

Library is being progressive

I am writing in support of whomever included a link on our library's Web site to the book list "Out of the Closet," now "Over the Rainbow." That was a progressive move which could reassure young people on their journey of sexual expression. I am glad the list has not been removed in response to community members' alarm, calling certain books pornography.

I hope the library's director, staff and board are feeling the pride that many of us in the community have in the diversity of materials offered. Some of the aldermen have reacted prematurely and inappropriately in sanctioning Library Board members for not responding to complaints communicated mainly at blog spots. I hope the aldermen will appoint Library Board members who will take into account opinions of the whole community.

When citizens ask for library books to be moved, labeled or burned, the implied message to the books' target audience is that youth cannot handle the information. Although fiction, factual text or illustrations may be offensive to some, the materials are correct medically and portray the sexual fantasies/realities of our culture.

If our daughters were not getting information about healthy sexuality from us as parents, public education and our church's comprehensive program, I would prefer to have their curiosity satisfied by library books rather than by peers.

If the consensus turns out to be impressionable youth are sexually active, then the solution is way more more complicated than reclassifying, identifying or destroying books. Influences include any number of electronic means, including Internet social networking, not to mention cable TV, movies and advertisements. Peer pressure continues to be tremendous.

Nothing fosters healthy development like open communication with parents who start early and build on discussions as children grow. At some point, we must trust our children to make their own decisions.

**Joy Schroeder
West Bend**

Times are tough

I'm writing to you today to address a topic that is very important to me. You see, my husband is a construction worker, and recently times have been pretty tough for us. I'm a stay-at-home mom for our three small children, and my husband has been in the trades since high school. He's a really hard worker and good at his job as a foreman. I'm concerned for him though, because nowadays, there just isn't a lot of work to be had - anywhere. My husband has always been a hard worker. He takes pride in doing the best job he can. All I ask is that the same is done for him.

I've been hearing a lot of talk about this prevailing wage provision in the budget and I really want to make sure that there are laws that protect people like my husband. From what I understand, prevailing wage is exactly the kind of protection we'd be looking for. Prevailing wage guarantees that my husband will be paid the going rate for his labor when public money is involved in a project. It just seems like common

sense to me.

We pay taxes on my husband's wages. Why shouldn't he get the fair amount of salary for all the hard work that he does? I support strengthening the prevailing wage provision and you should too.

**Cassie Martzahl
Hartford**

What part of illegal doesn't Gov. Doyle understand?

The Daily News edition of Saturday, May 30, has an interesting item on page A-8 with the heading of "Doyle open to driver's cards for illegals."

What part of illegal doesn't our governor understand?

With our state heavy into debts of country as well as our state we are going to provide a measure for "illegals" the privilege to drive in our state.

Recently our governor expressed his desire to offer free tuition for illegals to become students of Wisconsin colleges!

With such generous offers how will this further impact our current budget problems? Why are we forcing local, taxpaying citizens, of our state to take time off from their jobs to permit those that enter this country without legal authority the opportunity to drive and be educated?

Where at your priorities Gov. Doyle? First of all you must understand that "illegals" are not permitted to vote and is it necessary to provide these services free to persons who are illegal?

As taxpayers and voters we have a right to know.

**John H. Swanson
West Bend**

Please clean up after your dogs

I'm a student at Holy Angels School. I have a problem to tell to the citizens of West Bend. My problem is that I see people in our neighborhood who like to walk their dogs, and they don't clean up after their dogs. They just leave the waste in other people's yard or on sidewalks sometimes.

My first good reason is people who visit or are just taking a walk will think that we don't take care of our dogs. It will look like we don't pick up our dogs' waste. Besides that we shouldn't have to pick up other people's dog's waste.

My second reason is if there is dog waste on the sidewalks, little children could just step in it real easy. Let me tell you, I have stepped in it a couple times myself, and it does not smell that great.

My last reason is dog waste is smelly, unsightly and damaging. It's damaging because if it's left on sidewalks so long, it will stain the sidewalk. Then we will have to pay workers to get the sidewalks repaved.

All I ask for is: people with dogs, please clean up after them. This could improve our city so much, just doing one little thing in the world. Even though there are many more things in the world that can be done, this is only one little way we can help by cleaning up our city.

**Leah Peters
West Bend**

latest soft-on-crime measure is to keep government spending down budget, however, they have managed to increase spending by 7 percent (deficit). They have also found more pet projects like \$44.5 million for a new building at UW-Eau Claire, AIDS Network in Madison, and recycle bins for the citizens of W

The notion that Wisconsin needs more crooks into the streets in order to pay for the core responsibilities of government is laughable. Law enforcement is not the other government spending should be reduced below it. If the Democrats themselves to cut spending on the Opera House (\$500,000) or the M. Children's Museum (\$250,000), it is an excuse not to keep crooks in prison.

The real tragedy of this proposal will cost much more than it saved earlier; the people who are rarely first time offenders. Many of them are repeat offenders, career criminals. Most of them will result in more costs for location and, in many cases, they will end up right back where they started: prison.

But the real cost is not in dollars. The real cost will be the proper care of aged or stolen, the lives that will be spilled and the blood that will be spilled of criminals is unleashed on Wisconsin.

Government policies have reduced and the consequences of releasing criminals won't be good. We will commit more crimes when they have been in prison, be sure to remember Doyle and the Democrats in the culpable for the damage done.

(Owen B. Robinson, a West Bend blogger who publishes at www.owenb.com. His column runs Tuesdays in News.)

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TOWRITE

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