

Letters to the editor...letters to the editor... letters to the editor

Flag issue was about headlines not human rights

Dear editor,
In response to the Marsellas Oct. 31 letter ('Intolerant' letters should not be published'), they state we have free speech but they are also trying to dictate what is acceptable as free speech.

Concerning the Pride flag, what bothers me is why does this flag fly when many others are refused? They scream about fairness, but are the first ones to bring out the discrimination card when something goes against them. This is not fair to anyone and should be discussed in the community where it is happening.

What people do in their bedrooms is their business, but what flags fly on our Town poles is all of our business and if other flags are refused why should we fly this one?

It was only after being bullied with the threat of being taken to the Human Rights Commission did we fly it anyway. This has nothing to do with human rights. It has to do with making headlines.

I believe *The Independent & Free Press* does a fine job on the letters they publish, they show both sides of an issue and allow the Marsellas to put forth their opinion even if it is arguable.

Let's all remember, Remembrance Day was held recently and by allowing all different opinions to be published and discussed it shows our glorious and brave soldiers did not fight and die in vain.

Greg Thoms,
Georgetown

Town needs diversity 'help'

Dear editor,
I agree with the letter from Lyne and Richard Marsella published October 31.

I have also noticed since returning to Georgetown in 2003 that the 'letters to the editor' section occasionally contains letters that are latently discriminatory and homophobic.

Even at Christmas time, locals feel the need to write to your publication and complain that the religious aspect to the holiday is being shut out by 'political correctness'; clearly these people resent having to be tolerant of others' beliefs.

As a student in Sheridan College's Community Development program, my group decided to research and develop a project to promote diversity in Georgetown. We consulted with POSSE (Peer Outreach Support Services & Education) for this project, and they offered us some compelling evidence that Georgetown indeed needs some help in this area.

We feel it is time these issues of tolerance and diversity remove themselves from the 'letters to the editor' section and move into a more appropriate and open forum.

Perhaps *The Independent & Free Press* would like to host a regular column written by citizens who are visible minorities, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, or any otherwise minority from our community?

Sarah Walker, Georgetown

Important dialogue needed

Dear editor,
I'm always amazed at how intolerant 'tolerant' people can be.

Case-in-point, the letter from Lynne

and Richard Marsella in the October 31 issue. Somebody has a different opinion on an issue than you, and suddenly they are dues-paying members of the Aryan brotherhood.

Their letter to the editor was perhaps the most intolerant letter I have read in this paper in a long, long time. I do not agree with the flying of the rainbow flag either. It has nothing to do with gays or lesbians. I do not agree with flying the flag of any special interest group on any public building. It is not the place for such political display.

Council was too afraid to say no because people would brand them all racist, homophobic, hateful, ignorant, etc. Sad when you think that town council can be blackmailed like that.

Your statement that *The Independent & Free Press* publishes covertly racist, homophobic, and intolerant letters is ridiculous. I hope this newspaper ignores you, and all that would censor them, and continue to publish differing opinions on any and every issue we're faced with. This is the real and important dialogue we need. This is what makes us a democracy, keeps us that way, and allows us some freedom of speech, however badly people want to limit it if it doesn't agree with their beliefs.

Please read your own letter again, and read it as many times as it takes to understand what you are really saying.

Passion will often blind reason and logic, and seek to right things that are not wrong to begin with.

Darrel MacCrae,
Georgetown

Paper's letters are tolerant

Dear editor,
May I just say to the letter writers in the Oct. 31 paper (Intolerant letters should not be published), who complained of intolerance.

If *The Independent & Free Press* did not print letters from intolerant people, then yours would not have been printed.

Terr Brown, Georgetown

Stop publishing 'ravings'

Dear editor:
I'm not sure where to direct my disgust in this letter: the two authors of the letters to the editor last week (POSSE march and flying Pride flag) or *The Independent & Free Press* for publishing such garbage.

I've decided to respond to the former, specifically Matt Penny's latest gem.

At Ryerson, I'm often asked the following: "You're from Georgetown? I've heard they're pretty racist there." Continuously publishing this filth just perpetuates this widely-held belief.

Even the fact a letter would run reading, "I think that we all need to remember Canada was built by Europeans. They developed and molded this country into what it is today." shows an absence of editorial integrity or perhaps a deep-rooted racism of its own. This mentality has led to most Canadians forgetting (or ignoring) the genocide of more than 13 million First Nations people, all at the hands of these Europeans.

If *The Independent* is in such need of filling space, I'd gladly pass out a job posting to Ryerson journalism students. For the sake of our collective identity, please stop publishing these ravings.

Nora Loreto, Georgetown

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