

N Word Community Comment: Mike Goldsby, Thursday, February 2, 2012

I am troubled by recent reports of inappropriate behavior by some Ferndale High School Football fans. I want to be clear I am not a spokesperson for anybody but myself. I'm just a guy with 3 minutes of radio time. And my opinion is this behavior needs to be discussed and it needs to stop.

Some words are so offensive and so charged with hatred that it is not appropriate to say those words. The N word is one of those words. If that word is a common part of your vocabulary when referring to Black people, you need to keep that to yourself and your like minded friends.

The fact that several people have used that demeaning term in public at Ferndale community events demonstrates a severe lack of judgment and respect. There are reports of four separate incidents. Let's assume it is possible that one of those situations was misinterpreted. Visiting student athletes heard that Ferndale fans have yelled racial insults in the past and they saw pickup trucks with Confederate flags. During the game, a fan yelled something at a black football player from a visiting school and the student heard a racial slur. It is inappropriate for any adult to be yelling anything at students from any school, but it is possible that one was misheard.

But even if that one was inaccurate, that leaves at least three more reports. And if 3 have been reported, there well may be more incidents that were not reported. This cannot be tolerated or ignored.

I attended the high school presentation "Pursuing victory with honor" with several hundred community members and students. For me, the highlight of the evening was from two student representatives. A student athlete pointed out that students are constantly told that they represent the community and should act appropriately. He pointed out that the community also represents the school and these incidents have made it hard for the students and the team.

Student Body President Callie Brodt gave the shortest presentation and the most memorable. She quoted Martin Luther King. "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people."

People have written letters to the Editor asking that the people who made these statements come out and apologize. I think that is highly unlikely. But I do know the good people can continue to speak up and make their opinion known, that this behavior is not acceptable.

Switching to other topics, KINS now has a website where you can find a lot of information, including newscasts and community comments. So if you miss part of a comment or can't believe what you just heard, you can go online, listen to it from your computer and even look at the script written by the commentators.

Bowling for Kids Sake is coming up. I hope you support this major fundraiser for North Coast Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The theme is Ever After Bowl, held March 2 and 3. Form a team or donate to an existing team. My team calls ourselves The Bowlers Grimm and you can make an online, tax deductible donation to us through the link I have put at the end of this script.

Support the proven success of the Mentor Program through North Coast Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/barnaby-wylde/bfks12everafter>