

IN SEARCH OF R.O.T.C

By Malcolm A. Kline

When Sen. Zell Miller, D-GA, told the 2004 Republican convention, "It is the soldier, not the agitator, who has given us the freedom to protest," he struck a responsive chord in America, outside of academia.

Sen. Miller's exhortation was met in the Ivory Tower by ambivalence, at best. "We honor groups by race, we honor groups by gender, we honor groups by ethnicity, and we honor groups by their sexual orientation,"

Montclair (NJ) State University professor George Zilbergeld told the audience at Accuracy in Academia's summer conference last July. "But there's one group we never, ever honor on our campus, and that's the American military."

Three years after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, one-fifth of all American colleges and universities offer Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs to their students, according to figures from the Chronicle of Higher Education. And with students willing to travel 75 miles to complete ROTC training at a participating school, as Yalies do when they drive to the University of Connecticut, demand is definitely outstripping supply.

"It is true that there are a handful of

brave students at Harvard that are ROTC scholars, and it is true that Harvard is happy to cash their scholarship checks," Rep. Chris Cox, R-Ca. pointed out, "but Harvard refuses to permit the ROTC program on campus and, therefore, the students have to go down the road to MIT, which will accept them."

Many schools will still not allow military recruiters anywhere near their campus. None of the schools in New

York will permit R. O. T. C. to return to their hallowed halls.

The ban on R. O. T. C. began at many campuses during the Vietnam War. "In 1964, there were 268,000 ROTC students on America's campuses," Rep. Cox noted. "Today, it is down

to 50,000, a decline of more than 80 percent."

Many school administrators refuse to allow R. O. T. C. recruiters on campus because of collegiate resentment at the so-called "Don't ask, don't tell" policy of the military on homosexuality.

Columbia University carries this attitude to a vivid extreme. While Columbia's masters make abundantly clear that R. O. T. C. is not welcome in their corner of Morningside Heights, a bondage club meets on campus regularly with the school's blessing.

Although the number of schools nationwide offering ROTC is double what it was a decade ago, the proportion of colleges and universities that support the program falls far short of the academic solidarity with American troops during World War II. The Second World War in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attacks serves as a useful comparison to America after the 9/11 attacks. The 9/11 attacks claimed more American lives than the December 7, 1941 assault.

Indeed, it literally took an act of Congress, namely the Solomon Act of 1996, to force college administrators to allow Army recruiters on their campuses on recruiting forays. Although failure to accommodate Army recruiters carries with it the threat of the loss of federal funding, many institutions of higher education still roll up the welcome mat on men and women in uniform.

One federal court recently invalidated the Solomon Act while several other suits against the law remain pending. Meanwhile, both houses of Congress passed another version of the law. The new law is not affected by the recent court decision, according to the US Senate Armed Services Committee

Percentage of colleges and universities offering R. O. T. C.

1993—9 %

2000—6%

2003—19.9%

source: calculations based on figures from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

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From South Beach to Northwoods

Prof. David Bernlohr, chairman of the department of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics at the U. of Minnesota, recently became a media darling for creating a new diet.

Mehgan Lee, writing in the *Minnesota Daily*, said it all started when Bernlohr, who researches obesity and teaches med students about metabolism, noticed that his own weight was escalating to uncomfortable levels, and decided to do something about it. After six months on a diet that he devised himself, he lost 40 pounds.

When people asked him how he did it, they got some surprising answers. The professor's weight loss occurred despite the fact that he did no exercise and consumed satisfying amounts of peanuts, chocolate and beer.

"No person should have to be without chocolate," noted Bernlohr, adding that "If you have to have peanuts, it's almost required you have beer, too."

The prof ate three meals a day. Breakfast consisted of cereal or oatmeal to increase his body's insulin production. Lunch was generally a slice of pizza. After a normal supper, he stopped eating for the day.

When people asked him what diet he was on, he said, "I'm on Northwoods," adding "if the beautiful people in South Florida can have South Beach, the good, hard-working people of Minnesota can have Northwoods."

After a small reference to his diet appeared in the university's alumni magazine, a media frenzy erupted from the likes of "Dateline NBC" and NPR. Although Professor Bernlohr said he had no intention of being a diet guru, he

explained that people "don't need 2,500 calories a day. Cut back to 1,800. Have only one helping. And don't eat a fourth meal."



Grads Long for Friends and Beer

"Call it college nostalgia, those pangs felt by any number of young working stiffs who long for the days when they could roll out of bed and into class or hang with friends any night of the week, at any hour," says the AP's Martha Irvine.

"If I had my way, I'd be a college student the rest of my life," says Robert Billingham, an associate professor of human development and family studies at Indiana University.

"There's a lot to miss," he says. "You don't have so much freedom in the work world. So for a lot of people, it's a big shock—the expectations and accountability. All of those things are just a real bummer."

Maria Pendolino, a recent grad agrees. "I miss a lot of little things—naps, sleeping in until noon and the feeling that you are in the same place in your life as everyone else," says Pendolino, who graduated earlier this year from Binghamton University in New York and now works in the finance field.

"In college, I was a big fish in a little pond," she says. "Now I'm a guppy in the ocean."

Angela Yarbrough says that in her office, she sometimes feels like raising her hand to disagree with her boss...but "you don't want to be the topic of the water cooler," says Yarbrough, a 21-year-old who graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio last year and now

works for an image consultant.

Among the most-missed aspects of college life: going to sporting events; keg parties; laid back attitudes; a large pool of potential dates; friends; the sun.



PC or Not-PC

UMass, Amherst student Jake Monte recently wrote in the *Massachusetts Daily Collegian* that political correctness resembles a badge of shame, a constant reminder that we owe something to those who have been less fortunate.

But where does one draw the line between political correctness and the other desires that pull us in the opposite direction?

Monte told the following story: "As a young freshman, I was approached by a man on the street who said he liked to meet people who he thought were interesting and to go out for coffee with them. He was friendly and charming so I acquiesced. Soon enough, I began to form a friendship with him. I realized quickly that he wanted to be more than just friends, but I was trapped.

"Political correctness was like a cage and I couldn't break free of it. I kept telling myself I didn't want to be homophobic. I wanted to tell him off. I hated him for putting me in such an uncomfortable position and I hated him for not understanding that I was straight."

Monte said he felt the man's watchful eye in the back of his head, giving him a stern glare, and he kept thinking that he simply didn't know how to get along with a gay person.

"I felt I owed him an explanation for not wanting to be around him. But what could I say? He wasn't coming onto

me. He was just making me uncomfortable... In truth, I hated him, but my feelings seemed irrational and unjust. So I continued to hang out with him, and I felt more and more frustrated with my situation by the day. What did I owe him?

When Monte decided to end the friendship, he tried the PC approach first, calling the man and saying he preferred not to see him. "So you don't call me and I won't call you," said Monte. "He told me that was fine and called me a week later to try to explain that he didn't mean any offense. This time the anger was so intense that I went with it. I told him off in the most disrespectful way possible, and like that, the relationship was over. I was left feeling so much anger I couldn't express. I felt violated, emotionally raped. But I learned something about what I owe people.

"I realized I don't owe people anything. I'm not homophobic, a racist, or a sexist, and it is possible to kill that watchful eye in the back of one's head by simply affirming to oneself that one is not prejudiced... It is imperative that one breaks free of the cage that is political correctness... If one treats everyone with respect, one's boundaries will invariably be violated."



Beatles song Censored

The Beatles song, "When I'm Sixty-Four," is known to millions as a humorous commentary on birthdays and growing older. But according to the *London Sunday Mail*, a school chorus was recently forced to cut the line "Birthday greetings, bottle of wine" in case it would upset Jehovah's Witnesses who do not celebrate birthdays.

The singers were also informed that changing the wording could be a breach of copyright, so they decided

to simply stop singing during that portion of the song while the pianist continued playing.

The issue arose when teachers suggested dropping the line so as not to cause 'embarrassment or upset' to one of the students, who is a Jehovah's Witness. The faith considers birthdays a pagan custom and believes that early Christians did not celebrate Christ's birthday.

The decision to cut the line from the charity performance at a Lions Club benefit caused shock and outrage.

Howard Cohen, owner of the London Beatles Store, called it another example of "political correctness gone mad."

Paul McCartney wrote 'When I'm Sixty-Four,' as a very personal song about how he saw himself when he was older, said Cohen, adding that "it is a glimpse into the future... It should not be changed simply because one person does not like it."



I am Charlotte Simmons

To some critics, Tom Wolfe's new novel, *I am Charlotte Simmons*, is nothing more than a "leering exposé of the sexual shenanigans of undergraduates..." written by someone who is "snobbish, superficial and insecure."

Princeton University professor emeritus Elaine Showalter continues her *Chronicle of Higher Education* critique by noting that while Wolfe was "titillated by the sexual revolution that arrived on campus since his own student days, ... he totally missed the feminist revolution that has given us so many more women students, faculty members, deans and presidents."

The brouhaha over Tom Wolfe's latest novel comes as no surprise. After all, Wolfe, inventor of the phrases "radical chic," "the Me Decade" and

"masters of the universe," has not exactly taken steps to quell his contrarian image role among contemporary fiction writers.

After his last novel, *A Man in Full*, took on the real estate profession, Wolfe hinted that his next subject would be about academia. Political correctness and campus sex were the subjects that caught his attention. After learning that PC was primarily a faculty problem, Wolfe decided that since there was "no really great novel about campus life from the students' point of view," he would write one.

Charlotte Simmons is all about sex on today's campuses. Set at a mythical Ivy League school called Dupont University, the book is a copiously researched story of a naïve young scholarship student from a small North Carolina town.

The New York times called the book a "flat-footed" novel of over 600 pages that "serves up the revelation that" yikes! "students crave sex and beer, love to party, wear casual clothes and use four-letter words."

So how does a 73-year-old man write about today's campuses? Three years of research at four universities, where he replaced his trademark white jacket with a more college-friendly blue blazer, according to *Newsday's* Aileen Jacobson. The writing of this 21st century novel was done on manual typewriters. Wolfe apparently has trouble "googling" without the help of his wife Sheila or an assistant.

Newsday reports that the novel "with a giant first printing of 1.5 million— is being marketed to college students through such devices as giveaway coasters and author-interview CDs sent to campus radio stations."

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Malcolm A. Kline



January, 2005

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year!

Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia have their work cut out for them in confronting inaccuracies in those two realms about every imaginable subject. Lately, both groups have been forced to confront inaccuracies about themselves.

I just finished such an exercise with David Brock's group, Media Matters for America. In a piece on political activist Mychal Massie, writer Terry Krepel wrote that the WorldNet.Daily columnist had worked for David Almassi, "who had previously worked for FrontPageMag.com editor-in-chief David Horowitz's right-wing Accuracy in Academia group."

Ironically, the web site article linked to our academia.org site on our name so that the first thing that visitors who pointed and clicked on the reference could see was the tribute to our actual founder—Reed Irvine. I called Krepel and insisted on a correction, which he cordially indicated that he would make. To his credit, Krepel made the change, and archived the story

We hope that you can catch our monthly broadcasts on righttalk.com. We have had some interesting guests including: Dr. James Miller, a free market economist at Smith who survived an attempt to deny him tenure; Evan Coyne Maloney, the talented filmmaker who gave us *Brainwashing 101*, the groundbreaking documentary on college bias; and, Dr. Thomas E. Woods, the Suffolk Community College historian who gave us *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*.

I hate to close out these letters with pleas for contributions but I have no choice. Accuracy in Academia is financed solely by donations so we are dependent upon supporters like you in our effort to cover and publish the real stories about what is really happening on college campuses. Please remember, the officials who run these institutions of higher learning dread exposure. That's why we try to give it to them.

Thank you for all the support which you have given to us. Have a happy and prosperous 2005!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mal Kline". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mal Kline
Executive Director
