

LY NEWS  
County's Daily Newspaper

OPINION  
THURSDAY

Steve J  
Dan I



MARK BELLING

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ending, outrageous  
ling will further  
ge our economy

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ly attributed to, at one time or  
dy

meltdown has led to a credit cri-  
the reason we're bailing out the  
ultitrillion dollar-TARP fund,  
ause of the freeze-up in the credit  
old, we must provide government  
loans in order to get the lenders  
ving again. Right?

ton to Madison to Davos, every-  
that unfathomable sums of  
borrowed and loaned in order to  
markets juiced. President Bush  
Obama is saying it, Barney  
y Pelosi are saying it and Jim  
t. Well, if that's what they believe,

Senate has just passed legislation  
ens second in line behind employ-  
f financially troubled businesses.  
means that if a lien is slapped on  
siness before it is sold the employ-  
'll get first crack at the proceeds.  
cratic Party legislation. "Put the  
f the grubby rich banker," state  
bellowed. (I didn't actually hear  
did I see a quote but it's a pretty

that banks hate making loans that  
zed. If a business stiffs a bank on a  
k can't get some of its money bank  
n, the bank is far less likely to  
the first place. But isn't the whole

Libraries owe it to public  
to offer gay-lesbian material

By KRISTINA SMITHERS

I have a few points I would like to make regarding the West Bend Community Memorial Library controversy.

First it is a public library and not a private one. Therefore it is mandated to not discriminate on any level against anyone. Just ask the School Board, which included a new harassment policy called "protected class."

Second, I may not agree with the gay and lesbian lifestyle, however, I will not stand in judgment of those who either question the possibility or live in it. It is their choice to make, not mine.

Would you rather have your children be alive and trying to find a way through their life as every other teen must do and be a positive, contributing member of society or dead and not have the choice? I say this simply because if you look at the many Hollywood A-listers who have come out of the proverbial closet they have spoken about the thousands and thousands of letters they received from young people saying they were ready to end their life because they could not face the persecution of family, friends or their churches about their decision, but because this A-lister came out they feel that they can, too. Strength can be contagious, like many other things.

My last point is the names the library is in memory of (as well as The Cancer Care Center in West Bend), Alyce and Elmore Kraemer, are my great-aunt and -uncle.

Through the years of hearing my dad talk about them

and, knowing that Alyce had once been a teacher, I do not think she would object to these resources being available to those that either need or want them.

Every choice or decision needs to be made through education. That is what she believed and I happen to agree. Sometimes that education is not given at home and is sought from different places. If opposed at home and the young person is still needing answers, why not the public library?

To those opposed to this content on the library's Web site: Teach the morals in your home and church and do not try and force a publicly funded institution to do it. Especially one who's primary goal is to provide unbiased information and resources.

I may not live my life from the homosexual perspective and I am not a proponent of it, but I am also not going to throw stones and judge anyone else who does choose that course. We need to teach our children tolerance of all differences. As Martin Luther King Jr. preached, we do not accomplish our goals via violence and hate, but through tolerance, understanding, and education.

This community is good at arguing via the paper about things that in the end are

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things we need to be teaching our children at home - not in our schools or our public buildings. If, for instance, the library dropped all of its pro-Bush, pro-conservative or Republican links and placed only liberal agendas or pro-Obama links, then that would be discrimination, correct? That would create a public outcry, right?

The library would not do that because it is an unbiased institution. Try it, you too may enjoy maybe even a little bit more peace about things instead of getting so angry and frustrated about things you feel our public institutions should be teaching when, by law, they cannot. Spend that energy teaching children to know people are different and to be tolerant of the differences even if you do not approve of the choices made or behavior exhibited. It will take them far further in life.

(Kristina Smithers is a resident of West Bend.)



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Such cost-effecti education at the l addition, the UW freeze the tuition bound students w native.

Another benefit of the UW college

GUESTVIEW

Guest Views are unsolicited, unique, well-written opinions that provide added insight beyond letters. They will be limited on any one topic to provide as much space to letters as possible. Contact Opinion Page Editor Dan Muckelbauer, 262-306-5045.