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R. Emmett Tyrrell

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'Politically Correct Knights' go on patrol again

WASHINGTON - Do you know what the Modern Language Association (MLA) is? It is an association of university scholars that patrols standards of scholarship in academic, particularly in comparative literature. It is one of the reasons that American universities are so intellectually uninteresting. And it is a practitioner of the kind of intolerance and bigotry that now threatens college campuses. It is another of the Ku Klux Kins that rule across college campuses enforcing right thinking, thinking that is PC or "politically correct."

The Knights of the MLA are now plaintiff in their sacred honor to knocking off any of its enemies. It is a practitioner of the kind of bigotry that now threatens college campuses enforcing right thinking, thinking that is PC or "politically correct."

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A new, the president's immensely capable chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), has nominated her to a position on the Endowment's 36-member council that meets quarterly to advise on NEH grants. The Knights of the MLA have actually supported the charge that Miss Iannone's work is comparable to that of such Nazi tools as the late Paul de Man.

Finally they scorn her for not having her work published in any of the learned journals. In her writing, Miss Iannone has defended the politicalization of literature. She sees feminist ideology as an offense against art and opposes racial or ideological judgments of literature. Thus the hate campaign contends with neither logic nor evidence that she is hostile to women and minorities - two categories that obviously include her. The Knights of the MLA have actually supported the charge that Miss Iannone's work is comparable to that of such Nazi tools as the late Paul de Man.

For weeks now Patrick Buchanan has been puttering in defense of a minor clique of conservative intellectuals (self-styled polar conservatives) whose complaint is that they are rarely considered for foundation grants or the kind of government nomination that Miss Iannone's Buchananites regard as intolerant. The Knights of the MLA are as intolerant as the Knights of the Memorial for Robert Bork. And as foolish - the Knights' bizarre enthusiasm for a kind of infantile reaction. Buchananites' bespeak infantile reaction. Both groups champion the pervert. They ignore simple competence. They drive diversity from their presence.

Neither would have the humanities accessible to the average taxpayer. To them an idea has to be bizarre to be relished. That is why both must oppose Miss Iannone's appointment. The Knights of the MLA define themselves by hating what is normal about American culture. Their conservative equivalents do the same, but they exist only on the outer fringes of the right.

The Herald-Times

The policy of this newspaper is to strive for accuracy. We may be unattainable; however, it will remain our primary goal and we will not feel satisfied until it is within our grasp.

Scott Clark Schurz Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
Robert S. Zaltsberg Editor
Michael J. Hefron General Manager

Around the state

Jokes about Quayle starting to be serious

Until recently the jokes about Vice President Dan Quayle being a heart attack away from the presidency were amusing. But then President Bush ended up in the hospital for treatment of an irregular heart rhythm.

Suddenly, the jokes didn't seem quite so funny. The nation had to consider seriously the thought that Quayle could actually become president.

But that, of course, is not what government running after June 30. But redistricting is No. 2. Actually, for some legislators, there is more concern about the new districts that will reflect census changes than over the future negotiations. Their own seats are involved in redistricting after all.

The public, too, ought to be concerned about how districts are drawn. The fairness of future elections, the choice of representation that will be available and the chart your area will have in the choices are involved.

Still, even among those who have