

The Telegram (St. John's)

Editorial, Tuesday, April 4, 2006, p. A6

Letters to the editor

An insightful column

Thanks for Bill Rowe's column in the March 18 edition of The Telegram, headlined "Cancel the gay-bashing." I look forward to reading the biography on Alan Turing noted by Rowe.

I was not aware of Turing's social contribution during the Second World War nor his tragic demise as a result of the extreme social intolerance toward homosexuality. Further, I had not thought of our prime minister's proposed reopening of the gay-marriage issue as emotional gay-bashing but I think Rowe did draw an effective comparison in doing so.

In 2003, the Centre for Suicide Prevention in Canada indicated that gay and lesbian youth are at an increased risk of suicide. In the same year, a British study indicated that two out of three gay men and lesbians had experienced signs and symptoms of depression and other mental illnesses. In both studies (and there are many others), social intolerance was identified as contributing factors.

So, prime minister, given that we deal with gay-bashing both physical and emotional, have, as a community, survived the devastation of AIDS, and continue to battle mental health problems, it's time to leave us alone. Any revisiting of our rights as Canadians will be a form of emotional gay-bashing. We have paid our dues.

Geoff Chaulk, executive director, Canadian Mental Health Association Newfoundland and Labrador Division St. John's

Category: Editorial and Opinions
Length: Short, 176 words

© 2006 *The Telegram (St. John's)*. All rights reserved.

Doc. : news·20060404·ET·0032