

glaad notes

by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation One foolish moment

In the July 26 issue of the *National Review*, senior editor Richard Brookhiser presents a glib and trivializing view of the GLBT community. Early in the piece, he points to media blitzes surrounding Ellen DeGeneres and the sexual orientation of Teletubby Tinky Winky as evidence of a gay "Moment" — a state defined as being characterized by overwhelming attention given to a minority group. Brookhiser cites two other groups as having had "Moments" in this century: Irish Catholics and Jews. And he draws a link between the three groups, supposing that "gayness in the Gay Moment has many qualities of a religion. The central tenet of the faith is a creation myth, about how gays got that way."

As for the genesis of the current "Moment," Brookhiser points to a post-World War II America. "Gayness as a movement," he asserts, "arose from men looking for lost maleness in all the wrong places."

In closing, Brookhiser writes, "The real end [for the Gay Moment] will be boredom. Like the Irish and the Jews before them, gays will run out of things to say. Some other well-spoken outsiders will audition for center stage. We'll all move on."

Let the *National Review* know how you feel about this disrespect article. Contact: Linda Bridges, Managing Editor, *National Review*, 215 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016; email: letters@nationalreview.com.

Noxious names

On July 20, *Los Angeles Times* columnist Agustin Gurza explored the effects of denigrating language on communities of color and on the GLBT community. He recalls a Spanish-language slur against African Americans ("mayate" — a slang reference to a destructive black beetle) that he encountered in college and still hears today. Likening it to "faggot" and the Spanish "maricon" — both used to denigrate gay men — he quotes UCI criminologist and hate crimes expert Valerie Jenness who says, "The use of that language doesn't mean you're going to go off and kill somebody. But it sustains the culture that leads to that."

Gurza argues, "We don't kill with our speech, but we help the killers take aim.... If you wish, call me politically correct, a term bandied about by those who can't stand to feel inhibited about their own bigotry."

Thank the *Los Angeles Times* for providing readers with a column as evocative and challenging as Gurza's. Contact: Michael Parks, Managing Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; fax: (213) 237-7679; e-mail: letters@latimes.com.

D&G put out...again

Following up on its gay-themed ad from earlier this year, D&G (a product line owned by Dolce & Gabbana) has placed another full-page advertisement in *Interview* magazine that depicts an interracial same-sex couple with candor and beauty.

This new ad captures two young men of color (Asian and Latino) embracing one another and sporting matching wedding bands. The matter-of-fact statement made by the image is one of simple affection and love, taking their previous ad campaign to the next level.

Dolce & Gabbana, the worldwide fashion company headed by openly gay Italian designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, has had a huge gay following for nearly a decade. The ad was photographed by renowned fashion photographer Steven Meisel, who cast the two models.

Commend D&G (and Steven Meisel) for highlighting the committed relationships of many same-sex couples, marketing directly to a large segment of their customer base, and for including diverse representations of the community. Contact: Kristine Westerby, D&G Public Relations Manager, 532 Broadway, 4th Floor, NY, NY 10012; Steven Meisel, c/o Steven Meisel Studio, 64 Wooster St., 4th Floor, NY, NY 10012.

Miranda's rights

In a *Salon* magazine piece dated July 9, Joan Oleck describes the process she went through

to become a single mom by adopting a Russian-born baby girl in 1996. Using her personal perspective, she questions a piece of proposed legislation, SB 682, that would affect many potential gay and lesbian adoptive parents. "If Jesse Helms has his way," she explains, "new legislation could limit international adoptions for everyone but married straight couples."

Oleck extensively examines the current state of international adoption rights, alternating between fact-driven analysis, political discourse and human interest to spark the lengthy piece. While much of the story focuses on single parenthood, she is careful to be consistently inclusive in her language, and ends with an affirming description of her neighbors — a lesbian couple who recently adopted a Chinese-born daughter. "Just like everyone else with small children," writes Oleck, "Miranda's parents are busily engaged in reading their child *Make Way for Ducklings* and stockpiling juice boxes and diapers." She further details the unique problems faced by same-sex couples including being forced to conceal their relationship for approval.

Thank *Salon* for sharing this smart, informative and poignant piece, and for providing a forum for warnings about a proposed bill that jeopardizes children. Contact: David Talbot, Editor, *Salon*, 706 Mission St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103; fax: (415) 882-8731; e-mail: salon@salonmagazine.com.

Straight sports champs

In a July 13 *Arlington Heights Daily Herald* piece, entitled "Heterosexuality part of formula for popularity," sports columnist Mike Imrem scrutinizes the marketability of women's soccer. He notes that "the perception — accurately or not, fairly or not — is that lesbianism is widespread in women's professional sports."

He examines the US women's largely unique popularity, breaking it down into three principal factors: 1) they are American; 2) they are predominantly white; and 3) they have a distinctly heterosexual image. Imrem says, "Not only were the women projected as sexy, but as heterosexuality." He writes that the inherent implications in this marketing style is that prejudice is pervasive in our society.

"In America," Imrem observes, "[the US women's team's image] is easier to accept than if they were known lesbians. Just as it's less acceptable for a male athlete to be gay than to have an illegitimate child, choke a coach or do drugs.... Would open homosexuals have received the same treatment? Common sense says no, and not just because of Jerry Falwell, but because of our culture as a whole."

While other columnists focused their coverage on team dynamics and success strategies, Imrem chose to examine troubling socio-cultural values and their impact. Applaud the *Daily Herald* for this insightful piece. Contact: Tom Quinlan, Sports Editor, *Arlington Heights Daily Herald*, 155 E. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4617; fax: (847) 427-1301; e-mail: fencepost@dailyherald.com.

Leeza takes the lead

On the July 15 episode of *Leeza*, talk show host Leeza Gibbons explored "the new face of the American family." Featured guests were Jon and Michael Galluccio who challenged New Jersey law and became the first same-sex couple in their state to jointly adopt children. Gibbons' supportive and informed remarks encouraged the couple to speak openly about their 17 years together, their parents, and their two toddlers, Adam and Madison, who joined them on the show.

Responding to heated debate in the audience about religion and non-traditional families, Gibbons stated, "You guys can talk about religion all day long, but let's talk about what we know based on the children." She followed with a study that showed the children of same-sex parents to be as well-adjusted as the children of opposite-sex parents. She also invited other children of gay parents to join the program — like Sarah, a member of Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) who was raised by both her mother and father, but grew up knowing her father was gay.

Thank Leeza for trying to debunk the notion that traditional family structures are the only valid ones and for educating viewers on issues of same-sex parenting. Contact: Leeza Gibbons, Host and Executive Producer, *Leeza*, c/o Paramount Television, 5555 Melrose Ave., Balaban Bldg., #B, Los Angeles, CA 90038-3112; e-mail: leeza@pdp.paramount.com. ▼



WhiteGate Inn
& Cottage

1997 Preservation Society's Award Winner.

WhiteGate Inn & Cottage

Asheville's ONLY Gay owned and operated Bed and Breakfast

Innkeepers: Ralph Coffey & Frank Salvo

Web Site:

<http://www.WhiteGate.net>

Email:

InnKeeper@WhiteGate.net

Phone: 1-800-485-3045

Fully restored 1889 shingle-style home.
4 luxurious guest rooms with Private baths.
3-course Gourmet breakfast.
Evening social hour.
Separate cottage for complete Privacy.
6-minute walk to downtown Asheville and its 100 plus Art Galleries, antique stores, restaurants, bookstores, sidewalk cafés and Gay bars.

The perfect place for Union Ceremonies



SIDE TRAX

CHARLOTTE
NORTH CAROLINA



A NEW EXPERIENCE IN CHARLOTTE

Class & Discretion
in the
Art District
at
North Davidson
& 36th



with
Warm Subdued Lighting
Comfortable Seating

- Full Bar
- Coffee
- Ice Cream Drinks

A Variety of Music

NO COVER

Oil Painting Classes
Twice a Week
by Resident Artists



FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS
704.377.4886

