

Dear B20/20 supporters:

Last Sunday, a letter was published in the Observer & Eccentric that used the phrase "hate group" to describe B20/20.

I was offended, and feel that editor Greg Kowalski made a poor choice in publishing such inflammatory material.

Below, is my letter to Mr. Kowalski.

B20/20 is a loosely-organized group of BHSD residents, taxpayers and students who agree that the current board of education is not serving their best interests. We support public education, and want the board to focus its attention and education tax dollars on the intellectual development of our resident K-12 and special needs students.

When I think of a "hate group," I think of KKK lynchings, Nazi arrests/murder, and Al Qaida ramming air planes into buildings, for example.

Please tell me, do you feel that B20/20 can be accurately characterized as a "hate group?"

Speaking for myself, a founding member of B20/20, I worked as a special ed sub in the BHSD prior to my board service in 2004-05. Mostly, I worked with deaf students, and children who are deaf/blind. What kind of "hate" is that?

If you care to correspond with Mr. Kowalski, his address is gkowsalski@hometownlife.com

I believe that Mr. Kowalski used very poor judgment in publishing that letter.

Jenny

Monday, Sept. 26, 2011

Dear Greg,

It was an unfortunate choice to publish the letter written by Steven D. Pecic, Jr., in which Bloomfield 20/20 was repeatedly referred-to as a "hate group."

What kind of "hate group?" Please be specific.

Greg: Aren't you the guy who insists that conversations between opposing voices be "civil?" Please tell me, what, in your experience, has any leader, officer, member or supporter of Bloomfield 20/20 ever done that would make the name "hate group" appropriate in referring to this grass-roots organization of concerned taxpayers?

Please provide a list of the "hateful" behaviors you have seen demonstrated by those who support B20/20s initiatives.

B20/20 files financial and organizational reports with the Oakland county elections office as required by law.

Greg, do you know the names of the citizens who have donated \$10 - \$2500 to Bloomfield 20/20s support of the recall petitions filed by Dan McClory and Chris Fellin? Can you draw any connection between any of these names and what you consider to be the actions of a "hate group?"

The Treasurer of Bloomfield 20/20 is Linda Ulrey. Do you believe that Mrs. Ulrey is the Treasurer of a "hate group?" If so, can you provide some factual basis for your belief? Examples?

As Editor, you have the right to edit letters for style and content. Please tell me:

1. Why did you allow such an inflammatory letter to be published?
2. What, if anything, do you know about the writer? (For instance, does he own a gun?)
3. Should citizens who signed the recall petitions be afraid?

Does the "hate group" letter-writer have a financial connection with the BHSD? A conflict of interest?

Are all signers of the recall petitions, who are supportive of the efforts of B20/20, to be painted as "hate group members?"

Most of us thought we were just exercising our rights, under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Greg, absent a quick and very sincere apology, **I will need to cancel my subscription to the Observer & Eccentric.**

Don and I have subscribed to the paper since 1976. The letter you published should have been edited properly, so as not to be inflammatory.

The word "hate" should have been omitted, or changed to "opposition."

As it appeared, you published "hate mail." Is that what your newspaper is about?

I am offended.

Jenny Greenwell
Bloomfield 20/20