When KMOV-TV Crosses The Line

The recent attempt by KMOV-TV (Channel 4) to create the news rather than report it is reprehensible. We wonder what kinds of internal procedures the station has in place to allow this situation to go as far as it did. KMOV-TV has gone beyond the limits of acceptable broadcasting, regardless of the fact that the story was never aired.

Mont S. Levy
Chapter President
Rabbi Eric J. Braun
Vice President
Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Clayton

Now we know for sure that KMOV-TV and the Post-Dispatch will do anything to trash the Catholic Church. Placing on the front page the entrapment of a Catholic priest into a cash-for-sodomy situation staged by KMOV-TV is revolting. A sensational story, true, but does it belong on page one of a supposed family newspaper?

If I were this errant priest, I would sue KMOV-TV for millions based on privacy rights. If I were the head of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, I would sue the Post-Dispatch for inflammatory and incessant bigotry against the Catholic Church. Should Hillary Clinton want to really find out where “this spiritual vacuum at the heart of American society, this tumor of the soul” lies — it’s in the media.

Anne Stewart Connell
University City

No other word but sleaze could characterize KMOV-TV’s (Channel 4) recent entrapment of a priest. Channel 4 excuses itself by stating that the program was not aired, and the cameras and microphones were removed midway. But the intent was despicable and prurient. Big Brother of 1984, in this case, is not the government but newsmen determined to manufacture and create news rather than to report it. I applaud Dee Joyce-Hayes’ action to check for criminal activity on the station’s part in this voyeuristic set-up, and I am bypassing the Channel 4 button on my TV set.

Gloria Griffio
St. Louis

Thank you for the recent front-page coverage of KMOV-TV’s sensationalistic approach to the news. The purpose of journalism is to report what is happening. KMOV-TV tries to create the news, rather than report it. We feel that the way KMOV-TV goes about presenting the news is not in good taste. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary, a religious congregation of 250 members, is dedicated to justice. We, its leadership team, will no longer be getting our news from KMOV-TV.

Sr. Jacinta Eldemondorf, Constance Fahey, Jeannine Meurer, Mary Joan Meyer and Irma Kennebeck
Richmond Heights

Demonstrating and practicing high moral standards and ethical behavior for young people are the best ways to keep them from becoming involved with gangs, drugs, shootings, sexual promiscuity and violence. This must include the media and politicians.

While scandalous politicians can be voted out, TV stations like KMOV-TV and magazines like the Enquirer roll on in their sexually oriented, money-making trash. KMOV-TV has completely obliterated any signs of dignified journalistic ethics and style over the last few years with its sleazy, sexually suggestive promos and reporting. The recent attempt expose involving a male prostitute and a Catholic priest was the epitome of journalistic filth.

The “error in judgment” offered by General Manager Allan Cohen simply reflects his ignorance of high moral standards and statey journalism.

May God guide our children because the role models they so desperately need are failing.

Art Bauer
Floirissant

Views On News

Regarding the June 11 front-page article, “KMOV Owner Apologizes During Evening Newscast,” KMOV was clearly in the wrong by instigating this incident, but this admission is not the core of the story, and may have been premature by the station owner.

The root of this problem is the inability of the Catholic Church to admit that it harbors a large number of repeat sex offenders, and the lack of outside investigators with authority to see these offenders are removed from positions of public prominence.

The Catholic Church is unable to police itself, thus a large number of priests are free to continue molesting minors and young adults. Apparently the separation of church and state is failing us in this area; I have seen no evidence that state investigators are pursuing these offenders. Must the task of exposing these offenders be left to the private sector?

I believe that KMOV-TV had good intentions by investigating this priest. They wanted the public to be aware that the menace was still at large, despite recent church claims that the issue has been dealt with. I am saddened that the station manager saw fit to admit his mistake, while the Catholic Church strives to protect the guilty. Where is the apology from the church for having failed to remove this sex offender from among its numbers?

Richard T. Quick II
Glendale

The June 11 editorial concerning the unethical and unprofessional activity of KMOV-TV last week apparently decided that an apology and warning to media professionals to avoid unethical, immoral and possibly illegal behavior was sufficient.

Is that really enough? Where is the resolution? Had a priest been guilty of unethical, immoral or illegal behavior, would the editorial say an apology and warning were enough? No. It would seek resolution — removal of office, loss of position, prosecution, confinement for rehabilitation or imprisonment. Nothing like this was suggested in the editorial.

I join Bishop Edward J. O’Donnell in not watching Channel 4 until some resolution is evident. I encourage my parishioners to do so also.

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