

Papadakis actually does something right for a change



I have to admit, I've picked on the Powelton Village Civic Association from time to time. I'm not apologizing for it; they do sort of bring it on themselves. When they say that college students "bedevil their days and nights", what I am supposed to say? That they're right? And when they start talking about the Powelton Village garden, I can't help but feel obligated to point out that their stupid little garden sucks. But they are upset about one thing that I think is entirely justified, and that's the rainbow flag situation.

For those of you who don't know, Powelton Village has been hit with a rash of vandalism. Rainbow flags, which are supposed to be symbolic of tolerance, are being ripped down, and people are writing such things as "Die, faggot!" on flags. People are also urinating on houses. News of this has actually reached the world outside University City; as I've seen stories about it in Philadelphia Weekly and the City Paper.

Apparently some people just don't like having homosexuals in their midst. Usually the argument is that homosexuals are out to convert heterosexuals. I suppose this is a compelling argument for people who don't know gay people, but I've actually met gay people, and none of them have ever tried to convert me. I'm not even sure how that would work. I guess it would be something like a co-op interview.

Gay guy: Chris, if you join our organization now, we'll give you your own parking space, a corner office, and a \$3,000 singing bonus. That's the homosexual difference, where you can be gay and earn money for college.

Me: Well, I don't know. The heterosexuals

also have given me a counter offer of \$6,000 and a promise to give me Natalie Portman's phone number.

Gay guy: Well, I'm afraid our company can hardly compete with the lovely and talented Miss Portman. Good luck with your job search.

Or perhaps it would be like some PBS telenovela. I can just picture some guy in a suit saying "If shows like *Red Dwarf* and *Nova* are the kind of television you want to see, then we'd better see some viewers out there pledging to be gay right now. Join now and get a free tote bag." On a completely unrelated note, I'm not giving any money to those bastards at PBS until they get *Dr. Who* back on the air. Sure, the Sci-Fi channel had it on for a while, but they were only showing "Revenge of the Cybermen" and "Genesis of the Daleks" over and over again. PBS has really dropped the ball, and until I can see the good Doctor on a regular basis, they're not getting one penny from me. But I digress.

Even if you have a major problem with gay people, I can't imagine wanting to urinate on someone's house. In fact I can't imagine wanting to urinate on anyone's house. That's disgusting. And if there are groups of people doing it, that's even more disgusting. I used to feel pretty bad that I have no life outside The Triangle, but now that I know there are people in the world who are so pathetic that their idea of fun is stumbling around in the dark peeing on things, I feel relieved. I always thought Pat Buchanan and Jerry Falwell were the least evolved forms of life on the planet; apparently, I have been proved wrong.

Before I go any further, I should explain a few things about this column. I originally started on it a few weeks ago, but I had to put it aside because it just wasn't working out the way I wanted it to. Part of me was hoping that I wouldn't really have to write it; that the idiots vandalizing houses might

actually stop. But of course, they didn't and I returned to the column, managing to finish it. And it was a doozy. I had lots of vicious jokes about Papadakis and Drexel administrators. Trust me, it was really great.

Well, I say we declare February 17 a holiday, because President Papadakis did something I never thought he would do. He actually wrote a letter about the whole situation. Now he didn't actually get on his computer and send me a letter. The last time The Triangle had any kind of substantive contact with Papadakis, he lied to us about hiring Richard Neal as a security consultant. So, we basically have a policy in effect where we have to get another source to confirm anything he tells us, up to and including that the sky is blue. But, Drexel did take out some ad space and in that space is a letter from Papadakis decrying intolerance.

The result of Papadakis' sudden display of a conscience is that I had to scrap about two-thirds of my column. I'm still in shock. I mean, this sort of thing came out of nowhere. We've actually witnessed a Drexel administrator accomplishing something slightly useful.

That sort of thing just does not happen here. Let's say for example, you were to give your typical Drexel administrator a stack of 10 index cards with names on them and then ask him to arrange the cards in alphabetical order. The administrator would immediately lose three cards right off the bat. Then he'd mangle four of them, spill coffee on one of them, and tell the other two they couldn't take more than 20 credits a term. He would then proceed to send the cards to Poland. They would then be sent back from Poland, and upon their return, he would hand them out to delegates at the Republican convention. The cards would then have to reflect on being given to delegates in a classroom set-

ting. The cards' grades would be suspended until they show some proof of insurance. The cards resumes will be screwed up because they used HTML on CMConline. Finally, the administrator would gather the cards together, still unalphabetized, mind you, and then proceed to bill some random student three times for his work. All three bills will promptly be sent to the wrong address. But none of this matters, because the whole sordid process can be downloaded in Quicktime format from Drexel's web page. Let's hear it for that gateway to the new millennium, folks!

Obviously, I don't think Papadakis' letter isn't going to accomplish a whole lot. I just don't think the average Drexel student is going to be too impressed with the fact that the guy who says we're all wieners doesn't want us to hate people. By the time you've gotten to college, I think you've pretty much made up your mind whether you want to be a decent human being or some brainless thug who hasn't mastered potty training. I don't think anything Constantine Papadakis says is going to change that one bit.

But for the first time that I can remember, Constantine Papadakis has been prodded into doing something that doesn't lend itself to a photo-op in Drexelink. In short, he's acting a tad bit presidential, instead of just finding ways to leech off Katharine Drexel or the city government. Sure, I still think he's a jerk because he treats The Triangle like it's just some kind of nuisance and the students at Drexel like they don't matter. But I think he's just a tiny bit less of a jerk than he was before. And coming from me, that's saying something.

Chris Puzak is a senior majoring in Information systems. He can't believe he's saying something nice.