

Perspectives

Tom Tom Staff Members: Voicing a Point of View on Prominent and Contemporary Issues

Casting doubt on religion...

'Da Vinci Code' gets too much hype

Well, today's the day. The world will be graced with the presence of the greatest film ever created, "The Da Vinci Code." I'm sorry if you couldn't pick the sarcasm out of my words.

I remember two years ago another film came out much like this one. Actually, you could consider this one the archenemy of "Da Vinci." "The Passion of the Christ" was a film fueled in the opposite

direction. It supported the Christian story of Jesus Christ.

"Passion" also received a lot of media and public attention—much of it was negative. Some said the movie was too graphic when depicting the torture Jesus

suffered before his crucifixion.

After seeing the film, I could see where people could get squeamish, but I didn't understand why the film was singled out for criticism of its violence.

I think that after a couple more years of maturing I understand. Topics involving religion will always be targeted for some sort

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of wrongdoing.

These days it seems like uncovering "ancient conspiracies" or trying to rewrite a piece of history has snowballed into a fad.

A couple of weeks ago a story on ABC's "Dateline" told the

story of the lost gospel of Judas being found in a cave.

The week before that, a man suddenly figured out how Jesus walked on water—a sandbar! Then there were the scientists who claimed that there was a thin patch of ice on the Sea of Galilee that night that Jesus walked on water.

that Judas wasn't the one who betrayed Jesus, but it was one of the other disciples who was guilty.

Another clue from Da Vinci, wow! The adventure never seems to stop, does it?

Later, someone else took another look at the painting depicting "The Last Supper" and saw signs showing

Recently, it seems to have been proven by a study that when sick, praying can actually make you worse.

All of these claims and "scientific studies" have come out in the shadow of "The Da Vinci Code."

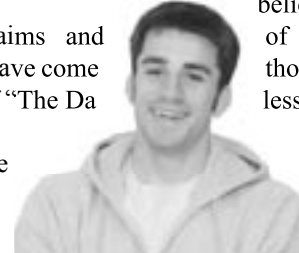
I see a pattern. We as humans need something to talk and get excited about. Religious controversy is now our hot topic and everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon. I don't think that it's a coincidence that all of these discoveries and breakthroughs are coming out at the same time.

"The Da Vinci Code" is sure to be a blockbuster, but I just want to remind those of you who have forgotten, that it's fiction. I

remember, not too long ago, when kids were jumping off roofs with broomsticks because they believed in the adventures of Harry Potter. Well, those kids learned their lesson the hard way.

So let us all enjoy "The Da Vinci Code" as it hits theaters, but remember the words of Tom Hanks, who stars in the movie.

"I made a film about this mysterious steam locomotive that appears on front lawns and whisks kids off to the North Pole to visit Santa Claus, and that is as much as a piece of fantasy and film-making, believe it or not, as Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code."



Dakota West
Layout Editor

Activists raise consciousness

Free film at ACHS to increase awareness, of child trafficking

A popular game for young children to play in America is "war" or "cops and robbers." In Africa, these once innocent games are realities. There are over one million children in countries such as Uganda, Burma, and Sri Lanka, who are kidnapped and forced to fight in multiple civil wars throughout the continent. Children as young as nine-years-old are captured from public areas, their homes, or from work places and taken to the rebel armies, where they are brainwashed to kill. These children, who are supposed to be naïve and innocent, are more worried about surviving than receiving an education or making new friends.

Thousands of children are taught nothing but how to fire a gun. They are

trained to repress all emotions. Crying and homesickness are punished through a sadistic process of amputation or even death. Children fleeing in fear, travel miles and miles each night just to find a place to sleep where their lives will no longer be threatened. Home is no longer a place of safety and these young victims live in constant fear.

The awareness of child trafficking and child soldiers in Africa is lacking. It is as if it occurs in a completely different world. The poverty and violence that overtakes that continent is infinite. The unfortunate children know nothing but violence and the problem will continue until someone steps up, and says, "Enough."

It is up to each and every one of us to do more than just know—intervene and make a difference. A group of Antioch student activists will be showing a movie in the high school auditorium on May 25 about the tragedies in Africa. Please join the effort and share your concern with those who feel the same.



Lindsay Ptasienski
Copy Editor

Let God do his job

In 2003, a foal was born with the exact genetic makeup of its mother. Today she is a cloned race horse for the Kentucky Derby. Her name is Prometea and was created by Italian researchers. So far sheep, pigs, cattle, mice, rabbits, cats, and mules have been cloned, but horses were established as the most difficult. Prometea was the only living embryo out of the 328 cloned. A clone involves a method by which a skin cell is fused together with an empty egg.

No physical problems were found, which is scientifically amazing. It defies everything natural.

Is it ethical to create a human being using a copy of someone else's genetic mapping?

Questions have arisen regarding whether or not this technology could be used to give childless couples a baby. How should technology go?

Of course, the environment plays a

role in the growth of a person, but a copy would still have the same gender, same smile, same ethnicity, maybe even the same personality, so really the only thing missing is memory.

Don't compare an identical twin with a clone. A twin's genetic material is still different. It occurs when an original embryo of its type spontaneously splits in two, creating two people.

Cloning is "taking the genetic material of an existing person and using it as the basis of creating a new person."

Some foreign countries have embraced this new game.

Cloning is a game in which the objective is to play God. Although human cloning is currently illegal in the U.S., I believe that soon it will be established as a "norm."

We do not have the right to create life through a test tube. Manipulating life is not moral. Let's leave the creation of life up to God.

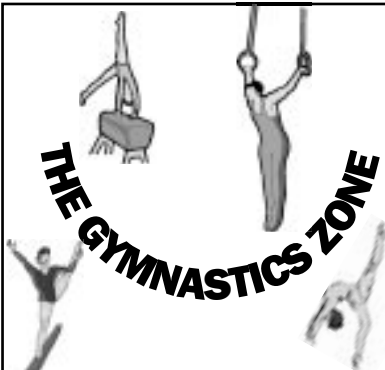


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