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WISSUP's Blog Comment Censorship Policy

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Wednesday, April 29, 2009

[WISSUP's Blog Comment Censorship Policy](#)

There have been a [number of complaints](#) that Ginny Maziarka over at [WISSUP](#) has been heavily moderating the comments left at her blog, essentially silencing voices who disagree with her, and only letting through complementary ones.

Of course, that's her prerogative, but I decided to ask her about it. I sent an e-mail asking: "why are you censoring comments on your blog?"

The reply:

I moderate ALL comments to:

- (1) prevent the automatic posting of spam;
- (2) prevent the automatic posting of comments made only for the purpose of link dropping;
- (3) prevent the automatic posting of pingbacks made only for the purpose of link dropping;
- (4) prevent the automatic posting of troll comments containing personal attacks, obscenities and threats;
- (5) prevent the automatic posting of phony comments generated by software made only for the purpose of link dropping;
- (6) prevent the automatic posting of off topic comments.

My thinking on this is that in my home I am a hostess and likewise on my blog I am a hostess. I do not allow any comments to be posted on my blog that I would not approve of or tolerate in my home.

Now, this is perfectly reasonable. However, I question how [this comment](#) that Maria Hanrahan submitted -- but didn't make it through Ginny's filter -- falls under the above policy. There is no spam, no link dropping, no personal attacks, nothing off topic. It is a level-headed response to some of Ginny's statements and accusations.

Ginny: why did you block that comment?

Oh, and if you thought that Ginny's comment policy seemed a little too polished for an amateur blogger (c'mon, using ALL CAPS and red text in your blog posts for emphasis? really?), so did I. I googled it, and it turns out she just [cut & pasted it from this forum discussion](#). No attribution to the [original author](#), of course.

And I wonder if Ginny is familiar with that person's [position on gay marriage](#), [Obama](#), [reproductive rights](#), etc. Perhaps Ginny should be more careful who she plagiarizes....

// A quick update - I replied to Ginny's e-mail (that stated her policy) by pointing to this blog post of my reaction. Her single-line reply to me: "Sorry. I don't waste my time on unimportant information that is not pertinent to the issues."

Wow.