

Does the ACLU really do what it says it does?

By Thomas C. Allard

The American Civil Liberties Union is upset because George Bush feels that it is left of the American mainstream. Most people know little about the ACLU's positions beyond its support of free speech.

I used to be one of those people. I supported free speech. In fact, I may be more liberal than many of the left-wing students on this campus when it comes

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to free speech. Being a Republican and a conservative, most students around here do not want to hear what I have to say so they call me fascist or a racist or an ultra-conservative. To many students on campus free speech is limited to Marxists or liberals, not supporters of Ronald Reagan.

My focus here is not the lack of free speech conservatives on campus have but of the ACLU and its politics.

The ACLU supports some of the most despicable cases of free speech. But everyone has a right to free speech and the ACLU should be applauded for

these cases. I am speaking of its support of the American Nazi Party. I believe that Nazis, Socialists, and many other political groups are individuals.

The ACLU does not limit its activities to free political speech. Somehow it considers pornography a "right." It supports the most degrading non-political speech. I do not think the founding fathers had child-porn in mind when they wrote the first amendment. Where do the rights of children come into play?

The ACLU believes that children under 18 have their rights violated when their parents are notified about their children having abortions and receiving contraceptives. Children need permission to take a school trip to the zoo, but contraceptives are somehow a right. The ACLU thinks that federally subsidized contraceptives and secret counseling are a right that minors have. What about the rights of parents?

The ACLU feels that it is totalitarian to have sobriety checkpoints to locate drunken drivers. The ACLU was the leader

in striking down a Maryland law that required all traffic to stop at posted checkpoints. The ACLU sees checkpoints as a major attack on our civil liberties. Who supports the rights of the average driver who is hit by a drunk driver?

The ACLU claims to support separation of church and state. In reality it opposes church. When New Jersey passed a law allowing a moment of silence, an ACLU lawyer said New Jersey must "prove that nowhere among the purposes of the law is the opportunity for prayer." The ACLU feels that anything not "anti" religion is establishing a religion. Thus the ACLU opposes "In God We Trust" on our money and "One Nation Under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance. Atheists have rights. Christians do not.

I feel that equal rights guarantee equal opportunity. The ACLU feels that equal conditions are needed to have equal rights and to achieve equal conditions, the government must be a large all-empowering system with affirmative action and welfare state bureaucrats. The ACLU is an egalitarian lobby.

A free society is not one in which religion is outlawed, quotas established, drunk drivers set free and the authority of parents overruled by the state.

So when Michael Dukakis brags that he is a "card carrying member of the ACLU," he is not saying that he just supports free speech, but that he

supports the ACLU's far left agenda. And when George Bush criticizes this, his is not criticizing free speech. He is using his free speech and allowing voters to decide who best represents their interests.

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Letters

Weaknesses

Some Christians feel called to lifetime celibacy, while others merely postpone marriage in order to pursue a Christian ministry. Even those Christians who follow a normal course of courtship and dating will put definite limits on their extent of sexual expression. While Christian married couples may decide on occasional periods of abstaining from sex in order to better fast and pray, Christians find themselves called to temperate heterosexuality as a cross they must bear.

There is always the temptation to come down off that cross. Thus some are tempted, say, to marry prematurely out

of their own weaknesses of human nature. A movie showing Christ overcoming that very temptation will effectively strengthen a Christian's resolve, but only when it is seen that our savior had to struggle with the same human weaknesses that plague us. Otherwise we might just say that such a cross is not for persons like us who have all too real human urges.

"The Last Temptation of Christ" may have employed considerable artistic license in the plot, but the fact remains that Jesus is ever so familiar with the problems that beset us, and that if we accept our crosses, then we also will receive the overcoming power of the resurrection, which Paul

preached in the movie. Christians are confused about this movie, but Christ's first disciples did not at first understand his crucifixion scene either. Peter advised Jesus not to go to the cross, and some Christians are advising us not to see the movie.

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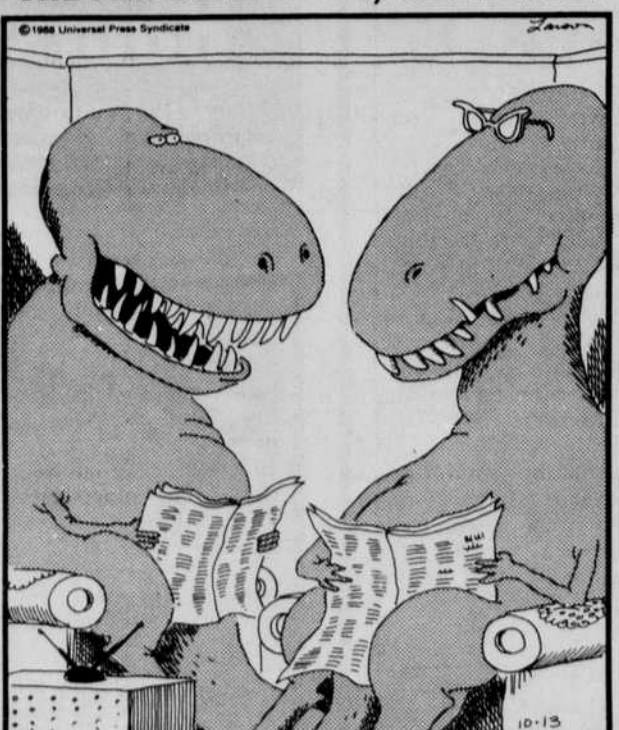
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