

Letter: Gitlin's column mixed in LGBTQ politics where it didn't belong

July 23, 2022



Interesting and fun column by Roger Gitlin about the Brother Jonathan shipwreck just off our shores.

Closely approaching my seventh decade. I don't remember ever hearing that story in school. And if I did I forgot. It certainly has historical value, especially for us here on the beautiful North Coast, and hopefully is a part of our local school's curriculum.

What disappointed me was Mr. Gitlin's unnecessary comment against the LGBTQ community. Couldn't he have left that part out for maybe another piece? Maybe a member of that community read Mr. Gitlin's column, and rather than being interested in learning history, he or she was turned off immediately by being unfairly singled out.

I just felt in these times when we seem to be more divided ever, why throw in a political dig in an interesting story that can stand alone without it?

However, Mr. Gitlin's accusation that LGBTQ curriculum is being taught to seven-year-old second graders spurs me to do some research to see how accurate his claim is. And if it is, just how deep does LGBTQ education go.

I'm not a member of that community but have many family members and friends who are. I love and support them. So thank you Mr. Gitlin for sharing the story about the Brother Jonathan. I just felt the LGBTQ reference wasn't necessary.

Rick McNamer

Smith River