

Burqa ban

Right to choose

Editor, The Times:
I am not a Muslim and I do not agree with the sexism that the full face veil stands for ["Rethinking France's Burqa Ban," Joni Balter column, Oct. 6]. Yet I believe that it is religious practice and a protected freedom just as much as Jewish people wearing a yarmulke. Women who want to wear burqas should have the right to practice their religion. Who are we to tell women what not to wear? Just how is taking away a woman's right to choose what she wears "women's rights"? I am against women being forced to wear face veils, the way they are in many Muslim nations. But I am also against them being forced not to. They should have the right to choose.

—Anthony Bencivenengo, Seattle

A9/10 Well-Done 10.10.11

9/11 anniversary

Teach tolerance

Your editorial "Teaching 9/11" [Opinion, Sept. 9] missed the real point of teaching this tragedy. Children need to understand (as we all) that the horrors of 9/11 and other terrorist acts were the product of deranged minds and not representative of Muslim beliefs or, where the perpetrator was of the homegrown, white, Anglo-Saxon variety, the beliefs of any religious or ethnic group. The 9/11 curriculum should begin with a lesson in tolerance.

—Caroline Feiss, Seattle

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Well Done