

opinion

Craft case goes into appeals ad nauseum

We should have seen it coming. Perhaps Christine Craft did. She told the Associated Press she was appalled, but wasn't surprised.

Monday, a federal judge in Kansas City ruled that Craft was not a victim of sex discrimination when she was demoted from her position as news anchor. He then threw out the \$500,000 she was awarded by a jury on the basis of fraud charges.

It's really not surprising with the intricate mechanism of American jurisprudence. Everyone tinkers with the machinery, whether it's broken or not.

The judge, Joseph Stevens (who also heard the initial suit), said the jury of four women and two men in the first trial was affected by the "pervasive publicity" in the Craft case.

If this were true than it's an adequate reason to overturn the verdict. Although, what's odd in this latest turn of events is that the jury should have been given the usual caution by Stevens regarding talking about the case to others, or reading or viewing accounts of the case in the media.

It's the court's responsibility to ensure the jurors are isolated from publicity and public comments surrounding the case they are hearing. More than the court, isn't it the judge's responsibility to ensure the jury's verdict doesn't become tainted by publicity?

Stevens said: "The court is firmly convinced that this verdict is excessive and is the result of passion, prejudice, confusion or mistake on the part of the jury."

This is a strange statement coming from the judge in the case. He has repudiated the findings of a jury in his own court. Stevens apparently had no control of his own jury.

Why is Stevens overturning the verdict at this time? It's unusual for a judge to overturn a jury verdict.

Stevens went on to state the Metromedia TV station that demoted Craft did so because of "her affinity for the beach life and her apparent indifference to matters of appearance... appropriate to her unique circumstances."

Stevens, by this statement, seems to be encouraging a strange sort of discrimination. To sanction Metromedia's demotion of Craft because of "her affinity for the beach" is more than a little questionable.

Craft, on a lecture tour, (she recently spoke in Eugene), commented that she was appalled, but not surprised. "I think as a reporter I was prepared for the worst... (But) I will pursue it to the highest level if I have to."

It appears Craft will have to pursue it, and more than likely Stevens' rulings will be overturned, and up the ladder of litigation the case will go until maybe the Supreme Court, if the Supreme Court will hear the case.

All along Craft downplayed the jury verdict, saying it wasn't a landmark decision against sex discrimination in the news media. Perhaps she was correct. We'll find out though on the appeal, and the appeal of the appeal, and the appeal of the appeal to the appeal *ad nauseum*.

Atiyeh on triple high over Hatfield bid

Tuesday was a triple-high for Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

First, Atiyeh expressed his "complete joy" that Sen. Mark Hatfield has announced he will run for another term in the U.S. Senate.

Atiyeh went on to note that Hatfield is one of the most dynamic politicians Oregon has ever produced. He added Hatfield will demolish any challenger in next year's elections.

Second, Atiyeh said he was confident that the state's economy is improving. "Our economy is improving," he told reporters at the weekly press conference. "I think the future is bright for our state."

Regardless of all things "bright" and "joyful" in Atiyeh's eyes, we've heard these type of comments before on the state of the state's economy. Let's hope Atiyeh is not looking through rose-colored glasses.



"DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THE MARINES HAVE LANDED!"

A Christian duty to be political

Although I am certain to anger and upset a large portion of the people who read this, I herein state my unequivocal support for the passage of a very controversial law. Even if only one half of 1 percent of the voters are in favor of it and are able to force its passage, I will be satisfied to see it enforced. I'm really not concerned that many others, even a majority, oppose or consider this law oppressive, for I know I am right. I am, after all, only attempting to force others to conform to God's clearly and positively stated values.

comments

theresa purviance-garcia

God's values? Yes. But just what are these values? No, I am not referring to the controversial anti-abortion legislation. Biblical instructions on that are open to interpretation. I refer rather to a law which would enforce upon all people, Christian and non-Christian alike, the injunction, clear and definite, of the fourth commandment.

We could pass this law, taken verbatim from God's word, and so force everyone to observe the seventh day, Saturday, sabbath. We'd be absolutely right and justified according to the letter of God's law.

It is not, however, my purpose to argue here the rights or the wrongs of either abortion or the sabbath. My purpose is to address the question; do I or any others truly have any right to pass and enforce such laws upon all those who do not agree with them?

There are a great number of social ills in our society. Abortion is not so much one of those ills as it is a symptom of them. It does little good and makes less sense to concentrate on treating the symptom while ignoring the disease that is the underlying cause. Abortion is a symptom of the disease of promiscuity.

How can the disease be cured? By keeping our homes pure and Christian. By teaching our children to have respect for, not only their own, but also others' bodies. By training our boys, not only our

girls, to be chaste and circumspect in dealing with the opposite sex. Then both the disease and its symptoms will be eradicated.

Another social ill which, I believe, has its roots in promiscuity, is homosexuality. I can not accept the often quoted modern theory that this is a viable "alternative lifestyle." Neither, however, do I accept that the homosexual person is automatically damned by God.

I believe, against most "authorities," that homosexuality is a learned or chosen behavior, and if the motivation is strong enough, it can be changed or unlearned. If, as is now often claimed, homosexuality is "natural" or as "normal" as heterosexuality, why then does it cause so much guilt and unhappiness by its practice? Why is the disease AIDS, contracted and spread mainly by its practice? No, homosexuality is both unnatural and abnormal. Its practice is a sin. However, I become upset when I hear "Christians" shouting things like, "God hates homosexuals" and "Kill a queer for Christ."

God doesn't hate the homosexual any more than he hates the fornicator or adulterer. God hates the sin, not the sinner. He hates the sexual act outside the bonds of holy sanctification, but just as the fornicator and adulterer can obtain forgiveness for their sins, so may the homosexual receive divine pardon. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

Many "Christians" have become intolerant and self-righteous, incapable of showing Christian charity toward others. In their so-called social concern, they are intent only on curing others' failing by forcing conformity to the moral values they feel are valid. This is one danger inherent in Christian involvement in politics. At the other end of the scale are those "Christians" who become inured to immorality and begin to accept it as the normal thing. This is the problem with those denominations which have begun accepting practicing homosexuals into fellowship and even ordaining them into the ministry. This is as wrong as ostracism is wrong.

Christians do have an obligation to become involved in politics, but not to pass laws restrictive to the freedom of conscience and religion of others.

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letters

Got a good beat

"This morning there are only isolated pockets left." — CBS News on U.S. invasion of Grenada, Oct. 27.

"Dopplegangers. I am isolated. I resist.

Will hold out with all my

heartsblood.

Know of no curse sharp enough to cut

the pain transmitted, your language

is war yet you sleep nights snug in your deceptive conceptions; putrescent

taffeta popcorn; money hunger, sensation mongering;

How may we be real respondents of The All?

How may we be at all? Hear our War Chief

Winburger: "There were 3 or 4 small pockets and

the fighting is eliminating that."

Once again: What do we think we're gonna do? Outlive them?

Paul Prensly

oregon daily
emerald

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"Comment" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Comment" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

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