

Free speech

When I imagine the Beth Din court sitting over the issue of the *Australian Jewish News* article about the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, it reminded me of an episode of *Ali McBeal*. In other words, a case about sexual prejudice that is so "idiotic" we cannot bring ourselves to side with either party.

As a Jew with homosexual

friends, I am concerned over this sitting. The issue at stake is freedom of identity, be it sexual or religious or both. Homosexuals are free to practise Judaism in Australia and Jews must be free to practise homosexuality.

The media is a driving force to promote this freedom and it does not mean that they are run by Reform Jews. I am not a Reform Jew, nor an orthodox one, and still support homosexuality as an identity which a Jew must decide separate to his or her religious values.

I sincerely hope the meaning of freedom and identity are not forgotten at the Beth Din meeting, so that at least in future there will be no complaints when homosexuals want to practise the Sabbath at a Jewish function centre.

Simone Stromer,

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Vaucluse.