

[This was excised because it did not fit where it was. It probably should have been included in the Lost Chapter but we did not want to hurt said chapter's integrity – Robert Von Stricker Beresford]

So how do we create the tolerance necessary for a fully functioning democracy if our education system has been working at it for years and we are still intolerant? Apparently there are these “speed diversity” meetings in the Montreal school system. It’s speed dating, but without the dating. So people spend five minutes talking to each other and move on. It’s so obvious I can’t believe nobody thought of it before.¹ Mutual tolerance is probably the closest we can come to creating mutual respect in our society. Anything beyond this is probably getting into the illegal realm. I don't have a problem with basic multiculturalism. I have a problem with ghettoization, but multiculturalism is fine. I should point out that I benefited from it. I wouldn't be so tolerant (and I am the most tolerant person ever, as you can tell) or so open-minded if I had grown up in a different country. The Ontario education system made me generally not regard skin colour, language, or ethnicity as indications of worth or intelligence. There is, of course, a problem when the promotion of other cultures goes so far as to create various unconnected ghettos within the society. But I guess that's another thing. So up with speed diversity in our schools!

¹ Some people avoid people they know. Sometimes the more you get to know someone, the more you hate them. So this isn't completely the answer, especially if you are, or your neighbour is, an asshole. It wouldn't work with me, obviously.