The latest thesis circulating in academia lends further credence to the observation that academics may only rival journalists in their tendency to miss the obvious, whether by accident or design.

Harvard historian, James T. Kloppenberg, for example, theorizes that the famous Harvard Law grad is a true intellectual guided more by the Founding Fathers than by ideological fads. “Those who heard Mr. Kloppenberg present his argument at a conference on intellectual history at the City University of New York’s Graduate Center responded with prolonged applause,” Patricia Cohen reported in The New York Times on October 27, 2010.

“The way he traced Obama’s intellectual influences was fascinating for us, given that Obama’s academic background seems so similar to ours,” Illinois State University historian Andrew Hartman told Cohen.

Yet and still, “There seemed to be skepticism regarding whether Obama’s intellectual background actually translated into policies that the mostly left-leaning audience could get behind,” Hartman said. “Several audience members, myself included, probably view Obama the president as a centrist like Clinton rather than a progressive intellectual as painted by Kloppenberg.”

“Conservatives who argue that Mr. Obama is a socialist or an anti-colonialist (as Dinesh D’Souza does in his book The Roots of Obama’s Rage) are far off the mark,” Kloppenberg asserts, according to Cohen.

“Adams and Jefferson were the only anti-colonialists whom Obama has been affected by,” Kloppenberg told the audience at CUNY. “He has a profound love of America.”

continues on page 2
Kloppenberg is the author of the recently published *Reading Obama: Dreams, Hopes and the American Political Tradition*. In researching his book, Cohen claims that Kloppenberg “interviewed the president’s former professors and classmates, combed through his books, essays, and speeches, and even read every article published during the three years Mr. Obama was involved with the Harvard Law Review.”

If so, he may have missed one of the primary influences in Obama’s youth in Hawaii, the poet named Frank who the future president wrote about in *Dreams From My Father*. Accuracy in Media’s Cliff Kincaid and New Zealand blogger Trevor Loudon proved pretty definitively that this poetic mentor was radical writer Frank Marshall Davis.

Even the Obama camp has acknowledged that the identification was accurate. By all accounts, Obama’s white grandfather thought that the African-American scribe would be a good role model for Barack in the absence of his African father.

Although Grandpa’s own politics are still an open question, he should have checked with the local branch of the NAACP on Davis. “Soon after Frank Marshall Davis appeared in Hawaii, members of the local branch of the NAACP grew weary of him,” historian Paul Kengor writes in *Dupes: How America’s Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*. “Some NAACP members called him ‘Comrade Davis’ and were irritated at how he ‘sneaked’ into their meetings ‘with the avowed purpose of converting it into a front for the Stalinist line.’”

Kengor, a professor at Grove City College, drew on Davis’s FBI file, which Kincaid had requested, in his research. Professor Kengor also unearthed columns that Davis filed for the Honolulu Record.

“I asked Dr. Kloppenberg if he considered the influence of Frank Marshall Davis in his research on Barack Obama. He replied that there is a brief discussion of Davis in his book. Brief it is. In a tome that runs more than a couple of hundred pages, Davis gets less than a half dozen subordinate clauses, not even full sentences.

*Malcolm A. Kline is the Executive Director of Accuracy in Academia.*

*If you would like to comment on this article, e-mail mal.kline@academia.org*
IRAN AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

The public concern over what’s being taught on American college campuses these days pales when compared to the attention that certain courses receive in Iran.

That’s why the government announced it would put restrictions on twelve university science courses based on Western teachings that included law, philosophy, management, psychology, and political science, according to SFGate.com. Not surprisingly, the courses that appear to cause the most concern are Women’s Studies and Human Rights.

Iranian State Radio recently reported that universities would not only be prevented from opening departments to teach these courses, but the current course content that is already available would be revised “by up to 70 percent over the next few years.”

The reason for all this hype? State sources claim that the new Westernized courses “are not in harmony with religious fundamentals,” and “could lead to religious doubts.”

But the genie may already be out of the bottle. After all, students have played a leading role in the opposition protests to the fraudulent re-election of the current President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and “some 2 million out of 3.5 million Iranian students are already studying social sciences and humanities.”

TRANSGENDER ATHLETE SWITCHES SIDES

Ky Allums is a junior shooting guard on the George Washington University women’s basketball team, but he’s already made history — not in the traditional sense — but by becoming the “first openly transgender player to play Division 1 college basketball,” according to the GW Hatchet.

Allums, who identified himself as a lesbian throughout high school, recently announced publicly that the process began when he was a college freshman, and started feeling more comfortable being referred to as a “he” rather than a “she.” He recalls that the reality about his manhood finally hit him during a text message argument with his mother when she asked him, “Who do you think you are, young lady?”

Although he originally thought he’d keep quiet about the situation until after he graduated, Allums reconsidered after he realized that a public announcement wouldn’t affect his basketball eligibility status. His biggest challenge was explaining all of this to his coach, Mike Bozeman. After all, how do you tell a father of five, with a reputation for viewing his team of young women as “an extended family,” that you’re moving toward manhood, and planning to have “gender reassignment surgery” in a couple of years?

But Allums reported that his relationship with Coach Bozeman hasn’t changed a bit. “He still yells at me when I jump off the wrong foot, he still tries to box with me and stuff. He still talks about my Mohawk, and it not being all combed out,” said Allums, adding that after making his choice public, “I was like, ‘okay, I can go back to just being me and focus.’”

RECESSION-PROOF HIGHER EDUCATION

Working out of a bubble that the rest of us don’t exist in, those in higher education can work their way through a recession, or at least draw a paycheck. According to Higher Ed Jobs:

• “Higher education employment continues to grow, irrespective of trends in overall U.S. employment during the economic recession and, albeit modest, recovery.

• “The number of advertised job openings in higher education, which dramatically decreased during the recession, has experienced significant growth during 2010, continuing through Q3 2010.

• “With the recession now officially declared over, colleges and universities appear to be focusing more on administrative and executive hires and away from faculty.

• “Both hiring and employment at community colleges continued to be strong in Q3 2010, according to data from HigherEDJobs and the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

• “The ratio of part-time to full-time postings in higher education, which grew during the recession, may now be moderating as 2010 draws to an end and the economy’s recovery continues.”

—Malcolm A. Kline
Parents who wonder how much more aggressive sex education can get should be concerned about guidelines which the United Nations is concocting, inspired by Alfred Kinsey. “Promoting sex education to the youngest of the young has drawn harsh criticism to a UN agency and its interpretation of age-appropriate education,” Terrence McKeegan, J. D. reported in an update for the Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute on November 4, 2010.

“It is never too early to start talking to children about sexual matters,” the guidelines issued by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization proclaim.

Please bear in mind, the notion of a UN-inspired U. S. public school curriculum is not such a far fetched one. The International Baccalaureate program is one such widely accepted course of study in American schools.

Although sex-ed is hardly as rarefied a course of study as the IB, taxpayers who crowd school board meetings to complain about their local school’s often expansive guidelines might be startled to see how the UN ups the ante. “Once highly respected for its independence and integrity, UNESCO now works in partnership with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U. S. (SIECUS), an educational arm of the controversial Kinsey Institute,” McKeegan writes. “Last September, a torrent of criticism greeted new UNESCO guidelines on sexuality education for promoting legal abortion and masturbation for children as young as five.”

Yet and still, the revisions themselves are hardly family-friendly, at least in the traditional sense of the phrase. “UNESCO removed some of the most explicit language in the revised guidelines, but retained an appendix with ‘guiding principles’ that includes a Kinsey-inspired sex education curriculum for children from birth to age five,” McKeegan notes. “This curriculum instructs parents to provide anatomically correct dolls for young children to play with, inform them of diverse sexual relationships, and to be supportive of masturbation.”

The UN’s connection to the work of controversial sex researcher Kinsey is fairly explicit. “UNESCO acknowledges a former director of SIECUS is one of the principle authors of its sexuality guidelines,” McKeegan observes. “The guidelines are cited authoritatively as a model of age-appropriate sex education in a new UN report on education rights that was roundly denounced by UN members last week.”

The sage of Bloomington would probably feel vindicated.

“Infamous sexologist Alfred Kinsey founded his institute at Indi-
“Table 34 in Kinsey’s book, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, published in 1948, lists the number of orgasms of children, some as young as two, performed within a 24-hour period,” the Liberty Counsel notes. The Liberty Counsel is providing legal advice to a woman, using a pseudonym—Esther—who alleges she was one of those children.

“Kinsey had befriended Esther’s grandfather in college, who encouraged his son to join in on the experiment,” the Liberty Counsel alleges. “Esther says she witnessed both her father and grandfather personally receiving checks from Kinsey for their sexual acts.”

“She also found a checklist of her father’s that listed what he was doing to her, which would be given to Kinsey for research.” Although primary source information on legendary sex researcher Alfred C. Kinsey has been out for more than a decade, it does not stop academics from heaping admiration upon his legacy that borders on veneration.

“His formative years were spent in a home and in a nation where many middle-class parents enshrouded sex in shame, heaping more than enough guilt on young people to mangle and twist them,” Theodore M. Brown and Elizabeth Fee wrote in the American Journal of Public Health in 2003. “This was particularly true for those like Kinsey who aspired but failed to achieve moral perfection.”

“His great accomplishment was to take his pain and suffering and use it to transform himself into an instrument of social reform, a secular evangelist who proclaimed a new sensibility about human sexuality.” Brown teaches at the University of Rochester.

Fee currently serves as chief of the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine. Additionally, she has long been affiliated with Johns Hopkins.

We contacted these two authors to find out if they still hold to this assessment despite what we now know about Dr. Kinsey’s heavy reliance on the testimonies of incarcerated sex offenders. “Of course,” Dr. Brown wrote. “but I also believe that he saw himself as a secular evangelist.”

Thus far, Dr. Fee has not responded to our inquiry. Former Accuracy in Academia executive director Dan Flynn shows in his book *Intellectual Morons* that...
many of Kinsey’s case studies were far from normal by today’s standards let alone the more restrained times that the good doctor lived and worked in. “Pre-selecting homosexuals was only part of the equation to bias the results,” Flynn wrote. “Kinsey also stacked the sample group with prison inmates.”

“In 1941, for instance, Kinsey visited forty penal farms—more than three times the amount of campuses where he collected histories (an early complaint was that Kinsey focused his interviews too much on students).” Moreover, Kinsey was not just interested in run-of-the-mill prisoners.

“A Kinsey staff member claimed years later that 44 percent of the inmates Kinsey interviewed had had homosexual experiences, while the authors themselves placed the figure in a higher range,” Flynn wrote. “Whatever the real number, one need not be a sexologist to know that prisons are a breeding ground for homosexual activity and that prisoners normally have rebelled against societal norms not just in their criminal activities.”

“The researchers pursued a particular type of inmate, the sex offender, to skew the survey’s results further.” Here, too, Kinsey focused on the more unusual types.

“This still was insufficient, as a particular type of sex offender, the most perverse and abnormal, became the focus of interviews,” Flynn reported. “All three of Kinsey’s coauthors have since admitted that their prison histories ignored scientific sampling techniques and focused on the most perverse sex offenders, including those who had practiced incest, rape and pedophilia.”

The Kinsey Institute itself, still based at IU, barely acknowledges all of the above on its website, proclaiming, “For over 60 years, the institute has been a trusted source for investigating and informing the world about critical issues in sex, gender and reproduction.”

**TOP SECRET ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

The ironies in higher education border on the Orwellian. Take, for example, the insistence of the professoriate on their right to academic freedom in order to profess and publish, in secrecy. “We have tried in vain for eight months to get information about articles published by Chapel Hill English professors. We were rebuffed in a way that reflects a similar disdain for transparency,” Jay Schalin writes in a column distributed by the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy. “In February, the Pope Center was approached by a well-known author and English professor who wished to conduct research on UNC’s English department.”

“Underlying his hypothesis was an observation that many faculty members (at all universities) conduct insignificant research that has little effect and therefore waste taxpayer money. (At UNC-Chapel Hill, tenured professors generally spend one-third of their time conducting original research or writing.)”—MAK
Dear Reader,

Merry Christmas! We wish we could make you a present of reformed public schools but we can’t. An American Enterprise Institute (AEI) survey released in September found that “only 50 percent of teachers think it essential for students to know ‘economic principles like supply and demand,’ and just 36 percent think it essential that they know facts and dates (like the location of the fifty states or the date of the attack on Pearl Harbor).”

Similarly, AEI found that “only 24 percent of teachers indicate that their students can identify the protections in the Bill of Rights when they graduate high school, 15 percent think that their students understand concepts such as federalism and the separation of powers, and 11 percent believe their students understand the basics of a free market.” In an attempt to help fill this void, Accuracy in Academia published its first textbook last year.

_Voodoo Anyone? How to Understand Economics Without Really Trying_ more than fulfills the promise in its title. Although not an economist by training, author Christopher T. Warden, at the time of his untimely passing in January of 2009, had more than a quarter of a century of experience covering economic issues.

Before ascending to his last post, as a tenured journalism professor at Troy University, Warden had served for nearly a decade at Investor’s Business Daily, first as a reporter, then rising to become editorial page editor. During that time, he covered a host of crises—in health care and the budget, to name just two.

Apart from his peers, he managed to get the facts on these calamities, put them in perspective and show how they came about. With chapters on federal bailouts added before he passed away, the book remains remarkably topical.

Now that is a Christmas present we can give you.

All the best,

Mal Kline
Executive Director

December, 2010