

Someone Else's Opinion

please note: This column is for public use. If you have an opinion, please give it to us.

If I said to you "The Bare Naked Ladies are upstairs at the Social Club tonight" What would your response be? This is, in fact, the name of a band that did, in fact, play the CHSC last Friday night. The show was intelligent, politically insightful, amusing and good, solid entertainment. So, What would you say? I had all kinds of responses to this statement, and I am under the complete and full belief that each and every single one would have made the guys in this talented, quirky and thoroughly enjoyable band smile. These responses are exactly the reason that they came up with the name. Whether the response is one of amusement, confusion, perverted glee or appalled pseudo-politically correct junk morality, the fact remains that the name gets people thinking, and as a result, I assume, gets them interested in the band and possibly will jerk at least a few off of their sore, apathetic spotty behinds to make the effort to see the band, where they will be treated to music that both entertains and educates - wow! something new!

My problem is, as always, with the shallowness to which people cling to their culturally-ingrained beliefs; the way they strap on their moral, immoral, "radical" or "conservative" flight goggles and paint every possible other avenue of vision in hues of sickening green and brown. Censorship of art and entertainment has always been a strange entity. Every generation ascribes to a certain form of this blinded morality (we seem to be hung up on offensive lyrics and politically correct terminology), and as a direct result, this feeds the purveyors of whatever it is that is pissing people off with a kind of reverse perversity of mission - the archetypal "radical" versus the era-defined emissary of "conservatism."

So the languorous, supple form of the Venus deMillo is prominently displayed for our hormone-soaked youth to slip away into the closet to stare confusedly at. Is this art? Because we are "civilized," we are no longer able to view the human body as something beautiful? God may have sent us snivelling out of Eden for wanting what we were told we couldn't have (surprise surprise), but I don't read anywhere that he made us ugly in the process. In fact, the bible states that Adam and Eve were cursed with an embarrassment of their naked forms - doesn't that somehow mean that it is more acceptable to be pleased by the naked human form?

Where is the line? We find each other attractive. Especially when were nude. So when do I start being repulsed by the idea of a naked man or woman? This is a function of our own warped, confusing and incomprehensible culture, something I'd like to think we could do away with the more absurd aspects of.

This is not to say that the person whose eyes light up at the mention of nude men or women in the Social Club is in any way less driven by an inescapable and powerful need for cultural acceptance. In many ways, our culture has, through all of these opposing and equally blinded positions, propagated each in its own right, setting them diametrically opposite each other to feed and grow to perverse levels.

So, Hats off to the Bare Naked Ladies - I know you haven't got a record contract yet, and unless you change your name to something more socially acceptable (how about "Color me Bad" or Whami!?) you won't, but hey, airplay on college radio isn't so bad, and at least you can feel good about your contribution, right?

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