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Vonnegut, Arizona, and remembering the attempt to force the West Bend Library to censor books.

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Vonnegut, Arizona, and remembering the attempt to force the West Bend Library to censor books.

Rust never sleeps, and neither do those who want to force their values, values without virtue, on the rest of us.

[From Vonnegut To Tucson, Books Are Sacred to Free People For Good Reasons | Common Dreams](#)

Not content with **banning** Hispanic studies and other dangerous reading from high schools, Arizona's superintendent of schools now **wants** to take the fight to universities, where teachers learned "this toxic thing" to begin with. In his honor, a 1973 **letter** from Kurt Vonnegut to a North Dakota school board chairman who banned, and then burned for good measure, all of the school's 32 copies of *Slaughterhouse-Five* after a teacher used it in his classroom. Vonnegut noted his books "do not argue in favor of wildness of any kind - they beg that people be kinder and more responsible than they often are." He then slammed the "rotten lesson you taught young people" and charged that with such "ignorant, harsh, un-American" exercising of one's **authority** over children, "people are entitled to call you bad citizens and fools. Even your own children are entitled to call you that."

Follow the link for the rest of Vonnegut's wonderful letter.