

**Letter of Support submitted to the Nampa Public Library**

To the Nampa Public Library Board of Directors:

The issue before the board today should not concern what is or is not offensive. Removing a book from a library based on its offensiveness to any one person or group would quickly empty most of the shelves in the library. The issue before the board should be based on a consideration of whether the book, *The Joy of Gay Sex*, promotes the mission of the library.

According to the NPL web site, the Library, "provides materials and services to help community residents of all ages meet their cultural, educational, informational, and recreational needs. It attempts to make available a wide range of opinion, ideas, and information." *The Joy of Gay Sex* could fall under any one of these categories. Having been selected for the collection under these guidelines, it should remain there.

Removing this book because one group, or even a large section of the community, finds it offensive would undermine the role of the library within the community. The library exists to serve the needs of all community residents, not just the most vocal. To those who find the book offensive: you do not need to read it. To those who are concerned that their children may read it: it is your role to supervise your children and educate them about the world, it is not the role of the Nampa Public Library.

I hope the Board will re-affirm its initial decision and retain this book in the collection.

Sincerely,

Michael Greenlee

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The opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and not necessarily those of the University of Idaho, the Idaho Library Association, or any other group to which the author belongs.