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## Letters to the editor

### Antiracism IS racism

A letter published June 8th asserted that “Antiracism is not racism” and “the recent mass murder of black people in Buffalo by a racist white man [is] part of an enduring legacy of whites killing blacks.” Neither statement is accurate.

Kendi popularized the term “antiracism” in “How to be an Antiracist.” On page 19, he writes “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.” He calls for more racism in the form of racial discrimination. Discrimination based on race is racism. Opposing racism is good. Working to combat racism is better. But antiracism is just more racism. And although its performative aspects target whites, its real victims are usually Asians, as admissions data from colleges and from selective high schools such as Lowell demonstrate.

Regarding Buffalo and an alleged “enduring legacy of whites killing Blacks,” the data shows the opposite. Per black professor Wilfred Reilly, “The narrative that America today is crawling with white supremacists ... is not supported by the facts. Annual Bureau of Justice Sta-

tistics reports show all inter-race violent crime involving whites and blacks typically makes up only about three per cent of serious crime against a person or property. Furthermore, this smallish category of criminal offending is not dominated by whites. In 2018, there were 59,778 white-on-black violent crimes, compared with 547,948 black-on-white violent crimes, out of roughly 20 million total crimes. This category of crime, broken down along racial lines, is just over 90 per cent black-on-white. Those figures are not entirely typical, but the black-white ratio has been at least 75:25 in every postwar year I have ever examined.”

www.spiked-online.com/2022/05/27/buffalo-and-the-myth-of-americas-race-war/  
See also Reilly's book “Taboo” and “Race and crime in the United States” at Wikipedia, which states, “The per-capita [homicide] offending rate for African-Americans was roughly eight times higher than that of whites, and their victim rate was similar.”

The resolution proposed by Mr Berti does not prevent teaching actual history, only assigning guilt for historical acts to current students based on their race.

Robert Lavoie  
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

## Passing the Baton – LES principal

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Kim and her teaching staff conducted the majority of the 2020-21 academic year virtually, while orchestrating weekly homework pickups and drop-offs and then returning to school for partial days in April. “Balancing the needs and desires of all stakeholders with the ultimate goal of student and staff safety has been quite an adventure.”

As Kim bids LES and the district farewell, she is leaving with a sense of pride and taking many lessons with her. In addition to the students she has supported, Kim is proud of the team that she helped put in place to ensure that the education at LES remains outstanding. “During my tenure at LES, we had many, many retirements of beloved, long-term staff,” Kim says. “I am most proud of the new staff that I have hired over the past several years and their dedication to our students.”

One of the most important lessons Kim has learned in her years as principal is to simply meet people where they are. “When you are able to sit down and have a conversation, you are able to uncover what is the crux of the problem and work together to find a solution.”

As the mother of a rising

fifth- and a rising second-grader at LES and a parent volunteer Jennifer McCarthy has worked closely with Kim over the years. McCarthy became acquainted with Kim and her style when her eldest child was in kindergarten and required a student study team, and says she observed many magical, transformative moments in McCarthy's presence when working in her role as a volunteer lunch helper. “It always made me smile to hear Mrs. Kim's ‘quiet’ voice come over the multipurpose room mic – the chaos immediately calmed and the kids suddenly were on best behavior – because they wanted Mrs. Kim to see them at their best Leopard selves,” McCarthy says. “Hearing and seeing not just my own but so many other kids' interactions with her on campus, it is obvious they feel seen and known.”

When asked what it is she's going to miss most about Mrs. Kim, it comes down to one simple thing for McCarthy. “How real she is,” McCarthy says. “Whether it's a lunch vendor “emergency,” a smoke day, distance learning, hybrid learning, a tricky student situation, once she says ‘it's going to be ok; we'll make it work,’ you knew you could count on that to be true.”

In that same spirit, Kim is

confident that things will continue to work out fine at Lafayette Elementary school even as she passes her baton to the next principal, Melissa Barclay. While Barclay will be new to this particular role, she's not new to the district. Barclay served as the district's curriculum and instruction administrator and Springhill Elementary's assistant principal for the past three years, and before that, she was a reading specialist and third-grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School. Barclay lives in Lafayette with her husband and children and she says she's thrilled to be back at LES.

“As a teacher at Lafayette for five years, I know the dedication of the staff in academics but also in creating a caring and welcoming school culture and environment.”

*Editor's Note: The Lafayette School District governing board recently appointed Dr. Brent Stephens as its next superintendent, announced that Betsy Balmat, the current principal of Stanley Middle School, will be joining the District Office on July 1 as the new assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and Nicole “Nikki” Chaplan has been selected as the new principal of Stanley Middle School. Profiles of these individuals will be included in upcoming issues of Lamorinda Weekly.*

## Moraga Chamber's new executive director

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All of the weight of owning a business rests on the owner's shoulders, from staffing to financing to insurance and safety. A business owner works seven days a week, on site or in their head. I really want them to know that not only me, but the Chamber sees them and wants to help.”

Bidstrup's future game plan is to follow her credo “A Strong Community makes for Strong Business” by getting both groups involved with each other through social media, website, job board, calendar and business directory. She's also hoping to increase foot traffic through a Moraga gift card program; getting Saint Mary's College students and faculty involved in the business

community; approach the town council for more ARPA funding; create an ArtWalk event; and bring back the Community Faire.

“While things are improving for some, many many of your local businesses are facing new and lingering challenges with increased costs, staffing shortages and back-due bills and rent,” reminded Bidstrup. “We invite the public to let your town council know how important it is to increase and prioritize support for local businesses. Let's keep our Moraga businesses in Moraga and let's support them in order to do that!”

To contact the Moraga Chamber of Commerce email: themoragachamber925@gmail.com or phone: (925) 235-0708.