

Inappropriate to use Star of David

THANK-YOU for the long-awaited balance and logic in this tedious gay debate — the article by Shoshana Silcove, “Gay Jews: Who has a phobia?” (*AJN* 9/3/01).

People have the right to chose which lifestyle they follow, but I feel that it is totally inappropriate to use the Star of David — a symbol so dearly cherished by the Jewish people — on a float promoting a lifestyle which Judaism does not condone.

What next — floats for Jewish bank robbers and Jewish drug-dealers? Will these floats give them legitimacy too?

Back to the article — “banners and blatancy” cannot change facts.

Anne Marsden
Rose Bay, NSW

Deeply upset

I WAS repulsed by the Viewpoint article titled “Gay Jews: Who has a phobia?” by Shoshanna Silcove. It upset me deeply that such an opinion could be published in the *Australian Jewish News* for so many to read.

The article spoke of religious fanaticism to the extent of moral hypocrisy. When religion is put before health, it becomes a cult. Ms Silcove’s support for religious stubbornness is a setback in our collective quest, as members of humanity, to strive towards acceptance and understanding.

To simply state that “like a child with a bad habit, the homosexual is a person in need of learning self-control”, as Ms Silcove did, echoing the general tone of the Lubavitcher

Rebbe, is the most cowardly observation of humanity I have ever encountered. Quite obviously, whoever supports this statement is not confident enough in themselves to live in a diverse society, but rather enjoys having the power to discriminate and uses this in a primaevial way.

I condemn Ms Silcove for her narrow-mindedness in blindly following the Torah to the point where she is trading in her social, moral and spiritual health for religion. Religion was never meant to lead people astray from spirituality, but rather to guide individuals along a spiritual journey away from social corruption and materialism.

Gary Pajor
Sydney, NSW