

small grants to 100 nonprofits to strengthen their planning and operations, and produced lessons in fundraising, grantmaking and coordinated action. Those lessons developed statewide, with significant roles by the state's six regional foundations.

The fund — sponsored by the Minnesota Council on Foundations, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the Minnesota Council of Churches — was a pioneering venture in charity. Most of the nonprofit recipient agencies used the fund's assistance to improve their operations and services, or are working to do so. The funders got a lesson in the value of giving planning grants along with operating grants to agencies they assist. Policymakers, it's hoped, will recognize the value of encouraging collaboration

tion and corporate donors to re-member.

The Futures Fund provided other lessons, including the benefits of raising funds from many separate donors to operate a one-stop program for nonprofit agencies. The three sponsors' involvement shows the potential for future collaboration. And more collaboration may be needed. The fund's final report cites welfare reform's difficulties related to affordable housing, child care, transportation, training and literacy.

"Clearly there is a pressing need," the report said, "for a systemwide, more holistic approach involving partnerships at all levels — public, private, and voluntary." Given current legislative discussion, that's particularly timely advice for legislators.

Lindner's insult

House should repudiate remark

Anti-Semitism is a shameful part of Minnesota's past. It has no place in Minnesota's present — most certainly not on the floor of the Minnesota House.

Rep. Arlon Lindner of Corcoran not only abused his Jewish colleague, Rep. Michael Paymar of St. Paul, when he attacked Paymar for his desire to keep the prayers that start House sessions nondenominational. Lindner also insulted every Minnesotan — Christian, Jew or otherwise — who prizes religious freedom and tolerance.

Students of state history know that those virtues came hard to Minnesota. They were learned as fair-minded Minnesotans spoke out 50 years ago about the evils of religious bigotry, and the terrible toll it was taking on this state's culture and economy. Their

brave efforts banished anti-Semitism from respectability.

Today's generation must guard against bigotry's return. That's why Lindner's characterization of Paymar's Jewish perspective as "irreligious left views" is particularly offensive in the halls of state government. It should have been met with a loud gavel bang and a stern reprimand from Speaker Steve Sviggum.

Regrettably, Sviggum was silent at that moment on Wednesday. But 60 other House members recognized their duty to repudiate Lindner's insult and signed a petition of protest. Others have asked the House Ethics Committee to review the matter. By whatever means, the House must make clear to Lindner and the state that his words were unacceptable.

I believe I have one solution to the accessing of pornography in the public libraries (Star Tribune, Feb. 22):

Designate two or three cubes in the most visible spot in the library. Place signs with 1-foot red lettering above each of these cubes stating, "FOR PORNOGRAPHIC USE ONLY. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE." Change the policy so that only pornography, and nothing else, can be accessed from said cubes.

Then see how many people take a seat and surf.

— David Matthelsen, Minneapolis.

The phrase "I'm going to the library to study" has taken on new meaning for parents everywhere. I wonder if the porn shops and X-rated theaters are experiencing a decline in business?

— Terese Krulik, Chanhassen.

So technology, that precocious but socially immature and morally vacuous child, has presented us with yet another dilemma: First Amendment rights versus exposing children to salacious material in a government-funded place.

If the Minneapolis Library Board is without ideas to cope with this problem, I am not. I suggest the following plan:

➤ Set aside an enclosed room for those who wish to use public resources to access pornography.

people pay are not as unfair as many congressmen portray. I am sick of hearing the buzzwords "marriage penalty." After reading the Feb. 23 reader letters, I had to respond. Two can play their game. Why doesn't Congress remove the single-penalty tax that I pay? I don't know what tax table the letter writers use, but the one I use always has a married couple making the same income as me paying less taxes.

I wonder if the writers have any children. If so, are they willing to reimburse homeowners without children in their suburban communities the portion of property tax going to schools? I question if they are happily married.

Let's compare apples to apples, worst-case scenarios for two people with \$80,000 taxable income. The single persons have a standard deduction of \$4,300 and the married persons filing separately have a deduction of \$3,600 each. The singles tax for \$80,000 is \$19,587. The married filing separately tax for \$80,700 (difference in standard deduction) is \$20,738. The tax difference for single and married is $2 \times \$1,151 = \$2,302$. So a married couple is paying \$2,302 more for a combined income of \$160,000. That number can be further reduced by such married benefits as shared health care. People complaining about this situation probably aren't happily married.

— Tim Kotecki, Roseville.

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