

# Tongue in Cheek: Yes, We Have No Bananas (Part 2)

The last time I titled a column "Yes, We No Bananas", I was writing about a nutcase by the name of Andrew Cunanan, the "gay spree killer" who infamously murdered Gianni Versace.

Now I'm doing it again, and – is it coincidence? – the name of the nutcase in question almost rhymes. The latest embarrassment to all of gaydom is one Jeff Gannon, whom, if you've read the newspapers beyond the front page, or have listened to Air America Radio, you've heard about by now.

You see, Gannon represented a conservative "news bureau" (Talon News, a web site operated by a wealthy Texas Republican) at the White House press corps and lobbed softball questions at President Bush and his press secretary – while lobbying anti-gay articles at the rest of us.

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President." Apparently, unlike other members of the media that the Bush administration paid outright for consulting services, Gannon was willing to give away for free what he (allegedly) charged for on the internet (at rates of up to \$1200 a weekend, according to some reports).

In fact, at a news confer-

actually pretty sexy. When that thought occurred to me, I wanted to slap myself. How could I actually think titillating thoughts about a guy who's apparently been buttering his bread on both sides? On the one hand, he's (allegedly) making money for gay sex stud services, while on the other he's earning a living from pandering to homophobes. Could I not at least have found him unattractive?

But that's the thing with the Gannons and the Cunanans (see, it almost rhymes) of the world. If they were weird or unattractive, they wouldn't be able to get to places where they could do the damage they do.

It's been almost sad to listen to liberal talk radio trip all over themselves noting that "It's not about the fact that he's gay" and instead that it's about credibility, security (was there no background check?), and blatant propaganda. No, it IS partly about the fact that he's (allegedly) gay. As a gay person, Gannon's work (not the alleged escort work – from a libertarian perspective, I think prostitution should be safe, legal, and regulated) was actually anti-gay. It's no different than a Jew writing Nazi propaganda, or a black person writing KKK manifestos. It's incomprehensible, and it's just plain wrong.

And he brings up all those old clichéd anti-gay notions of "He could have been blackmailed if someone knew about his double life, so he was a security risk!" – notions that the liberals find themselves in the awkward position of repeating (which I wish they'd stop). As an added bonus, Gannon becomes a case in point to the religious right of what bad things homosexuals do.

But on some level, as with Cunanan, the Gannon case shows just how much like the straight world we are: we got bananas, too. ▼

*Columnist Kevin Isom is the author of It Only Hurts When I Polka and Tongue in Cheek and Other Places, available at bookstores and online. He may be reached at isomonline@aol.com or KevinIsom.com.*

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The trick was – and I use that term intentionally – he is or was also allegedly a gay male prostitute with semi-nude and nude photos on the internet and either is or was the owner of or contributor to (depending on which story you believe) websites like hotmilitarystud.com, militaryescortsM4M.com, workingboys.net, and militaryescorts.com.

And Gannon's not even his real name. It's James Guckert. We think.

For two years, "Jeff Gannon" was a member of the White House press corps, and during that time he mocked John Kerry's "pro-homosexual platform" with the headline "Kerry Could Become First Gay

ence in January, Gannon asked President Bush how he could work with Democrats "who seem to have divorced themselves from reality" (a bend-over question if ever there was one). It made me wonder just how strong a grip on reality Gannon himself might have. After all, this administration swept into office, in part, by working up anti-gay sentiment from the so-called "moral values" crowd. If Gannon is gay, one would think that might be a little bit of a conflict.

The weird thing is that I've actually looked at some of the photos alleged to be Gannon on the web (and yes, the face looks like the person in the press conference videos and there are no tell-tale signs of alteration). And he's

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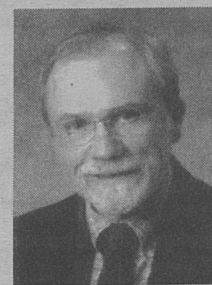
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