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"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

Who Needs Clothes?

By Joe Giorgianni

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An astute reader alerted me that the wonderful, historic statue of "David" is having a little problem with the bureaucracy in a Central Florida town.

Upon investigating, I learned it isn't "David" who has the problem, but a keeper of his replica.

A Florida merchant elected to place a near life-sized statue of "David" in front of his business. It makes sense because the gentleman sells fountains and statues.

I say, why not display one of the most famous of Michelangelo's statues ever created? This is the same artist who painted the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel for crying out loud.

Frankly, I think there should be some questions directed to the faux art critics (one of whom didn't even know who David was). Perhaps a lesson is in order for those rejects of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" before they unfrock the entire art world. They should first learn with whom they are messing.

First, David was born naked, as we all are. As the second King of Israel and the slayer of one of the biggest bullies ever, he has the right to wear nothing.

Imagine if he had worn a stripped polyester shirt with argyle socks and plaid

pants. A fashion risk, of course, but hey, this was a long, long time ago. His Tommy Hilfiger loafers, were they available, would never have provided the traction he needed to operate that sling shot properly. The shirt would have restricted his arm swing and the pants would have slowed him down immensely.

What will these critics bemoan next? Perhaps they'll question what the "Mona

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Lisa" was thinking with such a smirk on her face. Did di Vinci have lewd and lascivious thoughts on his mind while painting one of the greatest masterpieces of all time? Was it something that would cause these censor-brained cretins to challenge her magnificence? Was the "Venus Di Milo" sculpted without arms to make a statement? Was this a message not to hitchhike? Perhaps it was meant for us not to wave greetings? Was Rodin a bad boy for not putting clothes on "The Thinker?" Without this widely reproduced piece of art, most commode manufacturers would have no advertising theme at all.

The folks in Central Florida need to

worry more about what's going on in their own neighborhood; concern themselves with how to increase SAT scores and how to feed those without food.

They need to worry about what to do with the multitude of lonely people in their area who have no health insurance or a place to lay their head at night.

What a pity that a few can change the display of what was intended to inspire the world.

I wondered what Michelangelo might say if he were asked about "David" wearing clothes.

Interviewer: "Sir, don't you think Dave should have some skivies on?"

Michelangelo: "Well, it was very hot on the day he came in the studio. And besides Goliath was totally overdressed."

Interviewer: "Sir, would you object to David wearing a loin cloth, perhaps a leopard skin?"

Michelangelo: "You're kidding, right?"

Interviewer: "Well, some people might object to seeing him naked."

Michelangelo: "Yeah, right. Tell that to the movie industry."

What a shame that many of the folks who object to some of the most famous art in the world are those who most probably have never seen it, or have never been beyond their city's limits.

My advice to these critics: Don't look, or better yet, get naked and read a book. ✨