

## The Halcyon Days of Academic Compliance

# Pipes' Dreams

by Debbie Goldgaber

Castigating academics for their failure to display appropriate levels of patriotism became sport in the weeks and months following the September 11th attacks. Universities across the country, particularly those deemed bastions of the Left, were attacked by the likes of Joseph Lieberman and Lynne Cheney for unseemly displays of opposition at the moment when the rest of the country was uniting in common cause. In their fact-finding report of November 2001, "Defending Civilization: How our universities are failing America and what can be done about it," the post-9/11 statements of Trent Lott and Mayor Giuliani are juxtaposed with several pages of quotations representing "Voices on the Campus." The report's conclusion? "Rarely did professors publicly mention heroism...discuss the difference between good and evil...or the virtue of a free society. Indeed the message of many in academe was clear: Blame America first."

They attribute academia's confounding response not to any traditional role of opposition (for after Pearl Harbor "everyone wanted to cooperate and

feel like they were helping the country"), but to "recent academic trends" like moral relativism and a propensity to view Western civilization "as the primary source of the world's ills." Team Cheney has a solution for this intolerable state of affairs. If university professors and students cannot be trusted to get the job done, alumni, trustees and donors should pressure them from without.

Enter Daniel Pipes and Campus-Watch.org. In September 2002, Pipes, a historian, unveiled Campus Watch, a site whose stated goal is to influence Middle East Studies scholarship by exposing the anti-American ideology of the field's most prominent scholars. Originally featuring incriminating "dossiers" (these were subsequently replaced with the more innocuous-sounding "institutional surveys") on prominent Middle

