

## What are these blue and white buttons ?

When I saw that the final session of the alt-right “Free Speech Week” events was titled “Mario Savio is Dead” I got angry.

*No*, I thought, *Mario is not dead*. He's still alive in every one of us who:

- \* believes that free speech comes with responsibility, as does most of life,
- \* understands that free speech, as a tool, can be used for good or ill purposes,
- \* realizes, as did Mario, that the use of free speech to separate people and pit them against each other is undesirable - though it is too often possible,
- \* understands that the best use of free speech is to bring people together in search of justice, not drive them apart in furtherance of conflict.

I thought, therefore, that it might be good to make buttons reading:

**Mario Lives**  
and  
**WE are Mario**

in the colors of the original Free Speech Movement lapel buttons

- and pass them out to people who wish to indicate their opposition to this festival of political provocation and exhibitionism that has been imposed on the Berkeley campus. This has come to pass, with the help of my colleagues at the Free Speech Movement Archives.

The alt-right may try to claim the mantle of Mario, but they stand in opposition to all that Mario stood for in life. His legacy is borne today by multitudes who stand for peace and tolerance, acceptance and dialog, and who stand against appeals to base tribal instincts that have been at the root of so much trouble in the world.

**Sorry, guys - that mantle's taken!**

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