

To the Editor:

The appearance of the second anti-homosexual diatribe by Oskar Gruenwald in the letters section of the Proceedings leads me to believe that you should be using more discretion in deciding which letters to print. I am fully committed to the right of free speech. But that right cannot be thought to include the right to publication in our Proceedings. And it would demean our organization to lend a platform every misogynist, anti-semitic, racist, or other species of bigot who wanted to use Proceedings to publicize his or her own brand of hatred.

The APA has a strong interest in free and open discussion of issues related to the profession, an interest that goes well beyond the right to free speech. But interest does not require you to print every piece of noxious garbage that is mailed in. Gruenwald's letter is patently devoid of intelligent argument. True, it purports to suggest an "APA Code of Ethics." But surely this alone cannot suffice to render it worthy of publication; anyone can staple that heading onto anything. In short, the letter is not a serious contribution to any discussion relevant to our profession.

I am confident that you have the ability to distinguish serious expression from unpopular opinion from mere raving masquerading as policy discussion. I urge to use that ability, in a judicious and careful way, to prevent our Proceedings becoming a sewer.

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