

NOV 17/10

Today's letters: Why do universities fear what this woman has to say?

Re: Latest Tool in War On Free Speech ; 'This is Not Right,'

Paul Russell

Re: Latest Tool in War On Free Speech; "This Is Not Right," book excerpt from Christie Blatchford's book, Helpless, both Nov. 16.

Campus radicals at the University of Waterloo won their fight to silence award-winning Christie Blatchford. As is all too typical, university officials acquiesced to the protest, cancelling the talk. So thanks to the National Post for publishing four excerpts from her new book on Caledonia. Free speech in newspapers can overcome silenced speech at universities.

By the way, Ms. Blatchford's own newspaper — that other national newspaper — refused to report on the Waterloo incident.

Prof. David Murrell, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton.

How fitting that the "protesters" who prevented Christie Blatchford from speaking at the University of Waterloo should have made their point via "bike locks." These are people who have "locked" their minds to opposing viewpoints and who march in "lock step" with the political correctness that has transformed Western campuses into little tin pot tyrannies of "virtue."

That said, you can't blame the bike lock brigade for torpedoing Ms. Blatchford's talk. No, the credit for that goes to craven authorities who, all too frequently these days, use the excuse of "security concerns" to shut down speakers whom the bike lock types abhor — the Coulters, Steyns and now, the Blatchfords.

When our children and grandchildren ask us how we could allow our most precious freedom, free speech, to slip away, we can explain that the police thought our "safety" was more important than our freedom, and that we, poor fools, did nothing to disabuse them of this pernicious idea.

Mindy G. Alter, Toronto.

