

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
NEWSPAPERS and
LETTER WRITERS
SOMETIMES MAGNIFY
POLARIZATION
and HATE!



By Stephen L. Bakke  July 21, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

One day last week as I read the editorial and opinion section I came across two letters that I was uncomfortable with. They were from writers who probably would not seriously disagree with most of my opinions. Yet they were taking "shots" that I wouldn't take and don't agree with for tone, content, or spirit. And then I saw the editorial cartoon for the day, which I have reproduced below. That's when I decided to have my say.

Here's my response:

Newspapers and letter writers sometimes magnify polarization and hate!

On 7-17 I found disappointment in these pages. Two writers, who might support many of my opinions, began suggesting things I neither endorse nor condone: e.g. Obama is an illegal immigrant; his birth certificate is fake; Obama wants to ruin our country; and he should be impeached. While trying to understand the sentiment of these comments, they were taking "shots" that I wouldn't take and don't agree with for content or spirit.

Obama is incompetent, naïve, manipulative, and destructive, but probably not evil, NOT "illegal," and any efforts to impeach would be a waste of time and unhelpful – even if legally warranted.

After those letters darkened my mood, I studied the editorial cartoon for that day (reproduced here). It generalized that republicans pray to Jesus Christ to block tiny little "brown" children from coming into our country and send them back to their own awful countries, never to return! This type of mocking and dishonest content is disgusting! At best it's uninformative! At worst it's shallow and promotes disdain and hatred!



I'm not disappointed in the publishing of those letters – that's your job. I am expressing my disappointment in the unwise use of this cartoon - but I wouldn't deny you the right to do so!