

Subject: Fw: I support you and your principles

Dear Sheriff Clarke,

Thank you for standing up for common sense and individual responsibility and for serving our county. I wrote this letter in support of you last week, it was never published, and given they're on your case again, thought I'd share what I wrote with you. Thank you for your refreshing clarity of vision.

Daniel Bice's column "Clarke talks of government as 'common enemy' is an unjustified and cowardly attack of a perfectly reasonable human being and I've had it. Buried in the story is that Mr. Clarke won a "Sheriff of the Year" award. But it's from a "right wing" organization (with the evil word "constitutional" in its name). Therefore, it's actually worse than any award at all, based on the tone of this column. Agree or disagree, Mr. Clarke is a productive member of society, trying to make a positive difference. But due to his political views he's beat-up and characterized as a right wing kook. I'm sick and tired of writers like Mr. Bice who hide behind their computers and attack and judge other people trying to do good things. Simply because they hold different views. But more troubling than this tiny column are your newspaper's consistent and personal attacks lodged at useful, productive human beings. Simply because your editorial board disagrees. Yes - Clarke is outspoken. But so are you, the Journal Sentinel. Look in the mirror. It's not as if you don't have an agenda. It's not as if you don't err in what you say once in a while. Get a grip and get some humility. There's bias all over the place, every single day, in your paper. Not just in the stories themselves, not just in what you choose to emphasize, but also in what you choose not to cover at all. All human beings hold biases. Clarke has a right to his opinion, and so do you. But you cannot at once be biased, and not allow others to also be biased. I'm sick of people and institutions in this country assassinating the character of people with whom they disagree, simply because they disagree. "Co-exist"? Sure. But only if YOU agree with ME. Quit personally attacking people.

Jeff