

Nathan Imhoff: Fewer signs more thoughts are needed

Dear Mr. Imhoff:

Santa Clarita City Council candidate David Gauny suggested I contact you in an effort to better understand one another.

Of course, I have never met you nor you me.

Your Saturday Signal 2/5 commentary contains a number of inaccuracies and misrepresentations.

1) ... Your reference to Minutemen as being a "... scattered, unreasonable group of misfits who believe might makes right " paints a broad stroke that is woefully inaccurate. The MM movement is a multi-national, multi ethnic inclusive movement that views itself as a national "neighborhood watch group." Our neighborhood? The Border, Neither I nor any MM I know condone the taking of law into ones own hands, use of violence or intimidation in any manner, or any other perceived form of vigilantism. The carrying of firearms is guaranteed by the Second amendment. Those who carry weapons at the Border, do so for self-protection.

2) ... Your slighting of Minutemen wardrobe as " cowboy hats or handlebar moustaches " is insulting and juvenile and marginalizes your perception of the Movement. I sport neither cowboy hat or moustache but freely admit am guilty of proudly displaying the American flag. In April you will probably see me at the Cowboy Poetry Festival wearing some kind of western garb.

3) ... I do NOT condone plagiarism as you state. My defense of Lynn Vakay as an commentary writer for the Signal was clearly stated in a December, 2009 letter to the editor in which I felt, and still do, that The Signal's knee jerk reaction to the summary banning of Ms. Vakay from future writing for the paper was extreme. I do not condone her mistake, but that is what it was, a mistake. The Signal's action were swift and overzealous especially in view that Signal contributors are

NOT professional writers. Perhaps the Signal might establish and communicate stricter guidelines to its contributors. I would also defend Carole Lutness' right to opine even though she was accused of a similar misdeed. I agree with little that Ms Lutness states but I do defend her right to say it. It is my continued hope the Signal will consider its ban on BOTH.

4) ... Your reference to my "confusion" about the exact number of illegal aliens in the United States is particularly vexing. Fact is, Mr. Imhoff, nobody knows the exact number and than therein lies the root of the real problem: The United States of America is NOT in control of its own border. IN 2003, Homeland Secretary Tom Ridge stated the number of illegal aliens in the USA was " about 12 million." Open Borders folks continue to parrot that number: 12 million " undocumented workers."How can that be? That would infer that millions who came here illegally have disappeared or gone back to their country of origin. That since 2003, there has been no further Border incursion. In 2005, the Border Patrol estimated were 5 million illegal border entries, alone. The Border Patrol admits it apprehends only one if five who enter the USA illegally. It is my opinion, and I have no data to back this up, but the real illegal alien population is about 30 million .Again, I state no one knows the real number, yet another reason to secure our border and make an accurate count.

5) ...I refer to the correct spelling of Antelope Valley Independent Minuteman Frank J O R G E . I would respectfully recommend you might contact him for some glaring inaccuracies your presented on him in your commentary.

Mr. Imhoff, in your search for truth, I ask you to treat ALL parties with fairness. I do not oppose immigration as you imply. I oppose ILLEGAL immigration. The Minuteman movement is NOT anti-immigrant as you state regarding the January 16 rally. The rally was an anti-ILLEGAL alien awareness rally and it was organized to oppose newly introduced Federal legislation by Chicago Congressman Luis Gutierrez' Bill to grant an amnesty to the millions upon millions who have entered the United States illegally. The Bill would offer a pathway to citizenship, I am of the strongest opinion,citizenship should not be marginalized, it should be earned not granted. Mr. Gutierrez; Bill presents a family unification

component to bring millions upon million of impoverished poor aliens to the USA.

6) ... IN 2005, then-president George Bush incorrectly identified Minutemen as vigilantes at a Florida meeting of the parties of the North American Union (NAU). The prime minister of Canada and Mexico were on hand when the president demonized the MM. Fact is, Mr. Imhoff, we ask all of our elected officials, from City Council, County, State, and Federal to uphold the rule of law. Regrettably, president Bush failed dismally to enforce Article 4 Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution , to protect and secure our borders.

I invite you to attend the next rally sponsored by SAVE OUR STATE, Saturday, February 27, 2010, in Valencia. It is at the rally you will learn about the darker side of illegal immigration, the devastating effects illegal alien criminals have wrought on our community: rape, murder, driving drunk and killing, maiming innocent American citizens, the wide spread distribution of drugs, and similar serious felonies committed by so called " undocumented workers." . The numbers are staggering and sobering, Mr. Imhoff. Until you personally suffer as a victim or relative or friend of one (and I hope that never happens to you) , you will not fully understand that many who are here in the USA is not here to work.

If you feel so inclined I would invite you to join me at the Border for a look / see and observe first hand the problems created by the illegal alien problem. I plan to go to Camp Vigilance in Boulevard, California the end of March.

I will not engage you in a war of words in responding to letters@thesignal.com, though I suspect many who read your commentary might do exactly that write the Signal letters to the editor.. I hope you stick to the issue of illegal immigration that succumb to the pettiness of disparaging the parties that participate in trying to bring awareness of this huge problem.

You can reach me, anytime

Roger Gitlin
SCVIMM