

FLAWS FOUND IN RIGHT WINGER ARTICLE

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I'm an alumnus of UMass-Amherst (PhD, 1987), and currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Denver. In the April 29 issue, the "No Freedom for Right Wingers" column contained two key factual errors. First, Dick Lamm doesn't teach in the Colorado public university system. He teaches here, at the University of Denver, which is a private institution. Secondly, Governor Lamm didn't seek to publish his essay in our campus faculty publication. Rather, he sought to publish it in "The Source," which is an all-campus newsletter reporting campus activities, events, and soft, "feel good" news. "The Source" doesn't publish, and it is not the appropriate place for publishing, substantive essays on social issues (controversial or otherwise).

Thus, there's no controversy here, and certainly no infringement of Governor Lamm's academic freedom. There's no left-wing faculty hypocrisy afoot and, indeed, comparing anything in this episode to the Ward Churchill affair is absurd. There's nothing going on that contradicts the DU faculty's position on Academic Values, Rights, and Responsibilities. Our Faculty Senate is currently working with Governor Lamm to find a suitable on-campus publication outlet for his essay, which will be accompanied by essays expressing opposing views. This is how healthy intellectual debate within a community of scholars should work.

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