

In response: <https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2023/04/27/billy-innes-tomorrow-belongs-to/>

I read with interest William Innes' letter printed on April 28, 2023. Mr. Innes mischaracterized my comments to the BUSD governing board and I appreciate that he invited people to watch the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting video, so everyone can see the truth for themselves. As a parent of three school children, I expressed my concerns that the new curriculum in Benicia includes:

- 1) 10-year-olds being asked to identify their pronouns
- 2) teaching children that boys can be girls and girls can be boys
- 3) teaching 10-year-olds that they can receive puberty blockers to prevent adolescent development
- 4) teaching 12-year-olds about oral and anal sex

I am happy to share where you can find these specific points (some are buried inside different lessons) for any concerned citizens who care to review the curriculum for themselves.

BeniciaFreedom.org promotes freedom of thinking and freedom of choice. It presents a variety of ideas that people can agree or disagree with. It appears that Mr. Innes disagrees with some of the site content and instead of presenting an intelligent counterview, he resorts to name-calling and lie-telling. He rants about eugenics which most certainly is not supported on the BeniciaFreedom site; I'm wondering if the Benicia Herald even visited the site before publishing Mr. Innes' inaccurate letter.

If concerned parents can be labeled as bigots and compared to Nazis in letters published in our local newspapers, what does that say about our community? If people who simply "friend" the BeniciaFreedom page on Facebook are made to feel ashamed and face hatred on social and print media, then Mr. Innes is stoking the "volatile political/cultural war" he claims is "crippling our nation."

Mr. Innes calls those he disagrees with "bigots, hateful, scapegoating, fear mongering voices, small-minded." We can disagree and be neighbors without calling each other names.

I unapologetically stand up for our beautiful city, our amazing country, and the children who will be the next stewards of the blessings we have been given. Let's be kind to each other and open to hearing opinions that may differ from our own.

Janet Roberson