No word on Loyola professor removed from Karl Rove speech
By William Kelly
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CHICAGO — Mark Twain once said, “I have never let schooling interfere with my education.” For the College Republicans at Loyola University of Chicago, that bit of wisdom has been a saving grace.

After months of struggle in diligent pursuit of that First Amendment staple - freedom of speech - Loyola’s College Republicans finally got their wish: for Karl Rove to speak on-campus. The former White House Advisor to President George W. Bush had been barred from speaking by university administrators at the campus since last October.

Being denied the right to have the speaker of their choice has taught Loyola’s Republican students some important life lessons: Rule: 1: There are different rules that apply if you are a Republican or a conservative. Rule 2: Don’t be fooled by some romanticized notion of higher learning and the free exchange of ideas. Rule 3: Do not expect to be treated fairly. Then it will be of no surprise when you are not. Rule 4: Why are you being treated unfairly? See Rule 1.

“This has been one big rollercoaster but the College Republicans didn’t give up,” said Matthew Noto, President of Loyola College Republicans. “As soon as I started, this was my biggest mission. We all got back on our feet and we all said we are going to back to the drawing board and we are going to get him to come.”

Human Events and Fox News also called the school out on its censorship. The blogosphere chimed in and, at long last, Rove suddenly found himself re-invited to speak.

He even received a standing ovation – as much for him as for the students’ victory in overcoming the school’s hypocrisy.

During his speech, Rove addressed the philosophical divide of Democrats and Republicans and where we are now as a country. He dissected the Obama Administration’s abysmal track record like a frog in biology class. In the interests of free speech, he also took unlimited questions from the audience, including one about September 11th and what took place behind-the-scenes that impossible day. Was Rove’s speech tough? Yes. Was it opinionated? Yes. Is this what freedom of speech is all about? Yes.

Still some Loyola University professors could not stomach Rove’s appearance. Prior to the speech, Jack Sigel, a Loyola teacher, began distributing material to the audience, subject line “In the Case of Karl Rove.” He was removed by police for distributing unauthorized literature in violation of university policy.

Sigel yelled out to students in the hallway about freedom of speech, the ACLU, and that you [the police] are “going to have a lawsuit on your hands” as he was escorted out of the building.
And what did Mr. Sigel’s “free speech” actually consist of?

“Turd Blossom is George W. Bush’s nickname for Rove – out of this turd (Rove) came the blossom of Bush’s presidency,” says Sigel in his piece.

The professor’s piece goes on to describe why Rove is an accomplice to the war crimes of George W. Bush: the invasion of Iraq (though authorized by Congress), the absence of WMDs, and the principle of unjustified wars that violate the Nuremberg Principles and international law. By this standard, would Dr. Sigel also argue that President Obama a war criminal? With no congressional resolution for action in Libya, isn’t he more so? Or is it just Republican presidents and their advisors?

The professor sums up his piece listing as one of his sources Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift. “His employment from his first coming into the Academy was an operation to reduce human excrement to its orig

According to Dr. Joyce Wexler, head of Loyola’s English Department, Sigel is a part-time writing professor at the university. And some wonder why America is getting a failing grade in education.

No word yet from Loyola’s administration as to whether Sigel will be subject to termination or other disciplinary action.

“I hope he didn’t run it [the pamphlet] off on university equipment,” remarked Rove.

This is the state of teachers setting good examples for their students. If teachers concentrated on teaching, instead of activism, how much better off would we be?

Rove was initially approved to speak on campus in spring 2010 for him to speak in October. According to Noto, the College Republicans received a letter from Kimberly Moore, Director of Student Affairs, rescinding the approval citing concerns over the university’s 501c3 status.

Moore stated that the date had to be changed until after the November election because of Loyola’s “policies related to hosting political speakers.” The letter stated, “Loyola University-Chicago enjoys a tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; thus preventing us from participating in any political campaign … any and all invitations to elected officials, political candidates, political campaign representatives, and related speakers must be approved.” Given that Rove is not an elected official, political candidate or political campaign representative but a Wall Street Journal and Fox News contributor, Loyola’s official argument was – ahem – a rather interesting one.

In stark contrast, Loyola did allow Obama appointee Eboo Patel to speak last fall. Administrators also allowed Howard Dean and Ralph Nader, both presidential candidates, to speak in fall 2004, a presidential election year. University administrators have yet to explain the apparent double standard and it is no wonder why. Even Mensa members would be hard-pressed to that argument make sing.

Of course, this is not the first time conservative speakers have had problems at Loyola. In 2006, Chicago United Against Hate organized a coalition of left-wing groups, including Loyola Anti-
War, the Muslim Student Association, the Feminist Forum, Survival Environmental Alliance and the anti-capitalist pom poms squad known as the “Radical Cheerleaders,” to protest author Anne Coulter. Members protested inside the auditorium, shouting down and heckling Coulter who was forced to leave the stage, prevented from finishing her speech. Three protesters were arrested.

Prof. Ward Churchill

Loyola University is also not the first nor will it be the last institution to attempt to quash free speech, censor conservative speakers, or hire only professors who subscribe to a radical left-wing philosophy.

Professors like Ward Churchill, formerly of the University of Colorado, who professes that Americans deserved 9/11 and that Islamic extremists are freedom fighters.

Or homegrown terrorists like Weatherman bomber Bill Ayers, formerly at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Or Professor Hamid Algar, an ardent admirer of the Ayatollah Khomen, who has called for jihad against the West and the elimination of Israel, who served on the UC Berkley faculty for 45 years.

And many, many more.

All of these universities and their professors will say they are fighting for freedom. They say they are fighting for truth. As long as it is “their” truth.

Twain was right. You can’t let teachers interfere in your education. But, this time around, it was the College Republicans that taught their teachers a lesson.