

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

CAMPUS REPORT

February 2010 | Volume XXV, number 2



AMERICA'S LEAST WANTED 2009

By: Malcolm A. Kline

With the new year still relatively young, Accuracy in Academia gives its annual review of the often uneasy relationship between tenure and teacher quality.

In the summary spirit of the season, Accuracy in Academia offers 10 reasons for ending tenure:

1) To not put the president's favorite professor at the top of this roster would be a gross injustice. "At a press conference on August 20, America's Survival, Inc. unveiled the results of several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests made regarding the curriculum and activities of University of Illinois at Chicago professor Bill Ayers," AIA staff writer Bethany Stotts wrote on August 25, 2009. "Ayers has visited Germany, the Netherlands, and Venezuela to advance his educational ideals, said Cliff Kincaid, President of America's Survival and editor of Accuracy in Media. "The so-called World [Education] Forum in Venezuela carried the title 'Bolivarian Education and the Overcome of the Capitalist School,'" he said. "Ayers in his speech of 2006 made reference then to this being his fourth trip to Venezuela."

2) Similarly, it would be unfair not to include Ayers' wife—Northwestern University professor Bernardine Dohrn—alongside her husband in any honorable mentions. "Officers of the San Francisco Police Officers Association charge that Ayres and Dohrn are largely responsible for the bombing of a police station that killed Sgt. Brian McDonnell and injured eight other officers on February 16, 1970," columnist Allan C. Brownfeld wrote in a column that AIA posted on April 3, 2009. "San Francisco police leaders say there are 'irrefutable and compelling reasons' that establish the responsibility of Ayers and Dohrn for the bombing. No one has ever been charged with this attack. However, former FBI informant Larry Grathwohl—who was an undercover member of the Weather Underground—has implicated both Ayers and Dohrn in sworn testimony and in his 1976 book."



**Accuracy in Media editor
Cliff Kincaid calls out one
of Accuracy in Academia's
Least Wanted.**

continues on page 2

AMERICA'S LEAST WANTED 2009

Continued from front page

3) The Fox News Channel's frequent guest, Columbia University professor Marc Lamont Hill, is also worth noting, and AIM editor Cliff Kincaid has. "In fact, Hill, a self-described public intellectual, is an acknowledged expert on 'hip-hop culture,' a category defined as including break-dancing, rapping, graffiti writing, slang, and other such activities," Kincaid observed. "Much less well-known is Hill's record of involvement in 'revolutionary' causes, including support for convicted cop-killer Assata Shakur, a member of the terrorist Black Liberation Army (BLA) now living as a fugitive from justice in Communist Cuba."

4) Another oldie but goodie is University of Michigan professor Juan Cole. "From his perch in Ann Arbor, he tried to explain away Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats to 'wipe Israel off the map' by claiming—inaccurately—that it was a mis-translation," Jonathan Schanzer of the Jewish Policy Center notes.

5) From this headlining quartet, we move on to some lesser known but noteworthy notables. Patrick J. Greene, an education professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, objected to an after-hours screening of the documentary *Not Evil, Just Wrong*, which shows that a British court found former Vice President Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, inconveniently inaccurate on nine out of ten counts brought against it. "It also is a fundamentalist right-wing set of lies about the environmental necessity to control our carbon emissions so that our children and there's [sic] can have the same quality of life that we enjoy," Greene wrote in an e-mail. "This film, [sic] also represents the polar opposite of what FGCU is trying to inculcate into our students through the Colloquium requirement, namely a profound respect and understanding of our environmental responsibilities. If you feel that our lust for power should allow corporations to damage our health, well-being and future then present that idea in a forum that shows some responsibility to the University that is educating you."

6) Dr. John Nirenberg, of the online Walden University "joins much of the professoriate in opposing

former President George W. Bush, but has taken the animus farther than most," Bethany Stotts reported on October 21, 2009. "In December 2007 he launched a one-man march from Boston to Washington, D.C. to press for the impeachment of then- Vice President Dick Cheney and then- President George W. Bush."

7) Although he makes a stab at fairness few of his compatriots would, Illinois State University professor Andrew Hartman, himself an admitted Marxist, offers up some fairly typical revisionist history. "In other words, schools were not simply the expression of ruling class domination, but, rather, they functioned as the sites and the means of realization of that domination," he writes in his book on *Education And The Cold War: The Battle For The American School*. "Educational ideology was not necessarily the sole product of bourgeois class-consciousness, but rather the product of bourgeois domination of the educational process. Educational struggles were dialectical: education was not the pure instrument of the ruling class, it was a stake in a very bitter and continuous class struggle."

8) For academic freedom in reverse it's hard to top NYU's law school dean, Richard Revesz. "Dr. Thio Li-ann, professor at the National University of Singapore, was invited to teach at New York University Law School this fall," Susan Fani of the Catholic League wrote in a release that AIA posted on August 6, 2009. "After it was discovered that the Christian professor, while serving as a Singaporean lawmaker in 2007, opposed a repeal of the law proscribing homosexual acts, NYU students and alumni organized to protest her appointment." Revesz blamed her for creating "an unwelcoming atmosphere: and said that "she replied to them [critics of her appointment] in a manner that many member [sic] of our community—myself included—consider offensive and hurtful" although he failed to produce any quotes to support this claim. Rounding out the list, appropriately enough, are

9) Sondra Solovay &

10) Esther Rothblum. "The field of fat studies invites

AMERICA'S LEAST WANTED 2009

Continued from page 2

scholars to pause, interrupt everyday thinking (or failure to think) about fat, and do something daring and bold," they wrote in the Chronicle Review. "Moving beyond challenging assumptions, they must question the very questions that surround fatness and fat people. They must not be satisfied by noting that people diet

and asking why—they must ask why we continue to expect people to diet." Solovay teaches at the John F. Kennedy University School of Law and at San Francisco Law School while Rothblum teaches Women's Studies at San Diego State University.

SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert



INFLATED HONOR?

When nearly one-third of the junior and senior class at a local high school belongs to honor societies, you have to wonder.

Are they really that smart—or has the system run amok?

These days, parents and teachers at Commack High School in suburban Long Island, N.Y., have decided to re-evaluate the purpose of honor societies, according to the New York Times.

The fact that so many students belong to at least three honor societies actually "cheapens the currency," said Chester Finn, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, adding that "once everyone's wearing rhinestones, you might not notice someone wearing diamonds."

Honor society memberships were formerly reserved for the small percentage of a class that had really mastered a subject. But when college admissions offices started expressing interest in honor society students, it became a whole new ballgame.

Honor societies suddenly popped up at schools all over the country, and student membership soared.

While the National Honor Society is still the gold standard that requires a 3.0 average for members, the growth of honor societies in individual subjects that accept lower grades for members now share equal space on students' records.

Finally, Commack High school decided that enough was enough. They cut the student technology honor society, and combined the honors groups for sign language, Latin, German and French. But that still left the school with 11 societies.

Other schools have the same problem. Cherry Hill High School in New Jersey "started its eighth so-

ciety, Platinum Torch, to recognize students dedicated to community service." Timberland Regional High School in New Hampshire boasts 10 honor societies, including the International Thespian Society.

However, now students are starting to realize that the situation got out of control. Commack High School's Steven Mauser, age 17, admits that the reason he joined six groups is that he was overtaken by the "honor society frenzy" and applied to every group.

Meanwhile, another student, Amanda Seres, purposely held back and joined only three such clubs. The English honor society president noted that it took some self-discipline to limit her memberships to three when her competition had joined nine.



WAR ON TERROR WEEK

Was would-be terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab radicalized as a student at a well-known British university? Apparently, he was one of the organizers of an event called "War on Terror Week" while he was a student at University College, London (UCL) in 2007. According to isocnews.com, an online Muslim student newsmag, "War on Terror Week" was one of that year's major events at the school. John Ray's pcblogspot.com reports that the five-day gathering packed campus lecture halls for confabs on Guantanamo Bay, torture allegations and the topic of "Jihad vs. Terrorism."

On one of the posters, "the event was declared to have been 'approved by Umar Farook, president of UCLU Islamic Society.'"

Speakers included "George Galloway, the Respect MP; Geoffrey Bindman, the human rights lawyer, and former Guantanamo Bay detainees." However, Mr. Galloway has stated "that he did not at-

SQUEAKY CHALK

Continued from page 3

tend any of the War on Terror events. And Geoffrey Bindman has stated that he “could not recall the event or meeting Mr. Abdulmutallab.”

Professor Anthony Glees, who teaches security and intelligence studies at Buckingham University, told the London Telegraph that UCL had “failed grotesquely” in preventing radicals from addressing students.

Douglas Murray of the Centre for Social Cohesion stated that “UCL has not just failed to prevent students from being radicalized, they have been complicit.” If a campus speaker had promoted killing homosexuals, the group that invited him would be banned, noted Murray, who said the only reason no action was taken against an Islamic group was the possible accusation of Islamophobia.



DIVERSITY IN SCIENCE

Reporter/blogger LaShawn Barber noted in a recent Town Hall piece that despite the fact that American students are lagging behind other countries in areas like science, education policies are still being dictated by the diversity police.

Case in point:

California’s Berkeley High School is proposing to “eliminate before-and-after school science labs” because – according to the East Bay Express, “an alternative parent representative on the council said ‘information presented at council meetings suggests that the science labs were largely classes for white students.’”

The school plans to discuss this problem further at a February Board of Education meeting. “In the meantime, parents and guardians of BHS students are being asked to sign a petition opposing the plan.

Barber notes that this argument has lost sight of

the fact that students who are having trouble with a subject need more instruction, not less.

In their misguided rush to “close the achievement gap” in this high school, Barber reminds the public that “individuals will never, ever perform equally, nor will outcomes between racial groups reach parity... Bureaucrats need to get over the ‘un-conscionable’ gap, keep expectations high for all students, and stop defining achievement down.”



EDUCATION’S BERLIN WALL

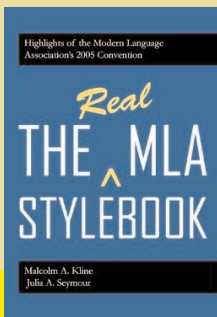
Finally, something positive to report from the Left Coast.

Thanks to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the city of Los Angeles has emerged as a frontrunner in the bid to revolutionize education, according to sf-gate.com. Villaraigosa is a Democrat and “former organizer for the United Teachers of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles teachers’ union.”

The L.A. Unified School District School Board has mandated that nearly 30 percent of its schools will be converted to charter schools—or other education alternatives, such as magnet schools.

Designed to address the problem of violence in city schools and the 50 percent dropout rate, his decision could double the number of “schools of choice” in California.

With the opening of the bidding process “to launch pioneering schools, groups of public school teachers and the teachers’ unions themselves are submitting proposals.” This is the kind of power that teachers have always asked for, and never received, until now. As one teacher said: “With power comes responsibility. We are accountable for the results, and I don’t mind that.”



You can order your copy of *The (Real) MLA Stylebook* using the coupon below or order online at the AIM store: www.ShopAIM.org

I would like to order a copy of **The Real MLA Stylebook**:

☐ Single copy \$1.95 + \$4.95 shipping

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Accuracy in Academia | 4455 Connecticut Ave NW | Suite 330 | Washington, DC 20008

SQUEAKY CHALK

Continued from page 4

COED BATHROOM FLAP

It appears that the existence of coed bathrooms on college campuses still don't appear to provide that "home away from home" feeling to some freshman students.

In fact, Green Mountain College (VT) freshman Jennifer Weiler just filed a lawsuit, charging that state officials "have an obligation to make sure that all public buildings need to have separate bathrooms for men and women," according to Inside Higher Education.

When Weiler arrived on campus for her freshman year, she was unprepared for the coed bathroom scene. Even though one bathroom in her dorm was apparently designated for women, the male students kept on using it.

Her father Robert Weiler noted that while there's no problem with having some coed bathrooms, the state should be compelled to enforce its own building codes which specify that public buildings contain facilities for both men and women.

This is just the latest in a series of political disputes over bathrooms in high education. The most contentious recurring flap is the insistence that transgender students have gender-neutral facilities of their own.

One of the more memorable dustups occurred several years ago when Williams College grad Wendy Shalit wrote an article in Commentary magazine, taking her alma mater to task for their coed bathroom policy, which she "linked to the decline of traditional dating."

Shalit, now an author and political commentator, said that when she complained about being in such

close proximity to males, fellow students chided her for not being "comfortable with [my] body. Frankly, I didn't get that, because I was fine with my body; it was their bodies in such close proximity to mine that I wasn't thrilled about."



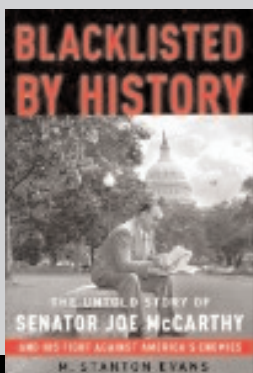
TEXAS HISTORY CLASSES TURN RIGHT

While the teaching of U.S. history has suffered from the epidemic of political correctness in most of the country, it recently experienced a re-birth in Texas.

Thanks to State Board of Education member Don McLeroy, the Board voted on January 14th to revise history standards statewide to include teaching students about some of America's top conservative groups, according to the Dallas Morning News.

McLeroy pointed out that since history standards are "rife with leftists, political periods and events" including "the populists, the progressives, the New Deal and the Great Society," teaching about conservative organizations would bring some much-needed "political balance to the document." Among the groups to be studied are the National Rifle Association, the Moral Majority, the Heritage Foundation and Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum.

But that's not all. After some animated discussion about the list of "important historical figures that students should learn about, Republicans voted down the addition of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy to that list, and "also rejected a second proposal to include the Kennedy family in the standards."



You can order your copy of *Blacklisted By History* using the coupon below or order online at the AIM store:

www.ShopAIM.org

I would like to order a copy of *Blacklisted By History*: ☐ Single copy \$25.00 shipping included

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

AIA | 4455 Connecticut Ave NW | Suite 330 | Washington, DC 20008

VOODOO ANYONE? GETS RAVE REVIEW

Veteran journalist Wes Vernon gave Accuracy in Academia's first textbook an unreserved rave in a review in The Washington Times. "In an ideal world, Voodoo Anyone? would be required reading for every journalist who communicates with the public on politics and economics," Vernon wrote. "That would emphatically include the overwhelming majority in the mainstream media."

"Even sportswriters or commentators should understand the market forces at play for the stratospheric salaries accorded football players, just as entertainment writers have some familiarity with celebrity performers whose pay dwarfs that of their nominal bosses." Vernon himself worked for 25 years at the CBS Radio Stations News Service.

"This thin but—in its own focused way—comprehensive book would ideally provide a clear underpinning for economics as taught in academia," Vernon states. "It should, but doesn't, in part because many courses in economics are often shrouded in mystery and sometimes flavored with a goodly amount of gobbledegook—the better to maintain tenured employment for a sector of the professoriate."

"The late author Christopher Warden brings to the table impeccable credentials as an educator and journalist, having spent eight years in the latter calling as the editorial page editor of Investor's Business Daily." As a reporter, Vernon covered many of these same stories and can offer a professional understanding of their media treatment or lack thereof.

"Voodoo Anyone? How to Understand Economics Without Really Trying tears away much of the fog that seems to afflict media coverage of the economic

facts of life," Vernon notes. "The author/scholar lays it all out in clear concise language that everyone can understand."

Vernon offers an interesting take on the potential impact of the book. "Indeed, one could speculate that had Voodoo Anyone? been written and widely read in the early 1980s, much of the public perplexity that initially greeted (the ultimately successful) 'Reaganomics' might have been avoided," Vernon opines. "It would have made an ideal supplement to the writings, of Jude Wanniski, Art Laffer, Milton Friedman, Robert Bartley, George Gilder, Jack Kemp and other supply-siders of that era."

"The media-influenced conventional wisdoms about the Great Depression of the 1930s, the gas lines of the 1970s and the financial meltdowns of the early-21st century would have us believe that all of these crises came about because the free market failed. Christopher Warden shows that—au contraire—those crises came about when markets were circumvented."

"Coming just as congressional Democrats are marching the nation on the plank to government control of nearly one-sixth of the economy, Warden's chapter on health care describes an already messed-up system that our lawmakers are determined to turn into a total disaster. Already, thanks to political monkeying that has no relation to the real world, patients want more care because the real price is hidden, and health care providers actually provide less care because they are not being fully reimbursed. That amounts to rationing."

"The political class can't wean itself from a penchant for going from bad to worse."

american
journalism
center

ajc

internships



Ask about internships at the American Journalism Center, a joint program of Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia. The AJC offers 12 weeks of research, reporting and writing experience in our nation's capital. Stipends or scholarships are available to program participants that range from \$50 per day to \$3,000 for the three-month internship. For more information, e-mail Mal Kline at mal.kline@academia.org or visit us at www.aimajc.org

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By *Malcolm A. Kline*



February, 2010

Dear Reader,

How do you get the New York Times to cover your thesis? Tell them what they want to hear.

Ph. D. Candidate Ethan Fosse and veteran sociologist Neil Gross write that. “The political liberalism of professors—an important occupational group and anomaly according to traditional theories of class politics—has long puzzled sociologists.” Yeah, it would.

“To shed new light on the subject, we review research on professorial politics over the past half-century, identifying the main hypotheses that have been proposed to account for professorial liberalism,” Fosse and Gross write. “Using regression decomposition, we examine hypothesized predictors of the political gap between professors and other Americans using General Social Survey data pooled from 1974-2008.”

“Results indicate that professors are more liberal than other Americans because a higher proportion possess advanced educational credentials, exhibit a disparity between their levels of education and income, identify as Jewish, non-religious, or non-theologically conservative Protestant, and express greater tolerance for controversial ideas. Together, the variables linked to our hypotheses account for about 43 percent of the political gap between professors and other Americans.”

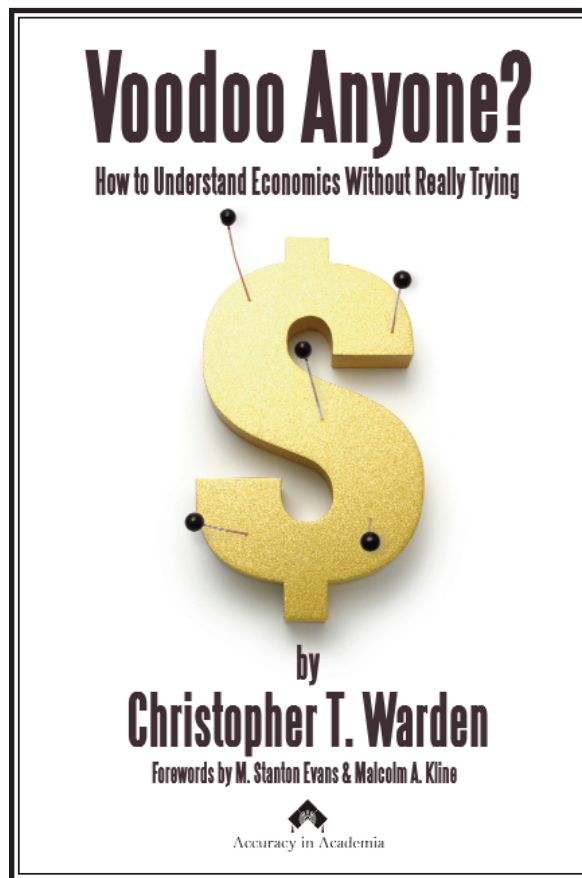
Fosse toils at Harvard and Gross is an associate professor in the Sociology Department at the University of British Columbia. The facts we have been able to unearth at Accuracy in Academia, as you can see by our cover story, scarcely support these conclusions:

1. The “advanced educational credentials” outside the academy that belong to conservatives does not guarantee them entrée to the faculty lounge. By the way, of AIA’s three authors’ night speakers last year, all possessed such creds but only one was a professor.
2. The “disparity between their levels of education and income” doesn’t wash when you look at the salary data in the Chronicle of Higher Education.
3. The religious identity liberal does not work so well when you see that the biggest hotbed of anti-Israel activity outside of the Middle East is on a college campus.
4. If they have “greater tolerance for controversial ideas,” why won’t they let conservative speakers on campus?

All the best,



Mal Kline
Executive Director



**NOW AVAILABLE
ORDER NOW
FROM AIA
FOR JUST \$9.95
INCLUDED SHIPPING**

CAMPUS REPORT

February, 2010 | Volume XXV, number 2

Published by [Accuracy in Academia](#)

4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,

Suite #330

Washington, D.C. 20008

