

THE AXIOM

FU's Independent Student Journal

Feature Article Squirrel Land



Super Squirrel will be to Squirrel Land what Mickey Mouse is to Disney Land.

Read it on Pg. 1-2
Contact Us

TheAxiom@hotmail.com

The Axiom encourages its readers to send feedback: Articles, article ideas, comments, questions, concerns, and (most preferably) angry e-mails are welcome. The Axiom will protect the identity of all students who write in... even if they hate our publication.

Contents:

Profanity policy is a joke	1-2
Squirrel Land parable	1-2
FU	2-3
Student opinion question	2-3
Fall Break fallacy	4
We are thankful	4
Does dry = safe	4-5
Reader comments	5-6

Profanity policy is a *freaking joke

The Friends University Community Life Standards policy lists several behaviors that are unacceptable because they violate the "spirit" of the community; swearing is technically not allowed on campus. Telling college students they cannot swear is ridiculous; you might as well tell professional athletes they cannot have affairs, and try to convince Michael Jackson to no longer associate with young boys.

The fact that I have never heard of this policy being enforced seems to indicate that the university and its staff realize that attempting to censure the speech of college students is pointless.

Perhaps the policy's fundamental fallacy lies in the hypocritical way in which it would have to be enforced. Many courses regarding the study of art, literature and film subject students to material the Community Life Standards policy would deem obscene. This must mean that profanity enriches the classroom environment, yet paradoxically destroys the "spirit" of the community.

This leads to a second problem. The university has to argue that profane literature and film is nondestructive, so long as it educates students. But this wrongly assumes that students cannot use profanity in the constructive way film and literature does. Here is an example of the problem: In class, I could make the comment, "Abra-*freaking-ham Lincoln abolished slavery and *ish. This comment, if made in class, could potentially sign my expulsion letter, but if in the same class we watched a movie that, like my quote, was both educational and unnecessarily explicit, the university would not have a problem with it.

Continued on pg. 2

Squirrel Land parable part I

Editorial note: Our fact checker did not make it to this article; read at your own risk.

Part I

The last Friday of October was Friday with Friends; it was a day for high school seniors to visit our campus and become acquainted with the commercial – I mean university. This particular Friday with Friends was also a day that our publication seemed to vanish from all discernable localities (this part is true). Though our publication is obviously unable to prove that these two events exist in a cause and effect relationship, we suggest they are, in all likeliness, related. Why would Friends University allow currently enrolled students to read this publication while shielding the virgin eyes of prospective freshman?

The Axiom can resolve this mystery with a contention that is twofold: The board of trustees is aware that vital information regarding the eminent transformation of this campus was leaked to one of our staff writers, and this information reveals substantial difficulties for the class 2009 and beyond. Effective in 2009, what is currently known as Friends University will officially be Squirrel Land.

The board of trustees, in 2002, began investigating fiscal matters as they pertain to theme parks throughout the Midwest. After determining that Friends University would generate greater revenue as a theme park, the conceptualization of Squirrel Land was born, and the construction began.

The university did not have to start the process from scratch; most of the walkways and landscaping typically associated with theme parks were already innate characteristics of the university.

Continued on pg. 2

* indicates a word has been altered to respectfully comply with Friends University's Community Life Standards policy.

Profanity policy (continued)

The tactics employed by the university to bypass this hypocrisy have led the university into a different kind of hypocrisy. They claim to prohibit profanity, knowing all the while they cannot enforce it. Why would Friends University profess swearing was strongly prohibited and then turn its cheek to infractions making no significant effort to baby-sit students' linguistic adventures?

The Community Life Standards policy, in this regard, creates an image that parents appreciate and a reality that students enjoy. Parents will send their kids to this university, because the institution appears ostensibly to enforce strict Christian ethics with policies that are so rigid they edit and censor speech. Students will attend this university, because they know they can get away with bending the rules.

The university lets students know they will get away with it from the start of their freshman year. For Week of Welcome, after the parents were long gone, Residence Life sponsored a showing of the film *50 First*

Dates. The film is rated pg-13; it depicts and alludes to sexually provocative behavior and uses profanity (I am not a prude; I just fail to understand why listening to an actor swear is okay, but listening to a student swear destroys the spirit of the community). I suppose a Disney movie wouldn't draw as large of a crowd.

We contacted the residence life office inquiring about this particular issue (you can read their response in the student opinion question). It is within their bounds to show pg-13 movies. This does not seem to help their case. There is not a word in the English vocabulary that cannot be said in a pg-13 movie.

It seems that the university's apathetic approach to enforcement shows a slackening in the strictness of the policy that parallels the university's approach to tobacco. The catalog states that tobacco is prohibited on campus and then in parenthesis admits, "Smoking is allowed in

designated areas." Hmm... what are the designated areas? The designated area (s) is outside (not much of a need to pluralize area since what is not inside is all outside). I have also seen students use tobacco in classrooms. Some students chew tobacco and spit into bottles during class. If this is going to be allowed, the no tobacco element of the policy should be removed altogether.

The time is eminent when the apathetic enforcement of the no swearing policy will warrant its removal from the Community Life Standards policy altogether. If the current trend continues, the entire Community Life Standards policy will be a set of suggestions, not rules. The policy can stay in the Catalog, like the Old Testament stays in the Bible; it will be a list of old rules that have been traded in for rules that are more popular and easier to keep. The university will still hypocritically pretend the old rules are enforced, because stated policy, not enforced policy, is what keeps enrollment up.

Squirrel Land (continued)

If Squirrel Land was to become the Disney Land of the Midwest, it needed to provide an onsite hotel for tourists.

Many students have commented on the uncanny way in which Green Hall aesthetically resembles a hotel (there is a check in desk in the main lobby, and you must use those little, plastic key cards).

The next step in the process will consist of destroying buildings on campus to make room for rides. Due to the National Registry of Historic Places and the state of Kansas, Davis will be the only building that remains. Davis will retain its exterior architectural integrity, though interiorly it will be modified

and transformed into the largest spook house in the Midwest.

Many students have been debating whether or not anything will be built where Fry Hall used to stand. This is the location where the first ride, entitled the Green Eggs and Ham Scrambler, will be placed (you may be wondering what green eggs and ham have to do with squirrels; green eggs and ham was chosen by the board of trustees, because no matter how they tried to work "nuts" into the title it still sounded like a Community Life Standards violation).

The last step of the process will be to construct the Golden Squirrel (a 20 feet tall

statue of a squirrel eating green eggs and ham) in the center of Rose Window Plaza. What will be the consequence of this transformation?

Part II preview

The squirrels on campus begin gathering around the Golden Squirrel in large numbers. They appear to be worshipping the Golden Squirrel in a cultic fashion...

More editorial notes: This article will be continued on pg.1 of the February edition. This story really does have a point. If you are missing it, we may have to reluctantly explain it in a future issue.

Student opinion question

Is the implementation of the profanity policy inherently hypocritical?

Provided below is an e-mail we sent to the Residence Life office and their reply. Read the following e-mails and decide for yourself if their answers suffice. We will publish reader responses in our next edition. The following e-mails are included in their entirety.

The Axiom's e-mail to residence life

I am the editor for the student publication known as the *Axiom*.

Continued on pg. 3

FU

A reader recently wrote to the *Axiom* suggesting that our use of the acronym "FU" violates Community Life Standards. Since we stated in our first edition that we would comply with Community Life Standards, the truth of this reader's statement would prove that our publication is hypocritical. However, it is our contention that the acronym "FU" does not violate Community Life Standards.

While the Community Life Standards policy does prohibit profanity, it does not account for words or acronyms that may represent or allude to swear words. If "FU" constitutes a swear word, words and

Continued on pg. 3

Student opinion question (continued)

The Residence Life Department sponsored an event during Week of Welcome known as Movie on the Lawn.

The film shown was 50 first dates. The Motion Picture Association of America rated the film PG-13 because of "crude sexual humor and drug references." The film also contained a significant amount of profanity. To show how racy the film is, the MPAA originally rated the film "R" and changed their decision only after appeal.

My question for you would be this: Why does residence life support the viewing of profane, sexually provocative, and drug-glamorizing material? If a student used the language thrown around in this particular film, he or she would be written up for violating the spirit of the community by failing to comply with the Community Life

Standards policy. Why is a congregated viewing of a profane and sexually provocative film constructive towards community ends? Why would a student using a single swear word destroy the spirit of the community any further than the showing of this film? Your response to these particular questions would be greatly appreciated.

Residence Life's response

"I have read through your information provided in regards to the 2004 Movie on the Lawn "50 First Dates". The university procedure on showing films to students mandates that we do not show movies that are rated R by the MPAA. The Residence Life office voted and previewed the film prior to the showing on August 24. The version that was played for the students as

provided by the MPAA copyright company Swank Copyright Industry, in our opinion, did not violate the university procedure. Thank you for sharing your opinion and we will continue to make sure that all future films remain within the guidelines of what is appropriate for the Friends University Community."

Conclusion: While the Residence Life office defended their authority granted through policy to show this particular film, they failed to provide justification for their apparently hypocritical policy by not answering any of the questions we asked. If any university official wishes to address the legitimacy of this policy, please contact us at TheAxiom@hotmail.com. We would also like to hear from readers. Do you think the Residence Life office properly defended the legitimacy of this policy?

FU (continued)

phrases such as dadgumit, gosh darn it, dang it, heck, freaking, fricken or son of a biscuit would arguably violate the policy. What the *Sam can students and professors yell out if they stub their toes or are attacked by packs of voracious squirrels?

I have lost much sleep over the (oh so important) "FU" debate. In order to defend the reputation of this publication, I have composed a list of justifications for using the acronym "FU." Here are the top 10 reasons:

10. According to the *Encarta Dictionary*, "fu is a deep pulse taken as part of the traditional diagnostic technique in acupuncture." There is nothing offensive about acupuncture... well, except for the fact that acupuncture is a sham.

9. Since universities are traditionally referred to in acronym form, maybe Friends University should be changed to Quaker University. I cannot think of any naughty words that start with "Q."

7. "FU" should not be offensive when in print. It is distasteful when spoken because "u" and "you" sound alike. If we were to write "you" instead of "u," u -- I mean you could feel free to condemn us.

6. "FU" (in this case the "u" should be "you," but we feared if they were side by side someone would deem it profane) is only offensive because people who do not like to swear started saying it when someone cut them off in the car or something. These are the same people who are offended when Friends University is referred to as "FU." It is censorship that caused "FU" to be perceived as profane, not the acronym itself.

5. If "FU" is offensive, it doesn't speak to the class of this publication, it speaks to the class of the readership. The *Axiom's* staff is grown up enough to know that "FU" stands for Friends University; we should not be held responsible for students who become excited over hinted swearing because they have lived sheltered lives.

4. I feel sorry for the letter "F." If I were the

letter "F," I would sue the "F word" and *Sesame Street* for ruining my good name (or letter). I would beg for reparations to be made for all the universities that heretofore opt not to begin their title with the letter "F" for the aforementioned reasons.

3. Do you really think Florida University has problems with their acronym? I am convinced "FU" is only exciting at this university, because it is against policy to say the real thing.

2. "The *Axiom*" is 8 letters; "Friends University's Independent Student Journal" is 48 letters. Do we really have to have a subtitle that is over five times longer than our title, because some students are immature? We cannot allow our subtitle to pull a Celine Dion by upstaging our title.

1. I hope the nine previous arguments concretely justify the use of the acronym "FU," because to address the concerns of readers, we had to include "FU" 19 more times than originally planned.

Now that we have proven our case, we can freely write "FU."

*"What the *Sam can students and professors yell out if they stub their toes or are attacked by packs of voracious squirrels?"*

The Fall Break fallacy

This is the only publication on campus where you will be able to read the following words: The decision to bring back Fall Break was a mistake.

If I hear one more person talk about how horrible it is that we did not have a Fall Break this year, I may have to stab myself with a spoon. Certainly there must be something more interesting to talk about; I know there are more noble fights to wage. The Fall Break obsession drove this campus mad.

I am on the brink of making a petition that would mandate that students never be allowed to mention the words "fall break" again. Well, they should still be able to say the words "fall" and "break," but they should

not be allowed to say them sequentially. The only exception to this rule should be the following statement: "If someone tells me about that stupid petition again, I may wish to either fall from a fifth floor window, or break the person's leg."

To all administration members: STUDENTS LIED TO YOU. The argument for Fall Break conveyed the ridiculous notion that students would use fall break to actually study and prepare for midterms. This is a lie; students study as much during fall break as they study any other day – two minutes tops. Fall Break is an excuse for students to stay out extra late Sunday night doing *Jim knows what.

The second best argument was that

students need the break for sanity. We all know that this institution makes everyone associated with it insane, but Fall Break is far from a panacea that will make it all go away (however, I still plan to blame my poor grades this semester on the Fall Break we did not get). As long as the institution makes us insane, Fall Break will remain unable to save us.

It warms my heart to know that with all the social and political problems in the world, Friends University students can stand up for something they really believe in... an extra day off from school. I think it would have been proper for the administration to withhold Fall Break from the student body until they learned to fight and petition for causes that really mattered.

We are thankful for some things

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it seems appropriate to take the time to express what the *Axiom's* staff is thankful for. We know that most our readers think that we are ungrateful, elitist jerks (which we are), but that does not mean that we don't appreciate some things about our miserable lives.

We are so grateful, in fact, that we had to cut down our list of the things we are thankful for to only 10 things (we came up with 11). Without further ado, we offer our readers the top 10 things we are thankful for:

10. We are thankful for homemade mashed potatoes.

9. Since we decided to go to college, McDonald's will not own our souls; our souls will belong to Friends University, banks, and the U.S. Government.

8. We are thankful for loan sharks – I mean banks – that make it possible for us to attend this university, even though we will have to live in studio apartments and drive Hyundais until we die.

7. If you scrounge up all the loose

change in your car, you will almost have enough change to do one load of laundry.

6. We are thankful that we cannot afford to own car stereos that are worth stealing.

5. The lack of on-campus parking provides a great opportunity to increase stamina and cardiovascular endurance.

4. The healthy food offered in Casado ensures that we will not have to spend what little money we have on winter clothing.

3. We are thankful that Florida didn't worry about hanging Chads this year, because now we don't have to worry about hanging Floridians.

2. No matter how bad you think you look in the morning, when you walk into class, you will always see someone who looks worse.

1. We are most thankful for our supportive readers (hmm... sounds too cheesy; please forget that we printed something that was almost sincere).

Does dry campus = safe campus?

Although Friends University's prohibition of alcohol, as mandated by the Community Life Standards policy, perpetuates a façade of safety, it may actually be putting students in danger.

The prohibition era in the United States did not, by any means, put an end to alcohol consumption; prohibition just drove drinking underground, fostering an entire subculture of rebellion. People who want to drink will always find a way to drink.

The fact alcohol is off limits makes its consumption even more attractive to students; this is known as forbidden fruit syndrome. People, especially college students, want what they do not have, particularly if they are not allowed to have it. This proverbial grass is greener on the other side mentality is an inherent component of the American psyche.

It would be naïve to presume that Friends University students do not drink, or to assume that although they drink, the dry campus policy increases safety in any way. Most students who live on campus drive off campus to drink. Many of these students choose to drive home at the end of the night, rather than spend the night in a sketchy, unknown environment or make a phone call that may somehow lead them to disciplinary action.

Some students choose to assume the risks involved with drinking on campus. Since drinking violates policy, these particular students must drink furtively and in secret. This environment heightens the risk of students acquiring problems with alcoholism. Dry campus policies encourage students to drink alone and

Continued on pg. 5

Does dry = safe? (continued)

keep details of their drinking habits to themselves.

Dry Campus policies also eliminate the ability of students with drinking problems to ask for help. If a student fears that revealing drinking patterns might lead to consequences as severe as expulsion, can he or she feel safe turning to a staff member for guidance?

If dry campus policies do not increase safety, why would Friends University adopt such a stance? It is hard to argue that the campus must prohibit alcohol to maintain its Christian image. Alcohol consumption is almost an intrinsic, cultural necessity for many Christian denominations. I have never heard of a Catholic or Lutheran

wedding reception where alcohol was not served.

Friends University's ability to use religion to warrant this particular policy is significantly marginalized by the university's failure to align itself with any particular denomination. In the university's attempt to become all things to all people, the university has sacrificed much of its historical identity. It seems that the university is a dry campus for the same reason the university is no longer affiliated with the Quaker faith. To attract the most students (and income) an image must be projected that a vast majority of Kansans can relate to.

Since this argument is counterintuitive, the dry campus policy will not be altered.

Perceived safety will always trump actual safety... especially at an institution that is more concerned with image than substance. If parents equate a dry campus with a safe campus, they will continue to send their children (and money) here. Only after the inherent dangers and risks of dry campus policies are exploited, can students expect the dry campus policy to be rethought.



The squirrels are allowed more privileges than the students.

Students comment: We respond

Comment: (In reference to the *Crimson Chronicle's* privacy article) "If you further research the students who were interviewed you will discover that the freshman which supposedly lives in the village lives at home with his parents."

-Dick Tracy-

Response: We attempted to contact the freshman in question, but we were unsuccessful in determining if he was one of the village people. A student wrote to the *Chronicle* recently asking if this person even exists. You can read the e-mail on the *Crimson Chronicle's* website under "readers write back." The *Chronicle* still has not commented on the issue.

Comment: "Thanks for saying something different...and yet stupid."

-Albert Einstein-

Response: You are most certainly welcome. We do write things that are different, but we are apprehensive to admit that anything we write is stupid... beyond a surface level.

Comment "On page four of your October issue in the "Crimson marks for the Crimson Chronicle," what do you mean by, "Sounds like a serious medical condition to me."?"

-Ray Charles-

Response: The name "Crystal" was

misspelled as "Cystal." A cyst, as defined by the *Encarta dictionary*, is "a closed, usually spherical, membranous sac that develops abnormally in human or other animal tissue and contains fluid or semisolid material." Hmm... it at least sounds like an unpleasant medical condition.

Comment: "I imagine that writing this is mostly for something fun to do, but what are your other intentions? do you dis-like the school? are you trying to change it? if so, to what?"

-Hateka Pitalizing-

Response: We "dis-like" certain aspects of the university. Luckily, the university will soon be Squirrel Land. Then we will have fun until the squirrels... (see February issue)

Comment: "Congratulations on the first issue, it's good to see some healthy subversion on campus. I was afraid that all the students around here are caught up in the university clothing cult that is rampant on campus."

-Gianni Versace -

Response: The university clothing cult is creepy. However, it will be destroyed when Squirrel Land is born. The bookstore will go from selling overpriced books to selling overpriced souvenirs. Squirrel Land paraphernalia will be much cooler though.

Comment: "You might try to set up some sort of donation system, so that the staff doesn't have to foot the bill for the publication..."

-Benni Henn-

Response: We plan to have a fundraiser during lunch next month. Our plan is to dress up our editor as Santa Clause and send him or her into Casado to perform dramatic readings of some of our articles. During the dramatic reading of *The fiery flame from heck*, we will pass around donation plates. The students who do not contribute to us monetarily will be thrown into a fiery flame from heck (some people refer to it as a flashlight).

Comment: "Instead of attacking the talent/reputation of the Chronicle, I would propose that you better them by presenting your publication in such a manner that if the Chronicle is to compete, it has to "rise to the occasion." ... let's focus more on the positive things other departments are doing, rather than bashing them for pleasure."

-Barney the Dinosaur-

Response: We never knew that if we published one article about editing mistakes in the *Chronicle*, half of our readership would think we were launching World War III against the publication.

Continued on pg. 6

Student comments (continued)

It is not our intention to be any more critical of the *Chronicle* than we are of any other facet of this institution. However, bashing for pleasure is still a satisfying recreational activity. We believe that our publication is inspiring the *Chronicle* to rise to the "occatation." Although their late October issue contained many errors, most of them were corrected by the second day it was available on-line.

Comment: "In the disclaimer, I noticed (in parentheses) the statement, "it may contribute towards reprehensible conduct like thinking for yourself." ... I believe it came acrossed as very negative towards the "conservative" crowd here at Friends."

-George W. Bush-

Response: We would like to sincerely apologize to the conservative crowd at Friends University. I guess we just failed to realize that the idea of thinking for oneself is offensive to conservatives. We amend our previous statement. Conservative students are encouraged to think for others. We hope this comes "acrossed" more positively.

Comment: "I am also sickened by the fact that many students who do begin to speak

their mind do not stick to what they are saying much of the time and go with the flow and act as sheep when it comes time to make decisions."

-Ian D. Cision-

Response: We agree. Sheep are not brilliant creatures. Simon Says would really throw them off. Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow. Everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go. It followed her to school one day, which was against the rules. Hmm... maybe Mary was a Friends University student. Perhaps we should laugh and play with the lambs. They can follow us around like the squirrels.

Comment: Yes, the Chronicle needs better editing and better writing in the first place, but not everyone who writes for them is a complete idiot. So by all means be critical, but don't write it all off as twaddle.

-Astrong D. Fence-

Response: We agree; we never said that everyone who writes for the Chronicle is a complete idiot.

Comment: (In opposition to our publication) "It is important for the University as a whole to understand that

the publication is not truly a journalistic one because it is entirely opinion-based with little or no reporting involved."

-Crimson Chronicle-

Response: We never claimed the *Axiom* was a newspaper. The *Axiom* is a journal and is true to a relaxed editorial/opinion style. Opinion and editorial pieces are important elements of journalism. The *Crimson Chronicle* must recognize the validity of the proceeding statement, because the article they wrote claiming this publication is not truly journalistic was an opinion article. They made no effort to contact our journal or to include the thoughts and opinions students have in regard to the *Axiom*. Our anonymity may increase the difficulty of conducting interviews with athletic coaches and officials that can regurgitate the Friends University Catalog (almost verbatim), but the *Chronicle's* direct affiliation with the university may increase the difficulty of reporting the truth. We will continue to produce a publication full of satire, sarcasm, pessimism, whit, entertainment and student opinion. We will leave it to students to decide what type of journalism they prefer.

Editorial note: We do not edit student comments; they are printed as is. Most of the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

See errors in the *Crimson Chronicle*?

If you discover any errors in the *Chronicle*, or are displeased in any way with the publication, notify us at TheAxiom@hotmail.com

See errors in the *Axiom*?

If you discover an error in this publication, keep it to yourself... you may be the only person smart enough to notice.

Follow ups, corrections & notes

-In our October edition, we ran an article titled *Cave Walls to bathroom stalls*. The article discussed a bathroom stall that was vandalized. Shortly after the issue was released, the University covered up the vandalism. We, at the *Axiom*, wish to commend the university for its prompt and timely response.

-Our October edition included an article titled *The fiery flame from *heck*. About three fourths of the way through our printing process, a staff member noticed that there was a spot in the article that read, "the fiery fame from *heck." Approximately 75% of our prints contained this error (we were too poor to make reprints and no one seemed to notice). "Fame" might also be appropriate. Anyone who has watched enough of *E's True Hollywood Story* knows the evil curses that befall famous individuals. In this respect, the fiery fame from *heck may be equally daunting.

-The *Axiom's* staff will be relaxing over Christmas Break. Make sure to look for our January/February edition in February.

Disclaimer

The Axiom is in no way, shape or form sponsored by Friends University (because we do not offer lawn care services). The views of this publication are intended to represent the independent beliefs of *the Axiom*. Students are strongly discouraged from reading this publication (it may contribute towards reprehensible conduct like thinking for yourself). We encourage conservative students to think for others. Although the *Axiom* may appear to disagree with some university policies, *the Axiom* actually disagrees with all of them. No matter what this publication contends, policy is not to be broken; noncompliance with university policy will always result in expulsion, death, or something much worse... a bath in the fiery flame from *heck.