

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

CAMPUS REPORT

April 2011 | Volume XXVI, number 4



WISCONSIN IN REAL TIME

By: Malcolm A. Kline

Scholars seem to be channeling Groucho Marx as they expect us to believe them rather than our eyes.

There is one place where Wisconsin’s public employee unions maintained the moral high ground during the state’s recent budget crisis—academia. “They have filled Madison’s Capitol Square and spilled down State Street, a sea of Wisconsin Badger red,” Christopher Phelps wrote in the March 11, 2011 issue of *The Chronicle Review*. “They have jammed the Capitol rotunda, remaining around the clock, dozing on hard marble floors in sleeping bags, testifying before the Assembly, and transforming the beautiful Capitol building into a house of the people.”

“They have let it be known that they consider the right to a union essential to democracy and that they reject Republican Gov. Scott Walker’s plan to end collective bargaining for local, county, and state public employees on all issues apart from wages—including pensions, health insurance, and working conditions.”

Closer to the scene, the view looks a wee bit different. “On the Democratic side are the AFL-CIO, the big public worker unions, party organizations and activist groups like MoveOn.org, which have already raised millions of dollars online,” Byron York wrote in *The Washington Examiner*. “On the Republican side are a few Tea Party groups, taxpayer organizations and not a lot more.”

In his understanding of politics and economics in the United States, Phelps may have fallen prey to a geographic remove: He is an associate professor of American studies at the University of Nottingham.

Geography may also be the problem in historian Nelson Lichtenstein’s take on the story: He is at the University of California.

“When he was still President Obama’s chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, now mayor-elect of Chicago, famously quipped: ‘Never allow a crisis to go to waste,’” Nelson Lichtenstein notes in the March 11, 2011 *Chronicle Review*. “Republican governors in Wisconsin, New Jersey, Ohio, and other states have certainly taken

continued on page 2

that advice to heart.”

“By emphasizing, and in some cases manipulating, the red ink flowing through so many state budgets, they have leveraged the crisis to strike a body blow at the public-sector unions that represent so many teachers, professors, social workers, and municipal employees.” Lichtenstein is an historian at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Even one of Lichtenstein’s favorable reviewers on ratemyprofessors.com noted that the professor is “Left-leaning because he is chair of labor studies/unions at UCSB.” Lichtenstein is the director of the Center for the Study of Work, Labor and Democracy at UCSB.

Columnist Noemie Emery neatly summed up the dilemma of scholars such as Lichtenstein in a column which appeared in *The Washington Examiner* on March 9, 2011. “The Democrats seem caught in 1911, in an age of sweat shops, exploitation, and of child labor, when endangered and underpaid workers valiantly struggled to wrest living wages out of ‘The Man,’” she wrote. “One would never know from their speech this is 2011, that these union workers are well-off clerks and teachers; that The Man has been replaced by a less-well-off public, and that their early and well-funded retirements are driving state governments into a ditch.”

“Together, wages and benefits combine to make up 43 percent of state and local spending,” Josh Barro noted in a recent issue brief published by the Manhattan Institute.

“Of course,” Dr. Lichtenstein stated in an e-mail to us, “surprised it is not higher.”

“That is what governments do, provide services. They don’t build cars or iPads.” He could have added the word “Yet.”

Incidentally, “According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor, as of 2009 state and local government employees not only earned more in wages than their private sector counterparts, they received benefits that were 69 percent higher than those in the private sector,” Jonathan Williams of the

American Legislative Exchange Council wrote in an editorial which appeared *The Wall Street Journal* in February.

In a column which appears in this month’s *Budget & Tax News*, Jacksonville State University economist Christopher Westley points out that, after Wal Mart, the top employers in the state are all government entities. Thus, it may not be too surprising that the Tax Foundation put Wisconsin in the Top 10 in its rankings of per capita state and local tax burdens.



MORE \$\$\$ - SAME RESULTS

With so many state budget battles on the front burner these days, it’s difficult to ignore how much is being allocated for public education.

Take Wisconsin, for example. Although the state “spends more per pupil in its public schools than any other state in the Midwest,” a recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test showed that only “31 percent of public school eighth graders earned a ‘proficient’ rating,” while the remaining “61 percent earned ratings of below proficient,” according to educationwatchinternational.com.

The results concluded that although per-pupil spending costs in Wisconsin had skyrocketed from \$6,517 in 1996 to a whopping \$10,791 in 2008, student test scores only improved by ONE point.

On a somewhat positive note, Wisconsin scores were higher than the national average. The NAEP results showed that the “average American eighth grade student scored 282 out of 500 on the NAEP math test in 2009, with only 25 percent earning a ‘proficient’ rating while the remaining 68 percent were rated ‘less than proficient’ in math.”—*Deborah Lambert*

SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert



TEXAS OFFERS “WHITES ONLY” SCHOLARSHIP

Texas State University student Colby Bohannon said that after noticing that there were plenty of scholarships available for minorities and women but none for white men, he decided that had to change, according to the Austin American Statesman.

So Bohannon, a mass communications major and Iraq war veteran, decided, along with some friends, to form a group called the Former Majority Association for Equality, and offer five \$500 scholarships that would be available exclusively for white males.

While similar scholarships were previously made available by Boston University College Republicans in 2006 and a Republican group at Roger Williams College in 2004, these groups stated at the time that their offers were made as a “statement against affirmative action,” not the real thing.

While Bohannon and his new group caught plenty of flak, their website <http://www.fmafe.org/> reports that their campaign received positive feedback from all across America. Not only did they reach their goal of \$2,500 in just a couple of days, but the “Former Majority” has already set a new goal for 2012 – to raise money for another five scholarships at \$1,000 each.



COLLEGE WEBSITE PLAGIARISM

Student plagiarism is always in the news, but at Reed College, it recently reached a new level when someone copied an entire school website, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The scam came to light when Reed College officials noticed a “website of a fictitious school called the University of Redwood” online that featured a strangely familiar faculty directory and photos, “most of which belonged to Reed.”

“Our lawyers are seeking to shut the faux Redwood site down,” according to Reed College spokesman Kevin Meyers from his office in Portland, Oregon.

Reed College officials believe the site was originally set up to collect application fees from prospective students in Asia. Martin Ringle, the school’s chief technology officer, noted that after finding the school mentioned on Asian education blogs, “a shrewd scammer could wait several weeks, then issue a rejection letter, and the student would never know.” Reed

spokesmen Ringle and Meyers say their research shows that the website’s domain “is owned by somebody in China.”

The same faculty names appeared on both sites. Even Reed’s historical origin was stolen by the Redwood site, which claimed that the school was “named by the Oregon pioneers Simeon and Amanda Reed.”



NO TEACHER’S PET

“There’s no other way to say this: I hate your kid,” wrote Pennsylvania English teacher Natalie Munroe in a blog where she also “described her students as ‘whiners’ and ‘out of control,’” according to the Daily Caller.

In case readers didn’t catch her drift, Munroe continued by labeling one student a “lazy a**hole, saying that another student “dresses like a street walker,” and using even more colorful language that we won’t repeat here.

But if you think her emotion-filled rant inspired mea culpas, you would be wrong. Munroe was not only unapologetic, but still “maintains that her blog didn’t cross the line.”

“It was up there for over a year, nobody found it,” she recently told ABC. Apparently, students were not her only targets, since “the 30-year-old teacher also bashed administrators and colleagues.”

After the story hit the fan earlier this year, Munroe was suspended from her post at Central Bucks East High School in Pennsylvania. Late word has it that administrators are still pondering over how to address this case, especially since Ms. Munroe has “no plans for a career change.”



GIVING BOOKS THE BOOT

If you think that respect for learning has already hit an all time low, read on. It seems that the University of New South Wales in Australia “is throwing away thousands of books and scholarly journals as part of a policy that recognizes students’ preference for online research, according to Jon Ray, in EducationWatchInternational.com.

In a move that is likely to spread to this country too, “complete journal collections, valuable books and newspapers dating to the 19th century are being thrown out to clear space for café-style lounges.”

While the policy requires librarians to remove

SQUEAKY CHALK

continued from page 3

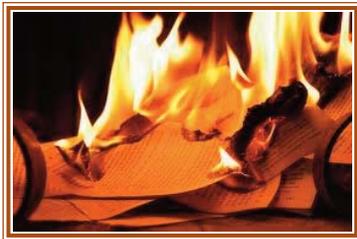
thousands of volumes each year, it thoughtfully allows the last Australian copy of any book to be saved. Not surprisingly, this throw-away mandate has sparked outrage over the topic of discarding books in favor of the expanded research tools becoming available online.

Furthermore, the books are apparently being unceremoniously dumped without enough time for faculty and others to salvage them.

“This is a scandal,” said Peter Slezak, an associate professor in the school of history and philosophy. Some librarians are jumping into the fray to rescue the books, hundreds at a time, according to a library assistant. “Most libraries see their function as an archive, but these guys see it almost like a video store. After you’ve had the book five years, why keep it?”

“They’re getting rid of books to make space for students to sit around, have lunch and plug in their laptops. Bizarrely, they’ve turned the library into some kind of Starbucks,” Professor Slezak said.

It was only 50 years ago that author Ray Bradbury published *Fahrenheit 451*, his novel about book-burning that sounded a warning about “suppression of ideas” that has already come true.



“What is happening to the UNSW library is just one aspect of a dumbing down of the university in the name of competition – to change it from a collegiate place of learning to (in the Vice-Chancellor’s words) an ‘education destination.’”

ALIEN NATION?

In case you were wondering, the days when high school and college essays topics centered on citizenship and patriotism are pretty nearly over. Case in point: a student at Arizona State University recently started an essay contest, directed at aliens.

While this is a new and untested demographic that might be dismissed as insignificant and superficial, don’t be too quick to judge the entire effort.

The student who launched the plan is none other than Lucy Hawking, the daughter of astrophysicist Steven Hawking, who is currently the “writer-in-

residence for ASU’s Origins Project, exploring the origins of the human race,” according to The Arizona Republic.

The contest, launched in mid-February, was designed to ask K–12 students in the “metro Phoenix area to answer the following question:” “What would you say to extra-terrestrials if earthlings are contacted from outer space? If you had to speak for humanity, what would you say?” The contest is called “Dear Aliens” and entries are due by April 1st

Hawking credits Paul Davies, a theoretical physicist, ASU professor and chairman of the International Academy of Aeronautics Post-Detection Task Force Group, for inspiring the contest. She and Davies agreed that the contest was designed as a fun activity that would spark children’s imaginations. “Radio signals will apparently bounce the winners’ messages off the moon on April 9th during an event at ASU’s Tempe campus.”

LIPSTICK IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A certain Catholic school was recently faced with a unique problem, according to www.examiner.com. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom.

That was fine provided it was of a natural or neutral skin tone, but . . . after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night, the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally, the principal, Sister Paschal, decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, Sister Paschal asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers . . . and there are educators.

WHAT THE COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW MISSED

Malcolm A. Kline

The nation's premier journalism school points to the Al-Jazeera TV network as a model for modern-day reporters. Meanwhile, America's oldest media watchdog group is showing what makes Al-Jazeera run.

"Al Jazeera, the pan-Arab satellite network, showed global media how to cover a people's uprising—by getting right into the thick of things and keeping the cameras running, both witnessing and propelling events," an editorial in the March/April Columbia Journalism Review (CJR) read. The CJR is published by the Columbia University Journalism school.

Apparently, Al-Jazeera's unblinking cameras still managed to miss the sexual assault of a CBS reporter by demonstrators in the "people's uprising." What is particularly curious about the CJR's unalloyed praise of Al-Jazeera is that Al-Jazeera English's most high profile defector, David Marash, gave an interview in which he harshly criticized the network to none other than the Columbia Journalism Review itself.

Meantime, here's a story you are not likely to see on Al-Jazeera. "Clashes that broke out when a Muslim mob attacked thousands of Christians protesting the burning of a Cairo church killed at least 13 people and wounded about 140 officials said Wednesday," the Associated Press reported on March 10, 2011.

Not so surprisingly, the Columbia Journalism Review has weighed in on the WikiLeaks controversy. Somewhat surprisingly, the article that the magazine published by the Journalism School at Columbia University ran on WikiLeaks is a bit more nuanced than its full-throated endorsement of Al-Jazeera.

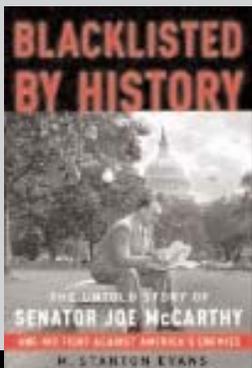
Perhaps that is because an outside contributor—Goucher College President Sanford J. Ungar—penned the analysis of WikiLeaks that appeared in the March/April 2011 issue of the CJR while its editorial boosting Al-Jazeera was an inside job.

"On the substance of the diplomatic cables that were distributed, it was difficult to claim damage to American national security," Ungar argued. "It may be awkward, say, for Saudi Arabia and certain other Middle Eastern states to have it known that they are every bit as worried about Iran as are Israel and the United States, if not more so, as revealed through WikiLeaks, but hardly a threat to anyone's well-being."

"And for the Chinese to be identified as complaining that North Korea was behaving like a 'spoiled child' is not terribly surprising." Actually, the vice president himself pointed out that foreign dignitaries have been requesting more one-on-one meetings with no aides present since WikiLeaks disseminated the cables.

Meanwhile, a U. S. State Department spokesman quit his job on March 13, 2011 after calling the U. S. Army's detention of WikiLeaks informant Private Bradley Manning "stupid" and "ridiculous" in a Massachusetts speech, the Associated Press reported shortly thereafter. The U. S. Army has leveled at least 22 counts against Manning.

The spokesman, P. J. Crowley, previously worked as director of Homeland Security for the Center for American Progress. Perhaps he has discovered that different considerations arise when one is dealing with actual homeland security.



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

GLOBAL WARMING RETAKES

by Paul Brian



What are the facts behind the theory of global warming, and do they justify EPA regulations on greenhouse gases? Is Professor Richard Somerville of the University of California at San Diego right when he says “we know CO₂ is increasing and it’s because of humans?”

This was the question at the heart of a U.S. House Energy Committee Hearing on the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 (HR910) chaired by Congressman Ed Whitfield (R – KY) on March 8, 2011. H.R. 910 aims to block Clear Air Act regulations on greenhouse gas by the EPA.

Those academics and scientists on the witness panel in favor of the alarmist scientific view of global warming did not hold back on voicing their opinions. Dr. Somerville urged energy-efficient programs that would purportedly cut global CO₂ emissions by 80% by mid-century and decrease US reliance on foreign oil. In addition to these suggestions, he warned of impending droughts, death-causing heat waves and floods on a scale we haven’t yet seen in the future, if we don’t address global warming soon.

His comments were echoed by similar statements emphasizing a serious threat posed by human-caused global warming from Dr. Knute Nadelhoffer, director of the University of Michigan Biological Station, and Dr. Francis Zwiers, director of the Pacific Climates Impact Consortium at the University of Victoria, in Canada.

But not all the scientist witnesses were on board with this thinking. In fact, some felt opposing opinions were intentionally marginalized in the Intergov-

ernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) study done on the subject.

According to Dr. Roger Pielke, a Senior Research Scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at University of Colorado, Boulder, “the IPCC did not seriously address non-human causes,” and “systematically excluded a range of views,” using “strong-arm tactics.”

Dr. Pielke stated that “climate changes—always has always will,” and went on to claim that “you cannot prove how much warming is human-caused.” His views were supported by the statements of Dr. John Christy of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

“The past 32 years, temperature has risen 9/100s of a degree per decade,” Dr. Christy reported. Dr. Christy then outlined possible alternate reasons other than global warming for the slight temperature rise, including changing land use and naturally-occurring circulation problems.

“Current metrics are of little value to understand greenhouse effects,” said Dr. Christy. Dr. Donald Roberts Professor Emeritus of the University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD emphasized his disagreement with the purported health effects of global warming both “as a scientist and as a taxpayer.”

Such as Bobby Rush (D-IL), Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Jay Inslee (D-WA) came out strongly in favor of regulations. Rep. Rush even showed an enlarged copy of a cartoon about global warming.

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

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

April, 2011

Dear Reader,

Although the articles in this issue seem to cover disparate themes and topics, they do have one common thread: Academics are usually the last to know. To wit:

- When even the inner city school boards that were once their power base are turning against them, academics are still treating teachers' unions as though they were Samuel Gompers;
- When Al-Jazeera's sins of omission are becoming so apparent that even left-wing journalists are attacking the Arab TV network, professors are flocking to it as though it were the next welcome wave in journalism; and
- When even the left-wing web site WikiLeaks displays the Climategate e-mails in which global warming alarmists are caught attempting to "hide the decline" in temperatures that undercuts their thesis, professors trumpeting the original findings remain seemingly oblivious to the bombshell disclosures.

It is not so much that we are trying to show the academic community that they may be mistaken, although we continue to tilt at that windmill. Rather, we are trying to show you your tax dollars at work, for all but a handful of the thousands of colleges and universities in the United States are dependent, to one degree or another, on government funding.

We could not accomplish our own work on your behalf without the support you give us, 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



Accuracy in Academia

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

CAMPUS REPORT

April, 2011 | Volume XXVI, number 4

Published by **Accuracy in Academia**

4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Suite #330

Washington, DC 20008

