

RANDOM THOUGHTS

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Staff Writer

Remember the movie "Hair," in which wacked out hippie types belted out that classic astronomical/astrological ditty about how this was the dawning of the Age of Aquarius? Well, anyway, I do, but they were just wrong. Today really is the dawning of the

aforementioned age. The sun enters Aquarius today.

What does this astronomical event imply about postmodernism? About political socialization theory? About Echo & The Bunnymen? About major venomous animals of the world?

Tarantulas are just about as hairy and somewhat less danger-

ous than those folks singing about Aquarius. The hairiness factor is what makes the spiders repulsive, and their lack of cosmic vision makes them no threat to the status quo. And their venom isn't all that bad, either. In short, tarantulas have nothing to say, they're boring, and they have no place in the coming new age.

John Milton, on the other hand, had plenty to say. He auditioned for a bit part in "Hair" but got turned down because once during his misguided youth he smoked marijuana and advocated violent overthrow of the establishment. This in itself was not so bad, except that he proposed to replace the establishment with a new regime

with the code name Age of Scorpio. The idea never caught on, Milton lost his chance at movie stardom, and he took to writing all sorts of dribble about paradise.

Having Milton read to one as an impressionable infant is a leading cause of randomness, according to Surgeon General Koop. Look for an informational flyer coming soon to your mailbox.

Yesterday I went back to the Carrboro post office, read the "Carrboro Post Mark" sign above the mail slot, got confused, and walked out humming something obscure by R.E.M.

Another sign to be nominated for the Why Say What You Mean Hall of Fame appears on a gas pump in beautiful suburban Carrboro. This gem reads, "Pay after pumping during daylight hours." The pump masters obviously trust the public to apply sophisticated logic in order to follow this message past twilight and infer what one is to do at night.

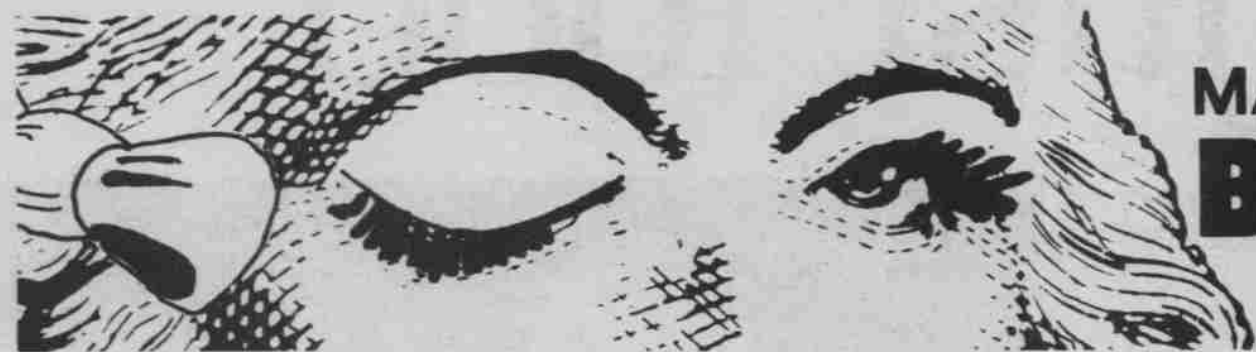
Sophisticated logic is totally unknown to contributors to The Forerunner, the sorriest excuse for journalism that appears regularly on this campus. In fact, contributors who exercise sophisticated logic or believe that the sun will enter Aquarius today are branded as godless Communists or feminists and promptly terminated.

However, the current issue of The Forerunner quotes Sheila Barker, a student at Arizona State University, who is masterful at following an issue to a conclusion (a logical conclusion would be too much to ask). What follows from the installation of condom machines in a dorm is premarital sex and immorality. "It's like putting a band-aid on a festering sore," she said as her Quote O' The Week.

Inside sources revealed recently that Ms. Barker wrote the original version of the Violent Femmes song "Blister in the Sun" and that she plans to sue for her fair share of the royalties.

Royalty in Sweden, and everyone else in Sweden for that matter, have learned to adjust to corporatism in government. Statistics show that a nation's propensity toward corporatism is inversely proportional to its geographical distance from Sweden.

Tarantulas do not, as a rule, hang out in Sweden. It's not the corporatism that bothers them really, or the wide availability of condoms on campuses. Hairy spiders just don't like reading Milton in Swedish. Anyone, hairy or not, reading Milton aloud from a Swedish translation sounds rather like the Swedish chef from "The Muppet Show." For this reason, Swedes don't read Milton to their babies anymore, and the future of Swedish randomness is in jeopardy. Koop is sending Dan Quayle over tomorrow to investigate. Let's hope we can get by without him.



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