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Review of *Restoring Free Speech and Liberty on Campus*

By Michael Potemra

It is now widely feared that the campus as a free-speech haven is a thing of the past: Between the day-to-day impositions of stifling political correctness and the draconian “speech codes” that afflict students at some universities, the ivied halls seem to be less robust arenas of debate than is society as a whole. But Donald Alexander Downs, in his important new book, *Restoring Free Speech and Liberty on Campus* (Independent Institute/Cambridge, 295 pp., \$28.99), says there’s cause for hope. Downs, a professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison—and a research fellow at the Independent Institute—documents the difference campus activism itself

can make in the struggle for free speech. At the University of Pennsylvania, intellectual historian Alan Charles Kors helped spark a successful movement to scrap the institution’s speech code; Downs himself was a key player in a similar effort at Madison. “Freedom is not manna from heaven,” he writes. “Someone or some group must be willing to stand up and protect it when it comes under fire. . . . Individuals matter.”

Donald A. Downs is Research Fellow at Independent Institute and author of *Restoring Free Speech and Liberty on Campus*.