

The Editor, News Shopper
Mega House
Petts Wood BR5 1 BT

1 September 2010

Dear Sir/ Madam

Numerous members of the public have pointed out the absolutely appalling letter that the News Shopper recently chose, not only to print, but to award a prize to as a 'Star Letter'.

The letter from Mrs. S. Fitzsimons is a hate-filled rant against lesbians, gay men and bisexual people.

Is it your intention to cause distress to your gay readers who have read this attack in your newspaper? Mrs. Fitzsimons actually uses the word *perverts*.

Do you feel that some of your readers deserve more respect than others do?

Please advise me, would you be likely to award a prize to someone who wrote you a hate-filled letter attacking Christians or any other faith group? Would you award a prize for a letter that blatantly attacked older people or disabled people for that matter? In the eyes of the law gay people merit no less respect or proper treatment.

Perhaps the impulse in awarding this biased and prejudicial letter a prize is simply to create some brief, tawdry controversy ?

Will you be refusing ads for lesbian, gay and bisexual clubs as suggested in this dreadful letter? And how about our ads, that our charity has placed with you on a regular basis over the last several years, for NHS and local authority funded services for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people?

The very least your gay readership deserve is an apology from you and yes we are your readership – from all backgrounds, ages, religions and cultures.

On behalf of The Metro Centre Ltd. I respectfully request a full explanation of your actions and intentions.

Yours sincerely

Marguerite McLaughlin

Chief Executive Officer, Metro Centre Ltd