

# Why I Walked Out

By Kristin Young

I walked out of Memorial Hall because I'm fed up. Racial differences continue to divide and it's time that we stop tiptoeing around the issue. Horowitz is offensive to me because his arguments about reparations, hate crimes, and anti-war activism, etc. trivialize issues that are important to many who are socially oppressed. At the same time, I asked myself- is he even worth addressing? I doubt everything that he says, from his involvement with the Panthers to his 3 Black grandchildren.

His most inflammatory essays either contain unpublished sources or none at all. ("Black America at War," "Hate Crimes That Dare Not Speak Their Name," "V-Day," to name a few) This reduces each argument to a "my word against yours" exchange. The aftermath of the walkout is even more frustrating. I, Black woman, say - "That is racist". They, unenlightened white people who have never been discriminated against because of their skin color, say- "No it's not." Apparently some white folks still just don't get it. The history of America, the American dream, was never intended for me and to deny the effects of racism is to deny the truth behind issues facing people of color.

I demonstrated against injustice before I got to Carolina, and will likely continue after I leave this place. Someone once told me to pick and choose my battles wisely. I've finally learned to take that advice to heart. The Horowitz battle was one that needed to be fought and the way we went about it was appropriate. In other words, attempting to debate him in that particular forum or holding picket signs outside would have been a battle we had lost. Demonstrating our opposition to his views, standing up for ourselves, and letting our voices be heard silently and with dignity was a battle that we won. Stand for nothing and you'll fall for anything.