

## The Intelligencer - August 4, 2010

### Letters to the Editor

#### Prevent bullying this school year

A new school year means new clothes, new classrooms and new faces, and for most students it also means new bullies. Almost every child is affected by bullying as either a victim or a bystander. What's more is that according to Meline Kevorkian, author of "101 Facts about Bullying: What Everyone Should Know," "74 percent of eight to eleven year olds reported being bullied in school and 55 percent of those kids said bullying was a 'big' problem."

A bully isn't always someone who picks on kids at recess or pushes kids in the hallway; bullies are everywhere.

With the ever-growing capacity and accessibility that children have to technology and social media, bullying has even gone digital. Programs like AIM, MySpace, Twitter and Facebook have become hot spots for bullies to degrade, embarrass and bash other kids.

As a summer intern with NOVA in Bucks County, I have learned more about what our local victim services are doing to address the issue of bullying. NOVA educators develop and present programs on bullying and cyberbullying to students throughout the county in order to raise awareness and introduce prevention education.

"We see bullying from preschool up through high school," says NOVA Elementary Education Coordinator Mary Worthington. "Bullying and digital abuse has its roots in the classroom, but the more it goes unrecognized, the more powerful the bully and the less powerful the victim."

Worthington made it clear that bullying will only persist if we keep acting like it is "not a big deal." "We've become very desensitized," she says. "We've heard about it so much that

there's a history of some adults who just turn a blind eye."

So this school year make sure you pay attention to your children beyond their report cards and book reports. Remind your kids to be respectful and responsible, and let them know that bullying is never an acceptable behavior.

*Kelsey Detweiler  
Perkasie  
NOVA summer intern*

#### Constitution gets ignored

Mike Fitzpatrick voted for an illegal, unconstitutional war without end by voting for Authorizing the Use of Military Force. The Constitution gives the power to declare war solely to Congress, not the president.

Congress' obligation is to define and fund any responses to an attack upon us. The president controls the day-to-day operations on the battlefield at Congress' direction.

He betrayed his oath of office. We suffer the consequences to this day.

Patrick Murphy voted against our right to be secure "in their houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures" and also voting for an ex post facto law, granting the telephone companies and the lawless president immunity for illegally wiretapping the public. This was the FISA vote, by which he betrayed his solemn sworn oath.

He has voted to continue the illegal, unconstitutional war, throwing away more treasure in the Middle East sands.

It seems that we are only allowed to vote for war mongers in this election, among Toomey, Sestak, Murphy and Fitzpatrick. There is none who honors his oath or the people he represents or who is interested in peace, which is cheap.

So go to the polls and vote your fear, because I refuse to vote for any evil, lesser or greater, that ignores the Constitution.

*Terry J. Beil  
Pipersville*

#### Why our nation is in good hands

While watching President Obama's appearance on "The View," I could not help but realize how different he is from our previous president. I could not remember a single interview where President Bush sat and discussed serious problems at length, and with such seriousness and real knowledge of facts and figures.

It is reassuring to see and hear your president demonstrate a true grasp of our mounting problems in this country and clearly discuss what we, as a nation, can and must do to get through this awful period.

Thank God for the great people of this country, for their hard work and willingness to do

"whatever it takes" and for their sacrifices, sending their children to serve our country. Thank you.

*Ruby Moore  
Sellersville*

#### Five scenarios worth pondering

I wonder what would happen if:

Taxes on corporate profits were eliminated for companies that brought all of their manufacturing operations back to the United States.

Hoarding money in hidden, nontaxable off-shore banks was made a criminal offense — and such a law was actually enforced.

Congress acted on the Graham-Schumer Immigration Reform Act.

Any organization or corporation that employed lobbyists paid a \$1 billion "access fee" every month.

Mitch McConnell and Nancy Pelosi only opened their mouths to eat, except when supporting the above.

*John McCann  
Buckingham*

#### Campaigning on taxpayer dime

I just received another obvious campaign mailer from Congressman Patrick Murphy "prepared, published and mailed at taxpayers' expense."

How does he get away with that?

*Eric Armstrong  
Perkasie*

#### Correction

The status of Todd Stephens, who wrote a Guest Opinion in the Tuesday issue, was listed incorrectly. He is a former Montgomery County assistant district attorney running for the state House in the 151st District.

#### How to get a letter published

The newspaper welcomes letters. Address them to "Your Turn," The Intelligencer, 333 N. Broad St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901, or FAX them to 215-345-3150.

Letters can also be sent via e-mail to: [intell\\_letters@phillyburbs.com](mailto:intell_letters@phillyburbs.com)

Letters must be signed and include a home address and telephone number. Short letters are encouraged. No unsigned letters will be published. The editor reserves the right to reject, condense and edit all letters.