

Letters

Majority being forced morals

Dear Editor,

Isn't it amazing the way a minority of people holding strong, religion-based opinions feel their beliefs should be forced on the majority and turned into oppressive laws and policies? I refer to letters on Feb. 24 and 28 regarding a long overdue lifting of the rule in our schools of non-discussion of abortion and homosexuality.

If these people believe all abortions are morally wrong then I say to them, "Don't have one," but don't force your narrow, anti-woman, homophobic views on everyone else. The essence of democracy is the free expression of all positions, and the essence of education is to foster judgement by subjecting ideas and facts to scrutiny and evaluation. "Protecting" students from information on taboo subjects is simply a way of perpetuating prejudice. Of all the topics that can arise for discussion in the classroom, these two alone should never have been singled out for censorship. This policy has negated the growth of inquiring minds and made a mockery of teaching and learning. Parents who can't get their own children to adopt their values voluntarily should not be allowed to force their views on all our young people by censorship.

In our pluralistic society the public system must represent all. It must therefore get rid of taboos and bigotry and leave this questionable agenda for sectarian schools.

Jane Holmes
Unionville

Parents want say

Dear Editor,

Open letter to: Win Procyshen, Superintendent of Education and Community Services.

We are expressing our deep concern that the proposed changes which you plan to implement in S-68 do not reflect the wishes of the majority of parents and are a substantial threat to the integrity of our educational system. In particular, we do not agree with the removal of the parental right to have objectionable material excluded from curriculums. This would allow questionable materials to be presented to our children as fact and not as subjects for debate and discussion.

Of even greater concern is the intent to allow the proselytizing of views contrary to the Judeo-Christian foundations by which we have written the laws of this land and built our province. We do not believe that children should be forced to agree with views put forth by special interest groups, views which are contrary to their own beliefs, in order to pass a course. To allow such changes to occur would see the creation of "prisoners of conscience" in our own schools. We therefore, strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed revision. We consider the family to be the cornerstone of society and will not tolerate being shut out of necessary input to our children's education. They are our children and it is we who know what is best for them.

Art & Tamara Rasmusson
Stouffville

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