

I don't read the paper or watch the news. To tell you the truth, I simply can't handle it without becoming infuriated. But it happened just the other night. I caught a story on the local station about some folks who are petitioning to deny same sex domestic partner benefits to city employees. This group claims that they "need the help of every citizen in Houston (and the surrounding area) who supports traditional family values and wants to help stop the homosexual political agenda from turning Houston into another San Francisco." What the ...?!

That kind of talk makes me want to do something drastic like join the Harris County Green Party (www.hcgp.org) or scream expletives at them when they drive by, hoping to terrorize them into my way – the right way – of thinking. How can they be so ignorant? Did they not read this quarter's issue of *Slant*, which pays homage to diversity? Life's too hard to have to deal with hate and discrimination too!

Then I have to laugh aloud at my self-righteousness. It occurs to me <blush> that, just maybe, I'm as intolerant as they are. Who am I to accuse them of bigotry? (I can just see it. These very people will die miserable deaths without proper healthcare because someone decides that we need to get back to the 'traditional family values' that say our children should care for us when we're old. Oh, your daughter is a lesbian? Whoops.) Who am I to remind them about karma? I'm nobody. I don't even have a job.

We live in a black-white-brown-yellow-hetero-gay-bi-lesbian-transgender-men-women-old-young-foam-no foam kind of world. And in that world, love couldn't exist without hate, liberals without conservatives. We'd be bored to tears without these differences. Can you imagine? It would be like red without blue, an art world without critics, art directors without clients. We live in a world of contrasts, a world of diversity. Praise be.

This issue of *Slant* celebrates diversity – within the context of our community, our club, and our members. We are lucky, you and I. We belong to a

professional organization that celebrates our differences (in this quarterly magazine), rewards our creativity (through events like The Houston Show, Nov. 3rd), and supports our efforts to grow (through lectures by the likes of Arnold Newman, Nov. 7th).

It should prove to be an exciting year - city council elections and ordinances aside. A new Board was created. You can find out more about us on the Web site (www.adch.org). We're working hard to tighten up our speaker, event and social schedules (check the calendar and the Web site for updates). And, we're going to start publishing *Slant* regularly again - look for your next issue in December. Most importantly, we're going to be actively seeking all of your submissions, comments and suggestions. So, bring 'em on! We're all about celebrating diversity here at the Art Directors Club of Houston – and it's just not a party without you!

Last Word

JoAnn Takasaki is on the Board of ADCH and Editor of Slant magazine, 2001-2003. She's aspiring. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, send them to slant_editor@hotmail.com.