

Countering Lies and Hysteria at San Diego State University

An emeritus professor responds to a mob's demand for his scalp

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Minding the Campus, August 31, 2020

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!

-- in *Marmion*, Sir Walter Scott, 1808

Jean Twenge, a social psychologist at San Diego State University, gives us the most detailed picture yet of the behavior, values, and mental state of today's teenagers and college students. She calls the generation after the millennials iGen (like iPhone), which is short for "internet generation," because they are the first generation to grow up with the internet in their pockets. ... Twenge's analyses suggest that there are two major generational changes that may be driving the rise of safetyism on campus since 2013. The first is that kids now grow up much more slowly. Activities that are commonly thought to mark the transition from childhood to adulthood are happening later... [W]hen members of iGen arrived on campus, beginning in the fall of 2013, they had accumulated less unsupervised time and fewer offline life experiences than had any previous generation. As Twenge puts it, "18-year-olds now act like 15-year-olds used to and 13-year-olds like 10-year-olds. Teens are physically safer than ever, yet they are more mentally vulnerable." ... Members of iGen, therefore, may not (on average) be as ready for college as were eighteen-year-olds of previous generations. This might explain why college students are suddenly asking for more protection and adult intervention in their affairs and interpersonal conflicts.

-- *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure*, Gregg Lukianoff & Jonathan Haidt, Penguin Books, 2019, pp. 146, 148

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nothing is so invigorating to an emeritus professor as to discover, fourteen years after his official retirement, that he is still regarded as a threat by censorious, totalitarian segments of his own academic subculture. And, indeed, a threat sufficient to have inspired serious planning for his euthanasia.

I've always liked the British motto of 1939, "Keep calm and carry on." But increasingly my favorite is, "Youth and ability will get you far, but old age and treachery will get you further."

On June 17, 2020, from out of the blue an East Coast colleague wrote me, "Have you seen this?" He included the link to a petition started by the [Biology Graduate Student Association](#) (BGSA) of my own department at San Diego State University; it is given verbatim as an appendix to this article. The petition called for revocation of my emeritus professor status and associated privileges. There were already more than 400 "signatories" at that point. But perhaps not such a big deal. The petition had been circulating internationally via Twitter, *anyone* could sign, and all the brave souls who did were promised that their names would not be made public. As of August 1, there were 554 "signatories." 77 claimed to be current SDSU Biology graduate students (out of a total of 130-140), and almost all the rest were persons with no connection to SDSU.

Leaders of this attack were the six current officers of the BGSA, none of whom had ever met me or complained to me about my writings, emails, or bulletin board posts: Amanda Alker, Kylie Curtis, Greta Schmidt, Brianne Palmer, Ben Scott and Brandie White.

What could have so provoked these intellectually fragile youngsters? According to the BGSA petition, I have “a long history of bigotry,” have “used biology department space and resources to distribute racist manifestos and texts with diatribes designed to cast doubt on the values of diversity,” have “posted outwardly racist materials” on hallway bulletin boards, have unjustly criticized the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), have published articles in “a hate group” ([The Social Contract](#)), and have sent “mass email tirades filled with xenophobic, eugenicist rhetoric,” among other offenses. You get the picture.

None of those statements are true. But the petitioners only throw labels around and cite no specific articles, email messages, or other documents that provide evidence for their claims, so there is no substance to which one might respond. They attempt no analysis. They simply make the error of adopting in industrial quantities the hate-filled epithets the [widely discredited](#) Southern Poverty Law Center employs for writers and organizations who support the recommendations of [past national commissions](#) calling for large reductions in legal immigration and effective enforcement against illegal immigration.

Here’s some context: More than any of my departmental colleagues over the past half century, I regarded hallway bulletin boards and email messaging as valuable tools to inform wider audiences not just about my own courses and my own and my students’ research, but also about major environmental, economic, and social issues, especially those neglected in university curricula and censored by many societal institutions. Common topics have included lake ecology, water resources in California, climate change, wildlife conservation, overpopulation, immigration, family planning, ecological economics, race and sex preferences in hiring, statistical malpractice by scientists, and censorship within the scientific community.

The BGSA petition focuses primarily on items having to do with overpopulation and immigration. I always treated these topics, at least briefly, in my ecology, limnology and man-and-the-environment-type courses. During the last two decades, as board secretary for [Californians for Population Stabilization](#) (2000-2012) and then as president of [Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization](#) (2013-present), I learned a great deal more about these issues and shared that knowledge widely. My postings and emailing at SDSU constituted a miniscule portion of that effort. With colleagues, I operated exhibitor booths on population issues at the annual [San Diego EarthFair](#) from 2000 to 2019, and at least one annual meeting of each of 26 different scientific societies. I have prepared packets of 10-40 articles each on population issues and distributed them at a variety of venues and meetings in San Diego and elsewhere. Under email attack by a smaller mob, I gave a successful invited talk on population issues at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) in 2017, giving out to attendees more than 800 articles on population issues. That led to months-long discussions at SIO on censorship and U.S. population stabilization that I wrote about in a [bioethics journal](#).

Showing a high degree of hostility to such educational efforts and shortly after I had sent out the 2019 article about my SIO adventure to the whole Biology department, the departmental leadership established a new regulation just for my benefit: emeritus professors may not make more than 100 photocopies per month on the departmental photocopier. Since I’ve paid all my own paper costs and done all the labor myself since 2006, there has been close to zero cost to the department. (Oops, I didn’t pay for the staples!) This likely was the handiwork of iGen

complainers and their faculty supporters, a 4.2 seismic tremor forewarning of the “big one” they had in preparation.

The day after I learned of the BGSA petition, I discovered that someone, presumably the Biology chair, had prevented me from responding to the graduate students via the departmental listservs for the different subsets of students. My appeals to higher administrative levels were stonewalled.

Around the same time, an SDSU Senate committee was developing a policy to make it easier to revoke the emeritus status of any professor who “causes harm to the University’s reputation.” A draft policy was approved by one Senate committee in July, but there is no current public information on its fate. Senate leaders claimed this draft policy was unrelated to the BGSA petition. Upon hearing rumors to the contrary, I asked three different senators from our College of Sciences whether they or other College senators had used the BGSA petition to push for development of a new emeritus policy. No one replied.

Then reports began appearing in the media discussing and sometimes linking the two matters. In general, they supported me and criticized the idea of “canceling” anyone, let alone emeriti, the most experienced, most politically independent and best-behaved members of any university community. The first was from the director of research at the [National Association of Scholars](#) (July 16). Then followed one from an SDSU English literature professor (July 18), two from the *San Diego Union-Tribune’s* top education reporter (July 20, 24), one from a director at the [Foundation for Individual Rights in Education](#) (July 23), one from a writer for *Inside Higher Ed* (July 23), one from the executive director of [Progressives for Immigration Reform](#) (July 25), and one from a student reporter for [The College Fix](#) (July 25).

On August 4, I sent a message, with links to these reports, to the entire Biology faculty and the BGSA officers, pointing out that some articles had comment sections with much additional information, and that the sections were still open if students (or faculty members) wanted to further “pile on.” I asked that the message be passed on to *all* BGSA members, whom the BGSA officers had kept in the dark with regard to developments and whom the Biology chair prohibited me from reaching directly. This was not done.

On August 13, I sent a stronger message to just the departmental leadership and faculty advisors of the BGSA officers, emphasizing that, “I have a right to defend myself directly to the entire BGSA membership. ... and you may be seen, eventually by a large audience, as opposing transparency, favoring one group of graduate students over the other and supporting the attack on me.” Again, no response. Most objective outside viewers will understand that, at the moment, an entire departmental faculty has caved to the mob.

We pause now for a long intermission while the second act is written.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2006 I have been an emeritus professor of biology at San Diego State University where I taught ecology and statistics for 36 years. On 17 June 2020 I learned, by chance from a colleague on the East Coast, that a group of students in our [Biology Graduate Student Association](#) (BGSA) had started a petition asking the university administration to revoke my status as an emeritus professor and its associated privileges. This, as they knew, would be damaging as I am still active in research, writing and, occasionally, speaking.

As of 1 August, 554 persons have signed the petition, the great majority (73 percent) being “allies-at-large,” apparently all sorts of persons with no connection to SDSU. **The full petition is appended to this essay.**

The BGSA officers have distributed this calumny-rich document nationally and internationally. So I ultimately will do the same with this response. But SDSU administrators have already taken steps to preclude me from being able to defend myself before all of our biology graduate students. Possibly the same administrators and BGSA officers will also attempt to impede this response being forwarded not only to our graduate students but also to the hundreds of misled and naïve signers outside of SDSU – even though SDSU administrators have access to the email addresses of those signers. I know this ethical environment well.

I regret the embarrassment this will cause to the passionate, idealistic and anonymous young members of BGSA who signed the petition. But that will be fleeting and compensated by a life lesson that can serve them well in the future. Better they practice their boxing skills now with lightweight, simpatico sparring partners before they take on some of the big, ugly heavyweights that await them outside of their safe spaces in the university. Also their self-understanding will be enhanced if they take a hint and read the [book by Lukianoff and Haidt](#) quoted above. Indeed, that book exculpates at least the younger petition drafters and signers to some extent in implying that the wider “society made them do it.”

As for those censorious faculty members, student advisors, and administrators who may have signed or encouraged this petition, **it is they who are most responsible for embarrassing our Biology department and SDSU generally in the world’s eyes.** Each BGSA officer has a faculty advisor. It is reasonable to presume that those advisors knew of the petition but lacked the wisdom to tell the students how damaging this effort would prove to the petitioners’ own reputations and that of our department. SDSU faculty members, if any, who signed the petition likely will fight to remain anonymous. That’s what passes for “walking the talk” in academia.

OF BULLETIN BOARDS AND EMAIL

What has most incensed the BGSA officers are items I have posted on bulletin boards in our [Biology Department](#), sent out by email to large numbers of recipients (often including some of our graduate students), or published or written elsewhere. They claim these are evidence that I am, *inter alia*, a “racist” and “harasser.”

More than any of my colleagues in our department over the past half century, I have regarded hallway bulletin boards and email messaging as valuable tools to inform wider audiences not just about my own courses and my own and my students’ publications but also about major societal and environmental issues neglected in university curricula in general and often censored by many societal institutions.

This started in a big way in the 1980s when I became coordinator of our [Ecology Program](#) for a few years. We purchased and installed six 3ft x 4ft bulletin boards on the second floor of the SDSU Life Science building where most of the ecology faculty then had their offices. Faculty members and graduate students were encouraged to put up informational materials of their choosing on these.

Large bulletin boards are an underutilized educational resource, but in many departments and universities they are actively discouraged or prohibited. University administrators – and some faculty members -- view them in much the same way dictators in Russia, China and elsewhere

have always viewed underground newspapers and “democracy walls” that spring up to counter the deficiencies of governments and “official curricula.”

A similar attitude often exists with regard to the officially established group listservs or email addresses set up for intra-departmental or intra-university communications. Administrators find these very useful and convenient for normal administrative and informational functions -- and for making their personal opinions widely known as well. But they tend to have a dim view of professors using them for the same purposes.

Over the years I never lacked for materials to put up or, occasionally, to distribute by email to particular segments of the student body, faculty and others. These dealt with all manner of issues, mostly ones relating to lake ecology, water resources in California, climate change, wildlife conservation, overpopulation, immigration, family planning, ecological economics, race and sex preferences in hiring, statistical malpractice by scientists, censorship within the scientific community, symposia organized by myself, and university and governmental policies. In their petition, the topics the BGSA officers seemed to have focused on were overpopulation, immigration, and, to a lesser extent, race and sex preferences in hiring and student admissions.

Over the decades a certain amount of vandalizing of these materials went on. This increased greatly over the last several years. The BGSA petition signals its own dislike of “democracy walls” – or at least of certain topics and opinions covered there -- and perhaps the BGSA officers’ past participation in this vandalism.

In any event, my initiative and “democracy wall” served students and others well for about three decades. That’s longer than “democracy walls” usually last. On many occasions when someone saw me putting up new material, they stopped to say how interesting some items were. Here’s a written thank you from Prof. Manal Swairjo, in SDSU’s Department of Chemistry, whom I never met. She was responding to a request I had broadcast in 2018 seeking information on the vandals who had destroyed some of my postings: “I am sorry to hear this Prof. Hurlbert. Although I am in the chemistry department, I did notice these postings in NLS and stopped to read them more than once. Thank you for this contribution. I hope you find the culprit. “

Since I removed in 2019 all the remaining items I had posted on the bulletin boards, the boards have turned into an intellectual desert, many of them mostly empty. Apparently neither other faculty members nor the BGSA folks have anything of intellectual substance with which to make use of the freed-up space.

With that long but necessary introduction, let me now respond to the specific allegations against me.

FLATOUT FALSEHOODS IN PETITION

First, let me make a number of assertions using the language of the petition:

1. I was fighting against “racism, bigotry, and other intolerance” before the parents of the BGSA officers were born; they have nothing to teach me.

2. I have never been an “agent of intolerance,” except perhaps for idiocy and intolerance itself.

3. I have neither a “long history of bigotry” nor a short one.

4. I have never “distribute[d] racist manifestos,” anywhere.

5. I indeed have widely and publicly “cast doubt on the value of diversity” of any sort (racial, religious, political, linguistic, etc.) as always being an automatic good. Most intelligent people take the same position. I also do this by quoting in my email signature line the words of a former director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, Ron Wakabayashi: “Politicians like to say that diversity is our greatest strength. That is b.s. Diversity simply is. The core question is: How do we extract its assets while minimizing its liabilities?”

6. I don’t recall whom I “ridiculed for donating to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC),” but there are indisputable grounds for anybody to do so, indeed, for everybody to do so. See below.

7. I did indeed once refer to Mexico as a “hostile nation.” Well documented are decades of the Mexican government attempting to interfere with US immigration legislation, US immigration enforcement, its facilitation and encouragement of illegal immigration, its financial support of US NGOs fighting deportation of illegal aliens and politicking for mass amnesties, and involvement of corrupt Mexican government agencies (border police, local police, federal police, military, governors, etc.) in building and protecting tunnels and smuggling drugs and people into the US.

8. Yes, I have published many articles in [The Social Contract](#) and occasionally “sent links” to them to graduate students but mostly to other scientists. Some would say those articles include [some of the best case histories](#) available documenting censorship within the scientific community. *The Social Contract* is not a “hate group,” is not published by a “hate group,” and the opinion of a discredited organization like SPLC is irrelevant.

9. No authority has ever “formally recognized” any “racism and harassment” on my part, not “since 2006,” and not before 2006 either.

10. I have never sent any “mass email tirades filled with xenophobic, eugenicist rhetoric.”

11. I have never sent or posted any “racist screeds.”

12. The “personal use of email filters” is recommended not just “by the department” but universally when you want to avoid any messages of any sort from another person. Believe it or not, “incoming students” already know how to do this. And maybe they have better judgment than do the BGSA officers as to what is “racist” and what is not. Maybe they will find many of my emails valuable and interesting.

13. I have always worked at “creating a welcoming and safe environment” for all students. Any students, however, who demand “intellectual safety” as well as physical are probably at the wrong university, or at least in the wrong department.

14. I have done nothing “to diminish recruitment, support, and retention of both graduate and undergraduate and undergraduate students at SDSU.”

15. The BGSA officers say they “deserve... an environment that will let us, and future students, work in peace,” by which they presumably mean an environment free of opinions strongly in conflict with those of the BGSA officers.

13. The dishonesty of the BGSA officers persists to the last sentence: “We, the Biology graduate students at San Diego State....” implies an unanimity that does not exist. Only slightly more than half of the BGSA membership has signed the petition. “Some Biology graduate students....” or “The undersigned Biology graduate students” were truthful options available.

THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

One of the BGSA officers’ more monstrous mistakes was to regard the SPLC as an ethical and truthful organization.

This is disappointing in a group of science graduate students who would be expected to have more capacity for critical thinking and thorough literature searches. They say SPLC is “known for its legal cases against white supremacist groups.” But despite winning rare lawsuits against white supremacists in the past, it has in fact done nothing to dismantle the white supremacy movement. Indeed [there is evidence it may have strengthened it](#). Moreover, dozens of articles over recent decades by investigative reporters, academics and others document that the SPLC is the wealthiest, most corrupt hate-mongering organization in the US. A few of these articles are given below. Three dozen more are listed in the [Censorship section](#) of the *Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization* website. More can be found by googling “Southern Poverty Law Center” and “fraud.”

[The church of Morris Dees: how the Southern Poverty Law Center profits from intolerance](#), Silverstein, 2000

[King of the hate business: with haters on the wane, what will the hate-seekers do?](#), Cockburn, 2009

[Southern Poverty Law Center: wellspring of manufactured hate](#), Simpson, 2012

[Why Is the Southern Poverty Law Center targeting liberals?](#), Hirsi Ali, 2017

[The Reckoning of Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center](#), Moser, 2019

[Repeating Slurs from The Southern Poverty Law Center Is Journalistic Malpractice](#), Mehlman 2019

A major SPLC specialty is to label as “hate groups” almost all organizations arguing for reduced immigration, US population stabilization, and all the social, economic and environmental benefits that would flow from such. The best known of those organizations are as classically liberal or centrist as can be. They all support [recommendations of the various national commissions](#) for firm enforcement of immigration laws and for reducing quotas for legal immigration to less than half those of current ones.

As succinct measures of the degree to which the BGSA officers have naively adopted the hate-messaging of SPLC, here are the numbers of times with which the petition statement and “Timeline” utilize SPLC’s favorite epithets to characterize what I have said, done or written: “racism” or “racist” (17 times), “harassment” (8), “xenophobia” or “xenophobic” (6), “hate group” (4), “bigotry” (3), “anti-immigrant” (2), “eugenicist” (1).

Tellingly, the BGSA officers never specify a single article, paragraph or sentence I’ve written that would justify any of those epithets. They are simply copycat harassers. At one point they

cite as evidence of my “racist & xenophobic viewpoints,” my implicit reference in an email (November 19, 2019) to the *NY Times* and the SPLC as practitioners of Nazi Joseph Goebbels’ ‘big lie’ strategy on certain topics. Move over Joseph, NYT and SPLC, you’ve got serious competition at SDSU in the ‘big lie’ sweepstakes!

THE PETITION SIGNATORIES

The BGSA petition has been circulated worldwide, in part via linked twitterstorms. Attached to the petition is a graph showing the number of persons having signed the petition, broken down into the four categories defined by petition initiators. The names of signatories are kept secret. The way categories are defined is intended to mislead. Here are the signer numbers as of August 1, 2020, by category:

“SDSU Biology Graduate Student”: 77 signers

The Biology Graduate Coordinator, Jamie Rhine, refused to tell me what the total number of Biology graduate students is, but SDSU central databases suggest that in 2019 it was around 132.

“SDSU Biology Alumni”: 26 signers

Pretty meaningless datum considering that in the San Diego region alone the number of such alumni is in the thousands.

“Faculty (SDSU and Elsewhere)”: 44 signers

A meaningless datum considering that the demographic solicited includes all faculty in all disciplines in all the world’s colleges and universities! There is no evidence that any faculty member in SDSU’s Department of Biology has signed. The department chair, Robert Zeller, told me recently he’d never even looked at the petition.

“Allies-at-large”: 407 signers

A really, really impressive number out of the 7.7 billion eligible!

The BGSA officers have indicated their intention to present their petition to the [SDSU University Senate](#). The Senate is, supposedly coincidentally, drafting a new policy that would allow revocation of emeritus status for any person who, in the opinion, of a Senate committee, has caused “harm to the University’s reputation.” The first draft of this policy is on p. 4 of the [agenda for the July 21, 2020 meeting](#) of the Senate Executive Committee. It makes no distinction between the “reputation of the university” and the “reputation of its administrators or its Senate.” Nor does it consider that the opinion of the Senate committee could *easily* be opposite that of, say, the faculty as a whole or the general San Diego public.

If BGSA officers attempt to present the petition to the Senate or any university administrator without a full list of all its signatories that will be further evidence of bad faith on their part. The Senate and administration should refuse to consider the petition in the absence of the signatory list. As the BGSA officers and other signatories have defamed me before a world audience, I also should be provided with the list of signatories and their email addresses.

This condition should be met before any entity of the SDSU administration or Senate accepts the document for formal review. As far as is publicly known, the petition has not been signed by a single member of the SDSU Biology faculty.

If the SDSU administration wants to give the signatories a second chance, before any of the above takes place, all signatories could be sent a copy of this rebuttal of the petition. Signatories should be advised that the list of signers was about to be made public, but they can withdraw their name from it now if they wish. A fast, simple process would be possible. It ideally would be supervised by someone in the central administration, e.g. the Provost, Vice President for Faculty Affairs or Dean of Graduate Affairs.

DECONSTRUCTING THE SO-CALLED “TIMELINE OF DR. HURLBERT’S REPEATED HARASSMENTS...”

The “Timeline” supplement lists in reverse chronological order 17 occasions between 2006 (when BGSA officers were probably in junior high school!) and 2020 when I sent to various parties documents that today’s BGSA officers deem objectionable. Each set and/or event is briefly and usually inaccurately characterized by BGSA officers. That claim can be verified because the original “Timeline” provides links to the original verbatim documents. I stand by every one of my past emails.

Below are brief corrections of the inaccurate or incomplete characterizations, date by date, following the “Timeline” format. Beside each date, I give the number of documents that apparently offended the BGSA officers. Readers will note in the original “Timeline” document that the BGSA officers see something sinister in that they received my messages as “bcc” recipients. But that of course is the courteous thing to do when the messages are intended to be only informational and not invitations to a group discussion among all recipients.

7 June 2020 - 2 docs

My message was titled, “**Whither ESA’s Self-Appointed Preachers and Partisan Politicians?**” and was sent to the Ecological Society of America’s leadership and large numbers of other ecologists. The ESA leadership in a message to its membership, had effectively endorsed on behalf of the entire ESA the political agendas of a number of movements, organizations and individuals. I pointed out it had no authority to do so and urged it to desist. (Ironically, ecology grad student Brienne Palmer, immediately -- and arrogating omniscience to herself -- wrote to the ESA leaders saying that SDSU ecology grad students “do not support the statements made by Dr. Hurlbert.”)

As the leaders of increasing numbers of scientific societies (and universities) buckled to the virtue-signaling mob and self-politicized just as ESA did, I converted my letter to ESA into a generic one useful for challenging the self-important, arrogant leadership of any society. See: [Antidotes to the virtue-signaling, violence-encouraging ignorance, arrogance and intellectual thuggery of elitists in U.S. scientific and academic establishments](#). Twenty-three of the 60 odd articles, speeches, interviews, etc. that the article links to are by blacks whose centrist or conservative opinions are disdained and ignored by too many white, virtue-signaling, nominally “anti-racist” leaders of scientific societies.

18 May 2020 – 2 docs

I had put online a brief critique of an online article ([Surviving and Thriving in the 21st Century](#)) by some Australian scientists, noting that the article was written from the same globalist and utopian perspective that produced the now somewhat dysfunctional European Union. I forwarded this to many ecologists and others urging them “to add their opinions” online.

20-24 January 2020 – 1 doc

Earlier that month I had several copies of a beautiful, large format book ([Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot](#)) and some other literature left over from an exhibitor booth that [Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization](#) (SEPS) operated at the annual meeting in San Diego of the [American Economic Association](#) (AEA) and Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA). (40 copies had been gifted to me by [Tompkins Conservation](#) for distribution to meeting attendees). I put out an email offering 6 leftover copies to ecology grad students as well as a dozen 65-item population literature packets that were left over. With her willing assent and to prevent theft, I left these on two cabinets in a Biology secretary's office where students requesting materials could pick them up. The Biology graduate coordinator then, without notice to me, put all the materials on the floor in a hallway next to a recycling bin. When I heard about this I did indeed point out to the chair that doing that was “a highly stupid and insulting act” on her part, whereupon the chair confessed he had given the order. He then had all remaining materials moved into the departmental mailroom for me to retrieve. My original characterization of this uncollegial act of censorship was too kind. The BGSA’s “Timeline” statement grossly misrepresents this event, and its statement that SEPS “espouses racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric” is the vilest sort of nonsense. A pitiful showing by multiple levels of academia. Compare with the behavior of the American Economic Association which offered SEPS a 50 percent (\$850) reduction in the booth fee to encourage us to sign up!

18 November 2019 – 2 docs

I distributed widely via email a letter of mine that had just been accepted by the New York Times. This criticized [an article in the NYT](#) for implying that those calling for reduced legal immigration were racist when their proposals were based on recommendations of three past national commissions. And I added a longer critique of the censoriousness of the NYT and SPLC that keeps the public uninformed on such matters. In the immature eyes of BGSA officers, of course, I was just doing this to push my “racist and xenophobic viewpoints.” My letter is still on the NY Times website but lost among 418 other letters on the article. Here it is verbatim: “Nov. 18, 2019: One despairs at the ignorance and duplicity of journalists these days -- and the ignorance that perpetuates among the general public. What is the foundation for the immigration reforms being pushed by Trump, Miller and Sessions? The recommendations of the 1995-96 Commission on Immigration Reform which was headed up by the powerful, Democratic, African-American Barbara Jordan (D-TX). And before that the recommendations of the 1972 Rockefeller Commission on Population and the American Future. And again in the 1990s the recommendations of Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development. The authors and many commenters are, in effect, calling those commissions racist because they suggested LEGAL immigration rates should be cut by more than 50%. For summaries of their recommendations, see: <https://www.capsweb.org/blog/three-us-national-commissions-calling-immigration-reductions-and-us-population-stabilization>.”

2 September 2018 – 1 doc

Yes, indeed, I did send out widely an email requesting “help identifying a vandal” who had removed materials from one of my bulletin boards. Again showing their naivete about the nature of the SPLC, the BGSA officers falsely state that some of the materials came from a “hate group.” This suggests that they themselves may have been the vandals or at least know who the vandals were. They then accuse me of threatening them and others: “On its own, Dr. Hurlbert’s email is innocuous. In the context of Dr. Hurlbert’s racist & xenophobic emails and bulletins, it is threatening.”

19 August 2018 – 2 docs

In response to an article I sent out widely by UCLA astronomer and president of [Californians for Population Stabilization](#) Ben Zuckerman, the BGSA officers used an article in the UCLA Daily

Bruin by Justino Mora, an illegal alien alumnus, to falsely claim that Zuckerman “has well-documented ties to multiple high-profile and active white nationalists.” Deceptively, they don’t mention Zuckerman’s Daily Bruin piece that thoroughly refuted Mora’s attack. Zuckerman’s response received large numbers of positive online comments. Nor do the BGSA officers mention how Mora was fired as Chief Financial Officer of his own company, Undocumedia, after its executive director was accused of “sexual harassment and anti-black sentiments” and resigned. All details can be found in [Misinformed accusations prevent reasoned discussion on immigration: The annotated version](#) , August 2019.

16 September 2017 – 3 docs

This item accurately quotes from an open letter I sent to SDSU president Sally Roush calling her attention to the fact that two external review panels evaluating our Department of Biology had, in effect, called for use of race and sex preferences in hiring of faculty and admission of students, despite such being illegal under the California Constitution. It falsely labels that letter and its links as a statement “against diversity in the department/university in general.” See: [Politicized external review panels as unguided “diversity” missiles](#).

31 July 2017 – 11 docs

This item presents a serious and lengthy letter, with many links, that I sent to leaders of the Ecological Society of America in response to their request for suggestions of topics for a Policy Forum being planned for the 102nd meeting of the Society. I copied it widely to ecologists at SDSU and elsewhere. The BGSA officers viciously and with zero justification characterize it as “another example of environmental policy ideas borne out of racist and xenophobic funding and thought.”

21 April 2017 – 4 docs

Guilty as charged. I did send out widely to the San Diego scientific community, including the SDSU ecology grad students, information on the updating of the SEPS website and a critique by myself and two colleagues of the then-upcoming March for Science, its sponsors (AAAS, ScienceDebate.org), and its ill-disguised partisan political nature.

17 April 2017 – 3 docs

Quite deceptively the BGSA officers in their brief list of events surrounding a talk I gave at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in February 2017, mention only my “invitation” and my “harassment of the SIO community.” They make no mention of the attack on me by a few SIO graduate students and one SIO faculty member prior to my talk that initiated the whole fracas Equally dishonest is the BGSA officers’ failure to mention an article they had received that was published in 2019 in a bioethics journal. The article gives a detailed account of the whole event - an event that left egg on the face of a few people at SIO but was very successful for its promotion of academic freedom, education and the outing of censors. Attendees picked up more than 800 articles on population issues I had made available. See: [Attempts by scientists to suppress discussion of overpopulation: A California case that backfired nicely](#) .

Showing a high degree of hostility to such educational efforts and shortly after I had sent out notice of the 2019 article to the whole Biology department, the departmental leadership established a new regulation just for my benefit: emeritus professors may not make more than 100 photocopies per month on the departmental photocopier. Since I’ve paid all my own paper costs and done all the labor myself since 2006, there has been close to zero cost to the department. (Oops, I didn’t pay for the staples!) This likely was the handiwork of iGen complainers and their faculty supporters, a 4.2 seismic tremor forewarning of the “big one” they had in preparation.

12 February 2016 – 2 docs

The BGSA officers mislead again. They object to my distribution of an article on censorship but studiously avoid citing it: [AAAS Wields the Censor's Hammer on U.S. Population Issues](#) . “That AAAS did not discuss population stabilization at its annual meeting” was a piece of non-news mentioned in passing.

8 February 2012 – 6 docs

This concerns a letter (“**A Letter from Edmonton, Ottawa and San Diego Concerning AAAS**”) that David Schindler (U. Alberta), Madeline Weld (President, Population Institute of Canada) and I sent to many thousands of scientists across the U.S. and Canada detailing how both Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) and the Population Institute of Canada (PIC) were prohibited from having exhibitor booths at the 2012 AAAS meeting in Vancouver, over the objections of 100 Canadian and U.S. scientists. The letter contained links to five articles on population issues. One of these provided verbatim all our correspondence with AAAS and a detailed account of our battle with the organization: [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(on national population policies\) muffles 'obnoxious' Canadians too](#) . Again, showing how out of touch they are with the real world, all the BGSA officers can do is repeat the falsehood that CAPS is “funded by and associated with white nationalists.”

29 January 2012 – 26 docs

Guilty as charged. I did forward to a large number of scientists links to 25 articles in the journal *Climate Change* dealing with climate change in California. And yes, in an accompanying note, I noted the set of articles did imply we should not try to stabilize our population, even though this would greatly reduce U.S. contributions to greenhouse gas levels. It implied instead that we should be “accommodationists” and accept the unending population growth wanted by the power elites, its effects on greenhouse gas emissions be damned. For this, the BGSA officers again accuse me of having “racist & xenophobic views.”

15 July 2011 – 1 doc

Nothing better reflects the desperate pettiness of the BGSA officers than their dredging up this 2011 tongue-in-cheek email to a SDSU administrator w/ copies to Biology faculty and students. My letter concerned the campus’s obsession with restricting smoking areas on campus on health grounds while tolerating sale of all sorts of unhealthy snack foods and drinks simply because the university makes money from them. The BGSA officers are so naïve that they claim I was implying SDSU had a “policy to address overpopulation [by] allowing community members to drink on campus and drive home.”

13 April 2011 – 2 docs

When *The Social Contract* came out with a special issue with 16 articles on “Scientists as Censors: How Political Correctness Corrupts Environmental Science,” I sent out widely a notice on it, giving its table of contents. The response of the BGSA leaders? They say their GEG (Great Ethical Guide), the Southern Poverty Law Center, says the publisher is a “hate group”.

17 April 2008 – 1 doc

Yes, I did refer to Mexico as a “hostile nation” (see comment #7 above) and yes, I did offer verbal support to an Arizona state senator who was leading an effort to get illegal immigration to that state under control.

October 2006 – 2 docs

The SDSU administration will not appreciate the BGSA officers bringing up again this 2006 event that ended up causing the administration much embarrassment. But so be it. SDSU Associate Vice President Zimmerman did NOT “prohibit” me from me from using the university email. But she threatened to do so -- in a letter she showed to the news media before she showed it to me. I rejected the threat and took it to the SDSU president. The news media and talk radio shows jumped on the story, and some SDSU administrators got letters supporting me and criticizing the administration. Then the ACLU intervened with a California Public Records Act request to the SDSU administration. Suddenly only the chirping of the crickets could be heard. A detailed account of the episode is being written up, as another cautionary tale for unethical, uninformed, hot-headed ideologues. The description of the Minutemen as “a virulent nativist extremist group” is highly inaccurate and comes straight from “the usual suspect,” the SPLC.

LIST OF ALL EMAILS AND ARTICLES, BY TITLE, OBJECTED TO BY THE BGSA OFFICERS

Below is a simple list of 16 email messages and 66 articles (attached or linked to the emails) that were the key irritants to the BGSA officers. Direct links to many are discoverable in the BGSA officers’ “Timeline” document.

A major complaint of the petition is that I have “posted outwardly racist materials in the North Life Sciences building that remained for years.” Yet the BGSA officers cite not a single such item – and they can’t because the claim is a lie. Do they think the Biology faculty would have tolerated such materials?

1. Whither ESA’s Self-Appointed Preachers and Partisan Politicians? (email, June 7, 2020)
2. Whither ESA’s Self-Appointed Preachers and Partisan Politicians? (article)
3. Some Aussies go globalist (email, June 11, 2020)
4. Surviving and Thriving in the 21st Century (article)
5. “Overpopulation...” book & literature packets (email, January 24, 2020)
6. [my reply to Graduate Coordinator’s unauthorized move of above materials to hallway floor] (email, January 24, 2020)
7. Your Comment on The White Nationalist Websites Cited by Stephen Miller (published letter, NYT)
8. [Expansion on #7 above sent to many biologists and ecologists] (email, November 18, 2020)
9. Need help identifying a vandal (email, September 2, 2018)
10. Misinformed accusations prevent reasoned discussion on immigration: The annotated version (article)
11. Zuckerman’s last year win at UCLA (email, August 19, 2018)
12. SDSU and CSU to defy the California Constitution? (email, September 16, 2017)
13. Race, sex, and faculty searches, Department of Biology, SDSU, 1988-2002, with commentary on policies and actions of the SDSU administration (article)
14. Politicized external review panels as unguided “diversity” missiles: California university administrators remain ultra-slow learners (article)
15. Politically incorrect questions for ESA Policy Forum (email, July 31, 2017)
16. The globalist copout (article)
17. Wives of the Bishop of Worcester: the Ecological Society of America and globalist copoutism (article)
18. Will the Ecological Society of America bite the population bullet? (article)
19. Frontiers, immigration and political censorship (article)
20. Population camel get its nose into ecologists’ tent: hope is high that rest will follow (article)
21. Refusal to correct misinformation on immigration numbers from ESA (article)

22. Is the AAAS oblivious to U.S. overpopulation and its consequences? Or is it just another censor? (article)
23. American Association for the Advancement of Science (on national population policies) muffles “obnoxious” Canadians too (article)
24. AAAS wields the censor’s hammer on U.S. population issues (article)
25. But is it really a march for science.... (email, April 21, 2017)
26. But is this really a march for science or are folks being led down a primrose path? (article)
27. A Scientists’ March on Washington Is a Bad Idea (article)
28. SIO hardly measures up to UCLA (email, March 11, 2017)
29. Attack on a speaker by Scripps Institution of Oceanography geophysicist and students, and the speaker’s response (essay)
30. Attempts by scientists to suppress discussion of overpopulation: a California case that backfired nicely (article)
31. AAAS wields the censor’s hammer again (email, February 12, 2016)
32. AAAS wields the censor’s hammer on U.S. population issues (article)
33. A Letter from Edmonton, Ottawa and San Diego Concerning AAAS (email, February 8, 2012)
34. Consumption: the other side of population for development (article)
35. Vallentyne was right: achieving sustainability requires accounting for all relevant factors (article)
36. Tribute to an “obnoxious” ecocatalytical demotechnician: Jack Vallentyne on population (article)
37. Impacts of Climate Change on California (email, January 9, 2012)
- 38-64. Table of contents, for *Climate Change*, vol. 102, issue 1, with links to 26 articles
65. Smoking in Designated Areas Policy (email, July 15, 2015)
64. Scientists as Censors: new publ (email, April 13, 2011)
- 65-81. Table of Contents for *The Social Contract*, Spring 2011 special issue on “Scientists as Censors: How Political Correctness Corrupts Environmental Science.” (16 articles)
82. bravo! Support AUHTM/rep.pearce (6-line email, August 17, 2008, to Sen. Pearce in Arizona legislature in support of Arizona’s attempts to halt illegal immigration).

ZERO COMPLAINTS UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF iGen

For 30+ years prior to the arrival at SDSU of this current cohort from iGen, there has never been a single person in any venue who claimed that informational items I’ve distributed have been “racist” or any of the BGSA officers’ other favorite epithets. Such did not occur:

- in the SDSU Biology department from the 1980s to January 2020
- in [exhibitor booths operated by SEPS](#) at annual meetings of 26 different scientific societies between 2012 and 2020, where a total ca. 100,000 articles and ca. 500 books have been given away
- in exhibitor booths operated annually by CAPS or SEPS at the San Diego EarthFair since 2000
- when I distributed 30 population literature packets containing 35 items each at a November 2016 one-day Sierra Club-sponsored symposium in San Diego on marine conservation
- when, to complement my February 2017 talk on human population issues at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I gave out to attendees more than 800 articles on population issues
- at numerous smaller meetings of diverse sorts in San Diego County for which I provided literature packets.

The literature distributed in all these different venues has been diverse in subject matter but always with human population issues as a central theme. If I've been putting racist materials in my emails or on the bulletin boards for decades wouldn't faculty members or administrators have taken action long ago?

If our exhibitor booths contained any racist materials, why have there been no complaints by attendees to meeting organizers when hundreds or thousands of attendees saw our literature displays at every meeting? And why have we always been invited back for the following year (an invitation that manpower and budget limitations have usually prevented us from accepting)? Hint: no iGen folks among the meeting organizers?

BIOLOGY ADMINISTRATORS BLOCK MY SELF-DEFENSE, CENSOR NEWS, SIDE WITH THE COMPLAINERS

Sometime in May or June 2020 the chair of the Biology department, with no notice or explanation to me, blocked my ability to use the normal listservs for contacting the current faculty, the retired faculty and the different subsets of graduate students. I then constructed my own group list for the current faculty and the BGSA officers.

By early August 2020 as a result of the BGSA officers petition's having been advertised worldwide to some degree, reporters and others began to contact me. Earlier, unbeknownst to me, and supposedly coincidentally, some members of the SDSU senate had begun drafting a new policy that would allow revocation of emeritus status for emeritus professors who, in the opinion of a Senate committee, had done something to "harm the reputation" of the university. This ferment generated the following nine articles, commentaries, and letters by the end of July 2020:

[Confronting a persistent harasser and slanderer: Letter to a Scottish lass and whale watcher](#), Hurlbert, June 28, 2020, San Diego State University

[Emeritus Professor Under Siege Once Again](#) , Randall, July 16, 2020, National Association of Scholars

[Opinion: Illiberal Faculty Rule to Protect SDSU's 'Reputation' Echoes China, Iran](#) , Herman, July 18, 2020, *Times of San Diego*

[Proposal to revoke emeritus professor status brings 'cancel culture' debate to SDSU](#), Robbins, July 20, 2020 *San Diego Union-Tribune*

[FIRE Letter to San Diego State University, July 23, 2020](#) , Steinbaugh, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (A three-page letter to the president of the SDSU Senate)

[Canceling Emeritus](#), Flaherty, July 23, 2020, Inside Higher Ed

[Amid criticism, SDSU will reconsider controversial proposal to revoke emeritus status of professors](#) , Robbins, July 24, 2020, *San-Diego-Union-Tribune*

[Cancel Culture Takes Root at San Diego State University](#) , Lynn, July 25, 2020, Progressives for Immigration Reform

[Retired conservative SDSU professor targeted by effort to revoke his emeritus status](#) , Hilu, July 27, 2020, *The College Fix*

On August 4, I sent to the BGSA officers and Biology faculty a message that said in part:

This note is to inform all members of BGSA of what is appearing around the US in the news media and other networks about actions taken on your behalf by the BGSA officers, who I'm told control this listserv. If the BGSA leaders do not care to forward it to the entire BGSA membership, individual faculty members ... at least have the option to pass it on to their own students. Your petition is being discussed by SDSU senators and administrators and nationwide in the comments sections of several of these articles. Because there has been put into effect a policy (unannounced and unexplained) to maximize the difficulty of my communicating with the Biology faculty and grad students, you didn't get this when you could have been among the early commenters on these articles -- now I'm giving you another chance to pile on! Still time to do so. You'll find much new information in the large number of substantive comments on some of the articles.

The BGSA officers were silent and did not pass the message on to their fellow graduate students.

So on August 13 I sent to the Biology department chair, the Biology Policy and Planning Committee, the individual faculty advisors of the six BGSA officers, and the College of Sciences dean a message that read in part:

As you all know I have been attacked by BGSA leaders and others. There has been a fair bit of media and NGO attention to this and will likely be more soon. Earlier I asked that the entire BGSA membership be informed of this media attention by the BGSA leadership. That this has not happened says a lot about the non-democratic tendencies of the BGSA leaders. I have a right to defend myself directly to the entire BGSA membership. So I request that you either 1) rescind your unexplained removal of my ability to use the six group email lists for grad students..., that for current Biology faculty, and that for retired Biology faculty (my peers); OR 2) forward the message below to all Biology grad students exactly as it is and containing the same links that were in my earlier attempt. Otherwise you may be seen, eventually by a large audience, as opposing transparency, favoring one group of graduate students over the other, and supporting the attack on me. If Bob declines to do this, every other faculty member in the cc line has sufficient authority to do it on their own, with no apologies to anyone. There is no escape in assuming, "George will do it."

There was no response, aside from the chair simply confirming that the BGSA officers had received my earlier message.

Most objective outside viewers will understand that, at the moment, once again an entire departmental faculty has buckled to the mob.

We pause now for a long intermission while the second act is written.

OFFICERS OF THE SDSU BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, 2020-2021

NOTE: Undergraduate institutions are given as they are likely one important source of the values reflected in the officers' actions.

AMANDA ALKER, Co-President, aalker@sdsu.edu
Current faculty advisor: Dr. Nicolas Shikuma
Undergraduate Institution: Florida Atlantic University

KYLIE CURTIS, Co-President, kylie.mc.curtis@gmail.com
Current faculty advisor: Dr. Rebecca Lewison
Undergraduate Institution: St. Mary's College of Maryland

GRETA SCHMIDT, Treasurer, gschmidt@sdsu.edu
Current faculty advisor: Dr. Rebecca Lewison
Undergraduate Institution: Boston University

BRIANNE PALMER, Ecology Program Representative, brianne.r.palmer@gmail.com
Current faculty advisor: Dr. David Lipson
Undergraduate Institution: Utah State University

BEN SCOTT, Evolution Program Representative, BFSCOTT1906@gmail.com
Current faculty advisor: Dr. Kevin Burns
Undergraduate Institution: Occidental College

BRANDIE WHITE, Cell & Molecular Biology Program Representative, bmwhite@sdsu.edu
Current faculty advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Dinsdale
Undergraduate Institution: University of California San Diego

ADVISORS TO THE BGSA (listed as "Important Contacts" on BGSA website)

Dr, Robert Zeller, Chair, Department of Biology, rzeller@sdsu.edu
Jamie Rhine, Biology Graduate Program Coordinator, jrhine@sdsu.edu

Appendix: The Original Documents

[SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION](#)

Petition to Revoke Emeritus Status of Dr. Stuart Hurlbert

View a timeline of Dr. Hurlbert's [history of racism, xenophobia, and departmental harassment](#)

Dear Biology Faculty and University Administration,

Following the appalling and cruel murder of Mr. George Floyd on May 25th, 2020, the people of America and the world at large have chosen to openly rebuke racism, with protests now spanning all fifty US states and several countries across the globe. A cry has echoed worldwide that calls for the end of all racism, bigotry and other intolerance. This includes racist systems and actions within San Diego State University. For years, the SDSU biology community has been plagued by one particular agent of intolerance, SDSU emeritus professor Dr. Stuart Hurlbert. This man has a long history of bigotry. Dr. Hurlbert has used biology department space and resources to distribute racist manifestos and texts filled with diatribes designed to cast doubt on the value of diversity. He posted outwardly racist materials in the North Life Sciences building that remained for years and are seen by undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff. In 2008, Dr. Hurlbert used his SDSU email address to call Mexico a [“hostile nation” with “many agents in our society”](#) in support of Arizona SB 1070, anti-immigrant legislation. As recently as 2017, Dr. Hurlbert publicly ridiculed a PhD student for donating to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization known for its legal cases against white supremacist groups. Dr. Hurlbert has authored at least 13 articles in The Social Contract since 1999, which the SPLC classified as [a hate group](#). Dr. Hurlbert has frequently sent links to articles published in The Social Contract to ecology graduate students (see links available in [timeline](#).)

This pattern of bigotry and harassment is ongoing, with recent mass emails filled with [rhetoric that questions the anti-Black motivations behind George Floyd’s murder](#), trivializes the Me Too movement, and rejects the undeniably pervasive and systemic white supremacy in the United States of America. Dr. Stuart Hurlbert is now actively attempting to distance our biology department, ecology students, and scientific organizations - such as the Ecological Society of America - from the anti-racism movement now sweeping the globe. These acts reflect poorly on our institution and have gone on for far too long. Complaints of Dr. Stuart Hurlbert’s racism and harassment have been [formally recognized since 2006](#), yet no adequate institutional action has been taken. To this day, he sends mass email tirades filled with xenophobic, eugenicist rhetoric; all delivered behind the veil of “environmental sustainability” (see [timeline](#)). This insidious guise will work no longer. This is the time for action and for all of us to stand up to racism & harassment, regardless if it is perpetrated violently on the streets or cravenly behind computer screens and email BCCs. The personal use of email filters as recommended by the department is not a sufficient solution, as this provides no protection to incoming students that have not had the misfortune of enduring his actions previously, and places the burden of avoiding these racist screeds on those that he marginalizes.

SDSU is a Hispanic-serving institution that has made commitments to serving under-represented minorities and to creating a welcoming and safe environment for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, and international students. Dr. Hurlbert’s actions directly oppose these commitments. His comments and actions work to diminish recruitment, support, and

retention of both graduate and undergraduate students at SDSU. Racism is unacceptable, and we, the Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA), will no longer tolerate it. We deserve university communications and an environment that will let us, and future students, work in peace. We, the Biology graduate students at San Diego State University, call for the revocation of Dr. Stuart Hurlbert's honorary emeritus status and the accompanying privileges, including his university affiliated (@sdsu.edu) e-mail address, faculty I.D. card, and access to campus resources.

Signed,
SDSU biology graduate students and their allies

Timeline of Dr. Hurlbert's repeated harassments to the SDSU Biology Community

This timeline is not intended to be comprehensive, but serves as an example of the ongoing harassment Dr. Hurlbert heaps upon the SDSU biology community.

Show your support to revoke Dr. Hurlbert's Emeritus status at SDSU by signing our petition here: <https://sdsuBGSA.weebly.com/petition.html>

7 June 2020: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copied the ecology graduate student listserv in an emailed letter to the leadership of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) [denigrating the society's June 2 statement to their membership in support of the Black Lives Matter movement](#). In his email, Dr. Hurlbert accused the ESA of "catering to anarchists" and claimed that the ESA statement "provide[s] more matches than solutions". To his email Dr. Hurlbert attached a 7 page document that rebuts each component of the ESA's statement. To counter the ESA's proclamation that Black Lives Matter, Dr. Hurlbert provided unsubstantiated claims that ["Nobody is more welcomed by law-abiding Black people to their neighborhood than are the police..."](#) and that ["As for the underlying economic problems of Black people, nothing has been more damaging than mass immigration"](#).

18 May 2020: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copied the ecology graduate student listserv on an email titled "Some Aussies go globalist" in which he shared a public comment that he had left on a post published by Stanford's Millenium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere (MAHB). His message conveys that he takes issue with an MAHB Report title "Surviving and Thriving in the 21st Century", in part, because they do not establish the restriction of immigration as a necessary component of a globalist. [Further, he suggests that the European Union's lack of common population and immigration policies are to blame for their coronavirus death rate.](#)

20-24 January 2020: Dr. Hurlbert used space in the Biology Dept. offices to distribute a book on overpopulation and literature packets from his organization "Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization" (SEPS), a group that espouses racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric. When these materials were removed from the Biology Department after bringing their presence to the attention of the Department Chair Dr. Zeller, Dr. Hurlbert [verbally attacked the Graduate Programs Coordinator who moved the materials calling her actions "highly stupid and insulting"](#) in an email that was sent to Biology Department faculty, staff, and graduate students.

18 November 2019: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copied the biology grad student listserv to discuss his racist & xenophobic viewpoints under the guise of sharing his opinion on the environmental policies of the Trump administration and policy critics. As one example, [he compares a mainstream media outlet and a non-profit that tracks hate groups in the US to Joseph Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany.](#)

2 September 2018: Dr. Hurlbert emails multiple SDSU biology listservs [requesting “help identifying a vandal”](#) accused of removing his bulletin board materials on the 2nd floor of North Life Sciences. These bulletin boards included materials from The Social Contract, a SPLC-identified hate group, and SEPS. On its own, Dr. Hurlbert’s email is innocuous. In the context of Dr. Hurlbert’s racist & xenophobic emails and bulletins, it is threatening.

19 August 2018: Dr. Hurlbert suggests that recipients of [this email](#) that blind-copied the ecology graduate student listservs distribute an attached article by Dr. Zuckerman, a professor at UCLA and then-president of “Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS)”. Dr. Zuckerman has well-documented ties to multiple high-profile and active white nationalists : [UCLA Professor Benjamin Zuckerman Must Dissociate Organization From Racist Ties](#)

16 September 2017: Dr. Hurlbert sends [an email to the ecology graduate student listserv against diversity in the department/university in general](#), Dr. Hurlbert states: “over the past two years, external review panels evaluating the SDSU Department of Biology have recommended that the Department engage in ‘diversity’ hires and graduate student admissions. The intended effect of those recommendations is to force or encourage the use of sex and race preferences in our hiring and admissions processes. To do so would be illegal and unethical, as you know. “

31 July 2017: Dr. Hurlbert sends a blind-copy email to the ecology graduate student listserv that details three issues he proposed as a part of a Policy Forum at the 102nd Annual Meeting of ESA. [The 5-page email is another example of environmental policy ideas borne out of racist and xenophobic funding and thought:](#) *“Do ESA members and other scientists know of the three US national commissions that, since the 1970s and on diverse economic, social and environmental grounds, have recommended large reductions in legal immigration and a move toward US population stabilization? that there is a bill now before the current US Senate (S. 354) that would move us strongly in that direction? that for the first time we have a president who might sign such a bill? that this would be the biggest pro-environment legislation since the Nixon administration gave us the EPA and the Endangered Species Act?”*

21 April 2017: Dr. Hurlbert sends a blind-copy email to the ecology graduate student listserv [informing students of an website update about Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization](#), an organization where he serves as President. Dr. Hurlbert also sends an opinion piece published by SEPS and asks to pass the piece along.

17 April 2017: Dr. Hurlbert sends an email to the ecology graduate student listserv about his invitation to talk at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and consequent harassment of the SIO community as “[The SDSU-SIO Caper](#)”. Dr. Hurlbert attaches a [10-page treatise](#) that copies his email communications with SIO-affiliated researchers and his responses to each of these communications. He finds it necessary to add the nationality of each researcher he communicates with.

12 February 2016: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copies the ecology graduate student listserv [a criticism that AAAS did not discuss population stabilization at its annual meeting](#). In a stunning show of

lack of self-awareness, Dr. Hurlbert states, *“The psychology, character and politics of censors hiding behind the mask of scientific objectivity, represent great untapped fodder here...”*

8 February 2012: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copies the ecology graduate student listserv on an email [detailing how Californians for Population Stabilization, an organization funded by and associated with white nationalists, was denied an exhibitor booth by the American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#). He calls this “suppression...on ideological grounds” and encourages recipients to forward his email.

29 January 2012: Dr. Hurlbert blind-copies the ecology graduate student listserv with materials on climate change in California, [calling scientists who do not share his racist & xenophobic views on population stabilization “accomodationists.”](#)

15 July 2011: As an example of harassment that is not hidden behind scientific views, Dr. Hurlbert blindcopies the ecology graduate student listserv on an email expressing his opinion about changes to smoking areas on SDSU’s campus. [He implies that SDSU’s policy to address overpopulation is allowing community members to drink on campus and drive home.](#)

13 April 2011: [Dr. Hurlbert advertises the Spring 2011 issue of The Social Contract by blindcopying the ecology graduate student listserv.](#) The issue is titled *“Scientists as Censors: How Political Correctness Corrupts Environmental Science”*. As a reminder, the Southern Poverty Law Center has designated The Social Contract Press [a hate group](#).

17 April 2008: Dr. Hurlbert uses his SDSU email address to express political support of Arizona Senate Bill 1070. In this email, he also [calls Mexico a “hostile nation”](#).

October 2006: After SDSU administration ordered Dr. Hurlbert to [stop using his campus email](#) to conduct extensive personal business and political organizing, he mobilized the [San Diego Minutemen](#), a virulent nativist extremist group, to support him in his dispute with SDSU.

554 Signatories on the BGSA Petition, as of August 1, 2020

