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Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

THE FOUNDATION

- ▶ Home
- ▶ About FIRE
- ▶ Mission Statement
- ▶ Programs
- ▶ Issues
- ▶ Staff
- ▶ Board of Advisors

DEFENDING LIBERTY

- ▶ Cases
- ▶ Submit a Case
- ▶ In the News
- ▶ In the Mailbox
- ▶ Events

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- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Support FIRE
- ▶ Legal Network
- ▶ Internships
- ▶ Subscribe
- ▶ Jobs at FIRE

College students reject race-based admissions; Respondents decry political pressures

by Andrea Billups

The Washington Times, April 18, 2000

The nation's college students are overwhelmingly against the use of racial preferences in admissions, a new survey has found.



A majority also say political correctness on campus is compromising their education, with more than half saying PC restricts what they can say or learn.

These are among the latest findings of a survey by Zogby International commissioned by the nonprofit Foundation for Academic Standards & Tradition (FAST). The 56-question survey was conducted in January through phone interviews with 1,004 randomly selected college students across the country who expressed concerns on issues such as fairness, excessive politics in the classroom and grade inflation.

"America is struggling between being race-blind and race-conscious, and our young people, who are clearly tolerant, are pushing us toward a race-blind society," FAST President Marc Berley said.

Pollster John Zogby called the findings "fascinating and complex," particularly the student views on political correctness.

Nearly 58 percent of students said that there is too much politics in



Read excerpts from *The Shadow University* by Alan Charles Kors & Harvey A. Silverglate.



Read *Thought Reform 101* by Alan Charles Kors.



Read *Memo to Free Speech Advocates University of Wisconsin-Madison* by Harvey A. Silverglate.

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the classroom, and that colleges need to rededicate themselves to objectivity and intellectual freedom. Close to 70 percent said professors are unfair to students who express liberal or conservative views.

Fifty-five percent think political correctness is getting in the way of learning.

"We've been hearing that political correctness is a creation of the media, but most students say it exists and harms their education" Mr. Berley said.

Thor Halvorsen, executive director of the Philadelphia-based Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, calls the survey "a clarion call for action" for college professors and administrators.

"It shows that students are aware of both how the curriculum is infected with political correctness as well as how extracurricular and student life compromises their education when administrators decide to play social engineers," Mr. Halvorsen said.

The complete survey can be found at www.goFAST.org on the Internet.

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