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## No peace on earth

U.S.S.R., N. Korea called top violators

The U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights around the world is out, and it's not a pretty sight. And, peculiarly enough, the United States is not listed among the violators.

While there were positive changes in South Korea, North Korea continues to be the most serious rights violator anywhere.

In its section on the Soviet Union, the report states that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has made superficial, cosmetic changes, but fails to have made progress in the fundamentals.

Although the number of Soviet emigrants has increased, and films and movies more accurately depict the Soviet Union, its prisons continue to be marked by malnutrition, hard labor, beatings, frequent illness and inadequate medical care, the report

The report also found:  
• no progress toward respect for human rights was made in South Africa in 1987.  
• Nicaragua's government was guilty of "significant human rights abuses" last year and failed to institute democratic reforms required by a regional peace plan signed last August. Charges of abuse by U.S.-backed resistance forces — as in previous years — were dismissed as undocumented.  
• Afghanistan and Chile were other rights violators.  
As in any report, its validity and factual documentation must be questioned, or at least given a hard look. The situations described in the report could either be worse than they actually are or they could stand at a higher level. Nonetheless, world peace is nonexistent.

## Holy teeth-rings, miraculous oils: TV preacher likes business title

While taking a stroll, I saw the Rev. Hallelujah Jones hurrying along. I greeted him, but he angrily grabbed my arm and said: "I would appreciate it if you would stop referring to me by that title."

"You mean Reverend? But you're a TV clergyman."

He adjusted his red tie and said: "I am much more than that. Remember, I am also a businessman."

That's true. And how are your glow-in-the-dark, windup life-size plastic front-lawn Nativity scenes going?

"They did well during the Christmas season, thank you."

And your personally blessed holy teething rings, guaranteed to ease the distress of infancy?

"They're a steady seller, despite the sinful efforts of family planners to shrink my market."

And how's the demand for your miraculous oil, which will cure aches, pains, miseries as well as financial and domestic worries.

"Splendid, especially since we began pointing out that if simmered with a touch of garlic, it also makes an excellent blessed pasta sauce."

All things considered, I have to

concede that you are a businessman.

"And I would remind you that I am also a religious broadcaster, a title I also prefer."

Yes, I've watched your "Hallelujah Happy Hour." Does any other clergyman broadcast live from a sports theme bar?

"No, I was the first to recognize and fill that spiritual void."



Mike Royko

I've noticed that many members of your congregation now speak in tongues.

"A few, but I must admit that some of it is the result of the happy hour."

Well, I've been impressed by the miraculous cures you've performed simply by laying hands on them. I've seen people who had been suffering terribly throwing aside their crutches and canes and shouting "hallelujah" because you've cured them of tennis elbows, inflamed rotator cuffs,

jammed softball thumbs, jogger's shin splints, athlete's foot and jock itch.

"Did you happen to see the football player I cured of agonizing turf toe?"

Yes, but I was even more stunned by the poor wretch who said that for 30 years, despite seeking help from countless experts, he was still plagued by a chronic, incurable slice. But after you laid hands on his golf bag, he has been hitting the ball straight and long.

"Most people don't realize that the slice is the work of Satan. By the way, I'm planning an instructional tape showing the relationship between praying and one-putting."

That should be a winner, but I still don't understand why you no longer want to be thought of as a TV preacher.

"Unfortunately, it has taken on certain negative connotations in recent years."

Because of the fuss about Jimmy and Tammy and Oral and some of the others?

"Yes. And those in the media, most of whom are agents of the Beast, would tar me with the same brush."

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Royko is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

## Readers speak out against anti-gay letter

### Letters

#### Attitude toward gays product of small mind

This is a response to Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16). I sense a bit of prejudice in your letter concerning homosexuality. Asking homosexuals to go back into the closet is like asking the blacks to go back to Africa because you don't like their color. Or maybe you would ask all of the handicapped people to stay home because they disgust you.

There are many different ways of life and relationships worldwide other than homosexuality. So wake up, Dewsbury, and open your eyes. The world doesn't revolve around you. I'm not gay, but a few of my friends are. Although I don't necessarily approve of their lifestyle, they're still my friends. I also have a brother who is confined to a wheelchair, and he also has to endure many narrow-minded attitudes such as yours.

Everyone has a right to speak, and if you don't want to hear it, don't listen.

Jonathon Driscoll  
senior  
engineering

#### Lesbian gets calls about 'immorality'

This is a response to Jon Dewsbury's letter to the editor (Letters, Feb. 16). It is very plain that you do not understand the nature of homosexuality.

I did not choose to be a lesbian and become an outcast of society. It is extremely difficult to be a homosexual and to have to put up with constant messages from classmates, teachers, family, the media and more, telling us that we are abnormal and don't belong in society.

If I could choose, I would choose the easy way out and be a heterosexual, but I can't choose. I am what I am and I am ... attracted to women.

I don't understand how in a world in which mass murder, rape, political corruption, war and hunger are daily realities, love between two people — just because they happen to be of the

same sex — can be considered immoral and wrong.

As for the issue of "natural," do you think that airplanes which enable men (and women) to fly are "natural?" One could say that if humans were meant to fly, God would have given us wings.

You might say that God gave humans the intelligence to be able to build such machines; therefore, they are "natural," and I say that God gave some of us the special ability to love members of the same sex, even amidst tremendous social pressure not to.

Pat Parker wrote a very poignant poem entitled "To All the Straights Who Don't Mind Gays, But Wish They Weren't So Blatant." In it, she points out that the very heterosexuals who object to the visibility of gays and lesbians are the ones pushing heterosexuality on us with public shows of affection and constant talk about their boyfriends and girlfriends.

I close by quoting Pat Parker: "So, to all you straights, I'll go back to the closet, if you go too, but I'm polite, so after you."

Vicki Jedlicka  
senior  
fine art

#### Ignorance, bigotry leads to homophobia

We're upset. We're upset because of the irrational fear and hate due to ignorance and closed-mindedness that was recently displayed by Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16). Unfortunately, such ignorance is not uncommon.

It is not just his homophobia that disturbs us, but also the realization of what this entails.

First of all, such closed-minded attitudes are usually displayed in other areas as well (such as prejudice against other minorities in our own society and any other culture which one fails to understand) and serve to perpetuate conflict. Let's just hope that people like Dewsbury do not come into power; otherwise there will never be peace even within our own society.

Second, Dewsbury claims that "the plain truth is that the vast majority do not like homosexuals" and

jumps to conclusions that homosexuality is both immoral and unnatural and ought, therefore, to be suppressed.

Assuming that Dewsbury is the authority he claims to be about the opinion of the majority, we must ask what conclusion is properly drawn from this. Why ought we draw the conclusion that Dewsbury does — that homosexuals and, in general, any disliked group of persons ought to be suppressed — when history has time and time again verified the more appropriate conclusion that "the masses are asses."

Nancy Slonneger  
graduate  
philosophy

Rob Revock  
graduate  
philosophy

#### Gays must determine morality individually

In regard to the "enlightening" letter presented by Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16): It is obvious that Dewsbury and those who share his attitude are the ones that need enlightening.

First, there is nothing unnatural about being a homosexual. This is documented by homosexual relationships in the animal kingdom as well as references to homosexual relationships throughout written history. No one yet knows the exact determinants of sexual orientation, but it is certain that having the same-sex orientation is definitely natural.

As for homosexuals being immoral, I find it difficult to accept that simply being what you are is immoral. As for passing judgment on what is or is not immoral, isn't that up to the individual or on the grounds of an universal morality? Isn't that up to one's own definition of God?

As for the problems that arise of which you spoke, their problems are not coming from homosexuals, but from people like yourself with your ignorant, prejudicial and oppressive attitudes. It must be beyond your intellectual capacity to imagine and to try to understand what it must be like to live as someone different from yourself. It takes very little intellectual effort to avoid and shun some-

thing you do not understand.

Rodney Black  
senior  
psychology

#### Coming out of closet requires determination

This is in response to the letter written by Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16) concerning homosexuals "coming out of the closet."

Dewsbury, you write that you would like to "enlighten Rodney Bell and other homosexuals on why problems arise when they wish to go public in any way." I'd like to know how you think you can "enlighten" a group of people as to why they have problems when you haven't the faintest idea what their problems are?

Dewsbury, have you ever had to find the courage to accept something about yourself that was different from other people?

Homosexuals are a minority and must find the courage and determination to simply be themselves. When they "come out of the closet," they're not only accepting themselves for what they are, they're telling other people like them that it is OK to be in the minority. They are telling other homosexuals that they are not alone.

You stated that you do not understand why "homosexuals would rather have immoral and unnatural relationship with those of the same sex." You also stated that the "vast majority does not like homosexuals." Please do not speak for everyone when you say that homosexual relationships are "immoral" and "unnatural." That is your opinion. Second, when you say that the "vast majority" does not like homosexuals, who do you mean? Do you mean the "majority" of the people in this country? Do you mean the "majority" of the people in Ceresco?

I have respect for people who have the courage to stand up and say, "I'm different." Dewsbury, "different" is not "bad"; it is simply "different."

I commend you, Dewsbury. It takes a lot of courage to admit that you're a male, freshman business major. I'm a surprised your last name isn't "Doe."

Michelle L. Miller  
junior  
secondary education

#### Letter on gays shows prejudiced undertones

In responding to Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16) who wrote that homosexuals should stay in the closet. I seem to be a little confused by this. It appears to me that, judging from his harsh, prejudiced undertones, he would like all homosexuals to reveal their sexual preference to him so he can avoid them at all costs. I heartily sympathize with his position because, God forbid, he might meet a homosexual on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus that he would grow to know, like and respect as a human being and a friend.

Mary Pitts  
freshman  
art

#### Returning to 'closet' won't solve problem

I would like to respond to a number of comments made by Jon Dewsbury in his letter to the editor (Letters, Feb. 16). Dewsbury's letter exhibits a lack of understanding about homosexuality that, unfortunately, is not uncommon.

Dewsbury says he cannot understand why homosexuals want to have "unnatural relationships with those of the same sex." The fact of the matter is that there are many men and women for whom a sexual relationship with someone of the opposite sex is equally unnatural and undesirable.

Dewsbury's contention that "things would be easier" if gays and lesbians were to go "back to the closet" ought to be disputed by both heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. The pain and dishonesty that result from having to hide or deny one's sexual orientation hinder our relationships with our friends, our families and our lovers.

Dewsbury claims, "The vast majority do not like homosexuals." I do not doubt that his attitude is shared by many. His antagonism is a reaction typical of those who are threatened by that which they have made no attempt to understand.

Colleen Baade  
graduate student  
music