

Going a little overboard

Honestly, I think Mrs. Maziarka is going a little overboard. The West Bend public library is not forcing youth to read homosexual books. It is simply suggesting that readers may find them interesting.

It is also not suggesting that these kids go out and engage in "sexual activity" like Mrs. Maziarka seems to think. That claim was a stretch, and I am starting to think that she wants it to be like that so she has a legitimate argument.

The fact that they go as young as sixth grade to allow these books is probably the best thing. Statistically speaking, most kids these days, when they realize that they are homosexual, realize this in middle school, if not even younger, and they just hide behind the straight life to avoid judgment and harassment until later when they can better protect themselves.

Books like this help some kids see that they are not the only ones going through changes like this and that they really shouldn't have to be ashamed of it. I have found comfort in books and have known friends to find the same kind of comfort in books, especially ones that we can really relate to in times of change in our own lives.

These books are out here to help the world realize that homosexuality is a big part of daily life in the world.

Because schools aren't allowed to have support groups for kids who are homosexual in such an apparently conservative area, they need what little escape of daily judgment they can get.

It seems like certain members of our community are trying to undo decades of progress we have accomplished on the equal rights front.

How are we ever going to hope for less war in the world if we can't accept the different lifestyles among people in our own communities, let alone the rest of the world?

Ashley Wimer
West Bend

Be thankful for open-minded library

This is in response to the Feb. 6 article about the link on the West Bend Community Memorial Library's Web site.

Anyone who is questioning whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans-gendered should feel comfortable being able to approach the library for information. That will change if this page is taken off the Web site. This section of the Web site is an excellent source for young adults, whether they are questioning themselves or know someone going through the situation.

Taxpayers should not be outraged by this. We should be grateful that we have access to a library that is open-minded and accepting. Please keep it that way at the West Bend Library.

Sara Larsen
West Bend

Gay resources can help

A call comes for the Library Board to direct the removal of Web links from library computers to certain literature because the subject matter is offensive to a segment of the West Bend community. However, it is necessary for the board and the director to resist all efforts for such action. A public

library, by its very nature, is intended to serve all of the community and to provide a source of ideas which may be repugnant to some. Only by disseminating all kinds of ideas can individual freedom truly be exercised.

As the parent of a gay man, I feel that it would have been helpful for our family and our son to have had access to literature on homosexuality when he was a teenager. We would have been better able to understand the emotions and situations he was dealing with. It is to the West Bend public library's credit that such information is available to the young people of the community. This can be a significant aid to many as they enter and grow through adolescence.

Bob Broman
West Bend

Land Act provides needed boost

Congress will soon vote on the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, a far-reaching bill that would protect wilderness areas, rivers, heritage sites, and parks on public lands across the United States.

These wilderness areas and other protected lands provide great benefits to rural economies by increasing property values, providing new economic opportunities in recreation and tourism, and creating desirable places for people to live and work.

Perhaps more importantly, the legislation will protect the special places that make America so great. These wonderful parks, rivers and historic sites will be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The nation is staggering due to the economic crisis. In times like these, it becomes even more important for people to have a place to get away from it all and enjoy the peace and quiet of nature. The omnibus land act will provide just these opportunities.

Our representative, F. James Sensenbrenner, should vote for this measure. This legislation is good for our state and good for America.

Charles McCall
West Bend

TOWRITE

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Today's Inspiration

*"A gem cannot be polished
without friction, nor man
perfected without trials."*

— Chinese proverb