

“It is an affront to treat falsehood with complacency.” Thomas Paine

CAMPUS REPORT

March 2007 | Volume XXII, number 3



AIA Founder Reed Irvine

RADICAL TEACHER ACKNOWLEDGES AIA

By Deborah Lambert

While conservatives say that their only motive is to return “free and open discussion” to academia, the left believes that the ultimate goal is something far more sinister, i.e. “a profound shift in ideology and control.”

—D.L.

In the contentious marketplace of ideas, it is rare to receive public credit, as a worthy opponent, from the other side. But decades of work by Accuracy in Academia, and other activist allies, has finally forced the left to recognize that blind acceptance of their socialist rhetoric is just not resonating with college students anymore.

In the current issue of “Radical Teacher,” Pam Chamberlain cloaks this admission in carefully constructed prose. For example, the efforts of AIA and others to expose the takeover of academia by politically correct zealots are portrayed as actions by those seeking to “roll back the progressive gains in higher education of the past forty years.”

The article mentions that former leftist David Horowitz, who has emerged as academia’s new attack dog, reminiscent of Reed Irvine, launched his group Students for Academic Freedom “on the AIA model.”

While conservatives say that their only motive is to return “free and open discussion” to academia, the left believes that the ultimate goal is something far more sinister, i.e. “a profound shift in ideology and control.”

They maintain that conservative calls for a return to free expression on campus are actually part of a “political war” whose twofold objective is to “diminish the status and influence of progressive intellectuals,” and diminish public support for funding higher education. ♦

CRACK IN IVORY TOWER POLITICS

By Malcolm A. Kline

At first blush, the latest survey on the political attitudes of professors looks like it offers more evidence of the overwhelming dominance of higher education by the hard left. “Conservatives tend to be concentrated in the business/management and health care faculty,” the Institute for Jewish and Community Relations (IJCR) found. “Business faculty are the most conservative, but at the same time, the most diverse in their beliefs and behavior.”

“Only 30% of business faculty define themselves as Republicans and 35% as conservatives—and they are by far the most conservative faculty on campus.”

By way of contrast, “The social science and humanities show little political diversity at all,” the IJCR found. “Fully 54% of the social science and humanities identify as Democratic and 60% as liberal, and only 11% as Republican and 12% as conservative, a 5-to-1 ratio.” After two trips to the Modern Language Association’s annual love fest, I’m surprised that the ratio is even that balanced.

A more careful read of the IJCR findings, though, gives a picture of the Ivory Tower that is more diverse than even the higher education establishment itself claims to be. “While 95% of faculty do not feel the 9-11 attacks were justified, 54% of faculty believe that the United States policies in the Middle East are partially responsible for the growth of Islamic militancy,” the IJCR found. “While 64% see political corruption/oppression in the militants’ home countries as a cause, 54% list U. S. policies; about 29% named the Islamic religion itself.”

Interestingly, given the attention that they receive, 9-11 conspiracy theorists do not have a substantial quo-

rum in this crowd. Moreover, a majority of faculty at least acknowledge that there is corruption in countries other than the United States and that it may be entrenched in these foreign locales even more deeply than it ever was here.

Along with this finding, since few can find professors willing to criticize communist leaders and governments even 14 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, what the IJCR data shows us about professorial attitudes towards North Korea is absolutely stunning. “Almost one-third of faculty list America as the ‘greatest threat to global security,’” Gary A. Tobin and Aryeh K. Weinberg write. “About 29% name the United States, second only to North Korea (70%).”

“The third country was Iran, 27%.” Dr. Tobin is the president of the IJCR while Weinberg is a research associate there.

Based in San Francisco, the IJCR plans more books of *Profiles Of The American University*. “Only 16% of faculty identify as Republican and 17% as conservative or very conservative versus 46% who identify as Democrat and 48% as liberal or very liberal,” Tobin and Weisberg tabulate in volume 1 of their series. “This represents just under a 3-to-1 disparity in favor of Democrats and liberals.”

It should be noted that Republicans with faculty lounge privileges recently increased their number by three. Grand Old Party stalwarts, though, may view the recent arrivals on campus as strains of the species RINO, or Republican in Name Only:

- Former U. S. Rep. William F. Clinger, Jr., R-Pa., is now a senior fellow in one of the Johns Hopkins schools, the university’s magazine announced last month;

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SQUEAKY CHALK

By Deborah Lambert



How PC Stifles Debate

During the second annual NAACP Leadership Summit in Destin Florida in mid-December 2006, panelists discussing “The Future of the African-American Male” suggested that the best way to address current racial issues was to open the subject up for discussion.

Journalist & affirmative action expert George E. Curry stressed the need for a national dialogue about race relations instead of just keeping things quiet.

A few weeks later—in early January, 2007, a gang brawl erupted at Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland, the latest of several such incidents over the past several months.

The uproar over this issue resulted not from the fight itself, but from a note sent home by school principal Joan Benz, explaining that this incident was one of “black on black” violence.

This instantly reframed the event. Her comments prompted outrage among county school officials, many of whom labeled the remarks “racially insensitive,” according to *The Washington Post*. “Rather than “singling out the students as African Americans,” NAACP county chairman Henry Hailstock said that the school principal should be “trying to build coalitions.”

The Post reported that local school superintendent Jerry Weast and Board of Education President Nancy Navarro both took the principal to task for her racially charged approach to the issue, and “a source close to the superintendent” predicted that she would be disciplined because of it.

Although the skirmish resulted in a ban on “identifiable gang clothing” at the school, it also resulted in a lot of

back-pedaling.

Montgomery County police said they did not “consider the fights gang-related... even though gang members were involved.”

And the principal sent out a mea culpa note, saying that she “did not intend to single out one group of students in a negative light,” adding that she was “particularly sorry that my choice of words reflected racial insensitivity.”



Journalists in Training

Did Columbia University journalism students really cheat on an ethics exam? According to news reports, it appears likely that they did.

The N.Y. Daily News reported that the take-home test consisting of two questions could be completed anytime during a 36-hour period. “Students who finished the test were instructed not to discuss the questions with those planning to take it later, but that warning may have been ignored.”

The purported scheme blew wide open when one of the students decided to disclose what had happened.

“Vice Dean David Klatell told students in an e-mail that there was a problem with the final, and ordered them to attend a special ‘Critical issues in Journalism’ class if they wanted to pass the course.”

Among the subjects covered in the class were issues such as “Why Be Ethical” and “Tribal Loyalty vs. Journalistic Obligation.”



Towering Campus Costs

Get ready, folks. If Pelosi and Company aren’t taking your tax dollars up front, they’ll be going behind

your back to siphon more of your money into higher education. All of which is a bad idea, according to Young America's Foundation spokesman Jason Mattera.

Mattera notes that although "congressional spending for higher education jumped 686 percent between 1973 and 2005," it didn't bring down college costs one bit. In fact, during the past 30 years, "tuition has grown more than twice as fast as inflation."

The irony is that the American people put up with it, even though the educational product is tarnished by a host of leftist academics who have succeeded in holding higher education hostage to their politically outdated orthodoxy.

Billion-dollar oil profits drive the left up the wall, but the fact that unlimited government funding has enabled high-profile colleges and universities to spawn their own bureaucracies (try "two provosts and 11 vice-presidents at Boston University") is hardly worth mentioning.

And when was the last time you heard someone complain that Steven Spielberg's take-home pay was \$332 million in 2005?



Government Assistance

Okay, so you've got a noisy kid in the family, but that's not how the government sees it. Some academic elites might claim that your ornery preschooler is suffering from a mental disorder. According to Dr. Karen R. Effrem, the state of Florida has developed a "Strategic Plan for Infant Mental Health," which says: "Even before their first birthday, babies can suffer from clinical depression, traumatic stress disorder, and a variety of other mental health problems."

The remedy is to administer an "early mental health screening, assessment", and "referral to services" to

"promote the mental health of young children."

Thanks to a program called the "Nurse Family Partnership," a nurse can visit the homes of high-risk pregnant women to show them how to care for their babies....However, this is now being pushed in Congress as a solution not only for "at risk" families, but for ALL families.

Stay tuned to find out how these mental health agencies are also meddling in curriculum development for young children that has little to do with school, and lots to do with gender and the environment.



Fingerprints Before Food

Big Brother might soon be hovering over the lunch line at your local elementary school. At least that's what some parents thought when they learned that their offspring at the Hope Elementary School in Monte Vista California are going to be fingerprinted before they are allowed to get lunch at the school cafeteria.

Huh?

The AP reported that each student will press his/her index finger against a scanner, which will "call up the student's name and ID, teacher's name and how much the student owes, since some receive government assistance for food."

Although the new procedure is billed as a time-saving device, some parents aren't buying it. "It raises sanity issues, privacy issues—it is kind of Orwellian," said parent Tina Dabby, adding that "it just sounds kind of creepy."



Students Enact Pledge Ban

Students at Orange Coast College in California recently prompted outrage after they decided there was no

reason to “publicly swear loyalty to God and the U.S. government,” according to Reuters.

Orange Coast student trustees spearheaded the move, which immediately inspired a student on the other side of the issue to “loudly recite the pledge in front of the board, in defiance of the rule.”

The students who initiated the ban were newly elected officers, who had run their campaigns dressed in “revolutionary-style berets.”

“That ‘under God’ part is sort of offensive to me,” said student trustee Jason Bell, who proposed the ban. “I am an atheist and a socialist, and if you know your history, you know that ‘under God’ was inserted during the

McCarthy era, and was directly designed to destroy my ideology.”

Bell added that the reason for the ban was that the trustees “didn’t want to publicly vow loyalty to the American government before their meetings,” saying that “loyalty ought to be something the government earns through performance, not through reciting a pledge.”

According to school spokesman Martha Parham, “her office had no standing on the student board, and took no position on the flag salute ban.” Orange Coast Community College, located in Orange County, California, south of Los Angeles, currently has about 28,000 students. ♦

CRACK IN IVORY TOWER POLITICS

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● Former Colorado Governor Bill Owens “will be a part-time fellow at the University of Denver’s Institute for Public Policy Studies,” Erik Vance reports in the February 9, 2007 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*; and

● Former U. S. Rep. James A. Leach, R-Iowa, “will serve a three-semester stint as a visiting professor at Princeton University,” Vance reveals.

Hmm, does this mean that the more liberal the Republican, the better that retiree’s chances of landing a professorial gig? No one at UNC-Chapel Hill, for example, seems to have thought of offering Jesse Helms the

post now held by John Edwards.

Retired Democrats, on average, are much more frequently sought out for such openings than their opposite Republican numbers. As it happens, Vance Reports that “Tom Vilsack, former Democratic governor of Iowa and a 2008 presidential candidate, will visit Drake University in Des Moines, for a few days this year as a visiting professor.” Wonder what that gig will pay.

“And Rep. Martin T. Meehan, Democrat of Massachusetts, is considering a move to academe as chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell,” Vance Reports. ♦

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K-12 FOOTNOTES

By Malcolm A. Kline

Teacher Glut

When the National Education Association (NEA) teachers' union warns you about a "high teacher turnover," take a close look at the union's numbers. "According to NEA's own estimates, student enrollment in the United States will grow this year by a total of 349,452 students (0.7 percent)," Mike Antonucci wrote in the December 2006 issue of the *Perspective* newsletter. "The number of classroom teachers is expected to grow by 62,443 (2.0 percent)."

"That, my friends, is one teacher for every 5.5 new students," Antonucci directs the Educational Intelligence Agency. *Perspective* is published by the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs.

"Elementary school enrollment is expected to grow by only 88,595 students (0.3 percent), but we're planning to hire 49,965 more elementary school teachers (2.8 percent)," Antonucci writes. "That's one new K-8 teacher for every 1.8 new K-8 students."

"This simply cannot be sustained," Antonucci argues. He may have a point.

"This is not a new problem," he points out. "In the last ten years, elementary enrollment increased by a total of 4.2 percent."

"But the number of elementary school teachers increased by 19.1 percent. Average salary increases will always appear smaller when spread

among a growing number of employees."

Exit Ramp

Apparently California's new exit exam is so difficult that some high schoolers in the Golden State would rather drop out than take it. "In 2006, California experienced a slight increase in its high school dropout rate, the first such increase in seven years, according to a study released on October 31 by the 55-year-old Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), a coalition of experts who work to improve team performance, based in Virginia," Aricka T. Flowers writes in the January issue of *School Reform News*. "Though the dropout rate increase was small, from 7.2 percent to 7.8 percent, it has sparked debate within the California educational and legal community."

"Critics say it's because the class of 2006 was the first required to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)." Well, if California's dropout rate is that low, the state is doing better than we thought.

Or is it? On the other hand, if students really are dropping out to avoid the exam, maybe there is something to "teaching to the test" that the state's public schools should consider during the decade in which they have these students in their clutches before the dropouts say "Sayonara."

School Reform News is published by the Heartland Institute. Aricka Flowers is a freelance writer in Chicago. ♦

CAMPUS REPORT

March 2007
Volume XXII, number 3

A Publication by **Accuracy in Academia**. Founder: **Reed Irvine**. Editor: **Mal Kline**
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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Malcolm A. Kline



March, 2007

Dear Reader,

Greetings! As you can see by our cover, the academic left is begrudgingly acknowledging our existence. Give Pam Chamberlain of *Radical Teacher* credit; She came a lot closer in her description of us than Ethan Heitner of *tompaine.com* did. He referred to us in passing as “Lynne Cheney’s Accuracy in Academia.” I sent him an e-mail correcting the error but have yet to hear back from him.

On our story about political straws in the collegial wind, we have two additions to make. Former Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, is “teaching as a visiting scholar at Cedarville University,” according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Former Rep. Harold Ford, Jr., D-Tenn., “is joining Vanderbilt University as a visiting professor,” *The Chronicle* reports.

And here’s another update on our K-12 footnotes, or, a footnote on a footnote, if you will. While newly elected Democrats such as Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley are falling all over themselves promising public schools millions in taxpayer funds, a study by a think tank with Democratic Party connections found that school districts could save billions—77 of them— by practicing a little tough love with teachers’ unions.

“Education is a labor intensive business—an estimated 60 percent to 80 percent of the more than \$500 billion per year spent operating the nation’s public schools goes directly to paying and supporting school employees, and teacher contracts play a big role in determining where such resources are deployed,” Marguerite Roza writes in a report for the Education Sector. She goes on to show where school boards could save about a fifth of their budget on “common provisions of teacher contracts” that “require school districts to spend substantial sums to implement policies which research has shown have a weak or inconsistent relationship with student learning” including “professional development days,” “class-size limitations,” and the “use of teacher aides.”

At AIA, we pride ourselves on telling the stories that are not being told and making the points that no one is making. We do so for you and cannot accomplish these goals without you and the support you give us. We thank you, as ever, for all of your help.

Cordially,

Mal Kline
Executive Director

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March, 2007 | Volume XXII, number 3

Published by *Accuracy in Academia*

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