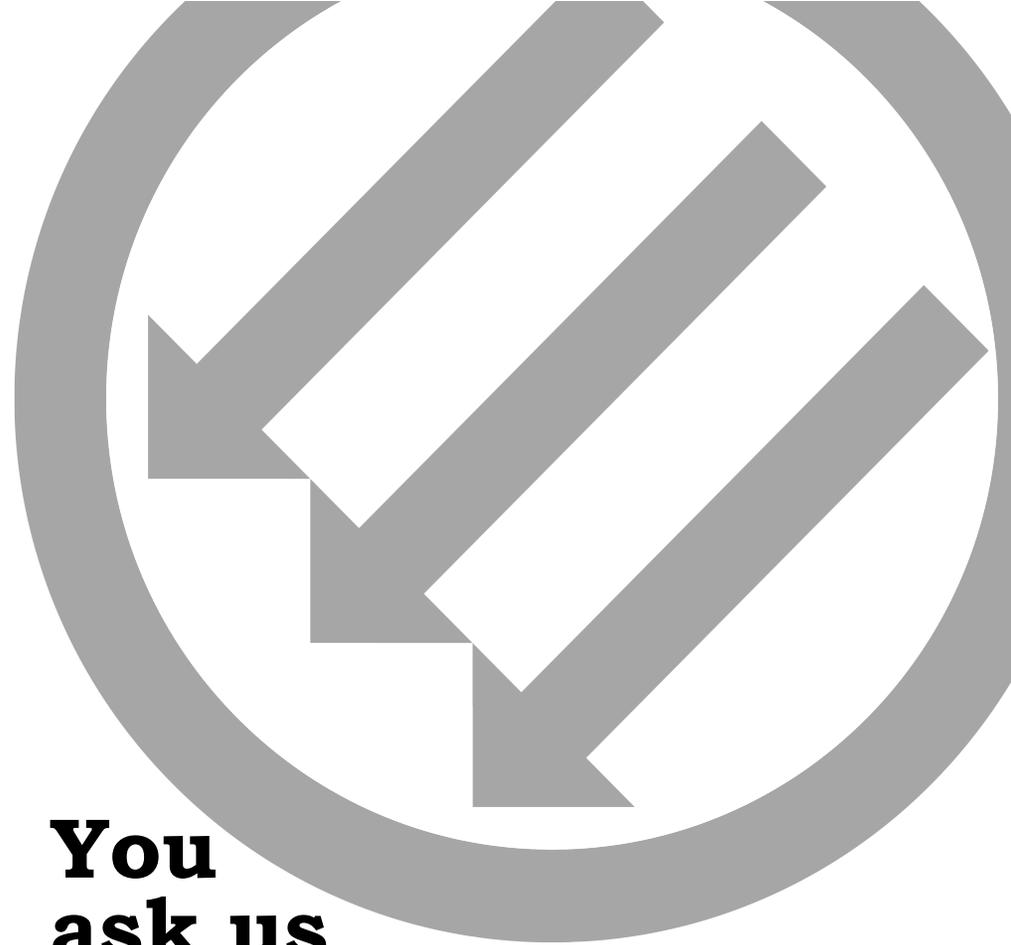


**Stand up. Get involved.
Defend our community.**

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**You
ask us
why we call you
FASCISTS?**

A response to Turning Point USA, Milo, their supporters, and the liberals who allowed them a platform for hate at UW Milwaukee.

Last semester a few ultra-right-wing students conspired with national neo-McCarthyite organizations to bring a neo-nazi speaker named Milo Yiannopoulos to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Many others organized against this event. During our counter-protest, numerous indignant white boys denied Milo's Nazism, claimed to not be racist, and asked us, "why do you keep calling us fascists?" as though the epithet did not apply.

During Milo's speech, he showed video of the scuffles and polarization he delights in bringing to communities across the country. He said "they haven't learned, calling people racist and sexist, it doesn't win us over, you need to have arguments and persuade people, not bully us, and they haven't learned this." His trolls' echo chamber repeats the same line on social media: "just because we disagree doesn't make us Nazis, you idiots" is a common response.

This demand for persuasive factual argument is duplicitous on multiple levels. It erases the labor of people of color, people across the gender identity spectrum and disabled people who

We call you fascists in hopes that eventually, after being called fascist a dozen times, you'll consider looking critically at what you are participating in and recognize that it is fascism. You have been politely welcomed to considerate conversation and reasoned exchange of ideas. These invitations are willfully ignored, or spitefully ridiculed. Confrontation is what we're left with. We call you fascists because you're being fascists and we want you to recognize it, and stop.



a single person. He is a project, a project spending tens of thousands of dollars to draw out political opponents, catalog them, and terrorize them. Milo is McCarthyism, updated for the 21st century.

Anyone who lets Milo's crew take their picture or get hold of their name can expect to be targeted. Maybe not today, maybe not while the tour is still going on, or before his boss, Steve Bannon becomes chief advisor to the president, but believe it: fascists love their lists and we'd be fools to think they won't use the intel Milo is gathering for them.

Turning Point USA spent thousands of dollars bringing a camera crew here to identify their political opponents and unleash hordes of internet trolls on us. They're spending more creating a national "watch list" of faculty members with oppositional views. Universities are the target of both Milo's tour and Turning Point's watchlist because they believe that universities are bastions of liberal opposition and dissent. They are monitoring and preparing to target and shut down their political opponents.

That's the opposite of free speech, and we will not allow them, or the UWM administration to defend it by appealing to freedom of speech. That's grotesque and we need to be smarter than that. Freedom of speech does not include rape threats, it does not include slander, harassment and terror campaigns against political opponents. Milo, Breitbart and Turning Point USA are enemies of freedom. Enemies of free speech. They are fascist organizations. We will continue to call them fascists as well as the people who gathered to cheer them on.

continually testify to, examine and record the history and continued traditions of racism, sexism and able-ism in the United States. This labor has been extracted to create a trove of resources catering to the patient and compassionate education of the willfully ignorant white dude - in fact entire non-profit organizations and government agencies exist solely to teach privileged white men how to recognize and respect others' humanity. However, Milo invalidates and rejects these very knowledges and resources that form the basis of the factual argument he insists upon.

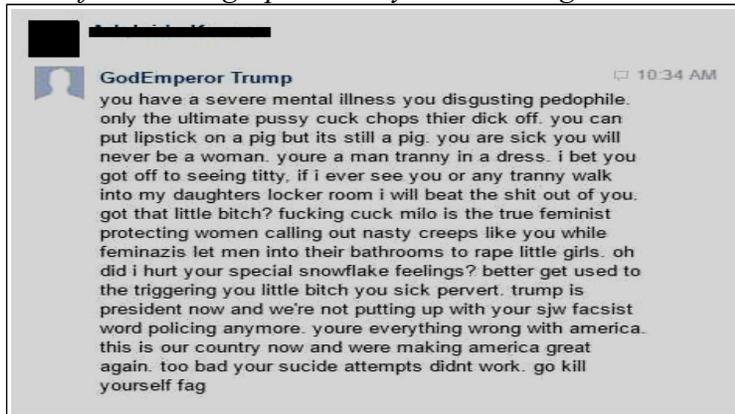
For example, during Milo's little talk he targeted UWM's Inclusive Excellence Center (IEC), comparing it to the Orwellian "Ministry of Information." The IEC's mission is "cultivating an intercultural, equitable climate and learning environment, [it] strives for excellence in fostering peer-to-peer connections and critically reflective opportunities [and] invest[s] time to... engage in authentic and challenging dialogue." The IEC represents exactly what Milo pretends those calling him a fascist "haven't learned" to develop.

The reality is that Milo's fan club avoids honest debate and truthful argument like the plague. It's a trick. They bite every hand that reaches out to them and then play the victim when one comes back as a fist in their face. You can't shove fingers into your ears and scream "la la la, I am not listening" like children when anyone attempts to speak with you and then turn around and ask for respectful discourse when we get tired of your bullshit.

Milo's childishness is endless though, he went on to ridicule people with disabilities and to name, objectify and attack one of

our fellow students' gender performance. These are not just jokes, they are tools of exclusion and violence. The student Milo named has received hundreds of harassing and threatening anonymous messages since Milo's appearance on our campus.

One of the 300+ graphic anonymous messages received:



We knew this would happen, given Milo's reputation, which is why we organized against the event. Those who laugh with him, fund his appearances, and support him are rejecting the basic humanity of anyone different from them. They are insisting on their entitlement to the university and refusing to accommodate others or share space with them. We call such people fascist because that is what fascism is.

Let's be more specific: Milo's talk was ostensibly on race, and that portion started with him shouting "white privilege doesn't exist" to much fanfare. He went on to describe conditions in Africa and said that anyone who "really cared" about Black people should focus on Mauritania. He said this from a stage in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a city where the gulf between Black and White communities in income, employment and other well-being

masks, to reveal our identities before their recording equipment. Meanwhile, WUWM and student media were denied access to Milo's half-filled auditorium. We need to recognize that more than half of Milo's infrastructure is there to monitor his audience and the protests against him. Why?



Consider: Milo made his celebrity "career" off of sending feminists rape and death threats. He was a central figure in gamergate. His crew found the home addresses of those who disagreed with them and dropped so many explicit threats and degrading messages that women had to move out of their homes. Threats and this kind of harassment are not protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution. Neither are fighting words, or statements clearly motivated to cause harm, like shouting "fire" in a theatre. Milo avoids these limits by claiming to not be responsible for what others do, but he also claims to have 40 retweeters across the country pushing his brand, and anyone who names or targets is virtually guaranteed to be piled on. Milo is not

books haven't been written about the racist exoticization of Black masculinity, or internalized homophobia. Milo's rebuttals aren't scripted to win arguments, they aim to titillate straight or closeted white men. They're written for the alt-right echo chamber, unconvincing to anyone paying attention, but that doesn't matter because all he needs is a niche of blinkered punters to go along with his scheme.

Turning Point USA, the UWM administration, and local media all framed this speaker as "controversial" and "an advocate for free speech." He's not. He's a fascist, with a fascist project he's tricked folks into participating in. Turning Point USA and/or Breitbart spent thousands of dollars bringing Milo to UWM. The university insists that none of the money came from student funds, which means these people really wanted to come here badly, they spared no expense. Is boosting Milo's "celebrity" ego really worth thousands of dollars for each tour stop, or is there something else going on here?

Consider: Milo's cameraman tried to force his way into the protesters' event space. He ignored our requests that he stay away and stop filming us. If you went to his speech, you saw the video. Later, he was up in Milo's event, shooting for the "trigger cam" a special feature where Breitbart producers superimpose crosshairs over the face of their critics. You saw him walking up and down the aisles with a headset on, getting directions from someone else on who to photograph. Please think about what that means. It means they marked, documented and cataloged anyone in the audience who expressed the slightest displeasure, whose facial expression showed disgust with what Milo had to say. From behind the cops, the cameramen challenged us to take off our

indicators outranks most metro areas.. Milwaukee's northwest side, zipcode 53206, has the highest incarceration rate in the nation that holds the most prisoners in the world. The Milwaukee Police Department fills Wisconsin's prisons so full from this and other Black neighborhoods that Wisconsin tops the nation in racial disparity in prisons. More Black people are in chains and forced to work in US prisons today than before the civil war. Our city is the worst contributor to this. Milwaukee is the global apex of a certain kind of state sanctioned anti-black violence.

Multiple well-researched documentaries, articles, and books make such facts readily available. However, Milo's supporters block these out, other than to complain about their "stranglehold" on academia. They instead cheer for someone who, in the face of that violent white supremacist reality says, "white privilege doesn't exist," and frames Europe and America as heroes who "put a stop to" slavery "relatively quickly," directing people's attention to the other side of the world, as the crowd of white people roars.

MILWAUKEE
53206
A COMMUNITY SERVES TIME

sobs i just want to express my racist or sexist views without being called racist or sexist *sniffles*

@fatpatsuicide



It's true, we call you fascists because you disagree with us. You disagree with the inclusion of non-white, non-binary, or non-heteronormative people in an atmosphere of equality and respect. Supporting and participating in political movements that increase already horrific levels of state violence enacted against oppressed people is fascism. Advancing racialized and gendered violence is fascism. Systematically stamping out or shortening people's lives because of who they are is fascism.

We call you fascist, because you are supporting fascism.

The primary author of this piece is a straight, white, cisgender man. I can testify that there are patient feminists and activist people of color in this world. If you demonstrate an authentic desire to understand the lives of others, you'll find connections. Your insecurities will be unpacked, your defensiveness tolerated. When white dudes recognize and acknowledge that this world was made for us, on the backs of others, we quickly learn that there are also plenty of resources to help us learn how to share it. You can be downright coddled by the feminist and antiracist left, but you have to care in the first instance, and you have to take your fingers out of your fucking ears.

Instead, you host a speaker who jokes about putting women in camps, who wears an iron cross and says "if they call you an anti-semiter, you throw up swastikas." You spend thousands of dollars bringing this man, who adorns himself with Nazi regalia to our community, and then have the gall to wonder why we call you Nazis? Get a clue. Pay attention.

Milo's defenses against these accusations are facile and ridiculous. "He can't be racist, he loves Black dick!" straight white boys shout, or "he's jewish, and gay!" It is as though



Images of Milo wearing a Third Reich iron cross which he posted to Flickr in 2006, before learning to dupe liberals by concealing his politics.