

YOUR VIEWS

Smoke free law is life-saving

I quit smoking Oct. 27, 2008, and it has been the best choice I could have made. I realized that my smoking had taken over my life. My everyday rituals also become my smoking rituals; talking on the phone, Friday night fish fry, the morning cup of coffee, stop for a drink at the bar or a drive in the car. Not to mention the inability to walk a flight of stairs without becoming winded. The awareness of what this drug was doing to me was devastating. So devastating that I knew I needed to quit now or be an addict for the rest of my life, or worse, lose my fight with tobacco through an untimely death.

I am proud to be smoke free now for 7 months. I have defeated this addicting drug and have made healthier choices for myself. The only obstacle that continued to stand in my way is when I went out for dinner or a trip to the bowling alley with my children where there was smoking allowed, which in return made me not want to go to these places. With the new smoke free law that was signed on May 18, these obstacles will no longer be a problem for me. I am pleased with the decision of Wisconsin Legislation and Gov. Doyle in passing this life saving law for all residents of Wisconsin.

Michelle Chapman
Kewaskum

There should be no ethics hearing

I was there the night Mr. Vrana spoke, and he got a rousing round of applause of agreement from the many West Bend citizens who were there. They are part of the "West Bend as a whole."

Mr. Vrana was speaking out on behalf of people in West Bend who have the conservative view. That usually will cause a stir from those who would have their conscience pricked by the sting of truth and the shame of partiality being unveiled.

His post is to speak for his constituents, not protect the sensibilities of the board.

Cara Pepper
West Bend

Vrana should be held accountable

Of course there should be an ethics hearing over Alderman Vrana's remarks.

How ironic that the four well-educated, experienced Library Board members that were not reappointed had their own opinions on the book controversy and were following the law but were chastised by Vrana and a few other alderman. But Terry Vrana can use his alderman position to spew his own personal opinion and call the library "a porn shop" and think he should not be held accountable.

Jane Disler
Town of Farmington

Vrana deserves respect

I am also tired of the criticism of Terry Vrana in respect to the library issue. He has only done things that are good for this community.

Aldermanic duties require time and commitment. Many people are not willing to make this sacrifice. I also believe many others could be deterred from community service with these latest attacks on him. As Ken Staehler put it: "No one who knows Mr. Vrana would question his ethics or his commitment to the city of West Bend."

He is a lifelong resident, loves this community, is a business owner and commits to countless hours of service. I don't see anyone standing in line for jobs like that.

I think the community needs more people like him. I always thought that he would make a good mayor.

Ron Jung
West Bend

Congress out of time

President Obama's speech to the Muslim world resonates with my belief in the importance of U.S. efforts to start a "new beginning" with Muslims around the world. As Obama said, people of the Muslim faith have enriched many communities here in the United States and, of course, are important allies of the United States around the world.

I have been impressed by the president's efforts to talk honestly and directly to both Israelis and Palestinians about the need to support peacemaking. I also appreciate his appeals for nonviolent, parliamentary actions to bring democracy and justice to the region.

At the same time, I'm concerned that many members of Congress are still stuck in the failed policies of the past - supporting force over negotiations and quick to condemn other countries rather than appeal for the kind of cooperation that the president articulated.

Congress has too often heard the drumbeat of forces that support the status quo, play on fear, and court wider U.S. military actions. Congress needs to hear the beat of a different drummer.

Charles McCall
West Bend

TOWRITE

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