

Cleaning House

A woman's work is never done.

Nests of Pests

Temperatures in Moscow hover in the 90s during the dog days of August but that's not why many community members are boiling. For the past three years we have endured the civic embarrassment generated by the pseudo-Ceilidh, pseudo-Calvinistic jamboree known as the Trinity Fest. Members of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelicals aka CREC, view Moscow as their Rome, Jerusalem, Mecca, and Ganges River. They gather in August to sit at the knee of Massa Doug Wilson, (the brains behind the beards) greedily ingesting the racist, sexist, homophobic preaching disgorged from his pie hole. It has been my habit to refrain from going to town during the week that Doug attempts to claim Moscow as his papal seat. However, this year I will join with friends to acquaint (or reacquaint as the case may be) CREC visitors and Kirk members with long-standing community values. Flyers have been posted throughout downtown Moscow and in the windows of supportive businesses asking folks to:

[T]ake a stand for traditional American values of tolerance and diversity as we gather to voice our collective community opposition to the racist, sexist, homophobic agenda of Christ Church, New St. Andrews College, The Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches and the Association of Classical and Christian Schools.

Uninformed readers might (mistakenly) believe that it is, at best, ironic to take a stand for tolerance and diversity while simultaneously opposing a "religious" celebration. The following analogy might help to clarify my position. Suppose you wake up one fine morning and notice — in a dark corner of your closet — a sweet little nest of spiders. On the whole you like spiders (*Charlotte's Web* was your favorite childhood book), so you adopt a live and let live attitude toward the little critters. Five or six days later you have an opportunity to take a closer look at mama spider. She is a glossy black color, and son of a gun, has a red hour glass on her belly. This is not what you had in mind when you believed your closet was big enough for you and the spiders, was it? An apathetic reaction is not in your best interest. Silently acquiescing to bigotry is as risky and stupid as deliberately sharing your closet with black widow spiders. And while the Brotherhood of the Kirk always exacts a price from their critics the cost of going along to get along is much too high for me.

Rose

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