

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

# CAMPUS REPORT

July 2010 | Volume XXV, number 7



## ANTIDOTES TO SUMMER INDOCTRINATION

*By: Malcolm A. Kline*

Accuracy in Academia would like to offer some summer reading suggestions to fill in the gaps left by university recommendations.

Not content to rest on their laurels for the summer break after nine solid months of no-thrill drills, college faculty and administrators try to keep their charges from getting rusty over the summer break. “A study conducted by the National Association of Scholars (NAS) analyzed the college reading lists assigned to incoming freshmen, and found some interesting results,” Spencer Irvine reported in an article that appeared on the Accuracy in Academia (AIA) website on June 8, 2010. “The study covered 180 books and 290 college summer reading programs.”

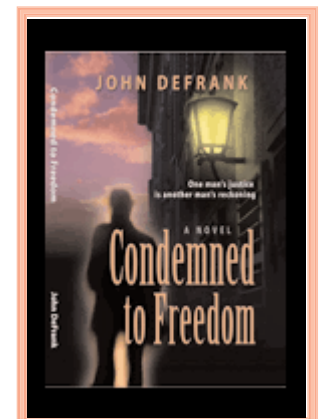
“The study shows that the overwhelming number of books chosen ‘reflect themes congenial [or favorable towards] the academic left.’” Irvine interned with the American Journalism Center, a training program run by AIA and its big sister organization, Accuracy in Media.

In light of the above, although one third of the summer will be over by the time that you read this, AIA would like to offer some summer reading suggestions to fill in the gaps left by university recommendations.

### **Dutch Country Educational Drama**

Call it a mystery with a moral but first-time novelist John DeFrank delivers both with stunning success in *Condemned to Freedom*, set in a public school in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. It should be noted that in this case Freedom is both the name of the fictional town and county the book takes place in as well as an allegorical reference to the responsibility that goes with the state of being.

It is a milieu DeFrank knows well, having spent three decades plus as a teacher/counselor/administrator in the Lebanon County school system in the Key-



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stone state. Actually, a public school is a perfect place to find heroes, villains and intrigue.

The school's mission draws the idealists. The school's budget draws the shadier characters.

DeFrank gives us plenty of both. When a school superintendent, or CEO, is found dead by a hand or hands other than his own, there are, as DeFrank shows us, no shortage of suspects but the clues unearthed by the local and state police point to one—an iconoclastic football coach turned guidance counselor named Dr. Brian Randori.

“His book, *Condemned to Freedom* exemplifies the good fight he has always fought and never tired of, yet within it bleeds perhaps a bit of the exasperation I know he feels at those in charge and of the status quo in education,” Nancy A. Avolese, former Pennsylvania State Coordinator for Alternative Education writes in the foreword. “The very special education laws that protect the weak and needy sometimes cover for the corrupt and immoral.”

“*Condemned to Freedom* is a murder mystery but interwoven within these pages is John's own ideology of personal responsibility and the mission we must all share in living as role models for our youth and for our own souls.” Although I do not know this lady and may not agree with her on much, I do affirm all of the above comments.

*Condemned to Freedom* is well-constructed and paced with skillfully developed characters. Far too many writers throw everything about either the plot or the cast down all at once, stopping the narrative cold, a temperature *Condemned to Freedom* never reaches.

If you always loved reading mysteries but can hardly ever find any good new ones, give this one a chance. Also, DeFrank sticks to the realm of the plausible, where too many writers don't. Googling the

phrase “high school principals murdered” brings up more than five million ghastly entries.

Moreover, the increase in drugs and crime—both of which figure prominently in the novel—in the little valley that Freedom County stands in for has gone up exponentially over the past three decades, even as the population went down. As well, in the old days, when a gruesome murder did occur there, you invariably knew who did it nearly as soon as it happened, which was about when the arrest was made, in stark contrast to the more drawn out investigations that more recent homicides there lead to.

DeFrank's points about honor and responsibility, of course, are well taken, especially at a time when adolescence among public figures from across the political spectrum seems to segue right into and often overlaps middle-age. His reminder of the ideals that we should strive for is particularly refreshing to those of us who toil down here on the Potomac in the home of the “mistakes were made” passive voice that cuts across party lines

Full Disclosure: I have known the author for 35 years, although I never knew that he had a talent for writing fiction. He was our high school guidance counselor and football coach and, I can testify, did indeed practice what he preaches. As the saying goes, he talks the talk and walks the walk.

He is something of an education pioneer, in the most positive way in which you can use the term. In the 1970s at our little high school he would give a lecture on the dangers of drugs to students and parents, years before the DARE program started.

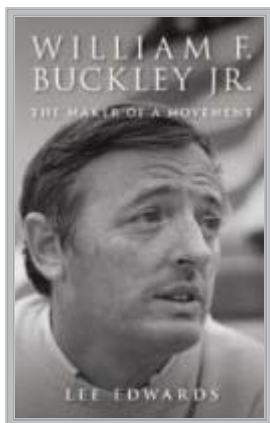
I should note that there were up to a half a dozen of us who felt compelled to argue politics with him at lunch every day and he would patiently do so until the bell rang. Although it was in his power to do as much, he never pulled rank on us and closed off discussion.

# ANTIDOTES TO SUMMER INDOCTRINATION

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He is a true liberal in the best sense of the word.

## What Would Buckley Do?



Two years after his death, William F. Buckley, Jr., the ultimate conservative man of letters, still has a lot to teach the young and the rightward. In turn, there is no better person to pass on these lessons than the man who has become the preeminent historian of the conservative movement—Lee Edwards.

Edwards, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation, relays the insights that can be gleaned from the National Review founder's life and work in his invaluable new book, *William F. Buckley, Jr.: The Maker Of A Movement*. For one thing, the much-noted current disarray of the conservative movement is nothing new.

“But after twenty often frustrating years of building a conservative alternative to the liberal establishment, Buckley could not help wondering what there was to lead,” Edwards writes of his subject in the 1970s. “In a November 1975 interview, a saturnine Buckley said: ‘As of this moment [the movement] is going nowhere.’”

“Buckley described in detail the leftward tilt of Western civilization, led by American capitalists ‘fleeing into the protective arms of the government at the least hint of commercial difficulty.’” The eerie parallels to today's economy also jump off the page at you.

When the sage of Sharon passed away, liberal pundits rushed into print to proclaim Buckley as a model of civility that modern-day conservatives should emulate. To be sure, by all accounts, Buckley's

innate graciousness and decency were apparent in all he said and did.

Nonetheless, Buckley pulled no punches in making political points. “Henry Wallace's third-party 1948 campaign for the presidency inspired him to take direct political action,” Edwards informs us. “Although Wallace had little chance of winning the election, he was pro-Soviet and anti-anti-Communist, sufficient reason for Buckley to lead a protest against Wallace's appearance in the New Haven area.”

“Buckley, his sisters Patricia and Jane, and several of his friends dressed up as ultraleftists—the girls wore dark suits and no makeup, the boys dark suits, loud ties, and greased hair—and carried signs saying, ‘Let's Prove We Want Peace—Give Russia the Atom Bomb.’”

To be sure, Buckley was a mere lad of 23 at the time, yet, as Edwards shows, turning 30 and even passing it did not make him any the more sanguine towards the Soviets when the Soviet premier visited the United States. “Buckley was so outraged by the Krushchev invitation that, with the help of conservative impresario Marvin Liebman, he formed the Committee Against Summit Entanglements (CASE),” Edwards relates. “He threatened to dye the Hudson River red so that when the Soviet dictator entered New York in 1960 to visit the United Nations, it would be on a ‘river of blood.’”

As well, Edwards brings to life the conflict between the committed Catholic Buckley and the adamantly atheist Ayn Rand. “When Buckley first met Rand, her first words to him, heavily accented by her native Russian tongue, were, ‘You ahrr too intelligent to believe in Gott,’” Edwards writes. “For the next two to three years, Buckley sent the Russian-born writer postcards in liturgical Latin.”

“But levity with Miss Rand was not an effective weapon,” Buckley later wrote. Edwards is the author or editor of 20 books including biographies of Barry

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Goldwater and Ronald Reagan.

His latest is published by ISI books, a project of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. ISI, in turn, is one of many groups that Buckley helped start.

Edwards, a veteran writer, published his first article in *National Review*. Buckley's first published article appeared in *Human Events*, the venerable national conservative weekly newspaper now published by Phillips Publishing.

## Bullfeathers!

Republicans who decry academic biases against the Grand Old Party may, in turn, be suffering from misinformation about their own party's political history, particularly when they lionize the ultimate "Big Government Conservative"—Teddy Roosevelt.

His memorabilia adorns Karl Rove's office. He glowers from photos and portraits hung in Republican congressional offices.

The Republican Capitol Hill Club here in Washington, D. C. features his forbidding visage prominently. Two doors down, another Republican hangout, Bullfeathers! Bar, is named after one of his favorite expressions.

His toehold on American popular culture is no less secure. Thanks to Mount Rushmore, he can glare at his country long after all his portraits fade.

The Teddy Bear was named after him. Maxwell

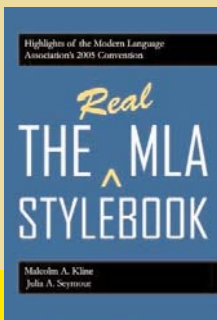
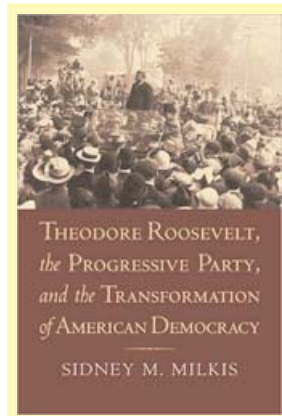
House coffee, so the legend goes, got its famous catchphrase from Teddy Roosevelt's own lips. "This coffee is good to the last drop," the old Rough Rider allegedly declared after finishing a cup of java at the Maxwell House hotel in Tennessee.

To be sure, his patriotism is beyond reproach. For example, there was the sending of the Seventh Fleet to shell the coast of Alexandria, Egypt when Americans were kidnapped there during Roosevelt's years as president.

Also, the Panama Canal may have been the quickest way to get from the Atlantic to the Pacific but it could also be argued that Teddy arranged it in a, also arguably, typically ham-handed way. "There was much accusation about my having acted in an 'unconstitutional' manner," Roosevelt said. "I took the isthmus, started the canal, and then left Congress—not to debate the canal, but to debate me. . . . While the debate goes on, the canal does too; and they are welcome to debate me as long as they wish, provided that we can go on with the canal." He always did have an uneasy relationship with the Constitution.

He wasn't exactly laid back at home either. Thanks to Sidney M. Milkis's masterful *Theodore Roosevelt, the Progressive Party, and the Transformation of American Democracy*, we can see just how, er, robust, Colonel Roosevelt was.

"The ends of government are to secure a high average of moral and material well-being among our



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citizens,” TR said in Columbus, Ohio in the 1912 campaign where he ran on a third party ticket. “It has been well said in the past that we have paid attention only to the accumulation of prosperity, and that from henceforth we must pay equal attention to the proper distribution of prosperity.”

“Our aim should be to make this as far as may be not merely a political, but an industrial democracy.” Milkis teaches at the University of Virginia.

To be sure, Roosevelt was no longer president when he made such pronouncements and governed a good deal more conservatively than his later speeches would indicate. Nonetheless, his latter utterances would have set Barack Obama spinning Robert Gibbs like a top to backtrack on such statements had our current chief executive made them.

By the way, Teddy Roosevelt came out for national health care long before Teddy Kennedy did, in 1912, after a trip to Europe. Thus did Roosevelt, who prominently expanded the federal share of the national land mass as president, become even more enthusiastic about centralized government in retirement.

“Combinations in industry are the result of an imperative economic law which cannot be repealed by political legislation,” the Bull Moose said in another campaign appearance. “The effort at prohibiting all combination has substantially failed.”

“The way out lies, not in attempting to prevent such combinations but in completely controlling them in the interest of public welfare.” But it wasn’t just

corporations that the old Trustbuster wanted to restrain.

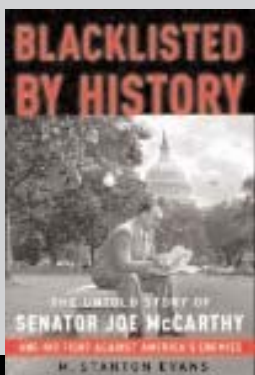
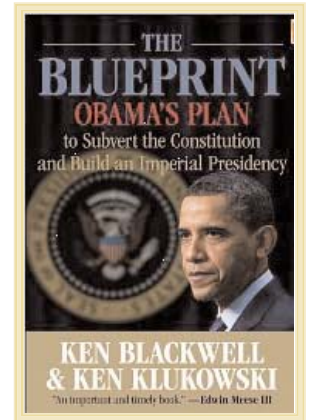
“The man who wrongly holds that every human right is secondary to his profit must now give way to the advocate of human welfare, who rightly maintains that every man holds his property subject to the general right of the community to regulate its use to whatever degree the public welfare may require it,” he warned.

Bullfeathers!

## From Bluebook to Blueprint

Giving academics the opportunity to do whatever they want with the federal government may not be the brightest idea on the planet. “One great example of a dangerous Obama czar who will have to testify before Congress and did undergo Senate confirmation hearings is John P. Holdren,” Ken Blackwell and Ken Klukowski point out in their book, *The Blueprint*:

*Obama’s Plan to Subvert the Constitution and Build an Imperial Presidency.* “Dr. Holdren is President Obama’s ‘science czar,’ meaning he is the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.”



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“A former professor at Harvard, Holdren is an environmental zealot.” As Accuracy in Academia has discovered in its own coverage of Holdren and his peers, those two attributes are not mutually exclusive, to say the least.

“He supports radical measures to save the environment, including a ‘Planetary Regime’ (world government) to regulate the world’s population and allocation of resources,” the two Kens claim of Holdren. “He supports putting chemicals in the drinking water or requiring devices to be implanted to limit or neutralize fertility as a form of permanent birth control.”

“In a book he coauthored, Holdren shows the extreme lengths of his fanaticism when he considers how ‘population control laws, even including laws requiring compulsory abortion, could be sustained under the existing Constitution.’” Another AIA favorite who Blackwell and Klukowski make note of is former University of Chicago professor Cass Sunstein, who now directs the White House office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

“Although that office may not sound terribly important, nothing could be further from the truth,” Blackwell and Klukowski argue. “Thousands of federal statutes are interpreted and applied to countless Americans and different situations through regulations.”

That Sunstein can affect such changes is a matter for some concern. “He believes that animals should

have legal rights like human beings, including the right to sue in federal court,” Blackwell and Klukowski allege. “Because they lack the ability to speak English (or the intelligence to formulate any abstract thought), he believes that lawyers should be appointed to speak on behalf of animals.”

“Naturally, he believes that hunting should be completely banned, something that will not go over well with NRA members.” And these are Sunstein’s more mainstream views.

“If a program would prevent fifty deaths of people who are twenty should it be treated the same way as a program that would prevent fifty deaths of people who are seventy?” Sunstein wrote in one academic journal “Other things being equal, a program that protects young people seems far better than one that protects old people, because it delivers greater benefits.”

Realize that this man will get to shape Obamacare as it moves through its embryonic stages. Incidentally, the two authors of *The Blueprint* did fairly exhaustive research on their subject, characteristically.

Blackwell, the former Secretary of State in Ohio, also served in the UN under President George H. W. Bush. Klukowski is a senior legal analyst with the American Civil Rights Union.

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**The AJC is a joint project of Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia**

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*By Malcolm A. Kline*

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July, 2010

Dear Reader,

It really does get harder and harder to find good new titles to read with every passing year. For undergraduates it is nearly impossible, particularly if they confine themselves to their universities' summer reading lists.

For this reason, we assembled this issue. As well, we feature authors' nights on Capitol Hill in which we present authors who may rarely get to grace a campus to college students interning on Capitol Hill.

The latter of these efforts would not be possible without a generous grant from the Frank A. Fusco Foundation which underwrites Accuracy in Academia's Conservative University lecture series. As it happens, half of the authors represented in the article have been speakers at authors' nights events this year.

Each of our speakers this year spoke to standing room only capacity crowds. The average crowd was about 80 in a room that could hold about 60 with the average age about 20-25.

We do all of the above because, in order to show inaccuracy, we must show what is really happening. Consequently, trying to follow the example set by our founder—Reed Irvine—we endeavor to present two-stories-in-one, or at least two stories.

We could not fulfill this mission without your aid. We are most grateful of the assistance you have already provided us because it is you, ultimately, whom we are working for.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mal Kline". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Mal Kline**  
Executive Director

# Voodoo Anyone?

How to Understand Economics Without Really Trying



by

**Christopher T. Warden**

Forewords by M. Stanton Evans & Malcolm A. Kline



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