



FINDFRED.COM
 The revolutionary new way for guys to meet guys.
 FIND YOUR MATCH PROMOCODE BLOG



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

"The Passion Of The Penguins"

by Michael in New York on [9/14/2005 02:02:00 PM](#)

If you had any doubts that far right religious radicals are goofy, banish them now. The New York Times reports that "**March of the Penguins**" -- a documentary about emperor penguins and their mating rituals -- has been embraced by the far right as a paean to monogamy, a stable family, intelligent design, and a Christ-like parable. The movie -- a word-of-mouth hit -- is the second biggest grossing non-large format documentary in history (right behind "Fahrenheit 9-11")."

To Andrew Coffin, writing in the widely circulated Christian publication World Magazine, [the movie] is **a winning argument for the theory that life is too complex to have arisen through random selection.**

Rich Lowry, the editor of National Review, told the young conservatives' gathering last month: "You have to check out 'March of the Penguins.' It is an amazing movie. **And I have to say, penguins are the really ideal example of monogamy.** These things - the dedication of these birds is just amazing."

For anyone who hasn't actually seen the film, let me tell you how ludicrously wrong they are. (The filmmakers are politely aghast that anyone could draw these absurd conclusions from it.) Coffin's comments are just bizarrely ill-informed (he's a film critic and not, I assume, a scientist).

Indeed, Coffin misleads about the very few facts the film offers up. The movie states at the very beginning that emperor penguins have lived in the Antarctic for millions of years; **Coffin ignores that and says only that they've been coming to this particular breeding ground for "thousands of years."**

What's truly hilarious is their assertion that emperor penguins represent a lovely example of monogamy. Here's what you actually see/learn in the film:

*Emperor penguins mate once, guard the egg until the baby is hatched and then -- once the season is over -- never see each other or the child again.

*Emperor penguins stand by and don't raise a flipper when their children are attacked by a predator -- one baby penguin is killed and taken away (survival of the fittest, kiddo!), a scene that makes the movie a tad too graphic for young and sensitive children.

*An emperor penguin who loses her egg is seen trying to steal the egg of another.

*Emperor penguins take a different lover every mating season.

These facts are **the central focus of the film.** To watch this film and somehow see it as an ode to monogamy is to ignore the entire film. It's sad and funny and ludicrous to imagine these people struggling to pull out a "Christian" message and morality from a nature film. They can do it -- if they ignore 95% of the film and the facts. Saying "March of the Penguins" celebrates monogamy is like saying "Wedding Crashers" celebrates the institution of marriage.



JOHN'S PHOTOS



Click here for more tips
fightglobalwarming.com
 Ad Council ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
 finding the ways that work

HOT OFF THE WIRE

HuffPost Politics

Mark Joseph: Nice Try Mr. President; Hold The Beer & Get The Tape - So, President Obama wants the Prof and the Cop to come to the White House, have a beer and make nice? Not so fast. One...
 7 minutes ago

Daily Kos

Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Tonight's crew of Rescue Rangers were vcmvo2, grog, dopper0189, shayera, and joyful. In the meantime, dadanation looked editorial. Oh yeah, a big shout ...
 26 minutes ago

Think Progress

Report: Cheney wanted to illegally deploy American troops in U.S. cities. - The New York Times reports that in 2002, Vice President Cheney and his administration allies urged President Bush to deploy American troops into the suburb...
 45 minutes ago

Crooks and Liars

Open Thread - Andy K here blogging about Andy Kaufman (no relation), who's on the same stage with Wolfman Jack? Whelp, there goes that theory. h/t to Ben Folds (yes, ...
 1 hour ago

Eschaton

Late Night Thread - Enjoy
 1 hour ago

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV

Next 6



A two minute explanation of the warped and cynical



The economy is better. But...




Judge order San Diego to get rid of the seals



Massive brawl in South Korean parliament



Mormons may have secretly baptized

I collect with  vodpod

[see all 329 videos >](#)

[Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.](#)

GAY POLITICS




Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS

-  [Blog RSS](#)
-  [1,487 readers](#)
- BY FEEDBURNER
-  [AMERICAblog TV RSS](#)
-  [Twitter RSS](#)
- [Twitter Feed](#)
-  [Mobile Version](#)
-  [Google](#)

Get the blog by email:

[Subscribe me!](#)



We're Listening!

Take this quick survey and help us help you.

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Ezra Klein

Tab Dump
5 hours ago

Wonk Room

F-22 Killed By Seven-Meme Voltron
5 hours ago

NYCeve

Huge victories: Maloney & Pingree - Health Care Heroes, Clyburn receives petition - video
6 hours ago

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
 Web

Search

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

Blog Archive

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

Donate

Recurring monthly donation

\$

Donate

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

Why AMERICAblog?

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

Who are you?

John Aravosis
Editor
Washington, DC

Joe Sudbay
Deputy Editor
Washington, DC

Chris Ryan
Associate Editor
Paris, France

Robert Arena
Contributing Editor
Baltimore, Maryland

Jacki Schechner
Contributing Editor
Washington, DC

