

LETTERS

Horowitz's claims just a bit disingenuous

It's just a bit disingenuous for letter writer David Horowitz to claim that he doesn't rail against "leftist education" in his academic freedom campaign ("Agenda clear in story about diversity," Talk Back to the Media, Jan. 17). His entire argument for ridding university classrooms of politics is based on scathing indictments of liberal bias in the curricular and noncurricular activities of professors and institutions.

This public record combined with his oft-repeated slogan that "you can't get a good education if they're only telling you half the story" puts the lie to his claim.

Horowitz's campaign to get politics out of the classroom reflects a quaint, old-fashioned view of the university as ivory tower, isolated from the surrounding world. His vision rejects the original Jeffersonian ideal of education as a process of learning for good citizenship.

Partisan politics in the classroom — left, right, center, and beyond — is not a bad thing when it serves the cause of critical thinking and civic engagement. What's bad is to be unaware of bias, purposely conceal it, or use it to create a hostile learning environment.

Efforts to purge the classroom of politics risk throwing useful babies out with the bath water. Horowitz would make more sense if he admitted that what he really wants is to add a few more conservatives to the tub.

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