

FEATURES

The Sound and the Fury

■ Why we published the cartoons

We want readers to understand the process that resulted in the printing of these controversial cartoons.

To adequately and responsibly cover a college sponsored event that brought editorial cartoonist Scott Nychay to campus, we felt that we have to run the cartoons to cover all sides of the story.

On Monday, the International Education Office brought Nychay to speak on the Muslim cartoon controversy. This event was titled, "Drawing Fire: A Discussion of the Art of Visual Satire, and the Muslim Cartoon Controversy."

Our hope in printing these images is not to incite anger or create news, but rather to cover a story and to allow for open discussion on this campus. This discussion is the only possible resolution for this controversy.

As a board, we wanted to present this issue in a fair and comprehensive manner, so we solicited viewpoints from various groups, including the Muslim Student Association, Baha'i Student Association, International Students Organization and International Education Office. We have printed the full text of the two replies we received alongside this letter.

We present these cartoons as illustration, not as endorsement.

There would be no reprinting of these cartoons without the agreement of all of the Courier's editorial board, though a consensus was not instantaneous.

A lengthy discussion took place weighing many factors in the decision to print or not to print. This discussion began at our meeting on Thursday of last week and would continue throughout Friday. Consensus was finally achieved last Friday afternoon, and then the real work began.

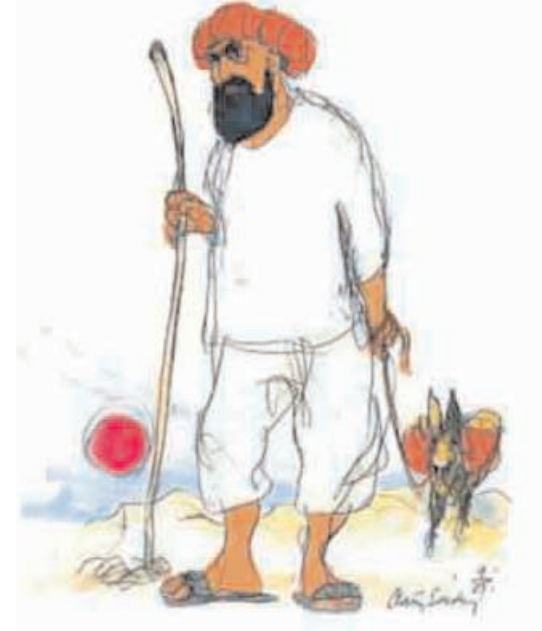
We decided to print the cartoons. It was agreed that the story would be trivialized without them.

In the end, our editorial board came to the conclusion that there is no real way around it—that in order to present the issue of the Muhammad cartoons, the images must be alongside. Otherwise, all we would be doing is telling our readers why they are controversial, and why lives have been lost over them.

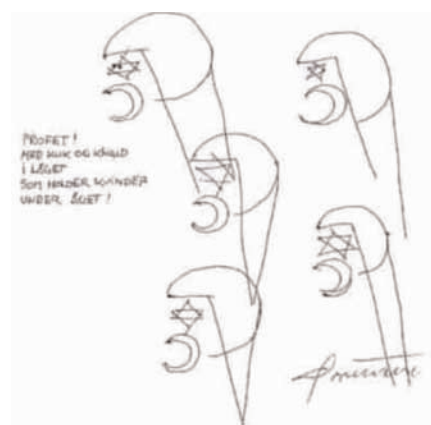
see 'Cartoons' page 15



Relax, folks, it is just a sketch by a South Jutlander



The man in the center is saying "Hmm... I can't really recognize him." The sign on the right reads "Kåre's PR, call and get an offer."



"Prophet, you crazy bloke! Keep your women under yoke!"



The board reads "The editorial team at Jyllands-Posten is a bunch of reactionary provocateurs."

'Cartoons' from page 14

To tell our readers by writing about why we felt these cartoons were offensive would be creating bias, which must be avoided at all costs by newspapers. By reprinting the cartoons, we present the information in a clear, unadulterated state. It allows the reader to decide how they feel, and formulate their own opinions on the subject.

Another possibility was to simply run a few of them, likely the less offensive ones. To do so would again be imposing our personal beliefs upon the situation. Also, the cartoons were created and originally published as a set, and to only print a few would be akin to taking quotes out of context.

Last week this paper ran a picture of activists for homosexual, bisexual and transgendered rights. This was done without a second thought.

This too was an issue that has caused much controversy in this country, as well as throughout the world. But even if that picture would have sparked trouble, it is still our job to report the news. This is the same case with these cartoons.

The issue of homosexuality has set a precedent. Increased awareness has resulted in more understanding and more tolerance. The media played an instrumental role in this attitude shift and has an opportunity to do so again.

These twelve cartoons are far more than some offensive images.

They are a result, and a part of, the continuing miscommunication between the Western media and the



Photo by Brian Powers

Scott Nychay speaking at the International Education Office event last Monday evening. Behind him is one of his cartoons.

Muslim world.

As a group, we felt that to go this far, and then pull the cartoons would be a statement not only to the Muslim community, but to our entire readership. It would be a statement we can in fact be bullied, that given pressure, we as a newspaper will not print the truth. From that point on, any issue of a controversial nature would be under intense scrutiny, whether it relates to issues regarding any race, religion or lifestyle.

To give in to external pressures would open the floodgates and create a more and more restrictive environment until "free press" becomes a weather and traffic report. It was for situations such as this one that the First Amendment was written, and is also the root of this very issue.

An unfortunate consequence of printing the cartoons is that they deeply offend a religious group whose members have done nothing to provoke or deserve this treatment, but the larger community needs to understand this issue.

As has been said, this was not done to inflame anyone, and was not done to create news or controversy. We spent a great deal of time examining what other images and text to use to treat this issue with proper care and respect.

There was even an argument about what color to use on the front page.

This is all because it is our belief that only through knowledge can this issue be abated.

Knowledge in this case comes from viewing the cartoons first-hand, and making your own decisions on what you feel about them. We are trying to provide as much information as possible, to allow the reader to independently form an educated opinion.

We ask our readers to view the cartoons, think about them, and most importantly, talk about them.

Discuss the viewpoints of both sides, argue about it, shout about it, write about it. Try to understand where each other are coming from. Do not simply pass it off as offensive and walk away.

Community responses

•From the Muslim Student Association

In our efforts to represent every side of this issue, we contacted the Muslim Student Association for a statement beforehand.

This statement, made on behalf of the MSA was received last Monday night.

"All praise is due to Allah; I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Messenger.

One of the greatest things that makes a Muslim proud is his belief and love of the Messenger (peace be upon him). Muslims believe in all the Messengers and the Prophets (peace be upon them) and do not distinguish between any of them -- except that our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), is the last and final messenger and prophet, and he is the best of them. There is no phrase that can encompass all the features of greatness of this great Prophet (peace be upon him) and there are not enough words to describe his greatness -- a greatness that overwhelmed all people in all ages, and was decreed to be eternal. It is this greatness that is instilled in all hearts, settled in all souls, felt by all the people and even the enemies of Islam. In the Qur'an, Allah says:

"So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him -- it is those who will be the successful." [Al-A'raaf: 157].

Therefore, it is our duty to support the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) possessed the perfect manners which no one can possess, He (peace be upon him) was the wisest person; the one with the most sound mind and opinion; the most generous -- whose alacrity in

spending was said to be faster than a fast wind. He (peace be upon him) was the most tolerant of all people and the kindest; if someone abused him, he would forgive him, and the harsher a person was, the more patient he (peace be upon him) would become. He was most lenient and forgiving, especially when he had the upper hand and the power to retaliate. So, in conclusion, when people in the west tend to make pictures that degrade and humiliate the glorious Prophet (peace be upon him), the Muslims have the definite right to defend him. These cartoons that have been drawn solely for the purpose to defame and humiliate the Great Prophet (peace be upon him) couldn't be further from the truth of his character. We hope that people won't take this matter lightly and see the seriousness of its case. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was one of the greatest men to live, and should only be portrayed as such."

•From the International Education Office

The department of International Education coordinated the event, "Drawing Fire: A discussion of the Art of Visual Satire and the Muslim Cartoon Controversy." Zinta Konrad, the coordinator of International Education provided this statement last Wednesday:

"Both as an individual and as the coordinator of International Education, I oppose the publication of the controversial cartoons that originated in Denmark. As individuals and as an institution we have an obligation to examine opposing points of view but to do so with the foreknowledge that this will offend certain groups is not the way to examine issues that have enormous consequences."

Tom Ky
Rick Kambe

Graham Mildrum
Chris [unclear]

Victoria Jaramba
Jonathan [unclear]

F.Y.I.

2006 Outstanding graduates

A committee of faculty, staff, students and administrators have picked the 2006 Outstanding graduates.

Students nominated need to graduate with at least a 3.8 GPA, fill out a questionnaire, and be willing to speak at commencement.

Representing female students is Sandra Pieta, a is an '04 Lyons Township High School grad, majoring in Mathematics at COD and carrying a 3.9 GPA. Sandy is an Honors Scholar, a Math peer tutor, a member of PTK and was Vice President of the COD Democrats, responsible for bringing Senator Barack Obama to COD's campus.

Representing the male student body is Phillip Young, a busy husband and father of three, who has spent the last twenty years working as a

sales manager in the home entertainment industry for both Universal and Sony Pictures. Two years ago he made the decision to return to school and enrolled in Westmont's Adult Fast Track program. Phil gives full credit to Fast Track for making it possible to complete his degree while still keeping up with his crowded schedule. Phil's cumulative GPA is 3.95 and as a member of PTK, he was awarded their scholarship at Elmhurst College.

Mumps Outbreak

As of April 13, a total of 57 cases of mumps have been reported to the Illinois Department of Health, including 6 cases at Northern Illinois University.

Those who may be suffering from fever, swelling of the salivary glands, headache

and muscle ache should see their physician to be sure.

To prevent spreading the infection, follow these steps:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue away afterwards.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- Do not share eating or drinking utensils.
- Avoid contact with anyone who may be experiencing any symptoms.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Anyone who may possibly be suffering from mumps should be quarantined for nine days.

If you have any questions, or to report a case of mumps, contact Communicable Disease Services at 682-7979 ext. 7553.

Cartoonist draws portrait of world

By Kevin Klipp Features Editor

Scott Nychay, an award winning editorial cartoonist for the Northwest Herald, came to the college last Monday night for a presentation titled: "Drawing Fire: A Discussion on the Art of Visual Satire and the Muslim Cartoon Controversy."

Nychay began by showing several of his own cartoons, and explaining the plight of his profession.

Unfortunately, he feels, with syndication becoming a growing trend, and with controversies like that over the Muhammad cartoons, the number of positions available for full time cartoonists is dwindling.

On the topic of the Muhammad cartoons, Nychay felt that it was not

necessarily the idea behind the cartoons, but rather the execution.

"I have drawn cartoons about Catholic priests during the molestation scandal, but I would never draw a cartoon of Jesus as a pedophile," Nychay said.

He pointed out that one cartoon in particular, showing a cartoonist nervously sketching Muhammad while looking over his shoulder, Nychay feels this holds a great deal of truth and meaning, but was overshadowed by the other, much more offensive cartoons.

Surprisingly, Nychay did not dwell on the topic long, despite the title, and presumed theme of the event, instead spending more time discussing editorial cartooning as a whole, and his journey through the profession.



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Photo by Kevin Klipp

Keith Yearman, Associate Professor of Geography, setting up his display. It currently covers a large section of the wall in the lower SRC walkway.

Women under attack in Juarez

Once or twice a year, Keith Yearman, an Associate Professor of Geography puts up a display in the SRC about the women of Juarez, Mexico.

Since 1993 over 400 women have been murdered, and 4,587 have disappeared from Juarez and the surrounding area.

Recently, this trend has begun to also shift south, with women disappearing from nearby Chihuahua City.

Yearman attempts to get as much information as possible, even attempting to get vital documents from the FBI, State Department and other Federal Agencies.

"I have been doing this for three or

four years now," Yearman said. "But with complications this fall I wasn't able to."

In addition to his display, Yearman also makes frequent trips to both Juarez and Chihuahua City, in hopes to raise awareness and prevent the murders and disappearances.

For more information contact Keith Yearman at Yearman@cdnet.cod.edu.

Or more information can also be found by looking up one of the following groups:

- Nuestras Hijitas de Regreso a Casa
- Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez
- Justicia para Nuestras Hijas
- Casa Amiga



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