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Why My Name Isn't at the End of This

I heard somebody ask a teacher what he thought of FRICH. He responded with something along the lines of "I don't care what it says; it's not worth my time if they're not going to sign their articles."

I'm gonna be honest with you: I don't want you to know who I am. Now, I know that about 99% of you wouldn't recognize my name if you heard it, and you wouldn't care enough to look it up in a yearbook. In fact, I'll bet most of you wouldn't even pay attention to the byline of this article if I didn't bring attention to it. But frankly, it's that last one percent of people that scares me enough to hide my identity. Putting my real name on this, or any other, article wouldn't be wise.

Like anything else that's "underground," FRICH operates on a slightly more risqué level than normal journalism. It's because of that fact that I can say mildly controversial things like "When you fail in the real world, we'll try not to be too condescending at the reunion" and slightly more offensive things like "If cheerleading skirts get much shorter, Channel 3 is gonna get busted for filming child pornography." If not for anonymity, I'd probably have to think twice about saying these things. After all, while Winston Churchill may not have to, I still go to school with the people I just insulted.

Senior Wills are due . . . TOMORROW!!!

Attention all Seniors! Your senior wills are due tomorrow, March 28th. As of the time of printing, FRICH has received only 14 Senior Wills. That's not very many! To submit yours, please send it to the below address. Also, if you would like to donate **money** or **time** to help with production, send us a message saying so.

All wills-related material should be sent to:

wills_frich@hotmail.com

To get technical, FRICH doesn't really act in the realm of *anonymity* so much as it does in the realm of *pseudonymity*. To that teacher who would insult me for not signing my articles, I would like to argue that I *am* signing them. In fact, it would be misleading to give my real name: That would imply that I even care what other people have to say to me in person. In reality, I'd prefer they take issue with my alter ego. I don't especially want to be pulled out of, say, AP Psychology in the middle of a chapter exam to be told that I got my facts wrong. There's a time and place for that: Try emailing me instead of bugging me while I'm learning (not that this ever happened or anything...). Unless, of course, you have positive things to say. I like compliments.

As an interesting side note, many historical figures, like those whose names are used by a lot of FRICH writers, didn't sign their names to things, either. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was signed "An Englishman," and several other of the framers, including Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, and Samuel Adams, penned the Federalist papers under the context of anonymity. Historically, great political debate has been greatly aided by anonymous forums. Maybe FRICH will lead us all into a new era... an era of prosperity and wealth, an era where hunger and poverty are distant memories, an era where we can all live in harmony and make breakthroughs of science and mind. Yes, FRICH could be providing you the gateway to utopia! Or maybe it's just making sure that students have a place to practice their sarcasm... Either way.

You have to admit that a lot of journalism and politics need anonymity to ensure free speech. While I wouldn't fear for my life if I put my name to a mildly offensive article, I'm sure that it would still hold more potential for harm than good. And besides, I don't really want to get expelled.

π Winston Churchill π
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Pardon Our Stereotype

"The US interstate system. Clearly designed by a man."
 "You can do it guys, it's not like asking for directions."
 These are both quotes from prime-time television ads, and both are biased against men. These two commercials were viewed in less than a 1-hour period and illustrate a disturbing trend: reverse discrimination against men. Tucker Carlson puts it best:

Imagine a new ad from Dell computers. A woman, obviously a homemaker, sits wide-eyed in front of a computer screen, frantically clicking the mouse. "Why won't it work?" she moans and then begins to cry. Her husband strolls over to her, rolling his eyes, and with one deft keystroke - voilà. Every thing's fixed. Then comes the voice-over: "Dell. So simple, even your wife can use it." (Reader's Digest, January 2003, p. 33)

If this ad actually ran, there would be an outcry from feminist groups. Why? Because it casts a negative stereotype of women. Imagine this logo: "Sony, even a <censored> can afford it." Or how about this ad: "NASDAQ: all the Jews use it." If these slogans actually ran, the company would be receive huge criticism from organizations representing these groups. The public would not tolerate them. Yet we tolerate negative stereotypes of men almost on a daily basis. Citibank casts men as so stingy as to not pay for painkillers during their wives' childbirth. In an HP ad, men are cast as being so dull they cannot purchase groceries without color pictures. Heinz plays on the stereotype of men being lousy in bed. If any of these campaigns focused on women, they would be boycotted and run out of business.

Why do we tolerate this? We shouldn't. Discrimination is unacceptable in all its various forms. Some would argue that men used to discriminate against women so why not get even? Eye for an eye has not been practiced for hundreds of years. Two wrongs do not make a right, and it does not make discrimination right. Discriminating against men is just as wrong as discriminating against women, blacks, Chinese, or Jews. So unless we all want to become little, anti-male Hitlers, we need to stop this trend, and we need to stop it now!

π Svidrigailov π
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Teachers Take Maternity Leave; State Treasurer Furious

In a move that shocked the state, several teachers, some right here in Niwot, will be taking a leave of absence due to pregnancy. This leave comes only two months after teachers were forced to take pay cuts to help with a district financial crisis, which left the local teachers' union grinding its teeth and seeking revenge. Experts in the State Treasurer's office have begun to wonder: Paycuts + Pregnancy = Coincidence?

The Treasurer's office was very clear back in late fall that the district was not to allow any budget cuts to adversely affect the student body. When the teachers requested that inservice days be converted to days off to counter their pay cuts, the district agreed, but not before hefty criticism from the State. Now, cocky with their victory, but snooty with their foes, the district may be attempting to try their luck by taking more days off of school.

According to State official Phillip G. Rand, the timing of these leaves of absence is obviously a sign of a plot organized by the union. In a press conference Monday, Rand expressed the State's views of what's going on here. "It's obvious to us that union representatives pressured these women into getting pregnant, probably about a month ago. As such, the women are now almost due to have babies. And we can't have all these babies crawling around. They're babies! In a school! That's crazy!"

When asked if he knew the length of the human gestation period, Rand withheld comment.

Shortly after Monday's press conference, another official, Marcus M. Bower, made a statement on behalf of the State: "After consulting with several obstetricians, we have decided to retract our previous accusations against the St. Vrain Valley Education Association. However, we now have new evidence that they may have known about the district shortfall as long as 8 or 9 months ago."

Complete investigations will begin in April.

π Frank Roosevelt π
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Planet of the Apes

This is a typical American family:

Baby sister is asleep upstairs, mother is sending the housekeeper home for the night. Father and son are on the couch. Their huge TV blares a movie at them. It's "Planet of the Apes," the old version with Charlton Heston and actors in badly designed monkey suits. The father works at a movie studio. Tonight, he was going to show his nine-year-old the two versions of "Planet of the Apes", old and new, and point out how far technology has come by showing him how much more realistic the apes are in the new film. But a problem's come up, and father is writing a letter to the nearby gas station about the low-grade gas they have for his BMW. He blames the station, which blames the oil company, who blames the drillers out in the Middle East.

This is a typical Iraqi family:

Baby sister rests in peace; with all the food shortages in Baghdad, she starved. Ever since the Americans started their threats, food's been stockpiled and stored away. Mother and son are out in the country. It's miserable out there, but at least they're safe from the missiles and soldiers. Father's out on the front lines, in

uniform. He was lucky enough to survive the Gulf War, but he's older now. As he loads his AK-47, he looks back on the wars, the new and the old. Déjà vu, except that he has a family now, and he's more worried about his wife and son than the two aging parents he had to take care of in the first; his mother and father were struck by a stray missile in the last war.

Here it comes: the first strike. It's a slaughter. The Iraqis can't take down the Americans. They're better armed and better equipped so they mow down civilian "soldiers" like so many blades of grass. Déjà vu, déjà vu, déjà vu. A bullet hits father, but it's an inch closer to the heart than the one that sent him home from the last war. Not déjà vu. Death.

Back in the safe, warm home, mother hangs up on the missus across the way, and tells father to change the channel. CNN, ABC, it doesn't matter, just get to the news. Father pulls out the remote and watches, ghoulishly interested in the death and bloodshed half a world away.

"You're right, Daddy," says the little boy, crawling into his father's lap. "This one does look more real."

π J. L. Zarathustra π

Dialectic Ranting

This is a Typical Logical Rebuttal

There are times when circumstances not only warrant war, but demand it. Now is one of those times. One of the Iraqi war's main criticisms is that it will harm that country's citizens. The preceding article stands as a biting critique of American foreign policy, but, seemingly without knowing it, presents one of the greatest arguments for war with Saddam's regime; war is necessary for the sake of the Iraqi people.

The author's main point is that a war with Iraq makes its citizens suffer. However, it fails in making this point because it asks the reader to think with his heart rather than his head. What is important is not a comparison of the "typical" American and "typical" Iraqi people's situations. Rather, what's needed is an examination of what the future holds for Iraqis if we go to war, contrasted with what the future holds if we don't go in. Let history be our guide.

Scott Rubin, a State Department representative, said in 1999, "Hussein continues to repress his own people." He went on to describe how the citizens of the Iraqi city of Almasha protested food and medicine shortages and were met with mass arrest and bulldozers that destroyed 160 homes. This poverty is not the result of American

sanctions, but Saddam's demented priorities: Hussein has spent an estimated 2 billion dollars on his 48 palaces while his people starve by the thousand. Hussein maintains his power through terror; dissenters quickly disappear and tales of torture abound. Concerning Iraqi fatalities, Zarathustra conveniently forgets to mention that Saddam started the Iraq-Iran war (which cost 250,000 Muslim lives), that civilians are being forced to serve as human shields, or that Saddam gassed his own people.

Conversely, Washington is taking all possible measures to reduce the loss of life on both sides and is making a sincere effort to keep Iraqi infrastructure intact to allow for a speedy reconstruction. By the time you read this, humanitarian aid should be flowing into Iraq, hampered only by Saddam's booby-trapping of a Southern port. Britain has proposed that the U.N. set up a trust to take in all future oil revenue and then distribute it to the people of Iraq. Further down the road are plans to set up a democratic government in Iraq. As of yet, Bush has announced no plans to gas the Kurds.

Which Iraq, old or new, has a brighter future? Even a chimpanzee like me can figure that out.

π Personably Arrogant Cynic π

Wanted:

Abusive Shrews to Greet Kids With Bright Smiles Each Morning

There comes a time in the life of every school when changes must be made. As tragic as this may seem, change can be a positive and progressive force. With that thought in mind, I must respectfully suggest to Mr. Haddad that he hire a new office and administrative staff. I just don't feel that the current one is doing its utmost to serve the students of Niwot High.

When you enter the office to ask a question, you should have a sick, lurching feeling in the very pit of your stomach. Just entering the office door should make you break out in a cold sweat. Unfortunately, when I enter Niwot's front office, I'm not as anxious and embarrassed as I should be. Sure, the temperature in there is frosty, but I think it should be more than frosty—it should be that painful kind of burning cold. But with all honesty, we can't blame the office itself; the people who work there create the atmosphere. On occasion, the "office ladies" are *pleasant*. Sometimes I fancy that I see a glimmer of human kindness deep within their eyes. That's unacceptable. When I walk into a school office, I expect to see abrasive, impatient women behind the desk. I want them to snap and snarl at me like the fiendish wolves they should resemble. And I demand that the thought of helping me and making my life a little easier be the absolute furthest thing from their minds.

The counseling office ladies could take a leaf out of the regular office ladies' book. Again, they seem to have forgotten their mission statement; they seem almost to think that they were hired to help the students rather than hinder them. To be a competent counseling office staff, all of the workers in that area of the school must be united in their desire to make a student's academic path as difficult to complete as possible. I just don't feel that enough stumbling blocks are being thrown into my way. Sure, there was the time they tried to bully me into doing IB, and that other time when they tried to keep me from taking a required class, but these minor glitches aren't enough. If the counseling office ladies and the guidance counselors do their jobs properly, I'll leave high school with bloody knees and a broken wrist, and I'll be happy. All of the administrators of our school, vice principals and athletic directors included, treat the students with too much respect. We crave condescension, and we thrive when we're talked down to! Niwot's campus supervisor, in particular, often treats students as human beings instead of the vicious and

deceitful creatures they actually are. I must urge that he be fired immediately because the trust and respect he bestows upon students can only harm the school's integrity.

If Mr. Haddad can't simply revamp the office and administrative staff in one night, I hope that these reminders will help the staff function at an acceptable level of proficiency until Judge Judy clones can be hired to take their places. Administrative and office staff, don't forget:

- 1) It is not your job to help students.
- 2) Never do *anything* that would make a student's life easier or happier if you can help it.
- 3) It is your responsibility to throw up bureaucratic red tape in the paths of all student as frequently as possible.
- 4) It is *not* your responsibility to make sure that each student at Niwot receives a quality education regardless of their background or behavioral history.

If everyone keeps these rules in mind, I'll have an intensely unpleasant experience every time I encounter an administrator, and the world will make sense again!

π Snork Maiden π

<Editor's Note: This article contains satire. You wouldn't think that we'd have to spell it out for you, but, then again, remember what happened after last year's "Satan is Good" article...?>

Disclaimer:

Let's take some time to address a few problems:

- If you feel the need to express distaste for an article, you can always email the writer.
- If you feel that FRICH has lost its edge, don't send us poorly written email that trashes good articles; write your own <censored> article and submit it, you pansy.
- If you hate the war, it's important to understand the thoughts of those who think it's a good idea. We must understand one another, grasshopper.
- If you love the war, it's important to understand the thoughts of those who think it's a bad idea. We must understand one another, grasshopper.
- If you are really angry, take a deep breath, count to ten, and realize something very important: Nobody cares what we say anyway.
- And if the man gets you down, remember:

Please don't sue!