

OPINION PACES

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Our VIEW

Mixed signals

Church needs to rethink gay marriage

On Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha did just what he wasn't supposed to do.

Creech, a United Methodist pastor, defied direct orders from his bishop and broke a rule clearly stated by his religion's nationwide organization.

Creech performed a same-sex marriage.

As one of the hottest political issues of the last couple of years, same-sex marriage has received more than its share of attention. And in 1996, the Methodist Church made public its intentions regarding the controversial issue.

The Methodist Church's official position is — at first glance — fully supportive of the homosexual lifestyle. It allows gays and lesbians to join its congregations and is an advocate of their civil rights. But at the same time, the Methodist Church also states that homosexual lifestyles are in conflict with the teachings of Christianity, and therefore the church does not allow homosexuals to be ordained, or be married by any of the church's ministers.

And on Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Jimmy Creech defied this order by performing a commitment ceremony for two lesbians.

As a result, Creech could face anything from verbal reprimand to suspension to surrender of ministerial credentials.

But before the Methodist Church doles out its punishment to Creech, perhaps its leaders should examine the hypocrisy of their own teachings.

The question here is not whether or not homosexuality is wrong. That question has been argued to a standstill by religious fundamentalists, coffee-shop philosophers and grandstanding politicians who — even though they stand on opposite sides of the fence — quote the same Bible passages to support their arguments.

And in the end, that question is one that should be answered by individuals, not organizations.

Where the Methodist Church is at fault here is in its half-and-half approach to the issues surrounding homosexuality and religion.

By welcoming gays and lesbians into their fold, and at the same time declaring such lifestyles to be in conflict with Christianity, they are sending a mixed message to their followers and — especially in the case of the Rev. Jimmy Creech — even their ministers.

So perhaps the Methodist Church should view Creech's action last Sunday not as an act worthy of punishment, but one worthy of contemplation.

And perhaps the feeble attempt at political correctness displayed by the Methodist Church should be re-evaluated so that in the future ministers like Creech will know where they and their church truly stand.

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Dumb scum

"Men are scum." Such an opening statement, inflammatory and divisive as it is, made me hesitate to respond to Barb Churchill's column. But I have a few things to say.

First of all, I believe that in relationships, people get what they deserve. That is, if a man is only interested in gratification, I do not have much pity for him when he complains that his girlfriend ("hole") has no opinions of her own. The kind of men you describe, Barb, do indeed sound like scum. But you don't have to date them! Why are you, an older and more experienced woman, hanging out with what sounds like adolescent boys?

As for the complaint that men want only sex, I say look at the larger society of which they are products. This kind of behavior is so strongly encouraged and reinforced that some men (usually younger, less experienced) do not question it at all. My point is this: Just as nobody condemns a woman for dumbing down and being frivolous, so we should not condemn men for acting out their assigned "roles." That does not mean that I will share my personal space with such men as you describe, Barb, and I won't become intimate with them, but I don't condemn them.

By the way, next time you're with a man who only wants instant gratification, tell him to do it himself. 'Bout the same.

Kim Milligan
junior
English

The good, the bad, the political

This is in regards to the letter Monday by Jamie Peterson, president of the UNL Young Democrats. Perhaps Jamie has been over-indoctrinated by the party apparatus, but even so, her statements are hardly justified.

It strikes me as incredibly naive to subscribe to such overgeneralizations. Such value statements can be likened to saying that all fraternity students drink beer and rape, that all honors students are geeks on scholarship, or that all athletes have a 1.0 G.P.A. and beat up their basketball-playing girlfriends. Such generaliza-

tions are simply not true. In the same way, one cannot describe the Republican party as the embodiment of all evil and the Democratic party as the very essence of good. Such generalizations have never led to much good. Take, for example, McCarthy's "Red Scare" of the 1940s and '50s, religious wars, and, of course, the segregation in the South, all the result of similar generalizations and stereotypes. And history and political science have proven again and again that straight party-line voting can lead to the trampling of minorities' rights; balancing the parties serves as a major part of the checks and balances system that makes government more responsive to the ideas of all, Democrat and Republican.

Every political party, much like any other organization of human beings, has its good and bad members. But to make one party wear "white hats and the other black, as in an old, B-rated western movie, is completely ludicrous. I challenge everyone to think for himself and look beyond petty partisan generalizations for a better tomorrow.

Paul T. Macklin
senior
mathematics, German and economics

Go Frost!

Scott Frost is no Tommie Frazier, but there never will be another Frazier. Frost, however, gets the job done. The student body and the state of Nebraska need to open their eyes and close their booing mouths. I have not always been a Frost fan. In fact, there are probably very few people out there that wish he would fail more than I. Frost and the Wood River Eagles demoralized my high school team two years in a row. When Mr. I'm-too-good-for-Nebraska went to Stanford, I thought it just showed his arrogance and lack of loyalty to the state that had raised him. I was glad to see Stanford lose, and infuriated by his return to Nebraska.

When all was said and done at the end of the season, Frost had racked up numbers that could rank him right up there with some of the best QBs ever to play at Nebraska.

Coming into the new season, Tom Osborne evaluated his quarterback situation, and, as he always does, cleared the slate. After spring practice and the preseason, Osborne still chose Frost. So far Frost has performed very well, even while being booed by his own "fans." A Frost-led Husker team will continue to well this season, especially with a little fan support. Keep up the good work. GO HUSKERS!!

Bill Udell
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biology

Respect the rest

I cannot believe that your article "Dating Hell" was the best subject that you could think of to write about. Where do you come up with your misconceptions of men? I do not know one person who has ever broken any of your "dating rules." In (unfortunately) reading of your dating experiences, it is clear to me that you are hanging around at the skimmers of the dating pool. It is not right to shift the blame to the man asking you out because of your inability to say "No."

It is truly ignorant to state that "dating is definitely an exercise in masochism." Everyone (except you) knows that dating is a chance to get to know and spend time with a person that one is interested in, and not a ticket to hop into bed with that person. Dating is necessary for anyone who is interested in committing themselves to a single mate. Dating should not be a factor of self-esteem, as you mention. Self-esteem comes from yourself, obviously, so if your self-esteem is dependent upon others, then you have problems and should stay away from weapons and tall buildings.

Your only relevant statement in any of your articles is in the second-to-last paragraph. You state that we all have emotional and physical needs, and we all want respect (men too). I know that everyone agrees with that paragraph, so why can't you focus your energy on positive aspects instead of demeaning men?

Chris Queen
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