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## Comments at City of Eugene Human Rights Commission meeting 6/20/2023

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**Rick Dancer** <rick@rickdancer.com>

Thu, Jun 22, 2023 at 12:16 PM

To: John Quetzalcoatl Murray <johnq@publicnewspapers.org>

John,

Thank you for passing that along.

His quote "People are waking up to the BS (or something) of acceptance of non-binary people in film or children's media' or whatever it may be, you know?"

That is not what I said.

I never said anything about acceptance or non-acceptance of non-binary.

Do I think companies like Disney are going too far pushing an agenda, yes.

But that doesn't mean, nor did I say, I think people should hide who they are or not live as they choose to live but we should also give room for people to disagree with our choices without a public verbal flogging.

The "assembly" I spoke at in 2011 was a Martin Luther King assembly at North Eugene High.

I was asked by two prominent members of the black community to speak.

As I remember, white school leadership at the time, did not want me to speak.

My two friends convinced them to let me and it turned out well, according to them.

The school leader, who didn't think it was appropriate for me to speak (because I am white), apologized after the assembly.

That speech had nothing to do with this and was not about social justice.

It was about how we all need to see past color and work with each other.

We need to stop trying to force people to agree with us and instead be who we are despite what others think.

If we're comfortable in our skin, it shouldn't matter if people agree with us.

There was nothing in that speech about non-binary and the person trying to link the two is stretching to try to make his point.

You can disagree with someone's stand without being against them.

You really can.

Hope that helps.

[Quoted text hidden]