



general gayety

by leslie robinson :: *qnotes* contributor

All aboard the crazy train .

VIEWMS

Lately the crazy train has picked up speed. I don't know if it's the upcoming midterm elections or people are scared by gay court victories or what, but we're in a period of nutty.

Take David Barton. Please.

An evangelical minister, teacher at (Glenn) Beck University and former vice chairman of the Texas Republican Party, Barton, a self-styled historian, is the founder of WallBuilders, a group devoted to the idea that America was founded as a Christian nation.

On his WallBuilders radio show recently, Barton discussed with Rick Green how health-conscious America is, regulating cigarettes and trans fats and salt, yet allowing something to slip through that is such an obvious threat to the health of Americans: "Jersey Shore."

Okay, he didn't say that. Instead, Barton reeled off fanciful statistics, like, "Homosexuals die decades earlier than heterosexuals," and "nearly one-third (of homosexuals) admit to a thousand or more sex partners in a lifetime."

Barton said, "I mean, you go through all this stuff, sounds to me like that's not very healthy. Why don't we regulate homosexuality?"

That's the moment he boarded the crazy train.

Barton, the quack historian, cited a 1920s study that found nations that "rejected sexual regulation like with homosexuality" didn't last "past the third generation from the time that they embraced it."

Have gays been embraced? When will the third generation appear? It's important to know when we're supposed to make this country collapse. We have a schedule to keep.

Rick Green's role in this production was to be properly aghast that the breathtakingly unhealthy gay lifestyle is promoted and protected. That makes Green — recently a candidate for the Texas Supreme Court — the porter on the crazy train.

If David Barton wants the government to regulate gay sex, Andrew Shirvell's goal is much more modest. But Shirvell is the conductor on the crazy train.

For almost six months Shirvell has railed in a blog against Chris Armstrong, the openly gay University of Michigan student assembly

president. Shirvell, a Michigan grad, accused Armstrong of so many things, including being anti-Christian, hosting a gay orgy, trying to recruit freshmen to be gay, and my favorite, sexually seducing a conservative student and influencing him to the point that he "morphed into a proponent of the radical homosexual agenda."

Good strategy, that seduction. Armstrong should be able to convert everybody on campus by the time he's 106.

During his anti-Armstrong crusade, Shirvell protested outside Armstrong's house, and called him "Satan's representative on the student assembly."

Paranoid much?

All this would be plenty bad enough, but the fact that Shirvell is a Michigan assistant attorney general launches the affair into the realm of the bizarre. Rod Serling couldn't have made this up.

Shirvell's boss, Atty. Gen. Mike Cox, cited the guy's right to free speech, while also telling CNN he's a "bully." Cox said that Shirvell's "immaturity and lack of judgment outside the office are clear."

This is more than a case of bad judgment. Shirvell is obsessed with Armstrong's homosexuality. I have to wonder if Shirvell — now on a voluntary leave of absence — is an immense closet case or a few ties short of a railroad track.

Either explanation or both might apply to Fred Phelps, leader of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church, but it's his daughters who recently clambered on the crazy train. Margie Phelps represented Westboro at the Supreme Court in the dispute over protests at military funerals and after, while addressing the press, she and sister Shirley Phelps-Roper broke into song.

They warbled a few lines of a variation on Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." Osbourne declared his displeasure that they used his music to advance "despicable beliefs."

When the Prince of Darkness looks civilized compared to you, your caboose is loose. ::

[Leslie Robinson assumes the Phelps daughters will never sing Indigo Girls.]

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talkback

Letters to the editor and comments from *goqnotes.com*.

Web comments are not edited for grammar or punctuation.

Shopping mall discrimination

In response to our story on a lesbian couple's experience with discrimination at Raleigh Cameron Village (*goqnotes.com*/8843/), readers say:

Unbelievable...why don't we just tell African-Americans to sit at the back of the bus again and not allow overweight persons to dine at buffets?

— amp, web, Oct. 15

Why should my husband and I have rights that my sister and her partner do not have? The actions of the security guard and the supervisor are totally unacceptable. We must fight against such discrimination.

— Prof. Knight, web, Oct. 15

Duke Energy lights

Responding to the rainbow light themes on Uptown's Duke Energy Building on National Coming Out Day (*goqnotes.com*/8788), readers say:

Awesome. I honestly became a little emotional upon seeing that in the sky last night. It's just great.

— Equality, web, Oct. 12

This was an amazing feeling, riding home from the Candle Light Vigil and looking to my left seeing this building in a display of Rainbow colors. "Alone we will have failure, but together we have strength and we will persevere."

— Michael Turner, web, Oct. 12

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