

A British fetish

COLUMN

I love British Comedy! I am probably one of the few who love this comedy. However, I am proud to say I love the British humor that



BY LENORA MOODY

OPINION EDITOR

makes me laugh until I cry or jiggle until I am sore.

11 p.m. every night I turn my T.V. to channel 33, Public Broadcasting Service, and watch "Are you Being Served," "Good Neighbor," "Waiting on God" or "Keeping up Appearances."

Each show is excellent and deals with different types of people, living in different environments and looking at life in unique ways. This type of comedy is different than the T.V. shows on now.

Most American comedy deals with young or middle age people usually married or struggling with their love life. However, British comedy uses older people in a nursing home or workers at a department store. There are some episodes dealing with love or marriage but they are different. There are good and bad programs like any other television show. However, I believe the majority of British comedy is **Excellent**.

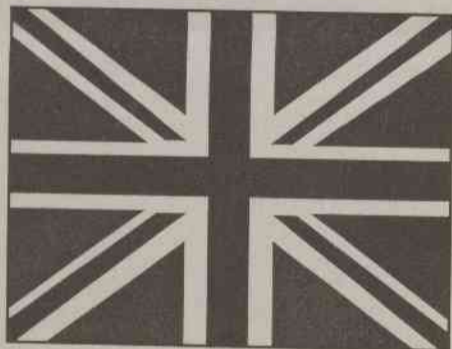
I remember the first episode on "Good Neighbor." A middle class husband and wife were unhappy with the monotony in their lives. The husband decided to quit his job

and change his middle class home in the suburbs into a farm. The neighbors were appalled as the couple milked their goat in the front yard, tore up their grass to plant lettuce, sold their car and "hitched" rides and built a car with a roto-tiller motor, two benches and wooden planks. I found this episode and every other one hilarious.

Not many people understand my British comedy fetish. When I tell a person they generally laugh at me rather than the comedy itself. The majority of people I have talked to do not find British humor funny. They say it is dry, non-humorous or silly.

I believe these people have never given British humor a chance. The people who say the dirty words, "I don't like British Comedy," may have never watched the comedy, seen a whole show, understand the plot or a number of other reasons.

I think every individual should actually set aside one hour



of their lives and watch an episode of "Good Neighbors" or "Keeping up Appearances" and then judge. If they don't like it, I will say nothing else. If they like it I will say, "I was right, wasn't I?"

Bush: environmentalist?

COLUMN

STAFF EDITORIAL
MINNESOTA DAILY

(U-WIRE) MINNEAPOLIS —

As George W. Bush now faces no serious contenders for the Republican nomination for president, he has begun to turn away from bickering with fellow Republicans and is providing the American public a glimpse of what the Bush Administration could be like.

A few days ago, outside a manufacturing plant that was built on a newly revitalized piece of land, he took a jab at Al Gore's environmental stands and made his first major environmental proposal. On the surface, his stance on brownfields seems reasonable, but considering his environmental record in Texas, Americans should be wary when Bush speaks about the environment.

Brownfields are abandoned and contaminated industrial sites commonly found in and around cities. Currently, there is a federal program known as Superfund, which is supposed to oversee the cleaning up of brownfields. Bush stated that this program was inadequate, with only 595 of 1,231 Superfund sites having been cleaned.

In addition, because of its complex set of rules and regulations, it literally sends potential developers off in search of greener pastures. Thirty-five states presently have their own mini-programs to clean up brownfields, and Bush says the federal government should follow the states' models.

In Texas, Bush signed legislation in 1995 that created a voluntary cleanup program, which eventually led to the cleanup of 595 brownfield sites.

The main part of Bush's proposal would be that the Environmental Protection Agency would set standards

that are a bit less rigid than those of the current Superfund. For example, standards for a brownfield cleanup would be less if a factory were to be built, as opposed to a school. This makes sense, since things will have to be reviewed on a case-by case basis, and if people or companies were to have specific concerns, they could be taken into account.

But on the other hand, this also leads to the possibilities of abuses. If a developer could convince the government that what it was going to build did not require stiff environmental regulation, they might be able to get away with paying a little less, and the people who might use the facility after it was built would suffer.

As Bush also rightly points out, because of Superfund, brownfields get passed over while greenfields get paved over. Many investors do not want to spend a lot of time and money to develop a brownfield, when instead, adding to urban sprawl, they can just go to the edge of a city and build there. But the public must be wary of Bush's environmental proposals. Texas, where he is governor, is No. 1 in air, water and soil pollution.

Recently, Houston's air pollution problems surpassed those of Los Angeles. While it is refreshing to hear a politician who can come up with a solid idea to reduce government, it is hard to believe the environment is something that is seriously on the top of his agenda, given the troubles of his home state.

This seems to be more of a ploy on the part of Bush to attract Democrats and undecided voters come November. Hopefully, the American public will learn his true environmental record, so that we do not elect a president who will lay waste to the land.

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