



Miss California Carrie Prejean reads from a bible during services at the Rock Church in San Diego Sunday, April, 26, 2009. Prejean has drawn attention for her comments against gay marriage at the Miss USA pageant, where she was first runner-up last weekend. (AP)

Miss California becomes Right-wing pin-up

A beauty queen who voiced her disapproval of gay marriage during a Miss USA pageant has become an unlikely pin-up for Right-wingers after she was subsequently insulted by one of the judges.

By Alex Spillius in Washington

Carrie Prejean has spent the week since she lost out on the coveted crown standing by her anti-gay marriage views as debate has raged about her remarks.

Saying she "had spoken from my heart, from my beliefs and for my God", she told ABC: "It's not about being politically correct. For me, it's about being biblically correct."

During the beauty contest she was asked for her views on gay marriage, which has recently been allowed by four new states, by Perez Hilton, a celebrity blogger who is openly gay.

She replied that "I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other. But in my country, and in my family, I think that I believe that mar-

riage should be between a man and a woman. No offence to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Contesting for California - which voted to ban gay marriage in November - she claimed her honest response had cost her the title, a claim denied by other judges who said they were uncomfortable with her expressing overt views when the Miss USA has to represent the whole country.

Either way, she has eclipsed the winner, Kristen Dalton from North Carolina.

Mr Hilton promptly called Miss Prejean "the B word" on his blog, and said he would have liked to call her something stronger, setting off a fresh skirmish in America's cultural war that has yet to die down.

Gary Schneeberger, vice-president of Focus on the Family, the country's largest conservative Christian pressure group, was among many who pointed out that Mr Hilton and his supporters were not showing Miss Prejean the same tolerance demanded by the gay community.

"Those who lean to the left

ideologically like to paint those of us on the other side as the 'intolerant' ones," Mr Schneeberger wrote.

"But some of them are going to have a hard time whitewashing the intolerance they've shown to Carrie Prejean."

Pointing out that 30 states had banned gay marriage, he went on: "What Mr Hilton and many other of Miss Prejean's attackers really mean is that they'd prefer people not bring their political and ideological convictions into the public square unless they align with the political and ideological convictions of Mr Hilton et al."

The Washington Times wrote in an editorial: "Pageants used to celebrate good, old-fashioned values, but today a young lady cannot be crowned Miss USA unless she supports same-sex marriage."

Catholic.org compared Miss Prejean to the Pope. "Miss California is a Christian. She is a student at San Diego Christian College, an evangelical Protestant school," it wrote.

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What is the smell?

Once upon a time there lived a 'Pundit', well versed in oriental languages such as Pali and Sanskrit, in a remote village of Sath Koralya (Kurunegala District). He engaged in religious activities of the village temple and teaching languages to the young Samanera Bhikkus (novices) of the temple.

This Pundit was fond of eating fish, especially the fresh water fish (.....).

One day he was coming home through a large stretch of paddy fields, in a dry season. At a 'wakkada' (sluice) of a paddy field few 'Lulas' (a kind of fresh water fish found in Sri Lanka) were dying in the hot sun. Our Pundit saw them and thought of making a sumptuous dinner with a fish curry. As there was nobody around, he picked a few Lulas, wrapped them in 'Baknee' leaves, covered with his shawl and kept the parcel under his armpit and went briskly towards his abode.

Unfortunately on the way, he encountered with an old friend, who was also a scholar and a poet. The friend noticed the parcel kept under the armpit of the Pundit and asked 'what it was,' in a poetic style.

.....
(What is there under the armpit?)

Pundit got excited and replied:

.....
(A book (ola leaf) and a style (a writing instrument))

Then the friend got the smell of the fish and asked:

.....
(What is the smell (bad))

Pundit replied thus:

.....
(Very old book and a style)

Rajendra Bandara



WHAT'S YOUR SIGN? Miley Cyrus walks the line of eagerly awaiting fans on Thursday, signing a few autographs during the U.K. premiere of Hannah Montana: The Movie at the Odeon Leicester Square cinemas in London.



BLACK & TAN Hillary Duff keeps cozy, yet stylish, with a Leigh & Luca scarf while running errands near New York City's Union Square on Thursday.



SOCIETY GIRL Beyoncé Knowles flaunts her fabulous figure with a sexy, sequined LBD at the New York premiere of her thriller, Obsessed, hosted by the Cinema Society and MCM, at the School of Visual Arts on Thursday night.



SHOE AWAY Gisele Bündchen kicks up her heels - and shows off some colorful footwear - Wednesday at a promotional event for Ipanema Sandals in Madrid, Spain. The supermodel is the face of the eco-conscious Brazilian shoe line (which supports organizations trying to preserve the rainforest in her native country) and has designed sandals for the collection.



VANESSA HUDGENS, 20 The High School Musical star is happy to do away with the daily duties of wearing makeup, especially when "a special someone" told her she didn't need it. Could that person be boyfriend Zac Efron? The chances are good, since he confessed to Rolling Stone that Hudgens "is a very sexy woman."



IN STYLE Taking a page from her Gossip Girl style guide, a color-coordinated Leighton Meester is fashionably fierce - check out her Christian Louboutin matching heels! - at the Chloé Los Angeles boutique opening at L.A.'s Milk Studios on Thursday.