

# MICHAEL MILLER PILATES makes sense.

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## Pilates Politics

### From Michael Miller: (circa 1997)

Because the politics of a class action suit are long from being resolved the evolutionary thrust of the method is being offered by everyone as himself or herself. Quite elegant really. It makes Joe's impact all the more profound.

After seeing so much diversity of expression, it strikes me that no matter what the substance being taught everyone is on the same business curve, and those further down the line recognize that you have to train internally. Traveling to learn or paying someone else to travel, is great, but usually prohibitively expensive as an exclusive course of action. Developing your own training program makes you less dependent on the precious scarcity of teachers and helps you take advantage of their comings and cushion the effect of their goings. What you call your program and who you hold up for credentials will ultimately matter much less than the quality of the method being taught.

What seems important is to recognize where all this enthusiasm for the method is leading and jump right into where you want to be coming from. Leap as far out on the curve as you can. Assume the situation you want.

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**From: Michael Miller**

**[mailto:michaelmiller@hermit.com]**

**Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2002 3:24 AM**

## **To: THEMICHAELMILLERLIST**

### **Subject: Pilates Method Alliance Boycott**

Many of you have asked me if I am going to Miami for the meeting of the Pilates Method Alliance. Just saying "No" hasn't felt like enough of a response, so this is meant to elaborate:

I am not going because it requires membership to attend. (that's elitist in my opinion, and a convenient way to suppress dissent)

I am not going because I object to would-be-leaders who come from nowhere and pick up someone else's dream and say they lead for the good of all yet keep control for themselves.

I am not going because I object to promoting fear of being left out to gain compliance and acceptance.

I am not going because I object to a few members of the aristocracy seeking to secure their prestige, power, and income at the expense of everyone else.

I am not going because I object to anyone who knew Joe personally claiming that their association to Joe matters more than an understanding of what Joe was so passionate about.

I am not going because I object to the messengers of Pilates coming off as being more important than the message. I am not going because I object to intellectuals acting as though Pilates can be contained within their domain.

I am not going because I object to "spirit" being left out of Joe's very own definition of his method ("Contrology is the complete coordination of body, mind, and spirit") by people who don't understand what it means, or do, but choose not to muddy the profit waters.

I am not going because I object to people who believe any organization is better than none, and that it can always change down the line. I am not going because I object to Pilates not being held as an idea open and available to everyone and anyone.

OK, I did my thing, I spoke up. Many of you are going to the meeting, go with your eyes open, go knowing that the PMA is one very small fish (struggling to become a piranha) in an ocean of Pilates passion being chummed by equipment manufacturers. Don't be afraid to speak up, don't let any of the "old ones" cower you with their longevity, hear me now, believe me later: "Pilates is an idea."

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