

I Am Tired

By Hap Hansen

I am a tired American. I am tired of the Republicans blaming the Democrats for everything except the common cold, and Democrats blaming the Republicans for everything but the Asian flu. I am tired of frivolous lawsuits, of Judges allowing cases with no merit whatsoever to proceed through the Judicial System and I am tired of juries awarding undeserving people a half billion dollars for perceived wrongs, thereby allowing the accusers to escape taking responsibility for their own stupidity.

I am tired of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms being replaced by prejudice, murder and mayhem rap, of shock jocks and shock TV. And it's much more complicated than saying, "Don't watch" or "Don't listen."

I am tired of killers, rapists and torturers who relish in their acts, but plead for mercy when the Judge is ready to hand down their sentences. I am tired of the NRA lobbying against reasonable gun laws, but also those who want complete gun control and blame the NRA for every incident.

Here are some other things I'm tired of: Video arcades that feature some computer games consisting of mass murder and torture, played incidentally, not by adults, but by children. On-line, detailed Internet instructions on how to build bombs and explosives. I got used to pierced earlobes many years ago when my wife brought my eight-year old daughter home with her ears pierced. Both were smiling, so it must have been OK. But I still have a problem with pierced noses, lips, tongues, belly-buttons and other private parts. I suppose it's called 'individuality.' I also get tired of people who litter because they are too lazy to properly discard their own garbage. Mostly, I am tired of complainers in general, those who complain at most meetings, but rarely do anything on their own, seldom vote, and have no clue how to fix a problem, except to blame others. I am tired of parents who berate coaches because their kids can't perform impossible athletic feats.

Is there nothing good going on? Of course there is. We have a flawed system of Federal government, but it is still the best in the world. Here, in Writers Group, with many excellent writers, we are free to express our opinions on a variety of subjects, some sensitive, including politics, without fear of retribution or criticism. That freedom of expression that all of us use, is simply not acceptable in many countries around the world. In our American community, I can step outside and see some of the most magnificent views ever created by God. Here, we have retired folks and others, who work with teachers helping kids to read better and to understand basic math. We have volunteer organizations consisting of Windsor Gardens retirees who give their time, money and talent to provide scholarships, and serve on environmental and political groups. Many of us provide goods and services to those in need and in general, make our community a better place in which to live. Thanks to everyone who volunteers and participates, you help make us all a little bit less tired.