

5-8-09

# YOUR VIEWS

## Religious right goes too far

I would like to thank the staff of the West Bend Community Library for their dedicated professional service, and I urge the citizens of West Bend to support them in their hour of need. The demands of the well-meaning but misguided groups attempting to impose their beliefs on our community remind one of the book burning in Nazi Germany or Afghanistan under the Taliban. While these groups have a right to their opinion, they do not have the right to force their beliefs upon others.

A similar situation occurred in Dover, Pa., in 2005, where the religious right managed to gain control of the school board and tried to force the teaching of "creation science." This resulted in a lengthy trial, which turned neighbors against neighbor, before the group was finally defeated. Is this really where we want to go?

To give in to the current demands would be a violation of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids the government from promoting the beliefs of any religious group. We should follow the wisdom of our founding fathers; it has served us well for more than 230 years.

One of the greatest needs of our community is to attract new businesses to replace the jobs that have been lost over the past 10 years. A reputation for intolerance would not put us on the short list for a company that was evaluating a move to southeast Wisconsin.

We are living in very difficult times. To move on to a better future, we must have the same spirit of unity that existed during the difficult years of World War II. I urge our government officials to deal with the library situation as quickly as possible, so that we can direct our efforts to more urgent needs.

Dennis Loeffler  
West Bend

## Council goes too far on library

West Bend City Council, now you've done it. Instead of correctly dealing with a local Christian group whose main purpose is to push their will down the throats of everyone else, you threw gasoline on the fire, and now have to deal with a Milwaukee-based organization looking to fill their coffers with West Bend money. By the time all is said and done, it's not hard to imagine there will be numerous other organizations which will recognize the possibility of help for their groups, too.

In the meantime, just where would the \$30,000 per plaintiff come from? Did someone say taxpayer? One of the big reasons our full school referendum didn't pass was because times are tough, money is scarce.

West Bend City Council, your work is just beginning. It's time to work for the constitutional rights of all the citizens of West Bend.

The next election for aldermen will be very interesting.

Kathleen Roecker  
West Bend

## TOWRITE

The Daily News welcomes letters to the editor. We require that letters be no more than 300 words in length, legibly written or typed, that the author sign the letter and that a telephone number and address be included where the author can be reached. Only letters including the name of the writer will be published. Letter writers are limited to one letter per month. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel and content in poor taste. Letters should be mailed to 100 S. Sixth Ave., West Bend 53095, faxed to 262-338-1984 or e-mailed to [dailynewseditorial@conleynet.com](mailto:dailynewseditorial@conleynet.com).

## Today's Inspiration

*"Truly, it is in darkness that one finds the light, so when we are in sorrow, then this light is nearest of all to us."*

- Meister Eckhart

## FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives the press the right to publish news, information and opinions without government interference. This also means people have the right to publish their own newspapers, newsletters, magazines, etc.

"The majority will probably win when it comes to resolving issues that we can't resolve, but most of other areas where we can and "make progress."

The officials who actually work for the country while they weep are continuing to defend themselves just end up further implicating themselves.

Condi Rice, who passed her Ph.D. professor of political science at Stanford by a student at a reception at the White House.

I've often wondered why she's more vocal in questioning the Iraq war and "legal" torture spots at prestigious universities. It would have taken the draft to concentrate the mind. But finally Stanford spoke up. Saying he Rice authorized waterboarding: "waterboarding torture?"

She replied: "The president is nothing we would do would violate our obligations, legal obligations, under the Constitution. So that's - we don't authorize anything. I convey the administration to the agencies."

This was precisely Condi's strategy. She never stood up to Rummy for either what was wrong or what was smart in terms of our country.

The student pressed against her: "Waterboarding was torture."

"By definition, if it was a violation, it did not violate our Constitution. Conventions Against Torture almost quoting Nixon's logic: "If you do it, that means that it is not a violation."

She also stressed that, "It is not a position of responsibility not to possibly imagine the difficulty in trying to protect America."

Reyna Garcia, a Stanford student who taped the exchange, said she was completely satisfied with her report, adding that "President Bush and called it torture and she could not do that."

As Mr. Obama said in his inaugural moments of crisis that he stands on his principles. Asserting that he stands on his ideals," he said he was proud of the article describing how Chu was treating prisoners even when "Lions and tigers and bears - oh my!"

"And the reason was that you start taking shortcuts and you lose what's best in a people and the character of a country. Class dismissed."

(Maureen Dowd's syndicated column in the Daily News.)