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Do we want a generation of softies by restricting books?

Chan King Nui

FORMER Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has instilled in us the spirit of courage, of adventure, of confidence and boldness, so Malaysians now Boleh!

But it seems we are to retreat into the dark ages where we are to be wrapped in cotton wool and protected from tales of terror. Do we want a new generation of softies who dare not even say boo to a cat, let alone big bad wolves?

Writers write to stimulate the senses, to excite and to stir the readers' minds. Without these elements books are insipid.

For some who have been watching films since umpteen years ago showing gory scenes of victims' stomachs being slit open, no tales of terror will affect them, while others are afraid of stepping on an ant. So where do we draw the line?

Surely we Malaysians are mature enough to choose our own books and not be controlled by another group of censors who may follow mindlessly a list of things which are supposed to cause nightmares in weaklings which most of us are not anymore, for we are intrepid Malaysians who dare sail the high seas alone and travel to the poles and soon into space. Why should we be controlled like this? Perhaps, as in films, books can be categorised into U, X, etc to show who can read what? Malaysians should be encouraged to read and write freely and not be controlled by conservative ideas any longer.

Chinese ghosts have been with us for ages. They are the products of imagination, just like the Harry Potter and Stephen King stories. How come only the local ones are deemed to be harmful?

I should think stories of men meeting beautiful women are educational. Never speak to beautiful strangers by the roadside!

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