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Comment Censorship at WISSUP

Concerned West Bend Citizen

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Tuesday, August 4, 2009

[Comment Censorship at WISSUP](#)

[Note: I've been banned from WISSUP; see update at bottom of post]

After keeping her hands off comments for a while, Ginny Maziarka has [reverted back to censoring comments](#) at her WISSUP blog.

Some removals are more reasonable than others. On her [odd post about the hodag](#), someone named "Ginny's Third Chin Speaks Out" left a rude remark, which Ginny deleted. Fine.

But she's also removed a comment of mine (and one by "Rolf") at her [post complaining about Fireside](#) hosting a book signing by a Wisconsin couple who have raised two gay sons.

About 90 minutes after Ginny published this post, [I commented](#) that she's merely [re-hashing her old argument](#), that many pointed out was illogical and misplaced months ago. In doing so, I called her "stubborn" and "single-track-minded". I also wondered aloud if her real issue was the fact that the parents are celebrating the gayness of their children.

Over 3 days later, [Ginny responds to me](#) with a query about "what author [Fireside] will be offering next to our community to lend insight into the opposing viewpoint"

Then, over 3 days after that response to me, [Ginny gives me this ultimatum](#):

I'll say this as respectfully as I can. I have allowed you to post time and again on my blog. I've tried to give you your say, yet your personal attacks come one right after the other...to the point of harassment. Therefore, this is simply a first request that you tame your commentary and stick to the content of the blog post. If you cannot do what I request, I will ask you not to post on WISSUP in the future. Thank you.

Mind you, I made no other comments on this post since my first 5 days prior, while Ginny had been interacting with other commenters with some frequency.

Seeing this, Maria Hanrahan [asks Ginny](#) which comments of mine she feels are personal attacks, and why she didn't bring this up sooner, so no other comments had been made.

[Ginny refuses to answer](#) Maria because " The request was directed towards others, not you". (This is that stubbornness I was referring to)

So, a few hours later, I left a comment saying, essentially, *"Ok, Ginny, answer Maria's question for my benefit, since it was directed at me."* And I also said something to the effect of *"If you think being called "stubborn" is a personal attack bordering on harassment, then perhaps the blogosphere isn't the place for you. If you can't take the heat...."*

I can't paste my exact words, because [Ginny deleted the comment!](#) She even celebrated her "wielding the sword of truth" with an exclamatory ["Poof!"](#)

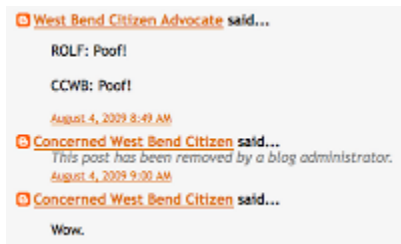


I posted a new comment a few minutes ago (see screenshot) asking for an explanation, and in the time it took me to write this post, [she deleted that as well](#).

Unbelievable.

Oh, and the [original -- apparently offending -- remarks](#) haven't been deleted, only my comments questioning her reaction to them. Yes, this is crazy.

// UPDATE: Well, folks. It seems I've been banned from commenting at WISSUP.



After Ginny deleted the comment mentioned above, I left a simple reaction: "WOW" (screenshot at right). Ginny proceeded to delete that comment, and [left this message](#):

As you will note, CCWB is no longer posting here. This is because I feel the harassment CCWB has delivered on this blog has been an ongoing issue that I have been patient with for way too long. I feel CCWB's rhetoric hinders the intelligent conversations taking place, is used as a distraction, and that CCWB is trying to draw attention to himself. I gave one opportunistic warning, now poof!, gone.....

We'll miss ya.

I find it truly amusing that:

(a) I had comments deleted and was banned merely because I was asking for explanation of a warning and the subsequent removal of comments,

(b) none of my comments after the warning could even come close to constituting a personal attack or harassment (in fact, the only comments I left after the "opportunistic warning" are those noted above, and [this one](#) asking Dan Kleinman for clarification of an accusation he made of another commenter), and

(c) that Ginny feels *my* rhetoric is hindering what she sees as otherwise "intelligent conversations" on her blog.

POOF!

.....UPDATE: Ginny has now changed the settings on WISSUP so only people with Google or OpenID accounts can leave comments. No more anonymous comments, or simply providing a name/url. Whatevs.