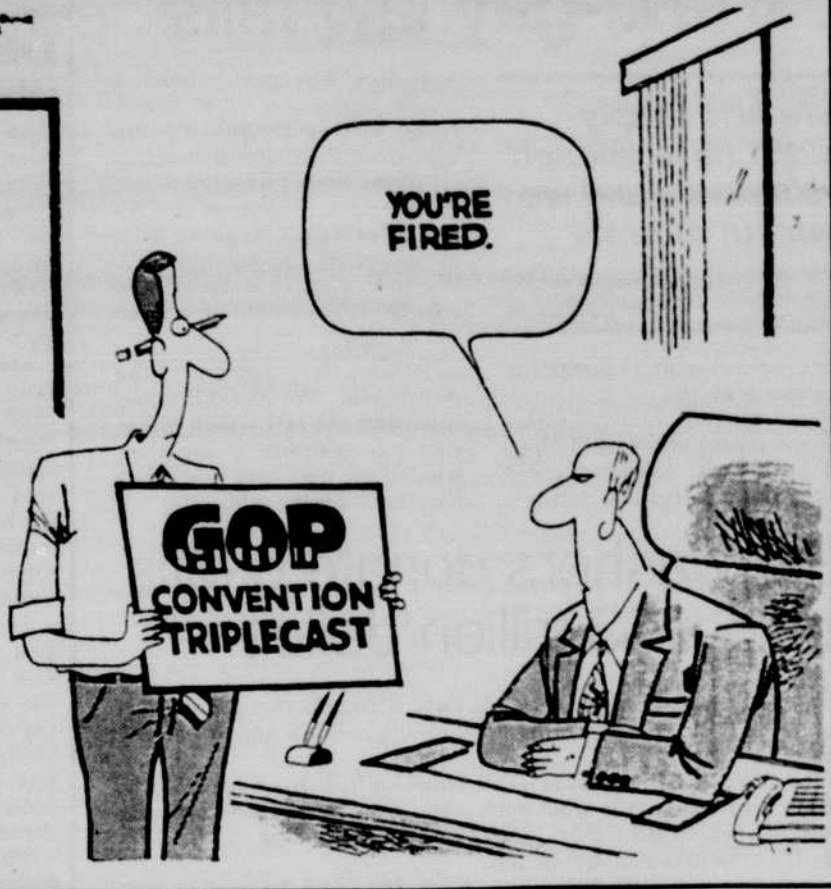


NBC
NEW
PROGRAMMING
IDEAS



LETTERS

Values

As a believer in Jesus Christ, I oppose the hatred and violence that are expressed toward homosexual people. I acknowledge that much ugliness and brutality have been directed against them, the more sadly because it is sometimes done in the name of Christianity.

I affirm their humanity and inherent worth, and acknowledge that they, like all other people, deserve my respect and compassion. I do not believe, however, that to acknowledge someone's humanity means that we must automatically accept their ideas of practices as legitimate.

Homosexual activists have worked hard and shrewdly to change public perception about the moral legitimacy of their sexual orientation and lifestyle. They have insisted that "straight" society not only tolerate openly homosexual individuals, but accept their sexual practices as "decent," as well.

Those who are philosophically or religiously opposed to this redefining of cultural standards are frequently depicted as ignorant, hate-filled individuals, unworthy of civil treatment or human respect. Terms such as "homophobe," "bigot" and "Nazi" are thrown like rocks at those who dare to express beliefs or values that conflict with this newly-minted morality.

Is the venom and hatred expressed in the name of "tolerance and diversity" any less vicious or damaging than that that targets homosexuals? Is this anything other than reason-

ing by intimidation and bullying? I suggest that hatred is wrong, regardless of how we justify it. By it, we dehumanize and mistreat our fellow humans; and by it, we diminish our own humanity.

William L. Moore
History/English

Rude dudes

As a first-term student at the University, I am disappointed and angry at the leadership of the wrestling camps that are allowed to come here.

While I was watching an MTV program in the television room in Carson Residence Hall, a group of visiting wrestlers had the audacity to loudly insult the program I was watching and asked me why I wasn't being patriotic and watching the Olympics. At first, I

brushed aside their irrational, immature comments. Then one of them made a homophobic remark about one of the characters in the program.

"Faggot!" They began to chant gleefully when I objected to their remark.

"Listen, sweetie," one of them told me aggressively. "If you don't like the way we talk, why don't you leave and let us watch the Olympics?"

Why are these people allowed to harass me and make sexist, homophobic remarks to me in my residence hall? Why are they allowed to use an educational institution as a place to degrade my basic rights and make homophobic, sexist, neanderthal comments to my face? Why is this tolerated at the University?

Karin Peacock
Student

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