



CHRISTINE
FLOWERS

Selective outrage about Kevin Spacey

I first saw Kevin Spacey in an old crime series called "Wiseguy." It was about three decades ago, and he played a character who had biblical knowledge of his sister, who obligingly shot him full of heroin through his big toe. I was enchanted.

I followed his burgeoning career, through two Oscars and an Emmy-winning performance in Netflix series "House of Cards." The man was our own Olivier, and I loved him. In fact, I considered myself the wife he didn't know he actually had.

Which became a running joke with my friends, who apparently already sensed what I had deliberately ignored: Kevin was gay.

For decades, the man kept his private life exactly that: private. I'm sure there were rumors among the Hollywood types, and I'm sure some of those rumors had incredibly salacious details, but I was quite happy in my imaginary ménage a who-are-you-kidding?

And then it all came tumbling down this week when Kevin bypassed me completely (you don't call, you don't write!) and admitted to the world that he was, in fact, "living as a gay man."

The problem is that this revelation was the second clause of a two-part sentence, and the first clause implied that he didn't remember a drunken episode where he tried to assault a 14-year-old three decades ago. Whether he meant to or not (and he probably meant to), Kevin pushed open the door to that dark closet in the hopes that the noise it made would drown out the accusations of sexual assault.

It didn't work. Oh boy did it not work. Instead of garnering the support of those Hollywood types who love a good coming out story (including those who were actually forced by cattle prods out of the closet kicking and screaming against their will), Kevin's cohorts in La La land went ballistic. They were angry that he seemed to be mixing his La Cage "I Am What I Am" moment with an attempted deflection of past pedophilia (alleged, of course.)

As I tweeted after the revelation, it seemed as if Hollywood was angrier that Kevin had offended the LGBT community than that he had sort of, kind of admitted his attempted assault of a teenager back in 1986. I kept reading the tweets from the icons of liberal tolerance, trying to find some profound vein of anger at his sexual misconduct, and they were there. But there were also condemnations along the line of that exhibited by Dan Savage, a man who regularly condones pretty disgusting sexual behavior between "consenting adults." The aptly-named Savage tweeted that "There's no amount of drunk or closeted that excuses or explains away assaulting a 14-year-old child."

He's right, of course. Spacey's obvious attempt to deflect attention from his alleged predation is the worst moral flea-flicker pass in history, seconded only by former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey.

But I cannot get the word "chutzpah" out of my head reading this sex columnist's moral outrage against Spacey when in the past, some of the "advice" he's handed out about threesomes, dildoes and other delightful accessories for debauchery is just this side of felonious in some third world countries.

The outrage at Spacey's timing made me wonder how people would have reacted had the actor made this statement: "I honestly do not remember the encounter. It would have been 30 years ago. This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me, and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. I choose now to live as a Catholic priest."

Imagine that the Hollywood crew were faced with a future seminarian Spacey who had sort of acknowledged inappropriate relations with a young boy instead of a "finally here I am gay man" Spacey admitting the same sordid acts. Would they be angry that he had slandered Catholics in general, and Catholic priests in particular? I mean, how horrible to try and conflate priests with sexual misconduct? Right? Hello?

Yes, I am being facetious, as if I even had to mention it. Hollywood has spent decades attacking the church, as recently as a couple of years ago with that incredibly biased piece of fiction "Spotlight." Conflating priests and predators is par for the course with the California crew. And these days, any heterosexual man who can breathe without a respirator is fair game.

But God forbid there should be any suggestion of sexual misconduct in any community protected by race, religion (not Catholicism of course,) sexual orientation or gender? If you do that, you will be shunned.

It's a shame my ex-husband didn't check out the Jesuits. It could have saved him a lot of grief.

(Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.)

TODAY'S INSPIRATION

"Ambition is a dream
with a V8 engine."

— Elvis Presley



AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev

Russian Communists hold red flags and a portrait of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin as they gather for a demonstration to mark the 98th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015. For decades Nov. 7 used to be a holiday celebrating the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. It is no longer a public holiday in Russia.

COMMUNISM TURNS 100

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of one of the worst mistakes ever made: the Communist revolution in Russia.

Communist regimes went on to kill about 100 million people. Most died in famines after socialist tyrants forced people to practice inefficient collective farming. Millions of others were executed in political purges.

Yet when the Russian Revolution happened, people both inside and outside Russia were excited. Crowds cheered Lenin. No longer would nobles rule; no longer would capitalists exploit workers. Now the people would prosper together.

British journalist Theodore Rothstein wrote, "The undivided sway of the Imperialist nightmare is at an end...(there will be) rule of the labouring classes."

But you can't have government plan every aspect of people's lives and expect things to go well. Instead, you get bureaucratic planning commissions and secret police.

That won't stop some Americans from celebrating Communism's anniversary.

A day of anti-Trump protests is scheduled for today, and I'm sure some protesters will wave hammer-and-sickle flags. Some will wear Che Guevara shirts.

A few commentators will call the protesters "idealistic" but impractical. They



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shouldn't. We should call them supporters of mass murder.

Lenin ordered the hanging of 100 property owners at the very start of the Revolution, saying people needed to see the deaths of "landlords, rich men, bloodsuckers."

Mass murder and starvation rapidly increased the death toll after that.

It wasn't exactly what philosopher Karl Marx had in mind — but it shouldn't have surprised anyone. Marx's writing is filled with comparisons of capitalists to werewolves and other predators who must be destroyed.

Marx admitted that capitalism is productive but said that "capital obtains this ability only by constantly sucking in living labor as its soul, vampire-like."

Even as the Russian regime killed millions, some journalists and intellectuals covered up the crimes.

Stalin kept most media out, so few Americans knew that millions were starving, but New York Times writer Walter Duranty saw it firsthand.

Yet he "covered up Stalin's crimes," says Tom Palmer of the Atlas Network, a group that promotes free market

ideas around the world.

Because Duranty wanted to support "the cause," he wrote that "report of a famine in Russia is today an exaggeration or malignant propaganda."

Duranty "saw the truckloads of bodies," says Palmer, yet "he wrote on the front page of The New York Times how wonderful everything was." He even got a Pulitzer Prize for it.

In some ways, times haven't changed that much. This year, the Times ran a series of essays commemorating the anniversary of Russian Communism, including one piece arguing that sex was better in the Soviet Union because the Revolution destroyed macho capitalist culture.

At least The New York Times eventually admitted that Duranty's work was "some of the worst reporting in this newspaper," but the Pulitzer committee never withdrew its prize.

Communism kills wherever it's practiced. But people still believe. Making a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxMWS8RyLLI>) on Communism's hundredth anniversary, I interviewed Lily Tang Williams, who grew up under the regime in China.

"Mao was like a god to me," she recounts. "In the morning, we were encouraged to chant and to confess to dear Chairman Mao."

Under Mao, Williams

nearly starved. "I was so hungry. My uncle taught me how to trap rats. But the problem is, everybody is trying to catch rats. Rats run out, too."

Still, she says she was so brainwashed by Communist propaganda that she "cried my eyes out when Mao died."

But then, "when I was college student, I met a U.S. exchange student ... He showed me a pocket Constitution and Declaration of Independence. A light bulb came on!"

For the first time, she realized, "I have rights ... natural rights that cannot be taken away. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

She escaped to the United States. Now she says her mission in life is to teach Americans the importance of liberty.

I think her message is wiser than that of Karl Marx, Lenin and Stalin.

"Big, powerful government, it's very scary," she warns. "It will keep growing like cancer, will never stop. If you empower government, not the individuals, we're going to lose this free country!"

(John Stossel is author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails — But Individuals Succeed." For other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit www.creators.com.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Historic water agreement a win for Waukesha ratepayers

To the editor:
On Monday, October 30th, we made history. After decades of research and due diligence, a partnership was formed between Waukesha and Milwaukee. That's right: between Waukesha and Milwaukee. We reached a 40-year agreement with automatic 10-year renewals that will provide city of Waukesha residents with a long-term, sustainable supply of high-quality water. This agreement is the largest of its kind in the history of southeastern Wisconsin — and a true milestone for regional

cooperation.

As mayor, it is my duty to protect our residents and our employers from unnecessary costs. We reached an agreement with Milwaukee that saves \$40 million in construction costs, compared to Oak Creek. In addition, the wholesale rates we will pay for water will be significantly lower. For the average residential family, this means future water rates will be \$200 lower per year than they would have been otherwise. This will keep over \$4 million in our local economy every year. That is something that could not be overlooked.

Milwaukee will not set the water rates and Milwaukee cannot impose additional terms on the sale of water. Rather, the Public Service Commis-

sion, a state agency, sets the rates. Waukesha will continue its oversight of our award-winning water utility.

As always, it is important to me that we address the questions and concerns of Waukesha residents. Please watch your mail and this newspaper for information regarding upcoming open houses and presentations taking place Nov. 28, 29 and 30. We want to hear from the residents of Waukesha and answer questions they may have.

In the meantime, let's celebrate this historic milestone and look to the future with significant relief — and great anticipation.

Shawn Reilly
Waukesha mayor

SOUND OFF

Waukesha taps Milwaukee water

Curious events indicate that the Oak Creek officials are not the only ones being blindsided: Mayor Reilly seems to be playing nice with the lefties that run Milwaukee.

It seems like only yesterday that Milwaukee Mayor Barrett was talking about using water as a political weapon.

What does Milwaukee want in return for water, a critical resource?

Blackmail is a possibility, and oh yes they could use a buck or two, as they are running out of other people's money.

Mayor Reilly, a politician, is concerned about taxpayer money, that's unusual in itself. Milwaukee's daily newspaper no longer reports the news, they manage the news. The Waukesha Freeman seems to be sliding in the same direction. As a political correctness contrarian I'm getting nervous about their plans for

Waukesha's future. We already know the progressives excel at creating problems they can solve.

— Miles Dake, Waukesha

What is in place in the proposed agreement to prevent Milwaukee from raising rates once the infrastructure is paid for and in place? Milwaukee ripped off the suburbs in building the Deep Tunnel.

— Richard Radosevich

SOUND OFF

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