

Friday's letter to the editor may have seemed harsh to some. OK, probably more than some. At times, that is the nature of a letter to the editor.

In today's response I believe we can see through the red, black, blue and gold and come to some type of understanding.

It seems a lot of energy is expended on defending one school or the other instead of celebrating the good things they both accomplish.

It is sad that some have to make the good for one into something bad for the other. It doesn't have to be that way.

I don't know if the author of Friday's letter is aware that St. John's sent a congratulations and good luck banner to their Jefferson counterparts prior to Thursday's game. The Lady 'Cats also received them from other area schools. Those who were their rivals during the season became their fans. The area banded together for a common good. They all cheered for the 'Cats to bring home a title. They couldn't be there, so they wanted Jefferson to do well. It makes us all look good.

It is unfortunate that our two schools' paths sometimes cross in sports, forcing our community to choose sides. I get somewhat confused when this oozes over into everyday life. What is the purpose? Who or what does it serve?

Our schools' jobs are turn out productive, educated, successful young adults who go on to work, college or the military. All three are integral parts of our lives. We need people to do all three. Everyone has a role in weaving our society together.

School pride and spirit is a wonderful thing. It promotes unity and a common goal. Sports promote teamwork, goal-setting and hard work.

When I was in high school, I used to watch as the St. Johners filed in off the bus for Home Ec., Ag and Industrial Arts. I was enamored by the uniforms and in the winter, I often wondered what the heck the girls in skirts were thinking. It was cold outside.

Never once did I think negative thoughts. They were just kids that came in to take classes. They weren't rude or disruptive. They were just kids who wore uniforms instead of jeans. It was really simple. No one told me I wasn't supposed to like them. No one said they were from the "other" school. I never got the "us vs. them" thing. It wasn't an issue for me. I don't even remember anyone talking about it.

When our children are young, they play in city leagues. Wildcats and Blue Jays are side by side. They work together. Teamwork, playing the best they can and, yes, winning, is the goal. Not what school they attend. Their parents sit side by side behind the plate or in the stadium and root for the whole team - cats and birds alike.

I think our energy could be better spent on making our community an even better place to live and an example to others.

I've seen what we can accomplish when we join together. Look around.

People, it's time to build a bridge - and get over it. Have you even looked on the "other" side?

Time to build a bridge

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