

Letters

OITM, POB 177, Burlington, VT 05402-0177 or oitm@together.net

◆ "Community" or "Ghetto" for VT?

Kathleen Kalina must be a flatlander — in the old sense of the word.

How else can you explain her June "Voices From the Mountains" column suggesting that Vermont's GLBT community actually buy up a section of Burlington and create as "gay-only domain?"

Have you gone off your rocker, Ms. Kalina? I can't believe that you'd suggest that we do the very thing that many of us GLBT Vermonters — whether Vermonters by birth or by choice — vowed we'd never do: ghettoize ourselves.

As a Vermonter-by-choice, I moved here precisely to get away from the "queer ghettos" of San Francisco, New York, West Hollywood and other major cities. Born and raised in New York, I lived in San Francisco throughout the '80s and early '90s and in that time saw a vibrant GLBT community succumb to a "ghetto mentality" of isolation from the outside world.

That ghetto mentality in San Francisco inevitably bred in some GLBT circles there a reactionary heterophobia and racism as pernicious as the homophobia and racism in the dominant straight society.

San Francisco's Castro district, New York's West Village, West Hollywood's Boystown and other big-city gay ghettos are not friendly places if you're bisexual or nonwhite — and I happen to be both. I grew up in one type of ghetto (The Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn) and I refuse to live in another. Years of bitter experience has taught me that ghettoization is, in the long run, highly destructive.

What Ms. Kalina fails to mention is that besides the queer-separatist ghetto mentality, the cost of living in the Castro, Provincetown, Key West and other gay ghettos is too prohibitive for any GLBT person with an annual income of less than \$30,000.

I'm a witness to the gay gentrification in the early '80s of San Francisco's Fillmore district, once a working-class African-American neighborhood. This gentrification led to very bad blood between African-Americans and predominantly white gays, as rents skyrocketed, forcing many longtime Fillmore residents to move across the San Francisco Bay to Oakland and Berkeley.

Just what part of Burlington does Ms. Kalina propose for GLBTs to buy up? The Old North End? Or the Hill Section near the University of Vermont

— better known nowadays as "Studentville," the closest thing to a ghetto that Burlington has? Where will current residents of those neighborhoods live if either becomes the next Castro?

I'm not a native Vermonter, but after four years, I've lived here long enough to know that any attempt to create any type of ghetto in Burlington or anywhere else in Vermont will be as welcome as a blizzard in the middle of July.

Sincerely,
Skeeter Sanders
Essex

◆ Another Right-Wing Boycott Attempt

As an avid film buff - I'm doing everything I can to let others know about an outrageous boycott of a film. I am not connected with the movie in anyway, but I have seen a few of the scenes from the screenplay, and this is a movie I would like to see.

My sister-in-law is in a religious censorship group run by Rev. Donald Wildmon. Members of the "American Family Association" (formerly called the "National Federation for Decency"), have sent out thousands of emails asking for "people of faith" to send faxes calling for a boycott of the film, "Eye of the Beholder" (This is the working title and not to be confused with the Ashley Judd / Ian Magregor movie of the same name)

Eye of the Beholder is based on the true story of how a young couple lost their family, a multi-million dollar chain of video stores, and almost their lives - fighting Rev. Wildmon's religious forces when the couple refused to remove Martin Scorsese's controversial film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, from their video stores. The religious group blackmailed the powerful City Prosecutor into ruining the couple with two court trials. (A former prostitute, that was now in the NFD, gave the religious group information about the Prosecutor's hidden sex life) Although the couple won both cases, they lost everything else. A few years later, they learned about the Prosecutor's blackmailing and setup a successful "sting" that exposed the 16 year veteran Prosecutor, who plead guilty to solicitation and also to embezzlement from a "Crime Victims Fund". For more information about the film: <http://www.moviefund.com/beholder/home.htm> For more information about Rev. Wildmon's activities: <http://www.afa.net/> Here is one of the reli-

gious emails that was intercepted -

Subj: BOYCOTT THIS BLASPHEMOUS MOVIE

People of faith must come together as we did when we boycotted the blasphemous film, THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST. We were so successful that most movie theaters would not run it. Blockbuster Video has never carried the film, as well as most other video stores. It will also not be shown on TV. That is proof of the power of the Lord !!!

We pray that God loving, moral people will also boycott the film - IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER. This film encourages homosexuality, and adultery while demeaning GOD!!! The time for action is now!!! This movie is being made by Gays and Athiests who want to control what we see and hear, while promoting their deviant lifestyles.

Please contact the people below and BOYCOTT THIS TRASH !!

Alec Baldwin (actor) Fax 310-244-2155 & 818-347-4343

Wendy Bloom (producer) - Fax 310-841-5934 Email tpeg@aol.com

William Morris Agency - Fax 310-859-4462 Email cpott@wma.com

Miramax Films NY - Fax 212-941-3949 Email brian_dickman@miramax.com

Miramax Films LA - Fax 213-951-4218

Creative Arts - Fax 310-288-4800 Email cparrish@caa.com

May GOD BLESS You, and please forward this to all you can. <http://www.afa.net> The American Family Association

The 1st Amendment protects us all, but when people start trying to stop a film, BEFORE IT IS EVEN MADE, then that crosses the line into censorship through religious terrorism.

To get a good idea of where these religious zealots are coming from, take a look at their rantings at this site <http://www.moviefund.com/cgi-bin/beholder>

It has been said that "the only way to fight censorship and intolerance, is by education". A good way to educate people - is to make this movie. Another way, is to get the word out. Please send messages to the people above that only YOU - have the right to decide what you will or won't see.

Thanks,
Mark Dennison
ILuvFilms@aol.com

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1 year (\$20) 2 years (\$35) Low income (\$10)

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