

'Devil's Advocate'

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Recalling many conversations with my dear friend, Bryan Koffman, where he may have become frustrated with me, I see the true motive in his frustration. He is not angry or frustrated when I say I do not believe in God. He is concerned, because if he is right I will surely miss out on the greatest and most meaningful experiences we could have. It is out of pure compassion that Bryan spends hours discussing his faith with me, and I feel that my own frustration comes from my desire to see my peers and race grow to its fullest potential.

Simply put, I am angry because I'm worried. I am angry because I don't want to see an individual with no understanding of another culture becoming a world leader one day. I don't want needless conflict to arise from ignorance. I don't want things that are easily fixed to be obstacles for me or anyone else.

Considering I refuse to claim any true "knowledge" on who is wrong or right religiously, then, I have to ask, do I have the right to be angry? I am angry and worried because I think people may be doing something wrong, but only wrong by my standards. Should it turn out that the Christian God truly does exist, my concern would be completely unwarranted. Therefore, what right do I have to become angry out of concern when even I don't have the answers?

As Ralph Hamlett has reminded me in many cases, anything is better than nothing. What I mean by this is that any emotion and activism is better than complete apathy. While I may turn out to be completely wrong on my views, should I never try to find out, I will never know.

Daunting as the task may be, I am proud that I have chosen to take on the task to immerse myself in the tough and controversial issues I have. I find joy in knowing there are people who have worked just as hard as me to end up on the other end of the spectrum as well. This type work, I feel, has brought me to a better understanding of exactly how much I do not know, and it is humbling in the best way possible.

Don't get me wrong. It can be frustrating and terrifying at times. To truly investigate yourself, the people around you, and the systems that make our world turn can be overwhelming and quite honestly, disgusting. We find dark truths about ourselves, and our pasts. But it is through those truths we grow to avoid these things in the future. This effort to understand ourselves is what makes us human.

Overwhelming as it may be, this journey that I have been on has shown me that only through a true understanding of myself and the world around me will I ever be able to help make it a better place. The problem is when people without this understanding are given a position of power and it is abused for personal agendas and grudges. I am angry when I see a pundit spawn fear in the minds of his viewers by lying and confusing because it keeps his pockets lined.

Never will I hide my anger. I will not pretend that what I see does not infuriate me. But I feel it important to say that regardless of how mad I am, I will always use my anger in an attempt to make the world I live in a better place.

Disagree with Devil's Advocate? Speak up! The Clarion welcomes all responses (Except for you, Koffman, you already have a column.) Send them to: clarion@brevard.edu

Fortune Cookies

from Chef Boy-ar-Dave

Average Cost of Meal: \$5-10

Prep Time: 5 Minutes

Cook Time: 24 Minutes

Serving Size: 10

Ingredients:

2 large egg whites	1 ½ teaspoons of corn starch
1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract	Dash of salt
½ teaspoon of almond extract	½ cup of white sugar
3 tablespoons of vegetable oil	3 teaspoons of water
½ cup all purpose flour	

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 300°. Add all the wet ingredients and blend until they become frothy. Add the dry ingredients and blend until mixed and thickened. On a greased cookie sheet, place one tablespoon of the batter and smooth out into a circle. And repeat. Bake for 14 minutes. Take the cookies out of the oven and quickly off of the cookie sheet. Place the fortune in the middle of the cookie and fold over once. Take the cookie that has been folded in half and fold it once more over the lip of a glass to give it the correct final shape. Place the finished cookie in a muffin tin to cool and harden.

PRE-REGISTRATION INDECISION



Cartoon by Karam Boeshaar