

Letters to the editor

Reader slams columnist's opinions

To the editor of The Herald: Last week, one Gerry Landsborough ("Viewpoint") unburdened herself of some portentous polemics in the matter of gay rights. In her confused tirade, Ms. Landsborough proclaimed herself a journalist.

Some journalist! In her views on homosexuality (so far as I could discern their precise drift) and in her command of the language, Ms. Landsborough appeared to have run the gamut of her resources - from A to B.

Putting to one side for the moment Ms. Landsborough's barbaric and paleolithic views on deviant sexual behaviour ("being green is not a crime in any country on this planet but I'll be damned if I want my child being taught by someone green..."), let me draw your attention to some of the finer felicities of her prose style:

1. Gross Incoherence. "In today's crazy world of ever changing values and the everyday pressures of living things were strange enough when an entire generation of middleage (sic) adults starting analysing themselves..."

2. Clumsiness "... It is not agreed upon in scientific circles whether homosexuality is a conditioned behaviour or a physical condition that one is born with that cannot be changed."

3. Lack of Agreement. Several examples of this. One will suffice, perhaps: "Now comes the difficult parts..." "Quite, Ms. Landsborough."

4. Run-on sentences. More than one sample of this, too. Try: "Sexual orientation" is garbage our sexual orientation was designed by nature..."

5. Whimsical (not to say, exotic) vocabulary usage: Consider: "We expect certain practices to be done..." How do you DO practices, Ms. Landsborough? Or: "... What is an endanger to freedom of the press..." Ignorance, Ms. Landsborough.

Clean up McGibbon

Dear Sir, I'm writing about the hotel situation in Georgetown. We have none. Our only hotel, the McGibbon hotel, is so stinky I do not think a bum would give it a second glance. It also gives this town a bad impression. People travelling, stop in Georgetown, and look for a suitable hotel. When they find none, away they go. There goes what little tourist business Georgetown has. Trav-

elling business men who would like to stop overnight, no hotel. Last year a man was killed in the McGibbon hotel in a drunken brawl. The place is disgusting and should be closed down, torn down and a new one rebuilt. I think that if small towns can have a half decent hotel why not Georgetown? I think that we could build one of we tried.

6. Inconsistency: I agree with Ms. Landsborough here. Let's get rid of the subjunctive. However, let's eliminate it all together, shall we? Let's not chicken out, as in: "If their political view WAS drastically removed from mine - if their social, moral view WERE (sic) drastically different..."

7. Spelling, Ms. Landsborough, pleases! "These are done UNCONSCIENCESELY..." Reely? "Because a groups BANS together..." Right on the muneys, Ms. Landsborough!

8. Lack of any visible antecedent. "... I'll be damned if I want my child being taught by someone green and I really don't care if THEY are normal in every other respect..." Come, come Ms. Landsborough - to whom does the word THEY refer?

9. Comma Blunder: As in: "Destroying the moral fibre of any society is the destruction of that society itself, history bears that point out."

10. No Punctuation. For instance: "... the majority of the population does not paint themselves (sic) green nor would they want their child taught by a green person - it is not in keeping with what we consider 'normal' we being the majority."

Now if Ms. Landsborough makes her livelihood (as she suggests) by mangling the language in a fashion that would be intolerable in a Grade 9 class, the craft of journalism (and your paper) is in a lot more trouble than I would previously have believed. Moreover, if Ms. Landsborough (as a "columnist") can so garble even the simplest cadences of the mother tongue, how much more garbled do you suppose her thought processes must be? Indeed, her hodge-podge of prejudices about minority rights and behaviour exhibits the moral sensitivity of a lynch-mob and the humility of a gaulleifer. Perhaps Ms. Landsborough should first learn to write, before launching herself into the headier realms of psychology and ethics.

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