

frequented the chains-leather-riding crop homosexual and sado-masochistic scene. Foucault died of AIDS in 1984.

'Giving bullshit a bad name'

But Foucault also had a disciple: Jacques Derrida, who took his course at the ENS: "I was struck, like many others, by his speaking ability. His eloquence, authority, and brilliance were impressive," said Derrida later of his mentor. Derrida was taken by Foucault to the psychiatric hospital of St. Anne to hear patients examined (*Michel Foucault* by Didier Eribon, p. 50). Derrida has been less of a political exhibitionist than Foucault. Derrida was arrested by the communist authorities in Prague in 1981 on charges of drug trafficking; he said that he had come to meet dissidents and was

released after protests. In the mid-1980s, Derrida authored a characteristically garbled essay in praise of Nelson Mandela. In general, Derrida claims always to have been a leftist.

Foucault and his pupil Derrida quarreled during the 1970s, and Foucault has provided some trenchant summations of Derrida's work, which he rightly called "terrorist obscurantism." Obscurantism because Derrida deliberately writes in an incomprehensible way. If one ventures to criticize Derrida, the latter says: "You misunderstood me you are an idiot" (*Limited Inc.*, p. 158). Foucault also said of Derrida: "He's the kind of philosopher who gives bullshit a bad name" (*Illiberal Education* by Dinesh D'Souza, p. 190). The main exception seems to be when Derrida has to argue for funding for his activities; in these cases he seems to

Stanford: the home of 'political correctness'

In October 1983, the Stanford University faculty voted to uphold Ph.D. candidate Steven Mosher's right to free speech, while simultaneously expelling him from the university. The reason given for this Orwellian decision was an article written by Mosher and published in Taiwan in 1981, describing his one-year visit to a mainland Chinese village during 1979-80. In the article Mosher portrayed the barbarity of China's one-child-per-family law, and included photographs of Chinese women, some nine months pregnant, undergoing forced abortions. The Stanford faculty deemed the article "unethical" and kicked Mosher off the campus. This incident, which at the time seemed an isolated one, was an ominous sign of the coming transformation of the university.

A leading American university, known as the "Harvard of the West," Stanford has now become an Orwellian thought-police state, dominated by the ideology of "political correctness." Recently, associates of Lyndon LaRouche attempted to organize on the Stanford campus. They were stopped by campus authorities in less than an hour, and were told that they could organize only in a designated "free speech zone." The problem is that in that zone, one may not set up a table, display signs, or sell literature. (The other problem is that the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights apply all over this country, not just in "constitutional zones.")

Culture without values

In 1988, the Stanford University administration voted to junk the traditional Western Civilization curriculum

and institute instead the CIV (Cultures, Ideas, Values) program, in which students are drilled in a value-free comparison of all cultures. Thus, today, while freshmen might still read Shakespeare, they must also read pro-terrorists like Franz Fanon, for a different perspective on European culture.

A visit to Stanford today is eerie, as the world's real problems are utterly ignored. There are no demonstrations, no mass meetings, no posters or signs, no forums on issues like the economic crisis or the threat of World War III in the Balkans. A recent Stanford Black Liberation Month made *no mention* of the genocide against Africa; instead, there were lectures on Women and Gender in Malawi, Angolan Literature, Black Styles Through the Ages, and Diaspora Get Down II.

CIV undergraduate courses now include: Gender and Representation in Africa, African and Caribbean Roots of American Jazz Dance, Population Perspectives in the Third World, Mayan Mythology, Critical Perspectives on Feminist Theory, and American Indian Ways of Knowing.

There are hundreds of such courses spread throughout every branch of the Liberal Arts curriculum. If a student attempts to focus his studies on the primary classes in history, literature, or philosophy, he will find that even the "basic" courses are taught from a "multicultural," "feminist" perspective. No student is allowed to graduate without completing a mandatory course in "Gender Studies."

In his book *Local Knowledge*, anthropologist Clifford Geertz states that the world's population has been enslaved by a Judeo-Christian European culture that came into being during the fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance. To liberate mankind, says Geertz, this Renaissance culture must be overthrown. That is indeed the aim of the CIV curriculum.—Robert Ingraham