

Let's see, it's been six weeks since New Year's Day, which means it's been about five weeks since I gave up on my resolutions. Before you jump to the conclusion that I'm lazy and undisciplined let me say for the record that I am, in fact, lazy and undisciplined, but that's not why I gave up my resolutions.

No, my friends, I gave up because I realized (as I sat on the couch finishing a bag of Oreos) that resolutions of any kind are motivated by the belief that we're not good enough the way we are and that we need to change.

Well, no more! This year I've decided I'm not going to try to change myself at all.

I'm going to try to change other people instead.

For instance, if I could just get my partner to realize when he's at fault, I'm sure we wouldn't argue nearly so much. It's so simple, really.

I mean, just think about how much fun and how much easier it'll be to solve your friends' problems instead of your own. What's more, we can take all that internal loathing and project it outward at the people who really deserve to be loathed.

My first target, of course, is Dr. Laura.

Enjoying, as I do, telling other people how to live their lives, I take a certain guilty pleasure in her radio show. But that whole "deviant" behavior thing is, like, so old; homophobes have been slapping queer people around with that since Sodom and Gomorrah. Unfortunately, we've never had a response that amounts to much more than, "Thtop it, ya big thilly."

That is, until now.

Yes, my friends, finally, finally, finally, there is a book of our own that we can quote chapter and verse to those who insist on thumping the Bible at us. It's called *Biological Exuberance: Ani-*

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARC

by Marc Acito



mal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity, and it's the life's work of Bruce Bagemihl, Ph.D.

It weighs in at more than three pounds, which is a pound more than your average Bible, I might add. (Yes, I weighed them on a postage scale because that's the kind of inane project that monopolizes my warped little brain.)

In this truly remarkable study, Bagemihl exhaustively catalogs the homosexual behavior of more than 100 species of animals. By the time you're done reading about everything from apes to zebras kissing, licking, sucking, rimming and screwing one another, you'll be convinced the animal kingdom is just one big circuit party.

For instance, did you know there are varieties of chimpanzees that greet each other by grabbing each other's cocks? I ask you, how friendly is that?

"Hey, Cheetah, how's it hangin'?" "Grab a handful, Bonzo, and see for yourself." "Why, don't mind if I do, thanks."

I have half a mind to try that the next time I go out. (Oops, I forgot, I already do. Never mind.)

And did you know male flamingos regularly engage in homosexual behavior? Yeah, I know, *quelle surprise*, they're practically the

Second nature

Thank God for gay flamingos and lesbian seagulls



"Birds of a feather..."

gay national bird.

But don't you feel better knowing we have scientific data to back up the choice of plastic pink flamingos as a camp garden party accessory? I know I do.

It also turns out gay flamingo couples actually

make nicer nests than heterosexual pairs because both birds contribute equally to the nest's construction, which just proves the theory that gay men do have a genetic predisposition to having nicer apartments and houses than heterosexuals.

I, for one, am relieved to know my partner and I finally have the biological authority to knock on the door of our tacky neighbors with the horrible Christmas light display and say: "Hi. We're homosexuals. We can help."

Now Dr. Laura would probably argue that just because homosexuality occurs in nature doesn't mean that civilized people should succumb to it. After all, she'd say, just because some animals eat their young doesn't mean humans should.

Yeah, well, I guess she's never been stuck in line at Target behind a cartload of sticky-faced, wailing brats. If ever there was a moment you wished parents could eat their offspring, that would be it.

You simply must read for yourself how Bagemihl proves conclusively that homosexuality is not a "deviant" behavior but rather a natural variation on a heterosexual theme. And a pretty fabulous variation at that, I might add.

So the next time some Bible-thumping zealot starts quoting you chapter and verse, you can pull out your copy of *Biological Exuberance* and start thumping right back.

And if that doesn't work, you can always throw it at their heads hoping it'll knock some sense into them. It does weigh three pounds, after all.

And that, my friends, is *The Gospel According to Marc*. **JM**

MARC ACITO nearly failed high school biology but could easily understand this book. He can be reached at MarcAcito@home.com.

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on this!**

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