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## Our freedoms and Bill of Rights must upheld

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Suburban Trends

Our freedoms and Bill of Rights must be upheld

dear editor:

I don't know what copy of the Constitution Mr. Thomas Batelli of Riverdale was reading when he composed his letter that appeared in the Suburban Trends on Aug. 25, but it certainly isn't the one that I'm familiar with.

According to my copy of the Constitution (courtesy of the Libertarian Cato Institute), article one, which Batelli quotes, deals with specific powers of Congress, not free speech or religious liberty.

Is it possible that Mr. Batelli was confusing article one with the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, which guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, religious liberty, the right of the people to peacefully assemble, from government encroachment?

All religious beliefs and the right to believe what you want (or not to believe, for that matter) are protected by the Bill of Rights. I really don't see what the problem is over in

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New York with this mosque being built. I suspect that some people pay lip service to free speech and religious liberty as long as it is speech or a religion they agree with.

The argument that the 9/11 terrorists were Muslims and therefore no House of Worship of the Islamic faith should be built anywhere remotely near the World Trade Center site is absurd.

Let us suppose that a group of zealous Christian Fundamentalists blew up or firebombed an abortion clinic somewhere. Would this mean that no fundamentalist-type Bible churches could be built near where the abortion clinic once stood? Somehow I think that many of the people upset about the mosque in lower Manhattan would have a different view about the above scenario!

What is it with contemporary Americans? We used to be proud of our freedoms and our Bill of Rights. Now we seem to find just about any excuse to curtail or undermine them. The latest excuse is that "sensitivity" and "feelings" are more important than individual

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liberty. Once again our Republic's founders must be spinning in their graves!

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