

To the Editor of the Bloomington Herald-Times:

I dislike “getting personal” in public, but a May 5 letter castigating me for my April 15 guest column so misconstrues what I wrote that I feel called to set matters straight.

First, the author misspells my name. Then he charges me with utilizing a “tactic” employed by many on the left, as if I’m trying to outwit rather than making a serious argument. Next he says that I claim that “bipartisan dialogue will achieve a united citizenry.” I wrote just the opposite, namely, “I’m unpersuaded that any well-intentioned effort at bi-partisanship or political dialogue is likely to achieve a more united citizenry.”

Finally, he construes what I take to be incontrovertible facts as ideological views, every one of which, he says, “aligns with the progressive left’s views.” Not exactly.

My column implicitly expressed my conviction that, despite the role of self-interest in distorting perceptions of the truth, it remains possible for self-critical human beings to ascertain facts. My critic makes no attempt to distinguish facts from views, which in my case he relegates to absurdities.

I’ll rue the prospects for bi-partisanship or dialogue so long as one party demonstrates difficulty processing information and regards facts as ideological or absurd.

Byron C. Bangert

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