

[Homepage](#) 

Letter: Transcript accused of bullying

Wed Apr 02, 2008, 02:38 PM EDT

TOPSFIELD - To the editor:

When I saw your article ("Recruiting Topsfield's youth," *Tri-Town Transcript*, Friday, March 21, 2008) accusing us of manipulating children to make a point concerning the rail trail I thought of the comments that Joseph Welch made to Senator Joseph McCarthy when a young lawyer was slandered by McCarthy: "You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

By now you are aware that neither I nor Cathy had anything to do with those letters. As a letter to the editor last week indicated those letters were the result of a class project where students were being encouraged to think. I have never seen the letters and only know a few of the details. In fact you could have found out all of the details with a couple of telephone calls. You certainly could have found out what I knew by a single telephone – which you did not make.

I can understand why the teachers did not give you the students' names. You, sir, do not discuss issues by reason. Instead you use intimidation and ridicule. As case in point, what was your first reaction to the Coalition for Neighborhood Information. It was not to consider the points we stated (which are valid points). Instead you made fun of our name. Later you wrote my name in ways that were obviously intended to humiliate. The students names should be withheld in general, but particularly when dealing with a newspaper which acts as a bully rather than an information source. What you have taught students is to not think – it is dangerous. This is sad.

The CNI has always been straightforward and honest about our views. We see our role as informing Topsfield. We have always documented our views. Usually in writing. We have been aggressive but have never humiliated or ridiculed anyone. We do nothing that is underhanded.

I request that you print a retraction with the same size title that you printed your comments.

In conclusion, I want to speak to students of all ages. One must be honest and kind in all dealings, thinking of others as well as yourself. However you must stand up to bullies, whether they occur in the playground, in school, or in newspapers. Always beware of the bully.

Charles Robert Morgan
Washington Street
Topsfield

Editor's note: The article mentioned in Mr. Morgan's letter to the editor was an opinion piece, not a news story.

Comments (0)

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