

Commentary

Lunching with Rupert: We really need to talk; your Fox TV network seems to suffer from bipolar disease, writes Kimberly Gadette.
COMMUNITY VOICES, Page F5

INSIDE 
THIS SECTION
♦ **CHOICE CUTS, F2**
♦ **LETTERS, F5**

SUNDAY ♦ MAY 1, 2005

COMMENTARY EDITOR: PAT HARRISON ♦ 503-294-4129 ♦ COMMENTARY@NEWS.OREGONIAN.COM

Challenged to a dual

Fox Broadcasting seems to be having a tough time deciding if it's pro-family or anti moral values

Dear Rupert and Mr. Murdoch: We've been watching your Fox TV network for some time and, frankly, we're concerned you might be heading for some sort of breakdown. Before making a formal report to the medical authorities, the two of us have put our heads together and decided to reach out to you.

We hate to be in your face. Both of them. But Rupe and Mr. Mur, let's look at the facts:

On one side of the street, you've got your fair and biased, oops, I mean fair and balanced news folk. Your Brit Humeses, your Bill O'Reillys, your Sean Hannitys. All red-stated, red-faced and full of pro-family values. Deep-rooted, God-fearing, Bible-thumping family values.

But across the street and lying prostrate in the gutter, you've got those same values flattened like roadkill — flattened by the likes of such programs as "Temptation Is-

land," "Who's Your Daddy," "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire," ad nauseum. Rupe and Mur, have you noticed the dichotomy?

Let us double our efforts to be perfectly clear:

"Temptation Island" throws nice couples together with hot singles to tempt them into wanton sex, whether they're wanton to or not. Yet it's the very same wanton that your news shows decry as sinful. How do you reconcile featuring certain "lifestyles" at 9, while lambasting them during the news hour at 10?

We understand schizophrenia. We live with it biweekly — yet these actions cause us to do a double take. Since there's two of us, that would actually be a quadruple-take. We pray we don't get whiplash.

"Who's Your Daddy," a series that featured an adopted young woman attempting to win \$100,000 by determining which of eight men professing to be her father is ac-

tually her biological dad, got so much heat that the Raleigh, N.C., affiliate pulled it from its lineup.

Somehow, a show exploiting a woman trying to find her biological father offended the station. My, my. What would Mr. O'Reilly have to say?

Remember 2003, when "Married By America" got axed from the lineup? Raleigh's WRAX-TV said the series "demeaned and exploited the institution of marriage." How does that reconcile with the push for family values, we must ask?

We can see Moses (a k a Charlton Heston) now, shaking his head, his 2-foot-long beard swaying in the breeze, the NRA code of ethics tucked inside his robe.

"Excuse me, O Murdoch," Moses would intone. "When your minions were creating this 'Married By America,' did you forget about Commandment Number Seven? The one about adultery? Not to mention Number Ten, the one about the coveting?"

We want to assure you that you're not alone. Janus, the Roman God of mythology, is known for his two faces that look in opposite directions at the same time. The man can truthfully boast that he's never been

stabbed in the back.

We also understand that when he crosses the street, he automatically looks both ways. Bifacial has its perks. Calm down, we said bifacial. Take a deep breath and pop another Thorazine.

Bipolar disease is no joke. So please Rupert, please Mr. Murdoch, we're begging you to get some help. Make a conference call to a hot line. Take a guest suite at a hospital. Just do do it.

And bi the way, next time you're in town, what do you say we do lunch, maybe meet for Chinese? Between the four of us, we'll be able to order one of each from Column A and Column B.

Yours and Yours,
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Kimberly Gadette is a writer living in Portland.



IN MY OPINION

Kimberly Gadette

