

R.O.T.C. prepares leaders for life

By Missie Warren
Freelance Writer

Major Monty Hayes, a graduate of political science at the University of Central Florida and who holds a Masters in management from Troy State, vividly explained and defended the versatility and availability of ROTC opportunities on our campus. Major Hayes was chosen for his commission by the army because he is skilled and qualified for his position. He enjoys his position here due to his strong sense of patriotism, and his interest in the future leaders of our country.

The courses offered by the Military Science department are open for anyone, not just members of the ROTC. Anyone who would like to try their hand at something new and exciting should apply. Besides the physical challenges provided by some of the classes, there are mental challenges as well. In the courses that offer information on the structure and organization of the defense department, there are tests and papers. Some of these papers entail a "briefing" or speech to the lay person like myself. These classes also offer insight into leadership skills and ethics. The labs that are offered such as rappelling or cross coun-

try skiing challenge one's character and helps them to develop a stronger one after the experience.

There are lucrative scholarships available to members of ROTC. This aid can provide full tuition, \$225 for books, labs are paid for, and the ROTC stipend of \$150 to top it off. The obligations of this scholarship are a two-year assignment of reserve duty. This would be ideal for someone who wanted field experience. They could be a student during the week, and apply their skills on the weekends. The base the students are placed on will also pay them for their services. This type of scholarship allows the students guidance throughout their schooling. There is always someone to help them out or keep them in line.

Another positive aspect of ROTC is the job security and advancement. "Ninety-eight percent of the students who choose to go into active duty, will be chosen," commented Major Hayes proudly. He then added, "After the students choose 10 geographic sites in order of preference, UNI stu-

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For Whom The Bell Curve Tolls: A look at the controversy

By Will Wilkinson
Freelance Writer

The Bell Curve is not about race. It is, as the subtitled bears witness to, about "Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life."

The Bell Curve has its share of flaws, but they are not the flaws that the popular press has insisted on. Rather, a close reading of the book and a close reading of the press' reaction to it reveals that either the majority of the media did not read and understand it or it was intentionally misrepresented; and who would do that?

The Bell Curve was wrought by the late Harvard psychologist Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray, a formidable leading conservative light. They has been met with a few knowing kudos from the fringes and a whole lot of hissing, booing and vegetable tossing from the riled liberal mob.

There have been a few things that have been especially upsetting to the leftward media. The first is the point that intelligence or IQ, best described as "cognitive ability," can be accurately measured and is a solid predictor of a wide variety of aptitudes and skills. All this means is that some persons are verifiably brighter and some dimmer. It is surprising that this should be surprising.

The big perceived sin is that Herrnstein and Murray go on to point out the fact that the mean of the African-American curve falls about fifteen points short of the Caucasian mean (which, in turn, falls about five points shy of the Asian mean).

Test bias cannot be shown play a role in these results. (It is, but should not be, necessary to point out that group averages say nothing about individuals.)

Additionally, the average heritability of IQ is shown to be about 60 percent, erring on the conservative side. This leaves a healthy 40 percent to non-genetic factors, but, even then, there appears to be no effective way to manipulate the social environment to affect permanent positive change in IQ.

Despite the more or less non-politicized professional consensus among psychometricians, this information has remained taboo to a very political and generally liberal media who do not care to see the

possibility of a total equal outcome egalitarian state shattered, even by reality. So, sadly, the coverage of *The Bell Curve* has largely consisted of varieties of ill-informed denial, lingering on those aspects unsavory to those of fair liberal complexion, leaving the major thesis for hasty overview or outright neglect. It is the major thesis that one should like to explore.

The Bell Curve is about a radical transformation in the fabric of American society and its effects. Our economy has shifted dramatically from an industrial economy, where about anyone could get a good factory job, to an information economy, where high wages in-

All of this is striking, and for the most part seems to reflect the actual state of affairs (though social scientists tend to make too much of correlation and gloss over more fundamental matters of causation). But it is not presented as being of interest merely in itself, but as a prelude for policy recommendations by Herrnstein and Murray.

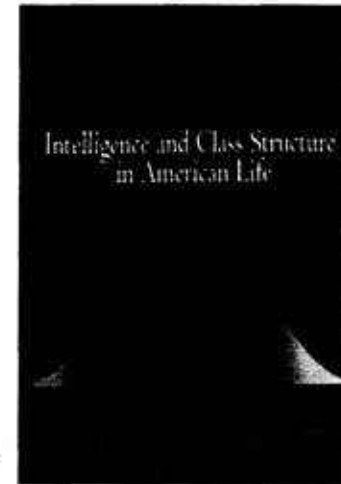
The authors go on to attack the welfare state and affirmative action on the grounds that transferring wealth to the poor and mandated policies of differential hiring (or admissions) standards have very little positive impact. Since outcomes tend to be predicted by intelligence and we have (as yet) no way to raise it, throwing money at the underprivileged and mandating race-based unequal standards for hiring and admissions is futile and results in a wasteful misallocation of resources, usually to the detriment to everyone involved.

A strong case is made against egalitarian driven policies, but there is a stronger abstract rights based case available that the authors ignore in favor of drawing conclusions out of reams of data; science is made primary over philosophy. They put all the eggs in one methodological basket (statistical positivism), which they use to infer principles.

They have it backwards. Data of this sort should be used to substantiate abstract principles, not to create them. They have built a shaky edifice; if their method is shown to be flawed, then the principles will fall with it. Additionally, Murray's and Herrnstein's contention that the growing cognitive underclass will (if we don't do something drastic and quick) squander themselves in poverty and crime is nothing more than blind speculation.

Short-shrifting the fact that volition is a central characteristic of persons of any IQ, Murray and Herrnstein gloss over the huge factor of motivation in success and that one need not be gifted to learn to apply one's reason and think well. People surely have widely varying levels of potential, but the authors don't go into what is involved in actualizing it; therein solutions to many problems lie.

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creasingly depend on the ability to process complex information. Intelligence is in greater demand than ever and, consequently, the system has become ever more efficient at sorting the cognitive wheat from the chaff, reaching across lines of race, gender and class. The result is a system in which, more than ever, status is accounted for by intelligence. We are now in the thrall of a cognitive elite.

But there is a darker side. Accordingly, a strikingly high percentage of criminals and unwed mothers in poverty are drawn from the lower deciles. Further, the bright tend to intermarry, as do the dim, though the less cognitively endowed tend to bear considerably more children.

So, in addition to a cognitive elite that largely mates within their own ranks, there is a cognitive underclass growing disproportionately to the elite due to higher birth rates.

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Computer caught a cold?

By Christopher J. Pirillo
Freelance Writer

"Why are my files suddenly going awry? I could have sworn that my program for calculating the distance between an ox's nose hairs was working properly just the other day!" Might that sound a bit familiar?

Perhaps you've experienced a computer virus before—it is bound to happen when your floppy disks are constantly transferring data between different computers. How to stop it from happening? a) become a computer recluse, or b) get a decent anti-virus program for your system.

If you recently purchased an IBM-compatible computer, you are probably running MS-DOS version 6.x (which is basically the latest version). It comes with Microsoft's anti-virus. I thought it was a nice program, until I realized that it planted "CHKLIST.MS" files called all over my hard drive. This ain't happenin'.

In order for an anti-virus program to do you any good, it needs to have up-to-date information in it. Since new viruses pop up on a daily basis, newer ones may be impossible to detect/clean by simpler/older programs. Not only does MS-DOS 6.x's anti-virus program spread useless files throughout your system, but it is also grossly outdated.

It can only detect around 700 viruses; there are currently well over two thousand KNOWN viruses. It might be time to grab a

new anti-virus program for yourself. And you can get one for free!

F-Prot is what the ISCS computer labs use, and although their version is GROSSLY outdated, it works just fine. You can get it from anonymous ftp to oak.oakland.edu. The current version is 2.16, whereas the labs are running 2.11. You used to be able to copy the program from the hard drives in the labs, but I'm unsure if you're still able to do that (don't quote me on it). Just ask that all-knowing *snort* lab supervisor.

There are, of course, other programs available for usage. Just remember to keep your anti-virus program updated, or it won't do you any good to run. But wait—you don't know how to ftp? Try typing "lynx ftp://oak.oakland.edu" and you should be connected via lynx (so that all you have to do is move your cursor over the directory or file that you want to view/download).

Once there, do a little exploring in the subdirectories. It is one of the biggest ftp sites on the net, and new things are constantly being added. If you "click" on a TXT file, then you should be able to view it on screen.

Check the NFTP newsgroup (under the 'comp' section) for the latest additions to the oakland site.

How about a little fun now? :)

While you're exploring the world of lynx, try Megadeth's site at <http://bazaar.com>.

They've got some wild stuff

there, if you're a fan of Dave Mustaine and company. Or, if you're not much for files and such, try a little chatting online!

Have YOU ever heard of telnetting? Its a nice little program that everybody at the university has the right to use. In fact, a lot of people already use it—some people might be familiar with ISCA. It is a BBS based out of the University of Iowa, and there are usually over a thousand people online at one time. You have the opportunity to talk with most of them. Sweet, eh?

Just type in "telnet whip.isca.uiowa.edu" and you'll be connected within seconds. Of course, you could also run a client program which might get you in a bit faster during the peak times. Ask around for that one, since I cannot release names in this article. But once you are there, you'll be amazed with the amount of communication which takes place. I've been able to sell things on ISCA, as well as meet some pretty cool people in real life because of it. Be forewarned: it is very addictive. But it is also there for you to use in your spare time.

If you have any internet related questions, please don't be shy. Or if you just feel like saying hello, go ahead and drop me a line. I'll always reply: PIRILLC2770. If you have an "Easter egg" you'd like to share with the rest of the community, please tell me!

Good luck with the new semester, and keep your computer virus free!!! *achoo*

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CURVE

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Despite its failings, *The Bell Curve* should be commended for the courage to sacrifice some sacred cows, bringing to public discourse issues that everyone knows about, but nobody wants to talk about. Already, it has received a huge amount of commentary, most

of it vapid but some penetrating and indicting.

Due to *The Bell Curve's* arrival, people are thinking (which is always good) and we now know far more about the facts of the issues, pro and con, than we did before. Read it only if you dare to think for yourself.

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dents usually get 1 of their first 3 choices." If a student graduates and decides not to go into the army, civilian employers look favorably upon ROTC experience also. Major Hayes explains, "ROTC on a resume says to the employer that you've made an extra commitment, and allowed yourself to be physi-

cally and mentally strengthened. This can show them that you are able to lead your peers and work as a team." Good leadership and co-operation skills are better learned first hand and the ROTC provides this form of education. Major Hayes stressed that the military science courses and ROTC is about "Academics as well as practical experience."

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