

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

# CAMPUS REPORT

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## ELITES REDISCOVER CONSTITUTION, INVOLUNTARILY

*By: Malcolm A. Kline*

It turns out that thinking outside the Congress may be the greatest way of gaining an understanding of the law of the land.



Americans are rediscovering the U. S. Constitution while American elites play catch up. “The new rule requiring that the Constitution be read aloud, and another rule requiring that every bill cite its constitutional authority, are intended as red meat for Tea Partiers,” Columbia University professor Jamal Greene wrote in the New York Daily News on January 9, 2011. “But many bills cite their constitutional authority as is, and for many others the authority is clear.”

“The rest are already subject to vigorous debate that citing the Constitution will do nothing to change.” Greene teaches Constitutional Law.

It turns out that thinking outside the Congress may be the greatest way of gaining an understanding of the law of the land. Although that honorific properly belongs to the Constitution, most presidents, including just about every Republican except Ronald Reagan, mistakenly used the term to describe U. S. Supreme Court decisions.

“In fact, elected officials tend to know even *less* about key provisions of the Constitution than the general public,” Richard Brake of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) points out in an editorial which appeared on aol.com. “For five years now, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute has been conducting a national survey to gauge the quality of civic education in the country.”

“We’ve surveyed more than 30,000 Americans, most of them college students, but also a random sample of adults from all educational and demographic backgrounds. Included in the adult sample was a small subset of Americans (165 in all) who, when asked, identified themselves as having been ‘successfully elected to government office at least once in their life’—which can include federal, state or local offices.”

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# ELITES REDISCOVER CONSTITUTION, INVOLUNTARILY

*Continued from front page*

“The survey asks 33 basic civics questions, many taken from other nationally recognized instruments like the U.S. Citizenship Exam. It also asks 10 questions related to the U.S. Constitution.

“So what did we find? Well, to put it simply, the results are not pretty. Elected officials at many levels of government, not just the federal government, swear an oath to ‘uphold and protect’ the U.S. Constitution.

“But those elected officials who took the test scored an average 5 percentage points lower than the national average (49 percent vs. 54 percent), with ordinary citizens outscoring these elected officials on each constitutional question. Examples:

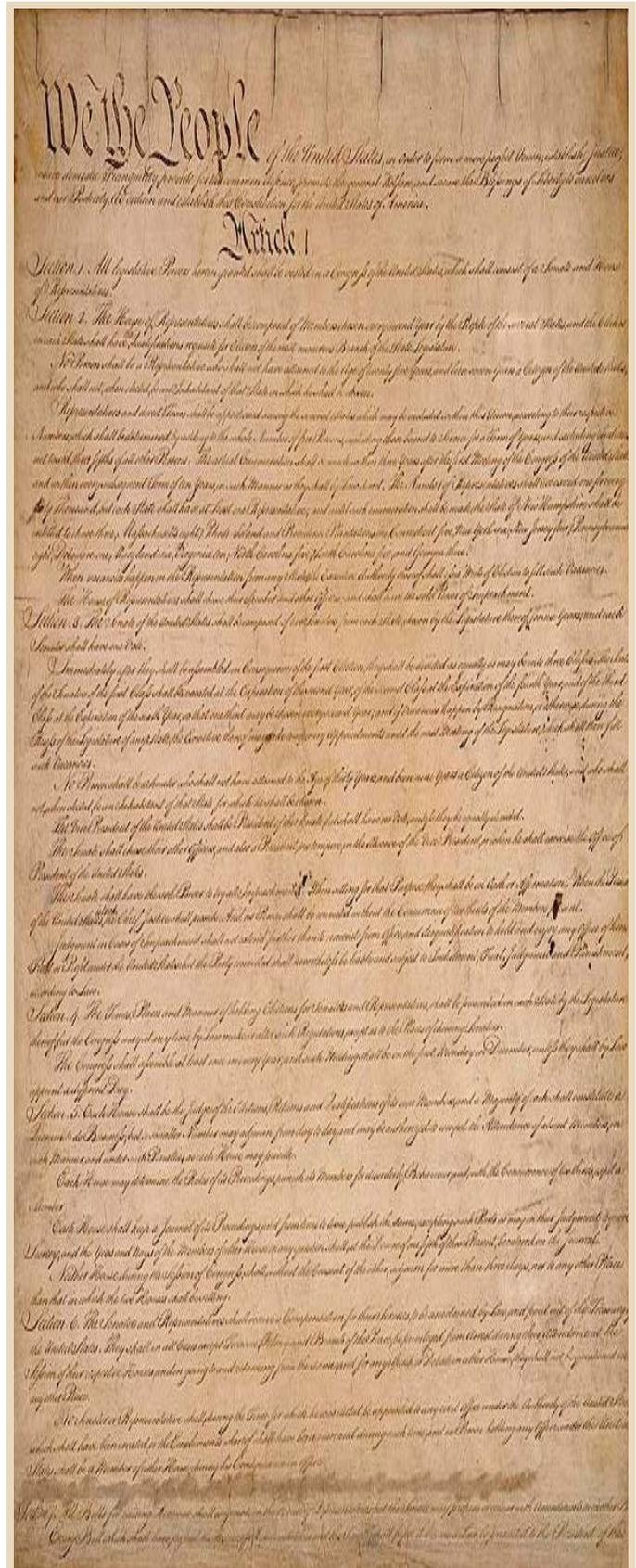
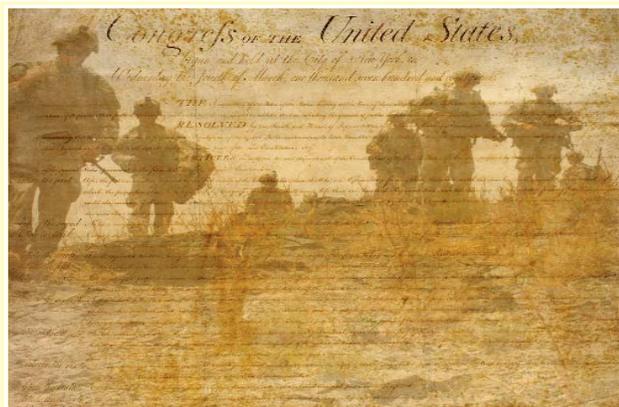
“Only 49 percent of elected officials could name all three branches of government, compared with 50 percent of the general public.

“Only 46 percent knew that Congress, not the president, has the power to declare war — 54 percent of the general public knows that.

“Just 15 percent answered correctly that the phrase “wall of separation” appears in Thomas Jefferson’s letters — not in the U.S. Constitution — compared with 19 percent of the general public.

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# SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert



## BYE BYE, BOY TOYS

Imagine how you would have felt, as a child, if someone told you that you had to part with your favorite toy. Kids in Providence, R.I. had to deal first-hand with that very situation in mid-December, when the annual Toy Gun Bash was held at the gym of a local elementary school.

Boston.com reported that dozens of children lined up to “toss their toy guns, from dainty purple water guns to camouflage-painted pistols, inside the Bash-O-Matic, a large black foam creature with churning metal teeth and the shape of a cockroach spliced with a frog.”

This already fun event was made even more festive by the fact that the Rhode Island state attorney general played Santa Claus. Plus, the childhood version of the gun buyback program featured wrapped non-violent gifts for the kiddies in return for surrendering their toys.

One second grader named Malik Hall had difficulty parting with his favorite toy, but his mother was adamant, since Malik had been expelled from school in kindergarten for shooting a pop gun at a classmate. His mother said that her 8-year-old son was so furious that he tried hiding it under his pillow, but when the time came to lay down his arms, he did so “with quiet dignity,” and went to retrieve his gift



## SESAME STREET HELPS SAVE THE PLANET

How are young children most likely to be taken in by the propaganda of the left? Not surprisingly, one of the primary vehicles is “Sesame Street,” where John Ray’s pblogspot reports that the Green Dragon and Gisele’s “Green Team” patrol the set, to fight capitalism and mesmerize the kiddies into thinking they are saving the world.

Despite recent disclosures that global warming is a massive hoax, the Huffington Post recently doubled down to reinforce the “pervasive themes of green this and green that.”

In doing so, they may have unknowingly re-

vealed the green agenda for children’s television better than its critics could have done in the very first sentence, which read: “Teaching kids about the environment is most effective when they’re unaware that they’re being taught.”

Not only that, but the article provides several examples of “green” themed episodes, including those of Bill Nye, formerly an advisory board member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Among the goals of the show’s two-year curriculum, according to the National Geographic website, is . . . “the show’s producers hope that children who develop positive feelings about the environment at a young age will grow up to be advocates for the earth.”



## THE SCHOLARSHIP MALL

Truth, they say, is stranger than fiction. In the days when scholarships meant something, they were few and far between. They were badges of honor for those who received them, and treated with respect. Today, it’s a different story, as noted by a recent Chronicle of Higher Education rundown of some of the most unusual scholarships that are currently available:

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Street Gang Scholarships a 15,000 grant (Albright College) whose only requirement is that applicants are high school graduates.

2. Chris Farley Scholarships at Marquette University award \$1,500 to recipients who use creativity and humor “in a positive manner.”

3. Dr. Seuss’s “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” Scholarship awards \$10,000 to a person who writes an inspiring letter to someone who needs it

4. Stuck at Prom Scholarships sponsored by Duck Brand Duct Tape award \$3,000 to successful appli-



Not Easy Being Green

# SQUEAKY CHALK

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cants who “create prom outfits with duct tape and submit photos for judging.”



## A DOG’S LIFE

The beneficial influence of pets in one’s life has been well documented by the increasing presence of therapy dogs in hospitals, retirement homes and schools. Statistical evidence now shows how helpful canines are to young students

A British study of “reluctant readers” at the Westfields Junior School in Yateley, Hampshire showed



that 20 percent of pupils who took part in a program called Read2Dogs “felt more confident about reading afterwards,” according to the Daily Mail. But the most rewarding finding was that “60 percent of these children improved their reading age by three months or more in just six weeks, and all the pupils’ reading ages advanced by at least two months.

One student, 9-year-old Ellen Parker, commented of her experience in reading to a golden retriever

named Breeze, that she tried to think of stories the dog would like that involved animals, like a dog and a badger that go on a picnic.



## ANTI-CHRISTMAS CABAL?

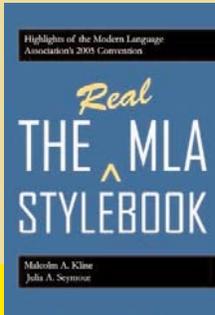
While last December was upbeat for retailers, some examples of Santaphobia sparked by the political correctness cops may have scored even more points, especially at some high schools outside Washington, D.C.

At the appropriately named Battlefield High School in Haymarket Virginia, for example, expressions of Christmas cheer by a group of boys calling themselves the Christmas Sweater Club were rewarded by a couple of hours of cleaning the school, according to the Media Research Center’s Brent Bozell.

They were charged with “creating a disturbance” for “tossing free two-inch candy canes at students before they entered classes.” One of the boy’s mothers, Kathleen Flannery, told WUSA-TV that a school administrator called to inform her that “Not everyone wants Christmas cheer, that suicide rates are up,” etc.

Meanwhile at McLean High School in suburban Virginia chose the Christmas season to perform a heartwarming play called “The Laramie Project,” about the “beating death of homosexual college student Matthew Shepard in 1998.” The “play was a political assault, using transcripts of real-life interviews by gay activists, out to blame America’s religious people” for this situation.





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# STRIKING OIL

by Richard Thornburgh



Taxing the oil industry and refusing access to important U.S. shale reserves would drive up both the Federal government's debt and the U.S. unemployment rate, according to Kyle Isakower of the American Petroleum Institute.

With EPA regulations on petroleum bound for discussion in Congress within the next two years, API has hopped on the campaign trail with an information crusade, Isakower admitted at the Tuesday bloggers' briefing sponsored by The Heritage Foundation. Isakower said that increased government revenue – which public officials are always looking for – would come only through expanding access to petroleum.

Isakower said that should the government allow for expansion, federal revenue could increase by \$150 billion in the next 11 years.

He emphasized that international oil is not the key to American success, and that a large number of untapped, natural shale sites in the U.S. would provide up to four million barrels of oil per day. In turn, the high cost of gas would cease for consumers.

By allowing access to sites such as the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania, Mr. Isakower stated that thousands of domestic jobs would be created in the region, which is one of several U.S. shale sites. He pointed out how North Dakota was one of the few states that reported growth in jobs and revenue during the economic recession, mainly because of their access and extraction of oil.

Isakower laims that fear that America is running out of oil are unfounded, citing a study that indicated

oil consumption, at its current rate, has the capacity to withstand another Century of use.

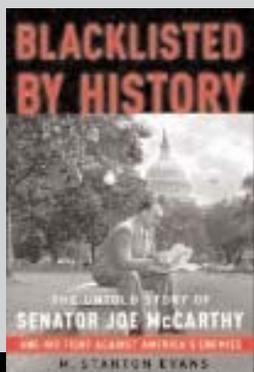
Leaving the petroleum regulations alone, which is to say 'tax free,' is the right thing to do for the industry, the government and the consumers, Isakower argued. Taxing the industry would yield initial revenue, albeit small, but would eventually end up costing the government money to keep up with.

As it stands, 7.5 percent of the GDP is tied to the oil and gas industry, a substantial amount from one resource. This would decline significantly, and eventually phase out completely, if the petroleum industry were taxed.

Also debated was the idea of using alternative energy, which many see as inexpensive and widely available for commercial use. Although alternative energy may seem ready for mass acceptance in America, Isakower warned otherwise, saying it's not ready today, and won't be ready for full use for a couple of decades. In other words, until technology to develop energy resources is perfected, using API's strategy would be the most fiscally responsible option.

Near the end of the forum, questions of the petroleum industry's safety and regulation disaster from April's Deep Water Horizon explosion were discussed at length, but Mr. Isakower insisted it was a one-time event. Although Isakower did not offer trend lines to prove that point, his questioners did not refute his claim.

*Richard Thornburgh is an intern at the American Journalism Center, a training program run by Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia.*



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# REVOLVING AXIS OF EVIL

by Torey Hall



out.

President Obama only went further to affirm Mr. Bush saying, that hearing Muslims praying at Mecca is one of the most “beautiful sounds in the world,” Kennedy noted in a talk on Friday January 7, 2011, at Hillsdale College’s Washington, D. C. headquarters.

Kennedy asserted that Islam is made up of “more than just a few lunatics.” In fact a Pew survey found that 8% of the approximately 7 million Muslims in America “believe suicide bombing is okay,” Kennedy observed.

That same poll found that “15 percent of young Muslims think suicide bombings are justified,” Kennedy noted. Kennedy went on to quote several verses from the Koran including, “Fight and slay the unbelievers wherever ye find them and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war.”

“We must understand Muslims as they understand themselves,” Kennedy argued. “We know it is believed by those who have taken up arms against us.”

In their search for villains, media elites, not to mention political ones, frequently overlook genuine malefactors. After the September 11, 2001 attacks upon the United States, President Bush was “persuaded that Islam was a peaceful and vibrant faith,” Brian Kennedy of the Claremont Institute pointed

Kennedy does admit that, “If one were to ask any Muslim if they know this, the answer would be ‘no,’ but points out that for those that do, the more inflammatory passages of the Koran cannot be ignored. In the Koran, the parts that were written last have priority, and here some of the more incendiary admonitions may lie. Moreover, the president of Iran is part of this more proactive element.

Although not theocracies, Russia and China also pose threats to the U. S. that most of the best and brightest ignore. The U. S. government “cannot stop a single Chinese or Russian nuke and has no plans to do so,” Kennedy claims. “If we are not going to defend the American people, we ought to tell them.”

The U. S. has not built a nuclear warhead since 1992, Kennedy recalled. By way of contrast, “China has intercontinental ballistic missiles pointed right at us,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said, “We used to think defense was the only way to fight,” but now we are coming close to passing the START treaty with Russia which is Russia’s strategy to enhance their world positioning simply by weakening America’s.” When politicians talk about this treaty they make it “sound like it will make Americans safer,” Kennedy said.

*Torey Hall is an intern at the American Journalism Center, a training program run by Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia.*

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# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



By *Malcolm A. Kline*

February, 2011

Dear Reader,

One of the arguments against hiring conservatives in academia that the Left frequently uses is that, intellectually, right-wingers do not have the right stuff. That point is going to be a bit harder to argue now: A study from the University of Pennsylvania found that three of the top 10 think tanks in America are conservative to libertarian.

As tabulated by researchers at Penn, the top ten “go-to” think tanks in the United States are:

1. The Brookings Institution
2. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)
3. The Carnegie Endowment
4. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
5. The Rand Corporation
6. The Heritage Foundation
7. The Cato Institute
8. The American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
9. The Peterson Institute for International Economics
10. The Center for American Progress (CAP)

Arguably, Rand and CSIS lean at least a tad right of center. Undeniably, one think tank that Heritage and company aced out—CAP—tilts considerably to the Left.

Moreover, CAP’s roster of scholars and speakers, of all the think tanks, most closely resembles that of most colleges and universities. We can assert that with some confidence because we have been covering CAP for as long as it has been in existence.

Thus, we were able to provide articles on insiders in the Obama Administration before they came to prominence. We did so while trying to offer profiles of professors and their places of employment which students cannot get anywhere else.

We endeavor to provide this service for you, our readers, and with your most generous support for which we are most grateful.

All the best,

**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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