Why the Women's March and Yiannopoulos protests aren't so different

Q



BY MATTHEW HOY



When I read the first two sentences of Joe Tarica's column last weekend, I thought he was going to pre-empt this column that I had planned to write.

Tarica, unsurprisingly, praised the about 10,000-person-strong Women's March that occurred the day after Donald Trump was inaugurated. Then, in the next sentence, warned that "next time a huge crowd gathers here, it won't be peaceful; it will be divisive rather than

unifying, and someone may get hurt." Thankfully, no one got hurt. But, what Tarica failed to mention was that the two crowds he described - the defiant progressives at the Women's March, and the angry, threatening protesters outside the Spanos Theater at Cal Poly, where Milo Yiannopoulos spoke last week

- would likely consist largely of the same type of people. Some of the same members of the crowd that filled Mitchell Park in downtown San Luis Obispo and marched "in peaceful solidarity for the causes of equality and respect," wrote Tarica, just over a week later were outside a barricaded theater calling for a gay, Jewish,

Catholic, Trump supporter to be silenced. Two weeks ago, at the Women's March, thousands of people delighted in the fact that there were thousands of people in a very blue city in a purple county who all agreed that an orange guy shouldn't be president.

It's easy to have a peaceful atmosphere when everyone there agrees with you. At the Women's March, the crowd chanted: "This is what democracy looks like!" Outside the building where Yiannopoulos was speaking, the protesters chanted: "This is what

democracy looks like!"

At the Women's March: "Hey, hey, ho, ho, (insert preferred catchphrase here), THE WOMEN'S MARCH IN SAN LUIS OBISPO AND has got to go."

AFTER ALL.

Women's March.

LAST WEEK'S PROTEST AGAINST CONSERVATIVE

MILO YIANNOPOULOS WEREN'T SO DIFFERENT

At Cal Poly: "Hey, hey, ho, ho, (insert preferred catchphrase here), has got to

Some protesters, following the three R's (reduce, reuse and recycle), even had the same signs they'd used a week earlier at the

were necessary to keep people safe from the crowd that touts its tolerance of all colors, creeds, religions, sexual orientations and gender identities. One person posted a sign on the temporary fencing that read: "No Ban. No Wall. Just Love."

(Although I'm generally in favor of Nazi killing in time of war, I suspect that the protesters' righteous antagonism to national socialism wouldn't really be limited to nationalists or would include any actual socialists. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is safe.)

The protesters shouted: "No Milo. No KKK. No fascist USA." And: "Kill every Nazi."

At Cal Poly, more than 100 law enforcement officers, temporary fencing and metal detectors

Tarica's column likened Yiannopoulos' mere presence in San Luis Obispo as the "recipe for a riot." But it wasn't Yiannopoulos' fans that were in danger of rioting. It wasn't his supporters who were going to be incited by the British provocateur to take to the streets and shoot pepper spray into the eyes of their opponents. Or beat their foes unconscious with metal pipes.

Instead, it was people who share Tarica's and this paper's editorial board's politics. The pro-Milo/pro-Trump side aren't the ones rioting or trying to silence their political opponents. It's the other side. This violence and anti-free speech rhetoric is coming from the political left, and some substantial part of that violence and calls to silence the right come from people who voted for Hillary Clinton or Jill Stein.

It wasn't Yiannopoulos' supporters who surrounded the venue at UC Davis last month and

cowed university administrators there into canceling the event.

It wasn't fans of Yiannopoulos who, just 24 hours after his Cal Poly appearance, tore down fences, smashed windows, lit fires, threw rocks and launched fireworks at the building where the Breitbart editor was slated to speak at UC Berkeley. As The Federalist website co-founder Sean Davis noted on Twitter that night, "[I]f you're

It was people who identify with a group that Tarica praised back in 2011, the Occupy Movement, who last Wednesday made it clear they want to start a war. The political left and far left might want to reconsider that course. As has been pointed out many times, the left sees firearms as very bad things and actively discourages their

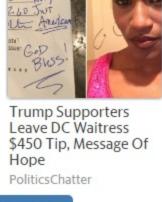
breaking glass at night because a Jew is speaking, you're not protesting fascism. You are

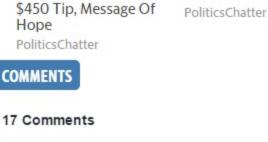
ownership and becoming competent in using them. You really don't want to start a war when the other side has the vast majority of the guns.

Conservative columnist Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. His column appears in The Tribune every other Sunday, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks. Read Hoy's blog at Hoystory.com. Follow him on Twitter @Hoystory.

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fascism."





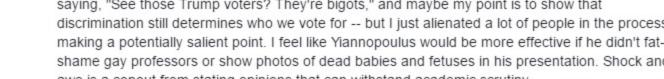
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Aaron Ochs · Who cares? at None of Your Damn Business! have a unique view of Yiannopoulos. I agree with conservatives who feel that his speech is

To make his points, Yiannopoulos will go after the "left," or the stereotype of the progressiveintolerant left, but instead of articulating his points, he insults groups of people. That's like me saying, "See those Trump voters? They're bigots," and maybe my point is to show that discrimination still determines who we vote for -- but I just alienated a lot of people in the process of



shame gay professors or show photos of dead babies and fetuses in his presentation. Shock and awe is a copout from stating opinions that can withstand academic scrutiny. Otherwise, I just ignore him and don't care.

The Extended Family

Of President Obama

Mathew - you conveniently failed to mention Milo's main message: "conservatives, go forth and eradicate all liberals from society." If you defend that as free speech, and attack the vast majority of

Alan Thomas · Northwestern University

liberal protesters for shouting love and peace, then you need a lesson in the history of facism. Like · Reply · ₼ 3 · Feb 6, 2017 8:29am Karsten Huehn · San Luis Obispo, California I thought his quote was to eradicate the progressive left, as in a political ideology, not liberals. Very dishonest to change the quote to suit your purposes. Like · Reply · Feb 6, 2017 12:31pm

protected, but I also believe that giving his views a platform on the academic stage is problematic.

Karsten Huehn · San Luis Obispo, California Alan Thomas It would be helpful for you to provide a source for that assertion. A quick Google search yielded one link where Yiannopoulos called for the eradication of the

Like · Reply · 9 hrs On a one to ten scale, how would you rate a conservative political speaker whose most noteworthy

William F. Buckley, that's for sure.

William F. Buckley died in 2008, but left some pertinent quotes for you: "Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views.

Lynne Gamble · The University of Texas at Austin

David Ciaffardini Lynne Gamble We're not shocked by your "other views". Simply disgusted by them. But Ithat is our right, still, isn't it?

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 6, 2017 12:35pm

Like · Reply · 6 2 · Feb 6, 2017 7:22am

Karsten Huehn · San Luis Obispo, California

Like - Reply - Feb 6, 2017 10:10am

Hey, hey Hoy, did you see the widely circulated photo of Milo holding a sign advocating the deportation of fat people? Like · Reply · Feb 5, 2017 8:37pm Lynne Gamble · The University of Texas at Austin It's a joke, Bonehead.

David Ciaffardini Trying to consider the motivations that inspired local "financially conservative" Republican activists to invite, Yiannopoulos, this self-avowed "Expensive and Dangerous Onanistic Fa**ot" and his circus sideshow to town.

event?

And it cost taxpayers how much? Let him speak, but the local Republicans could try showing some class and paying for security costs themselves, thank you very much.

Lynne Gamble · The University of Texas at Austin

about as low as you can go, David, and illogical, and without evidence. Sleazy, sick, and wrong. Go crawl back under your rock. Here is an explanation of why the College Republicans brought Milo to campus

David Ciaffardini. Implying that the College Republicans brought Milo to campus for sex is

first term, when the Occupy/Tea Party protested. My question is if "the left" is against racial and religious discrimination, what is exactly does the 'right' in support of? Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 5, 2017 6:26pm Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

GOP majority, it's only natural that the it would be a "left" in protest. Just as it was with Obama's

Nice try at being snarky, Tubby, but the inconvenient truth is, you & Milo & Trump, etc., are on the wrong side of history. As for your side having the guns, don't be so sure.Don't be so smug. Nazi scum are quite adept at murdering innocent people as teabagger idols Dylan Roof & Adam Lanza exemplified, but if it comes down to a real war, you chickenhawk slimeballs couldn't fight your way

Matt. You're better than that.

Like · Reply · Feb 5, 2017 5:29pm

out of a paper bag.

Sean C. Pierce Equating the peaceful women's marches (which yielded zero arrests) with the violent protests at Berkeley is akin to equating Dr. King's Civil Rights marches with the tactics of the Black Panthers. In both cases, there are no substantive comparisons to be made, only superficial ones. As you well know, the vast majority of Democrats do not condone violent means to achieve their ends any more than the vast majority of Republicans do. But if you're determined to fixate on the violent

Patrick Rich Because those incidents weren't en masse crowd violence of a single minded political faction aided and abetted by Leftist media and city and state officials. Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 5, 2017 1:03pm

Patrick Rich all did nothing, and even encouraged hate.

Your argument that the security at Cal Poly was "necessary" cannot actually be proven. Relatively few people showed up to protest and at no point did the protest get violent. Whatever may have happened at other universities has no bearing on what did (or rather didn't) happen at ours. And I find your final sentence chilling- perhaps he who seeks to laugh off the growing threat of fascism should refrain from openly threatening peaceful marchers with the arsenals at his apparent

Jon Bartel · Degenerate at The Creston Line

Like · Reply · 6 3 · Feb 5, 2017 12:20pm · Edited Patrick Rich prevented further serious violence. Like · Reply · Feb 5, 2017 1:05pm

> Like · Reply · 6 4 · Feb 5, 2017 3:46pm Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios Jon Bartel burning a Nazi flag must have really pissed off the cops & all people like Patrick

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Jon Bartel · Degenerate at The Creston Line Patrick Rich yeah I saw that. Shaking that fence was truly brutal. Burning a nazi flag- meh. They barely got it lit. Yelling- wow. How horrible

peaceful excercize of constitutional rights by your fellow community members.

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Alan Thomas · Northwestern University Karsten He said "liberals" at Cal Poly. The key word is "eradicate". Look it up. Like · Reply · Feb 6, 2017 1:43pm

religion of Islam, and a number of Tribune articles where the only instance of 'eradication' can be found in the comments with your name on it. David Ciaffardini

and celebrated quote is a call for the "deportation of fat people"? Who was the brainiac from the Cal Poly College Republican Club who thought bringing Yiannopoulos to speak was a good idea?Who in hell is inspiring these young people? Certainly not Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 6, 2017 10:17am · Edited

I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting that you really believe what you just said". Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 6, 2017 8:09am

David Ciaffardini You can be disgusted by any views you want. The right to be disgusted ends at the point where violence and censorship begins Show 2 more replies in this thread ▼ Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios Lynne Gamble Obviously, but Milo's schitick is body shaming & a lot of his remarks are no joke,like the statements listed by Daniel Greer in a posting below on this thread. Like · Reply · Feb 6, 2017 11:22am

Is this what the Republican Party has devolved to? More Party than Republican. This guy and Ann Coulter are considered the spiritual leaders of the Republican Party? Seriously? Something is just not right among our local young Republicans. Lord help us, please. Like · Reply · 7 · Feb 5, 2017 10:10pm · Edited Marcus Tully · San Luis Obispo, California Well said. Like · Reply · Feb 5, 2017 8:06pm

Were these students from the Cal Poly Republican club seeking wisdom or to provoke and divide our community? Or was it all about sex and the club's proclivities with the star before and after the

http://www.tolosapressnews.com/free-speech-fascist-dogma.../ as explained by the woman president of the College Republicans. Like · Reply · Feb 6, 2017 7:33am Charles Bird · San Luis Obispo, California It's the political shift in government that dictates which side is apt to protest. Yes, with Trump and

Like - Reply - 1 - Feb 5, 2017 5:27pm Aaron Ochs · Who cares? at None of Your Damn Business! This is a false equivelence. You can't logically group two different protests for two different events and say, "They're the same people," and pass judgment on them. That's disingenuous. Come on, Like · Reply · 3 · Feb 5, 2017 1:52pm Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

He isn't better than that & he proves it all the time. He's just another arrogant corporatist

"exceptions" to the generally peaceful rule, why not explore the motivations behind the recent murder of six Muslim men at that Quebec mosque? Or the burning of that mosque in Texas? Or the murder of those eight people in that African-American church? Such an exploration/expose would undoubtedly reveal that the perpetrators of all those crimes were influenced by hateful, intolerant, repulsive rhetoric . . . just like Milo's. Like · Reply · 6 · Feb 5, 2017 12:38pm · Edited

Sean C. Pierce Doing nothing is complicity. Berkeley police, the mayor, university officials Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 5, 2017 1:24pm Show 3 more replies in this thread ▼

Patrick Rich Please post a link that links officials to the crowd violence at Berkeley.

Of course it was necessary! Were you there? The VIOLENT crowd lit a fire, attempted to push down fencing and beat sticks and yelled. Thankfully, a strong peacekeeping force

disposal. Perhaps we should be worried that you seem to think firearms are a valid counter to the

Rich,, since the swastika, like the confederate flag, is a sacred symbol in Trump's AmurKKKa. Like · Reply · ₼ 3 · Feb 5, 2017 5:33pm

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ABOUT MATTHEW HOY



15 years at various newspapers along the West Coast, including The Lompoc Record, The Daily World in Aberdeen, Wash., The North County Times in Escondido and The San Diego Union-Tribune. For 15 years, Hoy has written a blog on politics and the media, Hoystory.com. Hoy's column will be published in The Tribune every other week, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks. **MORE MATTHEW HOY** Why the Women's March and Yiannopoulos protests aren't so different

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comes to free speech

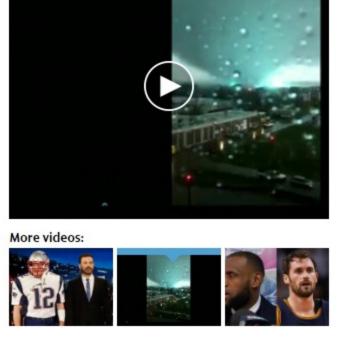
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