

Libraries held 'hostage'

The citizens of West Bend must understand that our taxpayer-funded community public libraries have been taken "hostage" by the radical American Library Association - www.ala.org - which imposes its arbitrary "Freedom to Read" policies, without any consideration for local moral or ethical standards or sensitivity to the innocence and culpability of children. In most public libraries, ALA's policies prohibit parents from viewing their child's reading record. In any other place, this hostility would be viewed as a serious violation of parental rights.

Wisconsin Obscenity Laws (944.21 - Crimes - Sexual Morality) clearly state activities considered to be a criminal violation:

"(a) Distributes, exhibits, or plays any obscene material to a person under the age of 18 years.

(b) Has in his or her possession with intent to distribute, exhibit, or play to a person under the age of 18 years any obscene material."

The American Library Association is the only nongovernmental, private organization in the United States, other than the porn and sex industry, that panders to the prurient interests of public library patrons - including children under the age of 18 - hiding its egregious intent behind distorted rhetoric and pretense as "defender" of First Amendment rights.

The Wisconsin Obscenity Statute, Chapter 944, also directs: "(8) (a) The legislature finds that the libraries and educational institutions under par. (b) carry out the essential purpose of making available to all citizens a current, balanced collection of books, reference materials, periodicals, sound recordings and audiovisual materials that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society."

According to this statute, "balanced collection of books" means that the West Bend library is required to also exhibit books, in the Youth Section, written by those who have left the homosexual lifestyle. Right?

Arlene Sawicki
South Barrington, Ill.
Community activist

Filter innocence of youth

As an early childhood educator, I work with children 6 weeks to 12 years old. I see their innocence and vulnerability every day. I know first-hand how their minds are affected by new information. By reading, children of all ages develop cognitively, and by building these cognitive skills, a child enriches the imagination.

I attended the library meeting on March 26 at Silverbrook School. From what I've seen of Ginny and Jim Maziarka, they are passionate, classy people who want the best for their family and community. They speak with dignity, respect, and poise.

To me this meeting was made into a mockery! It was as if it was open-mic night at a confession booth.

There were Christians - and I do use this term loosely - filled with resentment, animosity, and anger against the homosexuals or against fellow Christians and parents who feel it right to put a sticker on books that have sexually descriptive content. There were homosexuals and their supporters who felt it necessary to share their personal business and make inane remarks against God and those who believe in Him. Some who spoke did so with misinformed ignorance.

The teens were the most misinformed, one stated, "only one-third of the library is funded by taxpayers, the rest is funded by the federal government." When some replied that the Fed's funds come from the people the young man responded, "well I don't know where it comes from, but it doesn't come from y'all."

The atmosphere was filled with tension from many who spoke. The real reason was lost until the Maziarkas re-stated the need for protecting each minor from picking up a book they didn't intend to pick up at our library. We need to label the material, filter the Internet and preserve the innocence of our youth.

Nicole Robson
West Bend

Fernandez needed to run DPI

There are issues the state Department of Public Instruction has been working on for years. They only seem to accomplish as much as Wisconsin Education Association Council allows them to. After all we don't want to upset the goose that lays the golden egg of campaign funding.

Accountability is the word going around these days and there hasn't been any of that. Keeping the same regime in power tells everyone we are satisfied with current state of education in our state.

Rose Fernandez thinks about the future of not only the children but the educational system in our state. As with many other areas of our lives, the cost of education will exceed the income (if that hasn't already happened). Rose can see ways to relieve the burden.

There are many alternative tools out there that the present administration has chosen to ignore. We need someone who isn't afraid to implement new ideas and not ask for permission from the teachers union. A real person with firsthand knowledge of how well an up-to-date school system CAN work.

We need to get out of the rut we are in. We need a DPI that will demand quality educators. We need Rose Fernandez running DPI. We need to eliminate the status quo and look to the future.

Russ Peck
Jackson

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