

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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LETTER

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recall was made after school board members voted to pursue the single high school plan, despite the defeat of a millage last November that would have gone toward a new school.

"It's been voted down two times already," Banerian said of the single high school plan.

"They've been pressing for this and they don't seem to care what the community has to say."

The recall language was already approved by the county. The group now needs to collect about 5,200 signatures from registered voters in the district to put the issue on the ballot in February.

For the most part, Banerian said being politically involved while still in high school has been a positive experience, and that his teachers are supportive. But he and other members of Bloomfield 20/20 say they were taken aback by the name-calling in the letter.

"You can sift through every document our group has sent out — there has never been any hate mail sent out," he said. "They could have just called us the opposition and that would have been fine. Hate is a strong word. I don't hate the board. I dislike what they're doing."

For more on this topic, visit our letters page in today's Birmingham Eccentric.

Group takes exception to letter

By Jay M. Grossman
Eccentric Staff Writer

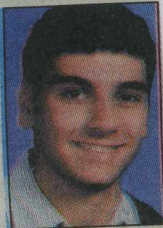
Play fair, keep it civil and stop the name-calling.

That's the message coming from members of Bloomfield 20/20 after the grassroots organization was described as a "hate group" by a letter writer in the Birmingham Eccentric on Sept. 25.

"When I hear the term 'hate group,' I think of the KKK or some neo Nazi group — those people have to register with the FBI," said Michael Banerian, a member of Bloomfield 20/20. "We're just basing our opinions on what the majority of the community said, that they're against one high school. We're just voicing their concerns."

The organization is leading a recall drive against all seven members of the Bloomfield Hills school board because of its decision to close Andover and Lahser high schools and replace them with a new Bloomfield Hills High School. The district maintains that having one high school would save about \$2.5 million annually and help address the steady decline of enrollment into the district.

Banerian, 17, is a junior at Lahser and the youngest member of Bloomfield 20/20. He said the decision to



Banerian

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