College of Charleston is facing a funding cut for teaching my book—a book which is after all about the toll that fall for which they also took some flak, but to their great credit they didn’t back down. It’s sad and absurd that the brave of them to do that given the conservative pressures they’re apparently under. I made a visit to the school last college of Charleston: that. I think banning books is the wrong approach. If you don’t want your kids to read it, make sure they don’t get a hold of it. But I do understand that concern, because yeah, drawings are very seductive and attention-catching.

On the controversy surrounding the use of Fun Home in an elective reading program at the College of Charleston: I’m very grateful to the people who taught my book at the College of Charleston. It was brave of them to do that given the conservative pressures they’re apparently under. I made a visit to the school last fall for which they also took some flak, but to their great credit they didn’t back down. It’s sad and absurd that the College of Charleston is facing a funding cut for teaching my book—a book which is after all about the toll that this sort of small-mindedness takes on people’s lives. (Source: Publisher’s Weekly)

I learned this weekend that Bone has been challenged on the basis of “political viewpoint, racism and violence.” I have no idea what book these people read. After fielding these and other charges for a while now, I’m starting to think such outrageous accusations (really, racism?) say more about the people who make them than about the books themselves. (Source: CBLDF)

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FRANK MILLER

Anything that got between my brush and my drawing board was my enemy. Free speech has a long and honorable histo

ry in the United States. This is part of it. But as an artist, I can only say: Get the hell out of my way. (Source: CBLDF)

On Charlie Hebdo: How important are free speech and satire? Important enough that people will murder others to silence the kind of speech they don’t like. It’s worth defending means you’re going to have to stand up for stuff you don’t like. If you accept—and I do—that freedom of speech is important, then you are going to have to defend the indefensible. That means you are going to be defending the right of people to read, or to write, or to say, what you don’t say or like or want said.

You ask, What makes it worth defending? and the only answer I can give is this: Freedom to write, freedom to read, freedom to own material that you believe is worth defending means you’re going to have to stand up for stuff you don’t believe is worth defending, even stuff you find actively distasteful, because laws are big blunt instruments that do not differentiate between what you like and what you don’t, because prosecutors are humans and bear grudges and fight for re-election, because one person’s obscenity is another person’s art.

Because if you don’t stand up for the stuff you don’t like, when they come for the stuff you do like, you’ve already lost. (Source: “Why Defined Freedom of ‘Free Speech’” — Neil Gaiman’s personal website)

On the Chicago ban: It’s shameful. I cannot believe something like this can happen in the United States of America... These are not photos of torture. It’s a drawing and it’s one frame. I don’t think American kids of seventh grade have not seen any signs of violence. Seventy percent of kids have seen things on television and they see all kinds of things on cinema and the Internet. It’s a black and white drawing, and I’m not actually saying that people will murder others to silence the kind of speech they don’t like. It’s too easy to think that freedom of speech is an abstract thing. But the freedom to mock, to argue, to disagree, these are important enough that their opponents will do whatever they can to quash them, and that includes murder. (Source: CBLDF)

NEIL GAIMAN

I wouldn’t be who I am without libraries. I was the sort of kid who devoured books, and my happiest times as a boy were when I persuaded my parents to drive me off in the local library on some rainy day to work, and I spent the day there. I discovered that librarians actually want to help you: they taught me about interlibrary loans. (Source: Neil Gaiman’s personal website)

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