

Sound reasons lacking in gay lifestyle letter

This is a response to Mr. Wayne Lela's letter in the June 16 edition.

Mr. Lela claims lesbian sexual activity results in abnormally high breast cancer rates. Not lesbians but women who choose not to bear children may be the reason for this increase. This group not only includes lesbians, but women who can't have children, don't want to have children and women who abstain from sex entirely.

AIDS is not a homosexual and bisexual disease, as you suggest. Many scientists believe that AIDS jumped the species barrier from chimpanzees to humans. This glaring omission allows people to stigmatize and marginalize gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

The characterization of homosexuals as smokers, alcoholics, and illegal drug users -- as if these behaviors are limited to only homosexuals -- fails to account for the thousands of heterosexuals who engage in these behaviors.

Since you treat homosexuality as a sickness, of course you will be searching for a cure for it. Look at the failures of this pseudo-conversion process, for example, Exodus International, and wake up to the fact that homosexuality is most likely innate and not a choice.

Feel free to ride around with your confederate flag on your pickup truck and reminisce about those golden days of slavery. You as a citizen have that right. But to fly it above a state house is another matter. A flag that symbolizes a repressive social order should not be displayed in any official state office.

Want to join Cuba, China and Iran in having a law banning flag-burning? The fact that something offends isn't the reason for making a law against its expression. In a free and open society, many views will be expressed that offend others. If we decided to make a law against all forms of offensive expression, then we would probably be limited to asking each other about the weather and that's about it.

The death penalty has been shown to be racist and class conscious, irreversible and not an effective deterrent. Those are four solid reasons for rejecting it apart from the abortion issue.

Another incredible argument states that if this country didn't spend money on health care on the "HIV-infected homo/bisexuals" it could then feed starving children. It is more likely the money will be funneled back to the already obscenely wealthy and used for military ventures.

Concerning the left taking us back to Sodom (and not Gomorrah?), this amounts to a misinterpretation of the Bible. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was the sin of inhospitality, injustice and neglect of the poor.

While I support a fundamentally leftist agenda, I am willing to change my mind when there are sound reasons to do so. Mr. Leli provides no sound reasons.

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