

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
**HISTORY CURRICULUM**  
**CHANGES CAN BECOME**  
**REVERSE CENSORSHIP –**  
**THAT’S CENSORSHIP**  
**TOO!!!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  October 2, 2014

*Here's what provoked me:*

*One of my favorite columnists, as well as my political opposite, has done it again and claimed supreme wisdom in a situation that could make him as guilty as the perpetrators he is accusing. By endorsing certain anti-censorship demonstrations by students he gives us a peek at his true feelings about the need to change “American history curriculums.” I’m confident that if he had his way, the unintended result would be fairly close to “reverse censorship.” By making these comments, he once again stumbles into what is becoming one of his most common “Pitt-falls” – claiming the ability to see into the hearts of sincere conservatives. Here’s what I submitted.*

*Here’s my response:*

**History Curriculum Changes Can Become Reverse Censorship – That’s Misguided Too!**

Re: the column by Leonard Pitts Jr., “Students fight censorship of American history,” on October 1. Pitts supports the Colorado students’ rebellion against school board mandates to “promote citizenship, patriotism, essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system.” He calls this “happy history” and emphasizes things we should be ashamed of.



Leonard Pitts Jr.

I support criticism of any history course which doesn’t honestly disclose the “seamy underbelly” of U.S. history and certain historical “rascals.” I agree with Mr. Pitts’ assertion that “to tell half the truth is to tell a lie of omission.”

This sort of “curriculum revision” has a reputation of over-adjusting and rewriting history. Too often revisions ignore fine and noble characters and aspects in our history. Rather, they emphasize, as Pitts describes it, “the sewer we too often tread.” These “revisions” sometimes leave students without information about our founding principles and the many things we can be proud of!

The Colorado school board quickly agreed to reissue their proposal, but Pitts stumbles into one of his common “Pitt-falls” (pun intended) – claiming the ability to see into the hearts of sincere conservatives. As usual he rejects their sincerity.

Mr. Pitts, be careful not to be responsible for promoting reverse censorship!