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Toleration Editorial

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Toleration Editorial



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Posted by [Maria Hanrahan](#) at 03:46 PM on May 18, 2009

Nicole Robson of West Bend wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the Daily News on May 16th. At one point she states "the people who are so against what is actually going on in our libraries and around the nation are trying to shut up the people in opposition or continue to falsely twist this into anti-gay agenda or bookburning issue. Where is the tolerance now for families who don't want those pages to fall into the hands of their children? Where's the freedom of speech now?"

I just want to go on record that West Bend Parents for Free Speech has never tried to impede the free speech of others'. We firmly believe that WBCFSL and all citizens have the right to speak out on this issue, no matter their viewpoint. That does not mean, however, that we should let the viewpoints go unchallenged, that we shouldn't seek every opportunity to point out how a group's requests inhibit our First Amendment rights and violate the Constitution of the United States. I support their right to express their opinions and ideas, and I relish my right to point out when and why they do not have merit or infringe upon the rights of others.

As to falsely twisting any information, we have not done so, nor do we need to. WBCFSL has done a fine job of muddying up their complaint and requests through their constant changes; there is no need to twist anything. I will continue to point out that Ginny Maziarka of WBCFSL did start this whole library controversy with a request to remove materials with LGBT themes, so the original complaint could be construed as an anti-gay issue. (And as far as I know, the only official complaint form/letter that has been submitted to the library concerns LGBT materials, not sexually explicit materials or requesting changes to library policies, WBCFSL's current stance.) And even though WBCFSL denies affiliation with the Christian Civil Liberties Union, the group behind the lawsuit that does ask for a certain title to be publicly burned, it is no coincidence that this lawsuit comes on the heels of WBCFSL's tirade. There is a direct correlation between the timing of the Maziarka/WBCFSL complaint and this ridiculous lawsuit.