

The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Student Advisory Council

Block I, 2012

"Satire is traditionally the weapon of the powerless against the powerful. I only aim at the powerful. When satire is aimed at the powerless, it is not only cruel—it's vulgar." ~ Molly Ivins

Rosie Curts, Math Major, Class of 2014

After browsing some anti-gay discussions online, I noticed one argument that was repeated in a few different forums: When Pro-gay people say that Jesus did not condemn homosexuality, anti-gay people promptly cite Matthew 19:4-5.

Well, I grabbed my handy Bible on the bookshelf next to me (I think everyone who wants to argue with the values espoused by the religious right should own a Bible and have at least a basic understanding of it) and looked up the verse.

It said this: "He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh"?'"

What these anti-gay people neglect to include is the context of the discussion. The verse immediately before this passage, Matthew 19:3, asks the question Jesus is answering: "Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?'"

So not only is Jesus NOT condemning homosexuality in this passage, he's condemning DIVORCE, which plenty of anti-gay people not only think should be legal, but also do themselves. In addition, if someone says that even though the subject was not homosexuality, Jesus still talked about a "man and a woman", one can point out that he was asked about a man and a woman — it would make sense for him to answer in those terms, no matter his views on homosexuality.

If someone pulls this verse out of their hat, you'll know what to say. Although I recommend everyone look up controversial verses in their Bibles themselves anyway.

the "PERSONHOOD" MOVEMENT

the EMBRYO
(FROM THE INSTANT A SPERM CELL FERTILIZES AN EGG CELL THE RESULTANT ZYGOTE IS ENDOWED WITH ALL the CIVIL RIGHTS and LEGAL PROTECTIONS DUE TO A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AS ENSHRINED IN the CONSTITUTION.)



German Dad Supports Gender Non-Conforming Son



You may have seen this image making the rounds on the internet: a father and son, wearing a skirt and a dress, respectively, walking hand-in-hand down a public street.

It's an adorable image depicting an even more heartwarming story about a father who started wearing skirts to support his son, because his son liked to do so. But even more than "adorable" and "heartwarming," it's a potential blueprint for how all of us, cis and trans, straight and queer, parents and friends, can do more to be supportive of the gender non-conforming folks in our lives.

The story was popularized on Gawker but was able to break into mainstream American media via steegeschnoeber, who took the liberty to translate the text of the original interview from Emma magazine into English on their Tumblr. Some highlights from the interview, on why the father decided to support his son in this way:

"My five year old son likes to wear dresses. In Berlin Kreuzberg that alone would be enough to get into conversation with other parents... Yes, I'm one of those dads, that try to raise their children equal. I'm not one of those academic daddies that ramble about gender equality during their studies and then, as soon as a child's in the house, still relapse into those fluffy gender roles... In my case that's because I didn't want to talk my son into not wearing dresses and skirts. He didn't make friends in doing that in Berlin already and after a lot of contemplation I had only one option left: To broaden my shoulders for my little buddy and dress in a skirt myself. After all you can't expect a child at pre-school age to have the same ability to assert themselves as an adult. Completely without role model. And so I became that role model."

The father's actions are even more remarkable when one takes into account the larger experience of many gender non-conforming children. The media often gets it wrong, and even makes it sound like gender non-conforming kids are to blame for their own abuse. They experience multiple and sometimes systemic forms of bullying, and are too often targets for violence and hate, even as they work to create and define their own narratives and even as a sea change on gender and rights is underway worldwide. In the midst of these realities, this dad's awesome show of support and solidarity is more than an "aw" moment: it's a potentially life-saving act of revolution and love.

Feministing.com

Olympic Weightlifter Zoe Smith Takes On Sexist Attacks On Her Body and Career

"The obvious choice of slander when talking about female weightlifting is "how unfeminine — girls shouldn't be strong or have muscles, this is wrong". And maybe they're right... in the Victorian era. To think people still think like this is laughable, we're in 2012! This may sound like a sweeping generalization, but most of the people that think like this seem to be chauvinistic, pigheaded blokes who feel emasculated by the fact that we, three small, fairly feminine girls, are stronger than them. Simple as that.

I confronted one guy that said "we're probably all lesbians and look like blokes", purely to explain the fact that his opinion is invalid cause he's a moron. And wrong. He came up with the original comeback that I should get back in the kitchen. I laughed.

As Hannah pointed out earlier, we don't lift weights in order to look hot, especially for the likes of men like that. What makes them think that we even WANT them to find us attractive? If you do, thanks very much, we're flattered. But if you don't, why do you really need to voice this opinion in the first place, and what makes you think we actually give a toss that you, personally, do not find us attractive? What do you want us to do? Shall we stop weightlifting, amend our diet in order to completely get rid of our 'manly' muscles, and become housewives in the sheer hope that one day you will look more favorably upon us and we might actually have a shot with you?! Cause you are clearly the kindest, most attractive type of man to grace the earth with your presence...

Oh but wait, you aren't. This may be shocking to you, but we actually would rather be attractive to people who aren't closed-minded and ignorant. Crazy, eh?! We, as any women with an ounce of self-confidence, prefer our men to be confident enough in themselves to not feel emasculated by the fact that we aren't weak and feeble.

And here's some food for thought — maybe you should broaden your criteria for what you consider 'attractive' anyway, because these perfect, feminine women you speak of probably have no interest in you either."

Twitter.com

Do you have a question, want more info or resources, don't understand something, or want to contribute to our publication? Contact Tess: Theresa.Gattuso@ColoradoCollege.edu