

PITTSBURGH Tribune-Review

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Sunday pops

Sunday, May 25, 2003

- More trouble at Citrus:** You may recall how, a few months ago, a Citrus College professor gave extra credit to students who wrote anti-war letters to President Bush but none to those who supported the war. Now the California school is being sued by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education for onerous restrictions on free speech. Among the restrictions -- prescreening of messages that can be delivered only at certain times in designated areas that keep 99 percent of the campus free speech free. And here we thought college was all about the free exchange of ideas.

- "Book bag back" bogus:** It's an article of faith among some parents: Too-heavy book bags are killing their kids' backs. Not so, says University of Michigan researcher Andrew Haig, who studied backpack impact. So, is the spate of lower-back pain in kids a phantom? Not at all, says Professor Haig. The cause is ascribed to physically inactive kids who spend too much time in front of the TV or in computer chat rooms. What's a parent to do? Pull the plug.

- Guffaws from Jayson:** Disgraced New York Times plagiarist/fabricator Jayson Blair tells The New York Observer that he "fooled some of the most brilliant people in journalism" with his long trail of bogus reportage. As it turns out, those geniuses at The Times weren't so "brilliant," now were they?

- On the wrong shelf:** Newsweek's Michael Isikoff calls the new book by Billary acolyte Sid Blumenthal an "822-page bloated opus" that features "distortion as standard fare." Said Mr. Isikoff, who helped break the Monica Lewinsky story, Mr. Blumenthal's book "isn't history; it's one big orgy of political spin." So, when will bookstores move it to the fiction shelves?

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