

# The Passy Press<sup>®</sup>

## Letters to the Editor

From: Joseph McCarthy <joseph.g.mccarthy1@undisclosed.com>  
To: Nick Gardiner <enpg@thepassypress.com>  
Sent: 22 October 2017 at 23:47:49 CEST  
Subject: Peter Barnet Essay, October 2017

Dear Sir,

An excellent essay on a sad subject and I agree with most of what Barnet wrote.

I ask myself when did this extreme polarization start to overtake our national discourse. Most usually target the public's disillusionment with the political process, cable TV, and the insidious role of social media. I am also concerned about the role of the universities, the bastions of free speech. Today they have become silos of only liberal dogma and totally intolerant of any other points of view -- a dangerous influence on our next generation.

Another important variable is the concept of identity politics which, by definition, promotes the silo concept and discourages civil discourse among diverse groups. Sadly, we have become a society of protestors, not on behalf of the greater good but on behalf of individual myopic self-interest.

Sincerely,

Joe McCarthy, MD

*Joseph G. McCarthy who holds an A.B. from Harvard and an M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. He is Director Emeritus of the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at NYU and the author of several publications on craniofacial reconstruction. He holds a patent on a technique and device, for lengthening mandibular bone to allow for new bone growth. He won the Pioneer Surgeon Award by the University of Zurich in 2003. He has also been celebrated as Best Teacher at NYU and Father of the Year.*