

Letters to the Editor

Exhibit A

Dear Editor,

I was deeply disappointed to hear that your newspaper would not be running a story about the Gilpin County School's most recent production of *She Kills Monsters*. Every year our local students work tirelessly for months to put on productions that they believe bring something to the community. This year was no exception.

Unfortunately this year one of your reporters made the somewhat ridiculous decision that the school's production was "more raw" than the readership of the *Weekly Register Call* would be able to handle. I'm appalled at this decision and I believe many in the community are too.

To be frank, the subject matter covered in *She Kills Monsters* embodies the very real, every day experiences of many, if not most, teenagers. Needed now more than ever, why would you not take the opportunity to talk with our community about the need for compassion, empathy, and inclusiveness?

Does the reporter believe that questioning of one's identity is not the lived experience of every teenage? Bullying and homophobia are issues we should be talking about, not hiding from. Every student on that stage knows someone or is personally impacted by the key messages of the show. In failing to write about a show that was so personal to them, you are in essence implying that they have something to be ashamed of or embarrassed about. Is this the message you hope to share with your reading audience?

I am deeply troubled by the biases the exclusion of *She Kills Monsters* seems to expose in your reporting staff. The reporter in question was aware of the subject matter ahead of time and simply allowed their biases to impact their reporting. I hope that going forward there will be more thought put into the coverage of community events, if not for the adults of our community but for the youth who see themselves excluded from your pages.

Sincerely, Azure Hardy

Dear Editor,

My name is Warren Hardman and I played the narrator in the Gilpin County Players' production of *She Kills Monsters*. I am writing this email to voice my concerns regarding the lack of an article on our show and then the response given to our director when she had voiced the very same concern. This show is something that needs to be heard. Something that you can't just watch. Something you feel in your heart.

Personally, the story had made me feel like I had a place where I could belong. A place where I can be safe. I, and many other of my cast mates, feel the same. And so, we had all put our hearts and or souls into telling the story that is "too raw" for the paper. Yes, the show is upfront with the issues it presents despite the comedy shown throughout it. We can't just ignore or sugar coat these issues. Everyday LGBT youth are bullied and it is a real issue that needs to be addressed. We as a cast deserve to let our voices be heard. To let this story be told. To help people understand that LGBT youth exist and that the problems they face are valid. Thank you for your time. I hope I have shined at-least a little bit of light onto the situation and why I believe there should be an article about *She Kills Monsters*.

Thanks, Warren Hardman

Dear Editor,

I wish we were conversing over something more positive. This whole situation has made my students and myself incredibly heartbroken. I feel Patty is unethical in her role as a journalist at your paper. She let her personal beliefs interfere with her job. While our production had more mature content, for her to say she couldn't report on anything positive baffles me. It is exactly why we did a production like we did; to educate the community on the challenges teenagers face today and give them a platform to be accepted for who they are. This is the opposite message Patty has brought to the students in this year's Gilpin production. I feel it's necessary that you print both Azure's letter as well as print an article the students deserve. It's only right for the community and our students to understand why an article was not printed in the first place. I know Trystan Swan works at your paper and she would be more than happy to put together an article giving our students the credit they so deserve. I hope you continue to hear from parents and students regarding this matter. It's important their voices be heard. In the future, I hope we have a journalist in the audience who knows the true meaning of the arts and understands the importance the theatre serves the students in Gilpin.

Regards, Hannah Raynes

Dear Editor,

I understand that the reporter tasked with writing an article on the recent play in Gilpin has bowed out of writing an article on

it. I will say that it sounds like a shallow, myopic decision. As a community member (and father of some of the cast) this is just disappointing. We put a lot of effort into enabling our children to perform in plays - the late nights, rehearsals on the weekends, sacrificing other things to make this happen. This play brings up topics that are very real to today's children. There are issues of exploring sexuality, bullying and mourning the death of a loved one. It also speaks to learning to understand and accept differences. It's actually a wonderful, well written play. One of my daughters friends was incredibly moved by the play when we took them to the production in Boulder last year. My children are more open to discussing the content of the play than your reporter. Not writing about a community event that these kids worked on for months is a disservice to those kids and our community. One of the great things about our country is the freedom of speech, and it seems that the Weekly Register-Call thinks it's acceptable to silencing conversation when you don't agree with it. That's the message you've sent our children. That's the message you've sent to the community.

Congratulations, Will OBrien

Dear Editor,

My name is Ryan Raynes, and I am the technical director for the MS/HS play at Gilpin County School. I am emailing in regards to the omission of coverage of the school play in The Weekly Register Call this year. I have been part of Gilpin County School as a teacher, coach and director since 2010, and have interacted with Patti Unruh during that time through her coverage of teams I have coached, events I have been a part of at the school as a teacher and parent, and of course as a part of the school theater department. Although I have had positive interactions with Patti in the past, I am very disappointed and frustrated with her decision to not cover our school play this year. Patti asked my wife Hannah (the director) to answer questions ahead of time for her article, and also attended a Rotary presentation where we gave a "sneak preview" of the show. There was never an indication before the show took place that an article might be excluded for any reason, and after the show took place, we had no communication to that effect either. Patti never communicated that she (or the paper) had a problem with the play's content, or that she herself might be reluctant to publish an article for any reason. In fact, the only way we discovered that an article would not be written, was by my wife reaching out to Patti about receiving a

copy of an article. While I plan to contact Patti for a personal explanation, I also need to voice to you that it is unacceptable for her to pick and choose which school events she would like to cover based upon her personal beliefs/ opinions. While this play was advertised as "Parental Guidance Suggested," it was approved by our superintendent, principal, and counselor. It has been performed at many other high schools around the state and country, and has positive messages about acceptance, belief in one's self, and open-mindedness. Even if Patti was unable to absorb any of these messages because of her personal biases, and could not, "find anything positive to report on," coverage should not have been omitted. There are nearly 40 students, adult community members, and parents who put countless hours in to making a great production happen, all of whom were disappointed with this lack of recognition. Another member of your staff, Trystin Swan was there covering the show, was moved to tears by the play's content, and said she would have been more than happy to have written the article and shared photos. The decision to not cover the play was simply unnecessary, irresponsible, and unjust. Our cast and crew worked hard for many months to share a performance that they were very proud of. Your paper was supposed to acknowledge their hard work with an article and photos, and failed to do so because of one reporter's beliefs. Effectively, this action is telling us as directors (and our cast and crew) that we may not get acknowledged from year to year based upon whether Patti likes the show or not. I have never heard of her omitting coverage of a school sports team or other event because she does not care one of the players, coaches or teachers, or the final outcome that she witnesses on the court, stage, or in the classroom. If this will be the case moving forward, I would like to have someone else report on our shows. A reporter for The Mountain Ear had no trouble creating an objective article about our show, and if Patti is unable to put her beliefs aside in order to do the same, then I don't think she is the right person to report on GCS theater. Please let me know if you would like to discuss anything moving forward. Of course I will be reaching out to our school superintendent about this situation, as well as discussing the matter with Patti if she is willing. Thank you for the unbiased coverage you have given our plays and other school events in the past, and please make unbiased coverage a priority of your publication moving forward.

Thank you for your time, Ryan Raynes

Exhibit B

971 HWY 46 - PO Box 410 - Black Hawk - CO - 80422
303-927-0012



February 27, 2020

To: Bob Unruh
Patty Unruh
Brian Unruh

It is with heavy hearts we find we must write this letter. Bob and Brian, when we saw you Sunday morning our hearts we lifted as we thought you had come to accept our invitation to join us in worship again. However, your threatening and divisive behavior toward several members of the congregation quickly demonstrated to us that was not the case. It is now clear you have no intention of rejoining us for worship and will continue to attempt to intimidate, disrupt and sow division.

Further, it has come to our attention that on at least two occasions since you left fellowship and were removed from leadership of the church, Bob and Patty both have illegally represented yourselves as having authority to represent the church, which you are not authorized to do—once with the State of Colorado, removing CTK from the highway cleanup program and once with YMCA in Estes Park.

In light of these things, after much prayerful consideration, seeking the Lord's wisdom in what is best for the body of Christ at CTK in this situation, we feel you have left us no choice but to remove you from membership in accordance with the bylaws which govern the affairs of Christ The King Community Church - Black Hawk, to wit:

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERS

3.01. Members. *Members shall be all people who regularly attend services and covenant together to fulfill the vision of Christ The King Community Church - Black Hawk. The word Member; shall not be deemed to hold any ownership in Christ The King Community Church - Black Hawk. Likewise, the word Membership referenced herein reflects only a spiritual unity and shall not be deemed to have any legal status under State or Federal law.*

The Board of Elders shall have the right to remove any Member that fits into the following criteria:

- a) A member's conduct and lifestyle is violating Biblical standards and the individual refuses correction.*
- (b) A member is not in harmony with the vision or leadership of Christ The King Community Church - Black Hawk.*

As such, in a special meeting of the full Board of Elders was held via email on February 27th, 2020

A motion was made and seconded as follows:

Bob Unruh, Patty Unruh, and Brian Unruh shall be removed as Members of Christ The King Community Church – Black Hawk, pursuant to Article 3.01 of the bylaws governing the affairs of the church, because their conduct violates Biblical standards and they have refused multiple attempts to correct their behavior. Further, they have consistently demonstrated behavior not in harmony with the vision and leadership of the church.

The motion passed and the corporation therefore adopted the following resolution:

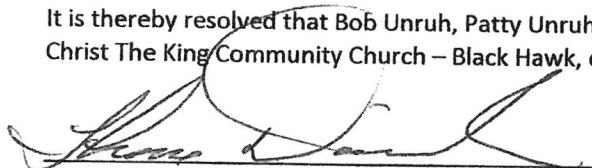
It is thereby resolved that Bob Unruh, Patty Unruh and Brian Unruh are removed as members of Christ The King Community Church – Black Hawk, effective immediately

A motion was made and seconded as follows:

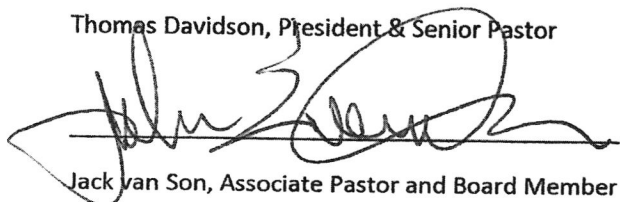
Bob Unruh, Patty Unruh and Brian Unruh shall be prohibited from entering the property of Christ The King Community Church – Black Hawk, effective immediately.

The motion passed and the corporation therefore adopted the following resolution:

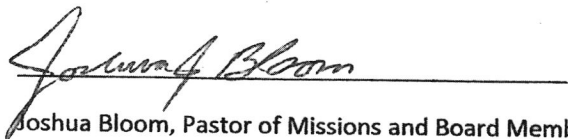
It is thereby resolved that Bob Unruh, Patty Unruh and Brian Unruh are prohibited from entering the property of Christ The King Community Church – Black Hawk, effective immediately.



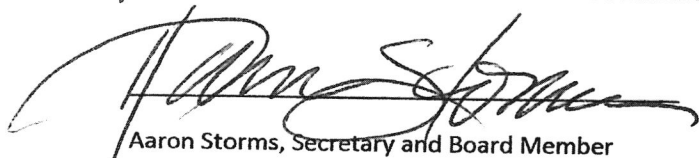
Thomas Davidson, President & Senior Pastor



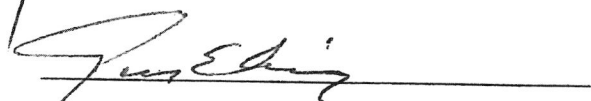
Jack van Son, Associate Pastor and Board Member



Joshua Bloom, Pastor of Missions and Board Member



Aaron Storms, Secretary and Board Member



Gary King, Board Member



Jeff Oliver, Board Member