

"Musings..."

Kate Galley

Fall out of the Gap and find your true self!

Everybody in Vests. Everybody in Cords. Everybody in Leather. Do you see a pattern developing here? Hopefully by now you know that I am talking about the latest Gap commercials. I am frightened of these advertisements, you should be too! Seeing the ads for the first time wasn't a big deal. New Gap ad, whatever. However, after seeing it 487 times in one week, I started thinking, "Who are these kids and why should I dress like them?" Each time a new ad came out I heard more and more people talking about them, "Have you seen the latest Gap ad?" Honestly, why should we care about all the new and neat ways the Gap is trying to suck our money out of our pockets? Or is that really what they are trying to do?

After the second and third new ads came out is when I really started to ponder the real meaning of these kids

singing to me. Was it really to sell me clothes? At this point I don't believe that anymore. I think the real reason these ads are so appealing to our generation is the fact that if you look behind the hypnotic singing you can see the real message of conformity screaming at you. To me, it wasn't that blatant in the beginning, it simply was just marketing. Now though, the true message is undeniable. Be like everybody else. The message is even flashed for us on the screen. Everybody in, Everybody in, Everybody in...do you see it now?

This is why the ads are so frightening. They are subliminally trying to get us to conform to the way that they (the older generations) see us. Think about it, how many times have you heard a person not of this generation say, "All you kids are alike. You are all hoodlums, pot-heads,

freaks, whatever." I think that they honestly see us as one big clump of crazy kids who are willing to bury our

everybody to be the same. Hitler, the most hated dictator in history had a similar idea to make everybody the

"...if you look behind the hypnotic singing you can see the real message of conformity screaming at you."

true personalities to be like everybody else. And now they are selling us clothes like we are all mindless clones willing to accept anything that we see on the glowing box in front of us.

These ads then made me think about another person who wanted

same. He cleverly called it the Aryan Race. People now call it Generation X. Yup, that's us. And the basic idea is still the same, individuality is bad. I, for one do not believe this.

Unfortunately, whether you want to admit it or not, we are all, in one way

or another, conforming. Think about your friends for a minute. How many of them like the same music you do? Like the same television shows? Dress like you...? Ouch, did that one hit a little close to home? Sorry.

We all do this though, it is just human nature to want to be around people similar to ourselves. Nothing to be ashamed of. Until you seem to lose the "real" you in a crowd of other people that look just like you. Then it just seems like fitting into a stereotype. College is supposed to be the best time of our lives. So why lessen the experience by hiding your true self?

All too soon we will be heading off into a world where the workforce will consume our time and minds. And it's a world where conformity is demanded, not just subliminally suggested. Whether you go into the field

of business where suits are required or just a restaurant where you wear a uniform, your so-called "identity" will soon be gone. The harsh realization is that only a handful of us are going to get a job where we can express ourselves freely.

Yes, this does lead back to those Gap ads. I hope by now their message is clear to you. The question now is, "Why does the Gap want all of us to look the same and not to be individuals?" Well, at the risk of relinquishing my strong hold on the "Gap is out to get us" theory, the answer may simply be marketing. Or maybe the Gap really is out to get us. But the message and the mantra are the same. "Everybody in. Everybody in..." I just hope that we, as a generation can turn away from the hypnotic eyes of the singers and embrace our true selves...before it's too late.

Shooting Straight ... In The Foot

by Bill Thompson

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Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Voters derive some definite benefits when they elect a candidate who is not a professional politician. For one thing, a nonpolitician officeholder is probably no worse than even money to be a crook, whereas a pro is odds-on.

Another advantage of electing nonpoliticians is that they may not have to hire pollsters to find out what they think -- and may actually say what they think if the opportunity presents itself.

The major disadvantage, on the other hand, is that an officeholder who has not attended the Politicians' School of Advanced Political Correctness is

likely to express opinions that some -- many? -- people find offensive. Can we say "Jesse Ventura," boys and girls?

As the governor of Minnesota wrestles with the latest round of controversy caused by his breathtaking candor, residents of the Gopher State who didn't vote for him -- and probably some who did -- must be wondering how Ventura got himself elected. The phrase "loose cannon" comes to mind.

The furor involves a Ventura interview with Playboy magazine in which the former Navy SEAL reportedly ripped organized religion as "a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people" and also minimized the seriousness of the Navy's Tailhook scandal.

Ventura has been trying to explain his comments, but he refuses to apologize. Jesse says he was just being Jesse.

Here's part of his explanation, as quoted by the St. Paul Pioneer Press:

"When the career politician gets asked a question, they'll give the answer they're supposed to. They'll give the answer that's politically correct. ... I will give honest answers, not necessarily politically correct answers."

He has a point. There's no telling how many professional politicians might secretly be rooting him on: "Go, Jesse. Tell it like it is, buddy."

But no pol in his or her right mind would ever publicly admit to agreeing with Ventura's views. For that matter, few politicians would ever get within

shouting distance of the notion that it's a good idea for public officials to engage in candid discourse -- on any issue, much less on sensitive matters such as religion and sexual harassment.

Politicians' lack of candor, of course, is one of the reasons many voters have seemed so drawn in recent years to candidates who are perceived as outsiders -- who are perceived as just plain folks.

Take Ross Perot -- please. Now here's a man who is just your average, everyday billionaire and who will speak his mind at the drop of a hat. Perot, don't forget, is the plain-spoken nonpol who gave us the Reform Party -- which in turn gave us Jesse Ventura.

The leading candidates for the Reform Party's presidential nomination,

according to the media hype, are Pat Buchanan, Donald Trump and Warren Beatty -- a commentator/columnist, a real estate developer and a Hollywood hotshot who is not a politician but has played one in the movies.

Ventura, another regular guy who used to make his living as a professional wrestler, is the Reform Party's top elected official and can have its presidential nod for the asking -- or he could have, before he spilled his guts to Playboy.

Just think about all this for a moment. Roll the names around in your mind: President Ventura. President Buchanan. President Trump. President Beatty. If one of these guys actually became president, how much time do

you suppose he'd spend trying to get his foot out of his mouth?

We know about Ventura. We know that Buchanan is at least as outspoken as Ventura -- and probably more so when it comes to political issues. We know that Trump ticks off somebody just about every time he opens his mouth. The jury is out on Beatty, but we know that the politician he played in the movie "Bulworth" made Ventura and Buchanan look like models of decorum.

Here's the deal, folks: If you want to elect a Jesse Ventura because he's a straight shooter, you'd better be prepared to watch him shoot himself straight in the foot on a regular basis.

Advantages. Disadvantages.

Letters to the Editor:

Students speak out about team prayers, tolerance and bigotry

College life isn't Are you as tolerant as you perceive yourself to be?

what you're used to

In regards to previous letters about the "man" on campus who is giving students a lot to talk about, "Who are they to judge what another person does with their life?" Not once did society say that you must be the same sex throughout life. What does it matter that someone wants to change the way they look? Day in and day out, everybody changes the way they look.

So what if somebody decided to change their sex... Why does it bother Christian Darling and Ray Morelli so much that they have to comment on it?

Taken from a psychologist viewpoint: if this person was so insecure about the way he looked, he would not be in public places, such as a college for people to look at him. He knows

people comment on his appearance, and even though some are regressing back to the caveman ways, move on from ridiculing him.

Are your lives that sad that in order to feel good about yourself you choose to make comments on the person who is different from yourself? Last time I checked, no one is to judge another. Who are you to judge? Are you God? If so, let me shake your hand and congratulate you on being ignorant. Why does it bother you when you obviously don't talk to him? Who has actually sat down and asked this person his feelings about his choice in life?

It's amazing to me that people always say to practice what you preach, yet in Ray Morelli's article he expresses that people have to accept him. "transgender is not a race or an ethnicity, or any ascribed characteristic...it is out of concern for the well being of that individual that we recognize he has problems, and needs our help." Has Ray Morelli

"Who are you to judge? Are you God? If so, let me shake your hand and congratulate you on being ignorant."

graduated and received a doctoral psychology degree? When I read under his name it said DUS. How can he tell us that someone needs our help? Get off your high horse Ray. If he wanted help, he would seek professional help, not the advice of an idiot. As for you, Christian Darling, who are you to

judge? Although, me doubt think you protest too much. Are you hiding something?

If him being a transgender is damaging to society as a whole, then our society would be done with. This man is not the first to go through with this process. We see this kind of stuff happen on Jerry Springer and think that we will never encounter "those people". Welcome to college, babies, you will encounter everything here that you were sheltered from.

Jenna Mitchell
DUS

While reading Ray Morelli's letter to the editor in your recent edition I was appalled at the things he said. While thinking of what I was going to say I spent a lot of time trying to figure out a way to avoid sounding like an offended-psycho-feminazi-bisexual. This is not an attack on Mr. Morelli, I am simply trying to point out that many of his arguments seem extremely flawed.

I give him credit for realizing that no one deserves to be ridiculed...this is true. Morelli also says that everyone deserves respect as a human being. I agree with that, too. I do not believe that saying that this individual (whom I do not know), and people in the same situation are "troubled" is respectful and positive in any way.

These serious issues that he feels these individuals should be resolving are being resolved. It is not damaging to society in any way, or to the person involved to admit that this person was born this way. It has been medically proven that some people are born with chromosomes that read

XXXY, making them truly neither men nor women. Or others that are hormonally the wrong gender. Some

is none of your business. If you don't like it, stay away from it. It really is that simple.

stroyed by individuals who have no right to do so

Transgender individuals are not "abnormal". They are not creating a new persona. These people are changing themselves in ways that they feel they must to grow as an individual. When anyone else quits smoking, changes their dietary habits, cuts their hair, or buys new clothes they are making, albeit much smaller, the same types of changes.

Individuals are individual. Give them the chance to be so without telling them that they are sick. To repeat an earlier statement: if you don't like it, stay away from it. It really is as simple as that. Remember what compassion, and respect, and tolerance really are. They are giving people the chance to be who and what they are; without telling them that they are "troubled" because you feel that their behavior is abnormal.

Charity Shadle
03, PSYCH

"If something is not directly hurting you or someone you care about it really is none of your business."

people just feel that they have been born in the wrong body.

I do not understand how accepting these people for who they are is damaging. Tolerating and accepting DOES NOT mean that you necessarily agree. There are many things that I tolerate that I do not agree with. If something is not directly hurting you or someone you care about, it really

As for the Trigon signs "plastering" the Academic Building, I helped put them up. We put signs up for a university-wide recognized organization. Just like every other group we have the right to announce our presence and inform other students that we are on campus and accepting members. There were not that many posters put up, and many were de-

Is there really freedom of religion in America?

We are living in a sadly misguided society. Here I am referring to the recent decision by the NCAA commission to ban Team prayers. Now, I'm not trying to be some holier-than-thou bible thumper, but this ruling is, in my view, unconstitutional.

I fully believe that, in the United States, we are entitled to freedom of religion. I am also fully against a person or organization forcing religion upon an individual. I have witnessed such instances, and they do not end on a positive note for either the pusher or the pushee.

However, I do not feel that team prayer is a violation of anyone's freedom of religion. The ruling should prohibit mandatory team prayer, perhaps, but it should not penalize those teams who wish to participate in a pre-game prayer. Those players who do not wish to participate for whatever reason could take the few extra min-

utes to focus and get psyched up for the game. They're not having religion forced upon them; they're being invited to it, and they are always free to decline. If a coach offers his players the opportunity to partake in a "team

flocked to America did so seeking religious freedom. They came here because they wanted a home where they could publicly practice their religion without fear of persecution. That is the reason why the compos-

would they think if they saw their Constitution being used to prevent young athletes from publicly expressing their faith? They would probably roll over in their graves.

The only violation of rights that I can perceive in this situation is the violation of our rights to free speech and religion. Before you know it, the Pledge of Allegiance will be outlawed in schools and at public events because it mentions God. You can call me a naive idealist if you want to, but I have always believed that our country was truly "the land of the free." It is only now that I realize that this, like so much of the information that has been fed to the American public lately, is nothing more than a bunch of empty words. I'm just holding on to the slim hope that somebody in a position of power shall prove me wrong.

Ed Gabrys
03, ENG

"What would they think if they saw their constitution being used to prevent young athletes from publicly expressing their faith?"

snack", he's not force-feeding them, is he?

Many of the early people who

ers of the Constitution granted the people of this nation the right to worship however they choose. What