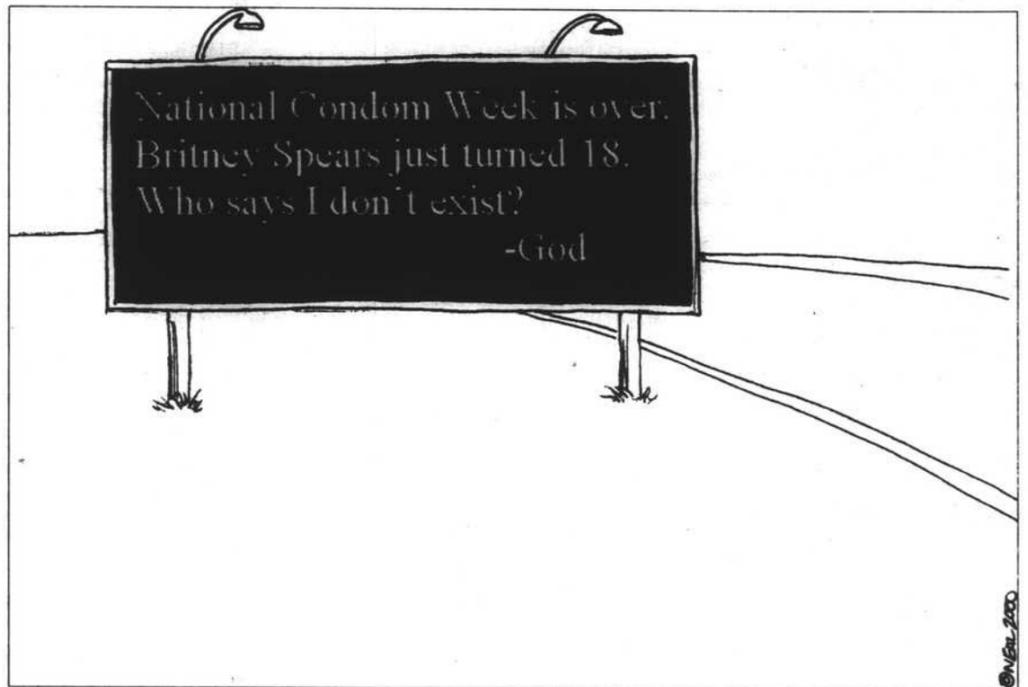
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Obermeyer's VIEW



Letters to the EDITOR

Right is wrong

Kudos to Samuel McKewon for his disturbingly accurate description of the Religious Right. I think most tolerant people in this world realize they are simply hate mongers disguised as moral defenders.

To think that these co-dependent people believe they have some sort of God-given right to intrude on and, in some cases, end the lives of people who do not fall within what they consider moral is a clear indication of a segment of society that cannot cope with the ever-changing, ever-evolving mechanisms of a society that is a reflection of who we are as a human race.

The thing we have to fear is that these people have amazing voting power. Remember, it was these cuckoos who elected Nixon and Reagan and will probably elect that buffoon Bush.

Be afraid, be very afraid.

Chris Halligan
graduate student
English

God is right

In his column on Thursday, Sam McKewon alleges that because Christians consult a higher authority for guidance in daily life, we must all be pathetic, insecure pukes. I've got news for you: It is because of Christ's love for you and me that I am a fully secure and confident person.

Without Christ, I would most certainly be insecure with myself and lash out against those who seem content with themselves, like you have. Because of Christ's undying love for me, I tend not to sweat the small

stuff in my life.

The only reason we Christians "bug" others so much is because we want you to feel the same high only Christ can provide.

As far as your stating that all Christian Republicans hate all minorities and non-Christians, even John Rucker would say you went beyond the limits of good taste with that one.

You just threw countless people of different ages, ethnic backgrounds and social statuses into a big box labeled "Hate-Filled Republicans."

Just because you preach leftist views doesn't give you the right to spout bigotry yourself. Mr. McKewon, it seems that you have become what you hate most: angry and hate-filled.

Chad Kamler
senior
electrical engineering

What once was lost...

I am writing enthusiastically in response to Professor Leon Caldwell's speech on Wednesday. His views on issues about finding identity in a strictly European perspective can be

spoken for not only blacks but also many other minority groups here in the United States.

For me, most of what Caldwell said were feelings that I have had being an immigrant from Iran. I found it very confusing and embarrassing when all that I was taught about my heritage and country had to do with terrorism, war and dictatorship.

This perspective on my culture made me more inclined to hide my background and try to see how else I could fit in with everybody else.

So only recently have I taken it upon myself to fix this problem by self-education and flat-out trying to correct this misconception of the Iranian culture by starting an Iranian Involvement International on campus to educate others.

But I am only a small force in correcting this huge problem.

Professor Caldwell has spoken of some excellent ideas about educating an ever-increasingly diversified American climate. These ideas are important for our future and for the stability of this country.

Behrouz Zand
sophomore
psychology

