

“When my sons are grown up, I would ask you, O my friends, to . . . trouble them, as I have troubled you, if they seem to care about . . . anything more than about virtue . . . [R]eprove them, as I have reprovèd you, for not caring about that for which they ought to care. . . And if you do this I and my sons will have received justice at your hands.”

- Socrates (Plato, Apology; Jowett trans.)

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

May I recall the “final favor” (above) that Socrates asked of his listeners at the end of his speech to a jury in Athens in 399 BC?

The Western intellectual tradition has had greater heights than evidenced by Bruce Alberts and his friends at the National Academy of Sciences, who decided that the normal range of Republican-Democratic disagreements in America was too controversial to recommend for scientific investigation. And then evidenced by our former Editor-in-Chief of Science who repeatedly suppressed news and editorial discussion of the decision.<1> Their behavior was outrageous.

As you and other AAAS officers and representatives debate our future and the best Editor-in-Chief for Science, I hope that you will remember and honor the spirit of Socrates and the favor that he asked. I believe that AAAS members will be deeply grateful if you do this.

How - in America - could a handful of spirited Republican zealots with BA degrees neutralize the civic role of universities - and without a fight?

Lloyd Etheredge

cc: AAAS Governing Council

<1> Ethics also has achieved greater heights than evidenced by Bruce Alberts et al. [As you recall, National Academy insiders were allowed, while serving as judges of scientific merit, to effect (without public hearings or public comment) an *en masse* decade-long restructuring of the social sciences promoting their own economic and status interests. Earlier, I forwarded to you and the AAAS Governing Council documentation that, after he was elected, Bruce Alberts responded to this serious ethical wrongdoing and its demoralizing effects by retreat and an officially-revised definition of “conflict of interest.”]