

Your Dispatches

No Place For Hate

Reply To Lloyd

To The Dispatch:

This past Sunday when I was walking around Milford, enjoying the town, the film festival and the beautiful fall leaves, my friend and I came across three local teenagers. The three were no different from any other similarly aged kids except one wore a shirt with a very specific message. The words "I Hate Gays" were hand printed in large letters on the front. As the three passed, the one turned specifically so that my friend and I could clearly see his hateful message. I sat there stunned, more than a bit angry but mostly sick to my stomach. For the last few days, I have thought about what I could or should have done to the youth and I am left only with one thought...why would someone choose to hate me when they know nothing at all about me?

I have lived in and around Milford for more than 15 years. I have witnessed the positive changes and transformations that have occurred over the years, from the beautiful work of the Milford Enhancement Committee to the cultural offerings of the Black Bear Film and Milford Music Festivals. Milford's architecture, shops, location, natural beauty and residents are all reasons why people visit our town, to enjoy a little of what we sometimes take for granted.

It may come as a surprise to some people but Milford has a large and growing gay population made up of both weekend and full-time residents. We have purchased homes, opened businesses, won seats on town boards, revitalized run-down properties, started festivals and vastly contribute to the prospering of the town. We also pay the ever increasing school taxes usually without further burdening the system. Without the influence of gay people, Milford would be a very different place, one not as beautiful, as interesting, as cultural, as visited or as special.

This leads me back to the message on the t-shirt. This kid chose to state his hateful ignorant message on the front of his chest. He can try to intimidate, to hurt, to marginalize but that is not going to happen-ever-not in this town. People say that hate is learned at home so I have to wonder what this kid is learning from his parents...to hate anything that he does not understand, to hate that which is different from him or that it is ok to be a bully. I also have to wonder about his own sexuality because often the most homophobic are those struggling with their own sexuality-hating in others what they deeply fear in themselves.

Without getting into the whole debate of nature verses nurture when it comes to human sexuality, I will say that I did not wake up one day and decide to be gay. I did not turn my back on God and make the immoral choice of being attracted to the same sex. I had no more control over my sexuality than I did the color of my eyes, my height, my hair line or the hundreds of my other genetic characteristics. Being gay is not a choice and those that think other wise need to open their minds and hearts and realize that we are all different for many reasons and that these differences help to enrich our lives.

I can only hope that when other people around town saw this young man's shirt they were not shocked into silence like I was. I hope that someone spoke up and told him that what he was doing was not right and that he should be ashamed of himself. There is no place in this town or any other town for such hatred. Milford welcomes everyone because we all help make this a special place that it is.

Derek Roberts
Milford

Vote Your Pocketbook

To The Dispatch:

I read with interest the letter in last week's Dispatch by John Wroblewski, Vice President Delaware Valley School Board, attempting to justify the purchase of the Santos Farm. Considering the massive spending plans of this board, property taxpayers should demand from the board a detailed list and justification of all planned expenditures. Purchase of the Santos farm is only

To The Dispatch:

Thomas Lloyd has an interesting view (Dispatch, Oct. 26) of a situation that he held with me as the Treasurer, not the Vice Chair, of the Delaware Township Democratic Club. First of all, Mr. Lloyd did not until 10 days prior to the first proposed town hall date, and then Rep. Sipthoth and Ms. Asure were nearly completely booked. Without about any proposed dates, he said that Ms. Asure had proposed Saturday at 10 a.m., or that "she has some time" on Nov. 4, the prior to the election. Rep. Sipthoth was booked both times, but even not been, the Oct. 21 date would have been at best difficult to adequately in Pike County press outlets.

No evenings were available or given to us, and Monday through day of each week Rep. Sipthoth is required to be in legislative session House of Representatives, and so must be present in Harrisburg offered no Thursday or Friday, even if they had been available. So Lloyd's statement that Ms. Asure was willing to meet at any time Sipthoth may be true, her schedule was no more amenable than Rep.

Mr. Lloyd was also told that had he called earlier, instead of October, we would have been happy to oblige, even though Rep had met with Ms. Asure in a televised debate at ESU, at Sawkill tates, at a Taxpayers United meeting and at the Pike County Building. Rep. Sipthoth has hardly gone missing in Pike County, forgot to mention that he is in Delaware Township every third T every month (and often at other times), and Mr. Lloyd has never to meet him or speak with him directly.

However, what Mr. Lloyd did not disclose in his letter was offered an alternative event for meeting Bob McNamara and Lisa ning for state senate. Bob McNamara was available any evening Oct. 24 and Nov. 3, but Mr. Lloyd never called back about Lisa morning, when I confronted Mr. Lloyd about his letter, he claim left delivering Lisa Baker as part of my responsibility. When I he stated that he misspoke and he admitted that he had "left it, else" to do. It was now clear from the conversations I have had Lloyd that his objective from the beginning wasn't promoting cratic process, but rather a transparent attempt to embarrass Rep Clearly, he had no interest at all in bringing Baker and McNam area. If anyone should be embarrassed, it should be his newly fo In short, Mr. Lloyd's first public act as Republican chair in Dela ship is to distort the truth.

We as Democrats have long realized that many Republican reach out to Democrats if they were drowning and needed a lif and we were standing by a stack of them. In my conversatic Lloyd, I suggested that it was a good thing that their club was that we could jointly sponsor future events. Clearly, we see ho be treated in the future.

Respectfull
Eliz

Delaware Township Dem

Taxing Experience

To The Dispatch:

In the spring of 2005, the Delaware Valley School Board imp tax increase of 5.5 percent. The tax increase raised an additic lion for the 2005-06 school year. The 05-06 year has now endc get surplus of \$2 million. Thus, given the benefit of hindsight 5.5 percent tax increase was necessary. Don't expect your mo time soon.

Last spring, as we were finalizing the budget for 2006-07, I the School Board use some of the expected surplus (at the tax the surplus would be about \$1 million) for tax reduction. I