

# Columnist prejudiced against Christians

To the Editor:

In a recent column, Jim Gillis wrote, "Not all the Christian hypocrites are lurking inside the Beltway." He went on to describe a professional football player, Eugene Robinson, as "Mr. Christian" and a phony. All right, so maybe he is. But I do have a question. Suppose it comes to light that one of those millionaire professional athletes, who happens to be Jewish, made a lot of money by cheating in a business deal. Do you suppose Jim Gillis would write sarcastically about him as a "greedy Jew?" Do you think it would even occur to him to use the phrase "all the greedy Jews?"

I don't think so. In fact, it bothers me to use that phrase in this letter. Why? Because it's stereotyping. It's suggesting that Jews in general are greedy, based on one isolated incident.

Stereotyping is made worse by rep-

etition. At least several times Gillis has taken gratuitous swipes at Christians; for example, by labeling politicians with whom he disagrees as "fundamentalist" or "right-wing Christians." I don't ever remember him singling out someone who did something good as a Christian.

Furthermore, why is it just Christians who bear the brunt of his acerbic pen? Why doesn't he check out the religion of all the bad apples in politics and professional sports and tag them with unflattering adjectives, especially those that reinforce stereotypes like "hypocritical," "greedy," and "right-wing?"

When a columnist uses derogatory terms for no other religion or ethnic group except Christians, and never singles out Christians for their good deeds, then I think that columnist has a problem. He is certainly prejudiced.

Now you might conclude from what I have written that I think The Daily News should look over Gillis's shoulder and stop him from saying nasty things about Christians. Not at all. As a matter of fact, I think that, as Charles J. Sykes has written, we are in danger of becoming a nation of victims — nearly everyone is a victim and therefore deserves pity and protected status. So as a Christian myself, I may be offended by what Gillis writes, but I certainly think he has every right to flaunt his prejudice in print if he wants to do so.

So, let Gillis fire away. Let him call 'em as he sees 'em. Maybe someday he'll find an athlete or politician who is not a hypocrite or right-wing or fundamentalist. Just a Christian. Maybe even a good Christian. If so, I hope he'll mention it.

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