

Speak Out

just asking

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation protests a stoner comedy and a 1970s game show. Is political correctness going overboard?

I believe it is going overboard. The game show's bigger offense was the wardrobe worn by the contestants.

I am a gay man, and I use the terms "fag," "homo," etc. If it is used in a fashion that is not meant to hurt, then what is the harm? The audience didn't laugh because of the word but because of the circumstance of the question.

As for *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, this is a Kevin Smith movie. The man almost signed up for a "Getting in Touch with Your Homosexuality" class at New York University just so he could get a discount on film. He makes remarks on race and sex throughout his movies and uses foul language to get them across. He made a film in which a woman had sex with a corpse! This is lowbrow comedy, and the "gay" references were silly situations and not mean-spirited.

I know that it can get out of hand and that we need to say something in certain situations, but I doubt these two will lead to hateful incidents or affect the minds of people who watch it. Who lives their lives according to a game show besides ABC?



Match Game



Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back

can say many things you dare not say "on the air." In broadcasting there is little or no frame of reference. In my case, my innocent (but misinterpreted) comments almost resulted in my expulsion.

After reading Dick Gautier's response to his 25-year-old comments I understand his frustration, and I'm satisfied with his explanation. However, absent the frame of reference provided by his explanation, the viewing audience understandably could misinterpret his choice of words. It was a smart choice to remove the episode.

SCOTT HOSSNER
Salem

BRYAN MICHAEL
Salem

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I was a broadcasting student at Oregon State University 10 years ago when I learned a hard lesson about the difference between interpersonal communication and broadcasting. When talking to someone who knows you personally, you

You're welcome

TO THE EDITOR:

Your article in the Sept. 7 issue has caused me great concern ["Keeping the Faith"].

I am a longtime United Methodist churchgoer; my partner was the associate council director for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and was headed for seminary on scholarships until sudden strokes left her disabled. We used to joke when we first met 14 years ago, "Who did you come out to today?"

I am chairwoman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee of University Park Church, where David Jenkins was appointed. I would ask that your readers consider only that there are at least two sides to every story.

Our lifestyle was no secret. Barb was not discouraged from her dream but rather much encouraged. The conference staff were more than co-workers.

Barbara has been in and out of the area hospitals for much of the past four years. (It is not a good sign when the emergency medical technicians know your first names because they visit your house so often.) Not one time

did someone from the conference center miss calling to see how she was doing.

Because I have been able to travel across Oregon and Idaho with Barbara during her employment with the conference, I have had the opportunity to meet many pastors who live within the church who I believe are gay and lesbian. These fine people have chosen to work from within to change those "self-avowed" words. They have not been pushed to use the one phrase that will hinder or stop their ministry.

Our church and many others have celebrated commitment services in the past, and it happens all around this and other conferences. Many laypersons and straight pastors are working for change.

I bid you welcome to University Park United Methodist Church, where many working committees are chaired by lesbian, gay and trans people. We make a point of knowing your name (we are a small congregation, and it is possible to do this), and you are always welcome at 10 a.m. Sunday.

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