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Where's the outrage over Pace's prejudice?



By Terry Michael | bio

In a mainstream media that regularly imagines the possibilities of racism in everything from medical mis-treatment of hypertension to inequitable application of agricultural price supports (actual stories, if you will check), there was surprisingly little attention paid this week to an actual example of bigotry voiced by the nation's highest ranking military official.

Is my hearing or vision bad, or didn't the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff tell the Chicago Tribune that the daughter of the Vice Commander-in-Chief and tens of millions of other Americans are immoral because of who they love?



Would Gen. Peter Pace have lasted one day, would he not have been fired in five minutes, had he expressed the opinion that black people are inferior to white people? An assertion, to be sure, that a public official could have successfully portrayed as just "religious belief," or "what I was brought up to believe," not that many decades ago.

Of course, in true "hate the sin, love the sinner" fashion, Pace didn't exactly say homosexuals are immoral, just homosexual "acts" -- but that is a lawyerly distinction without a difference (imagine, in a different century, a politician arguing, to avoid offending Southerners while placating abolitionists, that "buying people in chains as property is an immoral act, but I'm certainly not saying slave-holders are immoral." Yes, you were, [fill-in the name of your favorite early 19th Century have-it-both-ways-on-slavery politician here.]

Yet The New York Times, which never tires of explaining the world through the prism of tribal identity politics, in its first story on the subject of Gen. Pace's theology devoted just sixteen paragraphs deep inside its "A" section to reporting the neanderthal musings of a man who is supposed to be leading our military effort to spread Age of Reason, Enlightenment-informed, pluralistic democracy to the Middle East.

And The Washington Post, which suggested in a silly piece of pseudo sociology on its front page Sunday that racism might be behind a reluctance by blacks to seek hospice care, relegated to page A-14 Pace's refusal to even apologize for his

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assault on the integrity of tens of thousands who serve under him via "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," including the many gay men and women he and his Commander-in-Chief send into harm's way in Iraq.

Maybe Gen. Pace got a pass from the press because he's part of an Administration that has become so discredited that this was regarded by editors as just another slip on the banana peel. Or perhaps "Seedy Gonzales," as "The Daily Show" portrayed our Attorney General, soaked up all the front page ink mid-week. And possibly the MSM noticed that even "liberal" Hillary! and ObamaOprah were even a little tongue-tied by their pollsters before they were finally able to condemn this religious "opinion" for the blatant bigotry it was.

In a small construct I devised to place modern public policy on prejudice in perspective, I regularly harangue my political journalism students with the observation that America has been through three phases in the modern era of civil rights.

The first was addressing the problem of government-enforced bigotry against its own people, happily resulting in Truman's integration of the armed forces and Eisenhower sending troops to Little Rock to enforce Brown v. Board of Education.

The second, while protecting the mythical "Mrs. Murphy's Boarding House" from the strong arm of the federal government, was putting into place protections against privately-produced bigotry in housing, employment and other individual and corporate acts of discrimination, partly over-ruling the Bill of Rights because of the hideous legacy of slavery.

The third, lamentably, has been several decades of a spoils system of favored identity group entitlements, written into law that mocks the moral authority of a civil rights movement that demanded we be judged by the content of our character rather than the color or our skin.

Whether or not you accept the wisdom of my three-phases-in-modern-civil-rights, surely it must be conceded that Gen. Pace should be stripped of at least a few medals by a president and a country and a press which may be nearing a consensus that ending government-enforced bigotry against another tribe of its own people (that first era noted above) is a good thing.

Mar 19, 2007 -- 02:18 PM EST | [Tags:](#)

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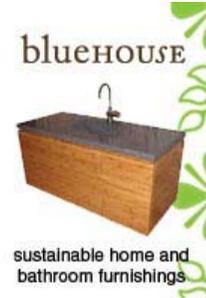
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On March 19, 2007 - 3:02pm [glissade](#) said:

General Pace had every right to express his personal moral views in support of an established military policy. He did not attempt to incite anyone to mistreat individuals who engage in homosexuality. As a person who has served his country and fought for the right of all Americans to live freely with the rights under our constitutional it is absurd to ask for the medals he earned. General Pace went to battle and risked his life to ensure your right to freely express your opinion. He deserves respect and not derision.

General Pace, did not write the policy it is simply his job to enforce it. While it was not necessary for him to state his personal moral views he should not be harassed for having done so.



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