

Lawrence

Nov 20, 1987

Matthew Meselson
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Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Meselson:

I thought you should know what a local right wing extremist has written about you. William H. Wild's column of 14NOV87 is a typical example of his malicious dishonesty. Labeling nonconservatives as "Soviet apologists" or worse is a standard tactic of his. So that you can see in greater detail what sort of person Wild is, I have included copies of earlier columns of his. The column of 31OCT87 is a typical example of his religious sermonizing. This takes place on the "Op-Ed" page every time. The publisher (Dennis Shere) does not even have the decency to relocate such sermonizing to the "Religion" section (Shere himself sermonizes at least twice a year on the "Op-Ed" page--I could send you copies if you so desire). It has been obvious for a long time that there is no place in Wild's (or Dennis Shere's) America for non-Christians (except, perhaps, for "favored inferior" status for those of the Jewish Right). The column from Oct 1986 is bad enough for its thinly disguised homophobia, but note how Wild treats Theodore Bilbo. This is called "praising with faint damns." You probably recall that Bilbo was a much more malign figure than Wild is willing to admit. In one book I consulted, Bilbo is quoted as having said "The way to keep a nigger from the polls is to visit him the night before." How such statements enrich the history of political rhetoric is beyond me. The earlier of his two columns making excuses for Kurt Waldheim is from Wild's days as Editorial Pages Editor of the then-uncombined Journal Herald.

If you wish to respond (I recommend that you avoid contacting Wild directly--he is impervious to logic and/or reason), below are the address of the newspaper and a couple telephone numbers (names are on masthead for 31OCT column).

Dayton Daily News & Journal Herald
Fourth & Ludlow Sts.
Dayton, OH 45402

Editor - 513-225-2335
Editorial Page Editor - 513-225-2286

or 14 NOV

By the way, the Bible quotation appears on the masthead every day. The DDN&JH is theoretically a metropolitan area newspaper rather than a religious publication. As you might expect, the metropolitan area contains a variety of non-Christians. I asked Hap Cawood about the presence of the quotation and he blandly informed me that Shere is a "very conservative Christian" who "insists" that the Bible quotation be put there every day.

Regards,

Edgar J. Lawrence

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2433 Suffolk Ct.; Dayton, OH 45420