



One Flock

 One Shepherd

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John 10: 14-16
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Speak Out

The call of nature

TO THE EDITOR:

While Marty Davis' Feb. 21 commentary about gay public sex ["The Opposite Sex"] does reflect prudish standards about what should be considered acceptable behavior, some of the angry responses in the April 4 *Just Out* ["Cruise Control"] do not recognize that she was asking a sincere question that she did not have an answer to.

Here's a justification for public sex: Men have different sexual needs from women. Relatively few women fantasize about sex with strangers. To fetishize sex with strangers would be evolutionarily dangerous for women because it could cause them to have lots of children they couldn't care for with men who wouldn't be willing to support them.

To fetishize sex with strangers might be evolutionarily advantageous for men, because a man acting on this would spread his seed far and wide. With each extra child out there, the man's genes are passed on without much work on his part.

Mainstream society says anonymous sex is wrong; therefore, we have laws to protect American conformists from stumbling on something shocking to them or having to suddenly explain gay sex to their kids on a walk in the park. Whether these laws are justifiable or not, we have them for these reasons and not because public sex can inherently be called immoral via logical reasoning.

Marty's question was simply why not take anonymous sex to the sex club or the bathhouse? Why do it in public?

The answer is that, to many men, public sex is hot. It is the primal wild animal inside coming to the surface. It is a form of spiritual communion with fellow man and nature.

Imagine a tiger prowling through the jungle and stumbling on another tiger. Their eyes meet. Friend or foe? Will he attack me? I don't know. But wouldn't it be hot if he winked?

Men cruise docks, restrooms, parks and bushes in every part of the world daily. Every city has dozens of spots. Gay men are not going to stop having anonymous sex in public places because somebody thinks it's immoral, because somebody made a law or because some people can't understand it. What turns people on doesn't always have an explanation, nor does it need to.

We never hear about the menace caused by cruising places until the police raid them. That's because society does not have a huge problem with unwitting straights stumbling over heaps of male debauchery. But even if the occasional good Christian should become offended by what he witnessed in the trails in Washington Park at 1 a.m., would that really be such a tragedy?

Gay men's right to use a public place for sex trumps a conformist's right to be protected from the shock of unexpectedly witnessing it. People don't need to be protected from this shock. The world would not end, but would rather become more enlightened, if people sometimes unexpectedly had to explain gay sex to their kids.

TOM SOPPE
 Portland

Gutter ball

TO THE EDITOR:

God knows I love bowling as much as the next person, and Christ knows it has all the makings of a perfect lesbian pastime. You got your round objects, the holes that you slide your fingers into, sensible shoes, the whole nine yards—so what am I bitching about?

Can it be that once again Marty Davis defies journalistic norms, bucks the media monopoly trends and says the hell to the war, the resistance, the reactions, the fallout, the dead bodies, the New World Order, the Patriot Act—and

instead gives the front-page ink to bowling? Stunning! ["Bowled Over!" April 4]

JACK DANGER
 Portland

Liberty starts at home

TO THE EDITOR:

As we fight Saddam's Republican Guard to get Iraqis liberty, Bush's Supreme Court Republican guards are defending an unjust Texas sodomy law that bars oral and anal sex between two men while permitting these same acts between a man and women or animals. Texas lawyers say, despite our Constitution's guarantee of equal protection, heterosexual sodomy and fornication are legal "because they can lead to marriage and procreation."

It is unfair to single out sodomy for prosecution when heterosexual fornication is equally immoral and unsafe. Neither should be allowed to endanger the public health.

Harmless and noncommercial sodomy between consenting adults in private is not comparable to pedophilia, bigamy or adultery. Pedophiles harm children, who are unable to consent. Prohibitions of bigamy and adultery protect the institution of marriage, which the state sanctions for important procreative purposes.

The assertion that allowing sodomy will cause the demise of marriage and family is laughable. Why would any heterosexuals become sodomites just to shirk their family and procreative duties? Two-thirds of all heterosexuals support laws against gay marriages. Family values are not an endangered species.

Bush wants to impose a secular government on Iraq to protect Christians from theocratic laws being enforced by the Islamic majority. He is hypocritical to defend the theocratic sodomy laws enforced by our Judeo-Christian majority.

Bush is conceivably trying to undermine the authority of the United Nations not only because of enforcement disagreements but also human privacy rights. A U.N. treaty that was ratified by 149 nations, including the United States, requires privacy protections, which essentially bars criminalizing sodomy. The legal concepts of liberty, equality and privacy have global meanings.

Liberty should start at home. Bush's regime must be changed to free all Americans.

THOMAS KRAEMER
 Corvallis

Wrong rights

TO THE EDITOR:

If Fred Gurr were gay, he would know that in a ruling by the Supreme Court, gay people do not enjoy equal rights under the U.S. Constitution at this time ["Sick and Tired," April 4]. This fact is what gay military personnel are fighting for and dying to uphold.

DORIS DAZE
 Portland

Capitalist punishment

TO THE EDITOR:

I was horrified by John Boynton's self-righteous letter ["Squeal Like a Pig," April 4]. He seems to confuse benevolence with law-enforced obligation.

(Isn't he the one who also said nonwhite people are less intelligent and therefore shouldn't be allowed to reproduce? ["Drowning in the Gene Pool," Feb. 7] What the hell is wrong with this guy?)

There is a reason the richest are contributing more money than the middle class and those below the poverty line: They have more than enough money to survive. I'm pretty certain that even after taxes, John and his fellow capitalists

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