

people entitled to equal rights

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PEER

As citizens of Peoria County we are very concerned about the many incidents of violent crime we read about in the Journal Star. The recent stabbings during the early morning of November 27 at Crusen's nightclub on Farmington Road highlight, unfortunately, another type of violence which very often goes unreported.

The two young men were attacked because they were thought to be gay. They are not. They were taunted and attacked as they were leaving the nightclub. We hope the Sheriff's Department fully investigates this crime and arrest all of the attackers involved. In addition, we encourage the State's Attorney's Office to prosecute each of the offenders to the fullest extent of the law. The citizens of Peoria County will not tolerate hate crimes.

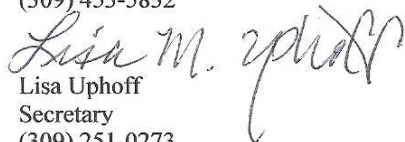
Sincerely,



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