

Milo is a tool of Trump's fascist government: *He has no right to speak at Cal or anywhere else!*

Milo Yiannopoulos, mouthpiece of Trump-Pence, is coming to Cal this Wednesday as part of his "Dangerous Faggot" campus tour. Milo rose to fame voicing disdain for human rights, vicious nationalism, xenophobia, and misogyny, and unapologetic support for Donald Trump, which he claims he is allowed to spew in public because of "free speech". He claims to be "dangerous" to a "stifling liberal culture" of "political correctness." He tries to leverage his identity (that he is gay and has a Black boyfriend) as some kind of excuse. In fact, he is a fascist, and students at campuses along his tour have righteously fought, and sometimes succeeded, in shutting down his speaking gigs.

At UC Berkeley professors, and students and professors at campuses across the country, have raised that what Milo is doing is hate speech, which causes direct harm to students and campus life, and that this is not "free speech" and should not be allowed. The UC Berkeley administration has not fully responded to this, and is letting Milo's speech go forward. This is wrong. But there are even larger issues at stake:

1. **People who protest Milo are not opposing free speech, they are opposing a fascist America, which is the actual, real, and gravely serious threat to basic rights of speech, assembly, and intellectual life.** Milo Yiannopoulos is an editor for *Breitbart*. He is a tool of a government that accuses the press of being "fake news" when they deviate from or criticize the Trump lies; that has already begun criminalizing protest, demonizing dissent, and attacking science. Trump has advocated severe penalties for flag burning, which is protected speech. What Milo is working for is *not* free speech, but to normalize, legitimize, and help consolidate the Trump-Pence regime – which is already marching down the path of crushing all dissent and all ideas that oppose it.
2. **Students who oppose Milo are strengthening the role of universities as places where dissent, critical thinking and the search for truth can flourish.** Milo's "bad boy" attack on "political correctness" is a ruse. In fact, Milo & the government he serves don't like the "political correctness" that has some currency in universities today because they want to replace it with their own, fascist, state-enforced "political correctness." This is a government that opposes science, and openly discards facts and then defends its lies as "alternative facts." In under a week, they've moved to wipe out all mention of climate science & climate data from the Environmental Protection Agency's website! Legitimizing Milo's tour is part of changing universities and intellectual life and science to serve a fascist order. Students who fight to shut down Milo strengthen the struggle against this order and strengthen dissent, critical thinking and genuine intellectual inquiry.

Think of what is going on in the world - just this past week, this government has banned refugees, attacked Muslim immigrants, green-lighted the destructive Dakota Access Pipeline, slammed shut access to abortion for women all over the world, and threatened both the press and the UN to fall into line or face consequences. Think of what would go on inside that room February 1 at UC Berkeley, if it is allowed to go down. UCB, birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, tolerates a fascist rally, held in the name of "free speech." Inside that room, racists and woman-haters will be screaming "Build that wall!" laughing at rape statistics and sharing ICE phone numbers to aid the government with deportations – Milo is seeking to use the campuses to serve a larger fascist transformation of America and its entire culture. Students are right to SHUT IT DOWN because yes, it's dangerous. Fascism is dangerous to humanity. And you, if you oppose this with everything you've got, will have the honor of being dangerous to fascism.

