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Northern Lambda Nord

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A Word From Wyoming

by Jim Foster, Director

The following is a reprint of an article I received on the Internet. It appeared April 13, 1995 in the Casper Star Tribune, the only statewide newspaper in Wyoming. It was written by Karen Love, and is titled, "Some Old Values Step Backward."

People complain because the news is always bad. I don't think so. Recently I've seen news reports of real human progress just when we seemed to be slipping backwards. A news story like the one from Mississippi restores my hope.

In March, the State of Mississippi outlawed slavery. I think this is big news, and I'm not sure why it was written by Karen Love, and is titled, "Some Old Values Step Backward."

Recently I've seen news reports of real human progress just when we seemed to be slipping backwards. A news story like the recent one from Mississippi restores my hope.

It ranks with the reinstatement of Galileo into the good graces of the Catholic Church a few years back. After 350 years of excommunication for declaring that the earth was not the center of the solar system, he finally was forgiven. Like Mississippi, the church proves it can change with the times. This is progress.

The Republican Senate majority in Montana needs to take a lesson here. There, as in 23 other states, homosexual sex between consenting adults is still against the law. In Montana it is a felony. What's more, recently the Montana Senate voted 41-8 along party lines to require homosexuals to register with the police for the rest of their lives, the same way convicted rapists and child molesters do.

This is progress.

The Catholic Church recently approved of Mississippi restoring my hope. We've come a long way, baby.
guilty. Those who killed him believed they knew God’s will and how to carry it out.

The great American principle that “all men are created equal” traditionally did not include slaves or women, and now, it seems, it does not include homosexuals.

I am beginning to wonder how the argument that something is a “traditional value” carries any logical weight. How does it sway to argue, “We’ve always done it that way”? In fact, it begins to appear that some of the new values are better than some of the old ones.

From the perspective of 50 or 100 years in the future, I have a feeling this active hatred and fear of homosexuals will be the great shame of our era. In the annals of human history, it will rank with slavery, abuse of women, and burning of witches. They will marvel how people could use the Bible as an excuse to persecute fellow citizens.

In Montana, both sides agree that no one ever enforces these laws. But it’s the principle of the thing. Either we start patrolling bedrooms and arresting these “felons,” or we get realistic and take these laws off the books. It’s time to give up this “traditional value” of homophobia and let those people live in peace.

Listen up, Montana: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

/s Jim ▼

Lesbian-Gay Guide Lesbienne-Gai

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Editor: Dick Harrison