

**We Energies doesn't need a bigger profit**

Three-hundred-fifty-nine million dollars profit and We Energies is asking the Public Service Commission for a 7-percent raise in electric rates. Why? Isn't \$359.1 million enough profit?

President Obama has asked us to conserve energy. Now that concerned citizens are doing this, We Energies wants to raise our rates because we are not using enough electricity so they can make more profit.

It seems when any utility wants a raise, the Public Service Commission grants it. Are the Public Service commissioners lining their pockets too like the big wigs and stock holders are doing by granting all these raises?

We Energies states they need money for new construction, pensions, etc. They had a big profit. Why not use this money? Oh, yes, they said they want another 1 percent raise in rates in 2010.

When will they stop? You and I who payout monthly utility bills know the answer: Never.

Gilbert Derler  
West Bend

**Looking at 'community standards'**

Recently, "community standards" with respect to the evaluation of books made available to children at the library has been discussed on your editorial page.

As a lawyer who has litigated the issue of "community standards" many times, I offer the following: In the First Amendment context, both with respect to obscenity and materials alleged to be harmful to children, the word "community" refers to the whole state of Wisconsin, not just the local community where the material is challenged.

The ultimate arbiter of "community standards" is the judge where a challenge to the particular material is raised either in a declaratory judgment proceeding or in a criminal trial where the decision gets made by a jury or the judge, if no jury is empanelled. The issue is decided based upon a reasoned discussion of the materials taken as a whole under the appropriate legal standard. Part of that reasoned discussion often includes the opinions of experts knowledgeable about the topics discussed, including librarians, literary scholars, childhood development experts and statisticians who have conducted polling in the state. One person or group never gets to dictate whether material violates the appropriate "community standards," especially if religious justifications are offered.

Waring Fincke  
West Bend

**Protecting innocent children**

Although I don't agree with Mayor Kristine Deiss, Barbara Deters or Michael Tyree, I find redeeming qualities of the West Bend Community Library and use it frequently.

I'm, however, compelled to write to say that this situation isn't about the ALA, freedom of speech, or homosexual versus heterosexual. These "freedoms" aren't the ones that are really being harmed by moving these books.

It's about protecting the innocent children who go to libraries. Yes, it's true that parents should be involved as to what their children are reading and be concerned about the content of what's being fed to their developing minds. What about those innocent children who are 11 or 12, who don't have parents involved in their lives because they are overwhelmed by being a single parent, two parents working several jobs or those who have parents or caretakers who just cannot be there because of physical illness, mental illness or death, etc.

and choose the library as a "safe" place to go?

I have questions for those who don't support the movement of these books to another area of the library, where parents can check out these books for their own children. If your children, grandchildren are a part of a caring family and benefit from your keen involvement in their lives, wouldn't you think of those who don't have what you have? What about the children that we choose to ignore? What about the children that "fall through the cracks"? All of our freedoms are nothing if we don't protect those innocent who cannot protect themselves.

My final question is: "Is the money and time being spent on this not worth protecting those who cannot protect themselves?" I applaud the Maziarkas and others who have taken the time, energy and money to defend the innocent!

Julie Graham  
Kewaskum

**'Continuous show of greed'**

Hartford taxpayers, they're back. Like a spoiled child, the Hartford School District refuses to take no for an answer. Twice their huge spending demands have been rejected by the voters. They have no shame. In this era of sky-high taxes, layoffs, business flight and failure, no new construction and shrinking families, to ask for more is just unbelievable.

We all know private schools educate each child for about one-third of the cost. The "crowded" classrooms have half the pupils anyone over 40 had in their classes. There will be fewer students in the future, not more. Poor condition can be solved by assigning the maintenance work to competent people who can stay within budget.

There should be a five-year period after a rejected referendum, after which they could ask again. This would allow the district to make an honest effort to live within their generous income. That might stop this continuous show of greed.

M.J. Stolarczyk  
Hartford

**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@conley.net](mailto:dailynewseditorial@conley.net).

**FIRSTAMENDMENT**

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.

**Today's Inspiration**

*"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."*

- Nelson Mandela

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