

Gay pride is celebration, not advocacy: war vet

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain have, over the years, criminalized homosexuality - that is, we have used the full force of the law to enforce private moral and religious codes. Only recently have we realized that there is nothing criminal about adult consensual sexual acts. Legislators finally realized the absurdity of putting male homosexuals in jails filled with male prisoners!

FULL TEXT

DEAR SIR:

I commend the mayor for explaining his position on Gay Pride Parades once again and in public. It is good to see an elected official take the time to write out an argument and present it to the citizens.

Unfortunately Mayor Korpan's argument fails in a significant way. His attempt to use the public/private morality distinction to ground his decision not to vote for a permit to parade is not relevant. Korpan seems to have confused celebration with advocacy.

When we Korean veterans parade it does not follow that we are advocating war! In fact, veterans are often, for reasons not hard to discern, in favour of peace. Veterans march to celebrate sacrifice for a cause and not to suggest that everyone should become a warrior.

Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain have, over the years, criminalized homosexuality - that is, we have used the full force of the law to enforce private moral and religious codes. Only recently have we realized that there is nothing criminal about adult consensual sexual acts. Legislators finally realized the absurdity of putting male homosexuals in jails filled with male prisoners!

So, Mister Mayor, I submit that Gay Pride Parades are not about advocacy at all, but are about a minority marginalized group celebrating the long awaited right to choose one's sexual orientation.

Bob Lane

Nanaimo

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