

I Now Pronounce You: Group Hug



Ah, the joys of polyamorous nuptials — coming soon to a nation near you. What is polyamory, you ask? “The practice of loving and relating intimately to more than one other person at a time,” according to a mission statement by Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness [UUPA]. UUPA “encourages spiritual wholeness regarding polyamory,” including the *right* of polyamorous people to have their unions blessed by a minister, reports *The Washington Post*. (In its “On Faith” section.)

Some on the left find UUPA, well, inconvenient, according to *The Post* article titled, “MANY UNITARIANS WOULD PREFER THAT THEIR POLYAMORY ACTIVISTS KEEP QUIET.” Shhhh! Because UUPA is “playing right into conservative hands” — we can’t have *that* — by utterly proving the right’s slippery slope argument, that once marriage is redefined, literally anything goes.

And sure enough, anything is going. Including an actual online advice column for “poly-quad” relationship problems by “sex-positive advocate” Julie Gillis, who counsels one advice-seeker: “There will now be trust issues between your dyad and theirs, and you and your partner if the relationship continues with the other pair ... [F]ind a therapist or counselor in your area who is kink and poly friendly.”

All righty, then. Slate just published “Legalize Polygamy!” with

this opener: “We’ve been hearing it for years. Gay marriage is a slippery slope! A gateway drug! If we legalize it, then what’s next? Legalized polygamy? We can only hope.” Feminist writer Jillian Keenan continues:

If a woman wants to marry a man, that’s great. If she wants to marry another woman, that’s great too ... And if she wants to marry a man with three other wives, that’s *her damn choice* ... The definition of marriage is plastic. Just like heterosexual marriage is no better or worse than homosexual marriage, marriage between two consenting adults is not inherently more or less “correct” than marriage among three (or four, or six) consenting adults.

Which, some may joke, is certainly no better or worse than people marrying their dogs.

Folks, yesterday’s jokes are today’s news stories. In Germany as we go to press, “zoophiles” are protesting a new law against bestiality. “We are going to take legal action to fight this,” says Michael Kiok, chairman of Zoophile Engagement for Tolerance and Information (ZETA). *The [UK] Guardian* reveals that Kiok, 52, a university librarian, “lives with his 8½-year-old Alsatian, Cessie, in what he calls a relationship.” Kiok reports his delight at connecting on the internet with a “huge number of zoophiles, especially in the U.S.”

And pretty soon, no doubt, they’re all going to get married.