

# Humor

## Smurfy sexism needs childproof cap

A severe flaw in children's Saturday morning TV programming has come to my attention. I don't want to take sole credit. I'm sure many of you have noticed it but were just afraid to act, afraid to question that insidious of our society known as the cartoon.

**Jill Gerber**  
State/Nat'l Editor

But it's time to recognize this atrocity being weekly spoon-fed to our

nation's youngsters and to rig it permanently.

Of course I'm speaking of the tiny, royal-blue creatures known as Smurfs. The "adorable" white-footed nymphs inhabit mushroom-like cottages deep in the forest. They're totally self-reliant, comp-

with an elderly wise man known as "Papa Smurf" who keeps the entire tribe free of misfortune with his magical potions and vast knowledge of all the pitfalls of Smurfdom.

If it sounds sweet, it's not. The seemingly innocent half-hour of animated frolic is contributing to the moral decay of our children by presenting them with false perceptions of adult responsibilities and exposing them to rampant sexism and softcore pornography. Several key facets of the show must be modified to make its lessons presentable and wholesome.

■ First of all, the Smurfs' blatant discrimination against women must go. There's only one female to propagate the entire race of indigo dwarfs, and she is so stripped of any identity other than her role as a reproductive machine that she's called "Smurfette," so low that she deserves nothing more than the group name with a feminine ending tacked on for convenience.

■ The Smurfs are rabid with smut. Smurfette is a porn kitten. Clad in a short white skirt and matching heels reminiscent of Minnie Mouse, she shamelessly flaunts her promiscuity. Her only power over the men is that she is their only means of sexual release and she knows this, acknowledging it with a bold toss of her long blond hair.

■ Another dangerous lesson proffered by the Smurfs is hedonism. What do they do all day long? They're a big commune. One makes asserts all day; some gather berries and such; Papa Smurf patters around with his little inventions. They have no goals but to avoid their enemy, Gorgol, who has a Smurfish of unnatural proportions. The pup establishes no work ethic for children, who'll grow up with regard for the traditional child-like activities — school, church, quiet and milk before bedtime. Television is not what it used to be. What happened to good, old-fashioned shows like "Gidget" and "Neus Welby"? Robert Young wore white boots or had a head like Hershey's Kiss, for God's sake.

— Gerber, a junior journalism major from Charlotte, hates anything cute.

## Lack of free stuff a blatant example of moral downfall

Our nation faces a tremendous moral collapse that already is well on its way to corrupting, utterly and irrevocably, the ideals of America's youth.

For one thing, motels don't give their guests shampoo, postcards and stationery any more. It's true. During a drive from Arizona, I had the chance to see, firsthand, the factors contributing to society's headlong plunge into oblivion and shamelessness.

Well, okay, not all motels should be included. There was a Best Western in Albuquerque that had a postcard. But no shampoo.

Holiday Inn doesn't even do it anymore. They have R-rated, softcore porn on satellite — "Desire Under the Sun" and "Emanuelle's Amazon Adventure" — but they won't give you shampoo. Does that sound like something that happens in an upright, moral society? Something is seriously wrong with the world when you're charged \$50 or \$60 to stay in a room for one night but your shampoo is replaced with low-budget porn flicks.

It all starts off like this. Motels decrease their services, people come to expect less for their money, kids expect to do less for their allowance and, next thing you know, people are violating sodomy laws left and right and turning in their neighbors for seditious or Communist activities.

I've seen evidence of this; it has invaded my own home and family — my little brother's single aspiration in life is to be a yuppie. He adores Madonna. He

**Guy Lucas**  
Staff Writer

thinks George Michael is a paragon of rock 'n' roll virtues. He begins his first year of college this week; he wants to major in money. He actually said to me, "Hey, what's wrong with being young, successful and rich?"

He makes me want to throw up.

So what are we faced with? How can we halt the creeping death that's festering in our land and dragging us down to life's scummy, fetid ponds where now only Dookies tread? I had a lot of time to think of this during the trip. (My brother wouldn't let me drive his car. He did, however, tell me to shut up.)

We could picket hotels and motels that won't give shampoo. We could write scathing letters to their corporate headquarters. Maybe send a soap bomb or two to their front desks. If things started getting really nasty, we could book every room in each hotel and stay there every day for a week without washing our hair, then camp out in the lobby to scare off new guests.

None of this would work. I don't think anything would. Moral decline is inevitable, so I've decided the only thing to do is enjoy what fun immorality we have before Pat Robertson becomes president and hotels install baptismal pools.

Guy Lucas is a severely disillusioned senior journalism major from Greensboro.

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