

## There's no room for derogatory speech

### TO THE EDITORS:

The article by Rabbi Jack Paskoff in the Sunday News, March 28, denouncing derogatory speech, and the April 27, Intel/New Era article quoting Charlie Crystle, School District of Lancaster board member, regarding the TalkBack online forum, both point out the pervasiveness of derogatory stereotyping in our community. Both articles had the same message: Every one of us needs to denounce stereotyping of individuals and groups, be it in one-on-one conversation or in a group or in overhearing conversations of others.

It is up to us to say "enough" to the detestation of human diversity. As long as we are comfortable as mute bystand-

ers, derogatory speech will continue. If we truly believe that there is only one human race, and want our children to embrace human diversity, we will become allied with a voice against racism.

The YWCA of Lancaster holds that there is no such thing as a passive anti-racist. We need to be reminded of this each time we hear racist, bigoted comments, and do the right thing and speak up against them.

Rabbi Paskoff quoted Rabbi Heschel, "Some are guilty, all are responsible." Crystle said: "It's very hard to change a bigot, but we can certainly prevent them from spreading their filth."

The recent YWCA Race Against Racism had over

3,300 participants, all demonstrating their abhorrence of racist speech and behavior. We congratulate the YWCA on this event for calling attention to the need to eliminate racism. The YWCA offers a number of programs for us all to equip ourselves with the knowledge, skills and fortitude to speak up against racism. It is our hope that each and every one of us is fed up with hateful and derogatory speech and narrow-mindedness in our community, and will speak up against racism.

On behalf of the Lancaster County Coalition for Religious and Social Justice,

**Dorothy Evans,  
Rev. Peter Newport  
Rabbi Jack Paskoff**  
*Lancaster*