

Gay Marriage comes to Illinois

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Because it is such a volatile subject, I chose to stay downtown for the forum on marriage equality. Alderman Debra Mell (Governor Blagojevich's sister-in-law and the head of Illinois Gay & Lesbian Coalition & State Representative Greg Harris spoke for the issue while 2 Catholic attorneys argued that marriage was defined as the union between a man and a woman. Likewise they argued that every child has the right to a Mother and a Father. Because of the now defunct alliance between the evangelical right, Catholicism and the Black Church, only civil unions have been allowed in Illinois and Illinois was lauded by people of faith all over America. That day is now over and Illinois has become the largest state to legalize a marriage between two homosexuals.

The state of heterosexual marriage in America leaves little room to criticize anyone else's failures. The divorce rate in America is pathetic and I believe that two committed lesbians like Alderman Mell and her wife will most likely do a much better job of raising their kids than two heterosexuals in an adulterous or failing marriage.

However, as a History teacher, I must make note that every great civilization from Babylon, Persia, Greece, Egypt or Rome collapsed from the moral decay within, rather than from the barbarians standing at the gates of the empire. As noted in "The Persian Boy" Alexander traveled on his conquests with young homosexual boys in order to satisfy his sexual appetite. Today we know well the state of Babylonia, Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome—the once great empires are no longer.

For those of us who grew up in 1950's America when all was well, we now realize that tragedy no longer only happens to the other guy. The tornadoes, hurricanes, tidal waves, storms, fires, earthquakes and acts of terrorist aggression are now happening right here in the ole U S of A. When I was in 5th grade "under God" was added to the pledge of allegiance. We even recited the 23rd psalm everyday in public school. Then prayer was taken out of school.

Now one has to wonder, "is America really blessed, and more important will she continue to be blessed as she sheds every aspect of her God-centered society" bit by bit. Some want to take, "in God we Trust" off our money. Lest we forget that in South America, they came looking for Gold while in North America,

Governor Winthrop and the others, came looking for God. Need one have a college degree to compare the development of our two continents?

Let me close with the words of the French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, who while searching for the greatness of America, found it, not in its shipyards and industry, but rather in its pulpits which he found, "afire with righteousness." I understand that a committed homosexual couple wants the same legal rights as any married couple. But when our society, led by legislators like Mr. Harris, proudly displays his H.I.V. badge, as if it were a Congressional Medal of Honor, decides that marriage is no longer to be seen in the eyes of God, but rather defines it as a union between any two people, then I seriously wonder if God will be able to continue to bless this once great nation.

The film Captain Phillips displays the greatness of America in showing how we value even one human life to the nth degree. It displays all that is good and great about America. But lest we take de Tocqueville's words less than seriously, we may be in for trouble as he prophesized that, "America is great because she is good and he warned that if America ever ceased to be good, then truly she will cease to be great.

The book of Genesis states that God made man, male and female he made them and his moral standards are above all. I seriously doubt that He is now celebrating the way our legislators and Illinois' Gay community have been celebrating their latest victory.