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# The Washington Times

## Ivy League snubs Bush team for commencements

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Elianna Marziani THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**Illustration:** Photos/Box, Photos Captions: A) Walesa; B) McCain; C) Dole; D) Norton; E) Paige; Box Caption) POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

It's the season when the nation's top colleges vie for administration leaders to grace their campuses and deliver commencement addresses, but in a strange twist this year, no one from the Bush team is scheduled to appear at the prestigious Ivy League schools.

It's not clear why this is so, but some conservatives are incensed. As it turns out, the nation's military academies will host what normally are the most coveted commencement speakers.

President Bush will speak May 25 at the U.S. Naval Academy. Vice President Richard B. Cheney will speak May 30 at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz will speak June 2 at West Point and Chief of Staff Andrew Card will speak June 18 to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

There are tentative plans to have Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta speak at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican, will speak at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va.

Sen. McCain, whose Bush-team membership has at times been questioned, will also appear at the University of Pennsylvania.

Both Harvard University and Williams College have secured Robert E. Rubin, secretary of the Treasury during the second Clinton administration, as their commencement speaker. Brown University will have former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright speak at its ceremonies.

Yale has invited Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, New York Democrat, to speak on

the day before commencement. It's rumored that President Bush, a Yale grad, might speak at his alma mater's commencement.

Thor Halvorssen of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education in Philadelphia says he, for one, is not surprised at the lack of administration speakers at the Ivies.

"Elite liberal schools have a very tangentious definition of what constitutes diversity, and ideological diversity is certainly not a part of that," he said. "Their use of the word `diversity' is a very perverse notion of pluralism."

A 1996 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Halvorssen said he thinks it's rare that a dissenting, non-liberal voice is heard on campus. "It is comical if not tragic to see," he said. "I'd like people to have exposure to all sorts of ideas."

Patrick Reilly of the Cardinal Newman Society in Falls Church, which monitors graduation speakers in Catholic schools, is less contentious. He says the Ivy League schools may have locked in this year's speakers before the current administration`s officials were announced.

"The real test will be next year to see if they go to Clinton administration throwbacks, or if they are willing to accept more conservative speakers."

Terry Hartley, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, a group that represents about 2,000 private and public college presidents, called it a "very atypical year" for graduation speakers. He, too, said the new administration was pulled together too late for elite colleges to snag its officials.

"If you are a major university, you want to line up a speaker six months in advance," he said. "I don't think this year's commencement speakers at the Ivies are indication of a `vast left-wing conspiracy' any more than having administration speakers at the military academies is a `vast right-wing conspiracy.' Come back and look next year, and you'll have a very different picture."

Jerry Martin of the **American Council of Trustees and Alumni** disagrees.

"It's the same story every year," he said. "[Elite schools] seem to have `Republicans not welcome here' signs around campus."

"It just seems to be obvious that someone isn't well educated if they have

heard only one side of the issue. I thought [a college's] job was education, not indoctrination. [Students] need to be exposed to the best representatives of both points of view."

\*\*\*\*PHOTOS/BOX

## POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Commencement speakers at selected U.S. colleges and universities:

Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, May 12, Jehan Sadat, former first lady of Egypt

Augsburg College, Minneapolis, May 20, Dan Goldin, chief administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Berkeley College, New York, May 20, Bill Ritter, ABC News

Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama, May 26, Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., May 21, Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Brown University, Providence, R.I., May 27 (baccalaureate), Madeleine K. Albright, former secretary of state

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa., May 20, Jeff Greenfield, CNN

Chatham College, Pittsburgh, May 20, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Democrat

Claremont Graduate University, California, May 12, Leslie Felb, president of the Council of Foreign Relations

College of Wooster, Ohio, May 14, Andy Rooney, CBS News

Columbus State University, Georgia, May 11, Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent at CNN

Elon College, North Carolina, May 19, Mike Jensen, NBC News

George Washington University, the District, May 20, Herman Wouk, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

Grove City College, Pennsylvania, May 19, Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, Republican

Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass., May 19, Edward Humes, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author

Hampton University, Virginia, May 13, Kweisi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Harding University, Searcy, Ark., May 12, Rep. Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas Republican

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., June 7, Robert E. Rubin, former Treasury secretary

Hollins University, Roanoke, May 20, Ann Compton, chief White House correspondent for ABC News.com

Jackson State University, Mississippi, May 12, Rod Paige, secretary of education

Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., May 19, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, May 18, former President George Bush

Loyola College, Baltimore, May 19, Chris Matthews, MSNBC

Marist College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., May 19, Bill O'Reilly, host of Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor"

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Va., May 19, Rita Dove, former U.S. poet laureate

Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., May 12, Elizabeth Dole, 2000 presidential candidate

Middlebury College, Vermont, May 27, Fred Rogers, creator and host of PBS' "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"

Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, May 12, Ted Turner, founder of CNN

New England Institute of Technology, Warwick, R.I., May 6, Bill Bradley, former Democratic senator from New Jersey and 2000 presidential candidate

Regent University, Virginia Beach, May 12, Mark L. Earley, Virginia attorney general

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., May 12, Bill Cosby, entertainer and educator

Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., May 26, Georgia Gov. Roy E. Barnes, Democrat

San Jose State University, California, May 26, Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation

School of Visual Arts, New York, May 25, Mario Cuomo, former Democratic governor of New York

Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y., May 20, Steve Forbes, 2000 presidential candidate

Simmons College, Boston, May 20, Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of assassinated civil rights pioneer Medgar Evers

Smith College, Northampton, Mass., May 20, Toni Morrison, author and 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature recipient

Spelman College, Atlanta, May 20, Alexis Herman, former secretary of labor

St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, May 13, Lech Walesa, former president of Poland and 1983 Nobel Prize recipient, who also spoke May 5 at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Ore.

St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, May 14, Cokie Roberts, ABC News

State University of New York College of Technology, Delhi, New York, May 12, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, New York Democrat and former first lady

Temple University, Philadelphia, May 17, Bill Cosby, entertainer and educator

Tufts University, Medford, Mass., May 20, Jim Lehrer, PBS "NewsHour"

U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, May 30, Vice President Richard B. Cheney

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Long Island, N.Y., June 18, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card

U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, June 2, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, May 25, President Bush

University of California at Berkeley, May 9, Janet Reno, former U.S. attorney general

University of Maryland, Baltimore, May 24, Marian Wright Edelman, founder/president of the Children's Defense Fund

University of Notre Dame, Indiana, May 20, President Bush

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 21, Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican and 2000 presidential candidate

University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 29, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, May 20, Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., May 20, Stephen King, best-selling author

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., May 19, Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican

Washington College, Chestertown, Md., May 20, Ray Bradbury, author of "Fahrenheit 451"

Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa., June 2, Andrea Mitchell,

NBC News

Wellesley College, Massachusetts, June 1, Jehan Sadat, former first lady of Egypt

Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga., May 5, Queen Noor of Jordan, widow of King Hussein

Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., June 3, Robert E. Rubin, former secretary of the Treasury

\* Sources: Chronicle of Higher Education; school Web sites

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