

GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY

It is graduation time, and all over the country, colleges are lining up influential speakers to bid their graduates adieu. The liberal folks have been very busy fielding invitations. Sen. Hillary Clinton will speak at Adelphi University, Sen. Chuck Schumer at Buffalo State University, Sen. Barbara Boxer at Mills College and far-left actor Mike Farrell at Utica College.

So far as I know, few are objecting to those people imparting their wisdom to the students.

But a funny thing happened on the way to academic freedom. Some liberal college people don't want it. If you veer away from liberal orthodoxy, you are not welcomed at commencement.

The most egregious example of this is happening at The New School, a college in New York City. Former Democrat Sen. Bob Kerrey, the president of the New School, is under fire for inviting Sen. John McCain to speak at graduation.

A bunch of students and faculty members are demanding that McCain's invitation be rescinded.

New low for higher education

With Bill O'Reilly



In an open letter the dissenters said: "Sen. McCain's voting record and public pronouncements are starkly at odds with the progressive social values for which this university once stood, and which we want to see upheld."

In other words, if you are not a progressive liberal, get the deuce away from the New School.

Now how loopy is this? Sen. McCain has served his country heroically, as most sane people know. He is certainly no bomb-throwing conservative. He is a patriot who may be the next president of the United States. But for some at the New School, he is not worthy to address them. Isn't tolerance supposed to be a liberal tenet?

About 200 miles to the north, some loons at Boston College are doing the same thing to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Historically, BC is not known as a far-left place, yet more than 150 Boston College faculty members have signed a letter objecting to awarding Secretary Rice an honorary degree at graduation.

The prevailing wisdom among these pedagogues is that Rice is a warmonger. When one BC professor put that forth on my TV program, I told him it was a shame 3,000 Americans would not be able to attend the college's graduation this year because they are dead. The man stumbled for words.

Isn't it interesting how close many far-left

individuals come to embracing fascism? The hallmark of totalitarian right-wing regimes is to stifle all opposing points-of-view. No dissent is permitted.

But the far left is the same way, and all their talk of diversity and freedom of expression is just so much BS at BC. Stifling opposing points of view at any American college is simply unacceptable.

For the record, both Condoleezza Rice and John McCain are great Americans who are trying to make their country a better, safer place. You may disagree with their policies and opinions, but their dedication is unassailable.

The fanatics at Boston College and the New School have embarrassed their institutions. Ignorance is not supposed to be part of the University experience. Those schools and many others surely need to wise up.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?"

Medical Center welcomes Dr. Brent Davis to staff

The Medical Staff, Hospital Staff, and Board of Directors of Murphy Medical Center welcome Brent Davis, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon. Dr. Davis opened his practice at Suite I of 145 Medical Parkway on May 1.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Davis attended St. Louis University School of Medicine, and completed his residency at St. Louis University Hospital, St. Mary's Health Center, and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. He has been practicing orthopedics in Florida for the past six years.

While in medical school, Dr. Davis enjoyed the experience of spending a summer as an athletic trainer for the Cardinals Minor League in Phoenix, Arizona. After returning to St. Louis, he met his wife, Lisa. They now have two children, Connor 10, and Lindsey, 6.

The Davis family has settled in Hayesville. Dr. Davis admits to being a "homebody" and loves to boat and fish with his family, and play golf with friends.

He is already very busy in the operating room at Murphy Medical Center, and many of his former patients who live in Florida have promised they will follow him to the mountains if they ever need more surgery.

Dr. Davis has a special interest in joint replacement and sports medicine. He looks forward to meeting the high school athletes and coaches in the area. He enjoys speaking about orthopedics and would like to be available for



Submitted photo

Dr. Brent Davis is shown with his family, starting clockwise from top, his son Connor, 10, wife Lisa, and his daughter Lindsey, 6.

speaking engagements if his schedule permits.

The community is invited to meet Dr. Davis, his wife Lisa and the office staff at an Open House on Monday, May 22, noon - 2 p.m. in his office. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please call his office at 828-837-9181.

Murphy Medical Center marks Hospital, Nursing Home Week

Don't let the name fool you. National Hospital Week isn't a celebration of health care's most recognizable buildings—it's a celebration of the miracles that happen inside them.

"The medical profession is making miraculous strides in so many areas," Mike Stevenson, CEO of Murphy Medical Center said. "We're able to offer many patients new hope that eluded us even a few years ago. From the maternity ward to the recovery room, this is a place of new beginnings and we are all fortunate to be part of it."

The hospital recognized the dedicated health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who through the power of care, tirelessly strive to increase access and improve the quality of healthcare in our communities.

"And while no facility can manufacture that miracle, it comes from the compassion, the knowledge and the experience our employees

bring to the practice of health care," adds human resources manager Russ Paine. "Just as we depend on medicine and technology, we rely on the abilities of our people. Because our employees take pride in what they do, we can be immensely proud of the care we offer."

The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about the "shrouded" institutions of the day. From that beginning, Hospital Week expanded to facilities across the nation.

Hospitals bring peace of mind to each and every community. Hospital workers nationwide have been asked to play a heightened role since the terrorist attacks, anthrax letters, and threats of chemical or biological terrorism. Hospitals are the bulwark against a new outbreak of smallpox and are responding with proactive steps to stem the spread of SARS and Avian flu.

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LETTERS

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BRMEMC worked with us

Several weeks ago, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC came onto our property without permission and cut down a 20-foot strip of trees and foliage to make way for some new power lines. After contacting them, they came to our house and reassured us that it was an accident. They then offered to do what they could to make things right. As we would all agree that there was no excuse for what was done, we do feel it was an oversight and we are very appreciative that BRMEMC worked with us to set things straight.

Sincerely,
Doug & Leslie Gray

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