

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

CAMPUS REPORT

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AIM & THE TEA PARTY

By: Don Irvine

Accuracy in Media Founder Reed Irvine
“was a TEA partier long before we had a
modern day TEA Party Movement.”

Accuracy in Academia’s Constitution Day author’s night featured a report on the very constitutionally literate TEA party. Don Irvine, the chairman of both Accuracy in Academia and its older sister group, Accuracy in Media, who recently addressed a TEA party in Waco, Texas, compared the efforts of his father, Reed Irvine, who founded both AIA and AIM, to those of today’s grassroots activists. Excerpts from his remarks follow:

As you know, there’s a big difference between those who just complain about a problem and those who do something about it. More than 40 years ago, my father Reed Irvine made a bold move. He got so sick of all the biased media coverage that he decided to stand up to America’s biggest and most powerful media companies and tell them they were wrong. In 1969 he launched Accuracy in Media – the country’s first grassroots effort to counter media bias with the facts.

The Big Media journalists were horrified. They shuddered to think that someone was looking over their shoulder to hold them accountable for their news product, and predicted he’d be out of business in a couple of years. They made no secret of the fact that they viewed him as a hack and a gadfly, who lacked the authority to critique their work, because he wasn’t even a JOURNALIST. In today’s environment, he might even be called a “terrorist” and probably a “racist” too – simply because he wanted the media to tell the truth.

In fact, a long time ago the former executive editor of The Washington Post Ben Bradlee got so disgusted with my father that he sent him a letter, calling him “a miserable, carping, retromingent vigilante.” And that was in 1978!

My dad viewed this name-calling as a badge of honor. He knew he had gotten their attention. He was a lot like all of you here today. He NEVER quit. He just became more determined. And the more he stood up for mainstream America’s right to know the truth, the more his work attracted legions of supporters who cheered him on every step of the way.

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



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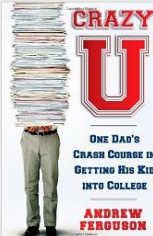
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Crazy U



CAMPUS REPORT

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Dear Reader,

What is absolutely startling, looking back over our past issues, is how far ahead of the curve we are in our news coverage:

- For example, our January issue focused on “earmarking for academic bling,” a subject which the U. S. Congress, not to mention state assemblies, are still catching up with.
- Similarly, we wrote about the illusory nature of the “green jobs” which colleges dangled before students in April, five months before the Solyndra scandal forced lawmakers to do the same.
- Additionally, two of our author’s night speakers—Ohio University economist Richard Vedder (April) and Wall Street Journal editor Naomi Schaeffer Riley (July)—were featured in a subsequent broadcast by Fox Business News (FBN) reporter John Stoessel. Both Riley and Vedder are becoming recognized experts on the manifold failures, financial and otherwise, of higher education in America today.
- As well, veterans of the Reagan Administration are becoming increasingly more vocal about the fallacy of comparing the Gipper to the current occupant of the White House. Our older sister organization dissected the myths and realities of both presidencies in an April Accuracy in Media special report.

We endeavor to anticipate events for you, our readers and supporters. Ultimately, we work for you and could not complete our work without you.

All the best,

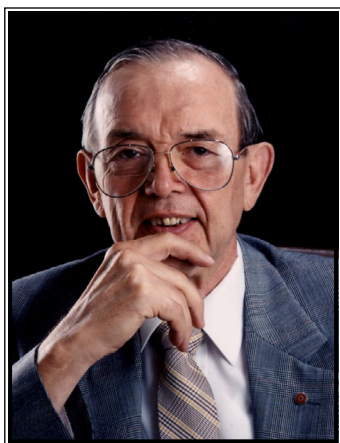
Mal Kline,
Executive Director

AIM & THE TEA PARTY

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He was a Tea Partier long before we had a modern day Tea Party Movement. I think the same can be said of many of the early conservative leaders of that era like Phyllis Schlafly and Paul Weyrich. All of them



took an idea and at great personal sacrifice took on the liberal establishment to create some of the linchpin organizations of the modern conservative movement.

Our elected officials and their lapdogs in the press are trying to dismiss the Tea Party movement's effectiveness with a

name-calling campaign. They resent the public challenging their "wisdom," and believe they are powerful enough to ignore the will of their constituents. But this campaign is not working.

After all, you and I know that the real power of America still lies with individual citizens who – time after time – have stood up for the principles and values upon which this country was founded – and who are not afraid to speak truth to power in order to protect America's freedom.

This author's night and others in the 2011 Frank A. Fusco Conservative University Lecture Series are made possible by a generous grant from the Frank A. Fusco and Nelly Goletti Fusco Foundation.

NO DEFICIT LEFT BEHIND

Spencer Irvine, August 22, 2011

When U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan granted blanket waivers to states and localities exempting them from the standards of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, conservatives blasted him for his edict.



The waivers enable the states and localities to collect the federal funds NCLB proffers without meeting the requirements that the law's proponents told us they would be forced to meet.

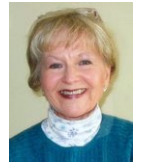
As it happens, Duncan has been granting these waivers ever since taking office. Moreover, the Bush Administration was granting quite a few of them even while crediting NCLB with raising education standards.

Yet and still, every education bill or law that has been passed by Congress in the past half century includes underlying quality control clauses along with opt-out provisions or waivers. Finally, the granting of waivers seems to favor states that have voted for the current administration in the last election, at least for the past decade.

According to the Department of Education website, the waivers that bypass NCLB have existed as early as 2007 under then-President George W. Bush. Each waiver lasts approximately a year from the time of its approval, and more often than not, states continue to apply for the same waiver and

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SQUEAKY CHALK



by Deborah Lambert

THOUGHT CONTROL?

There appears to be no limit to how much intrusion is necessary to instill obedience to the politically correct mantra on our nation's campuses these days. Take Davidson College in North Carolina, for example.

"On the heels of a scandal involving a faculty member's ad hominem attack on a conservative student at the end of last year," the ultra-PC school "is now pushing the envelope of limiting free speech though 'inclusiveness,'" noted Jay Schalin in Phi Beta Cons.

The stage was set in August, 2011 when the vice president for academic affairs sent around a note, saying that in order to build an "inclusive community," a "trained equity advisor" should be included on all faculty search committees, thus ensuring that those with non-PC views would rarely get hired.

In the second suggestion, the VP noted that certain "perceived attitudes" of faculty or students in a classroom can lead to circumstances where other students are offended. One example was a survey conducted last spring called the "Peer Review of the Students of Color," after which "several students mentioned to the review team that inappropriate comments were made in the classroom, either by the professor or by students, that went unchecked."

The VP said that he intends to "discuss this issue and to consider ways that we might increase the vigilance" – toward such egregious offenses as "perceived attitudes."

Will hiring thought police soon become an open secret on the Davidson campus?



NEW MEDIA AND COLLEGE APPS

While prospective college students still have to agonize over multi-page essays and try to distinguish their extra-curricular activities from those of other applicants, the online environment has also influenced their actions. In fact, "social media outlets are becoming more common among both juniors and seniors, with 44 percent using YouTube channels and 41 percent using Facebook pages for prospective students.

According to Eduventures, 42 percent of students start their college search as early as sophomore year. Plus their survey of nearly 11,000 students found that

nearly 20 percent of students currently apply to ten or more schools.



BEYOND MEANING

Dr. Clay Reynolds, a professor of arts and humanities at the University of Dallas, is probably not the only academic who has problems with today's creative methods of student communication these days.

Writing in the September, 2011 issue of *Chronicles*, Professor Reynolds noted that as a veteran educator and writer, who always finds errors in his own downloaded hard copies of computer-composed material, what can he expect from his sleepy undergraduate students or harried grad students who "lack both a quality educational background and any practical writing experience at all?"

Reynolds marvels at the variety of mechanical checking devices, ranging from auto-correct features to grammar-checking programs, that spit out changes and suggestions which are so often incorrect, because students who haven't been taught how to write cannot possibly determine whether the merits of something crafted from artificial intelligence are right or wrong.

Of course, "some students assure me that my punctiliousness in such matters is curmudgeonly unreasonable," says the prof. "U new wht I mint," one student informed me in an e-mail (sent from his iPhone). He was reacting to my objection to his written description, "Along the river was a line of well-stacked industrial whorehouses."

Dr. Reynolds admitted that while he did know what the student meant, he also read what the student wrote. As far as the technological revolution is concerned, "most of it is a stupendous thing," but viewing it as "substitute for meaningful knowledge" is a mistake. Prof Reynolds says "we need to demand that our students be correct and be able to think creatively and expansively . . . rather than merely how to channel ideas into 140 characters to be read and responded to while waiting for a stoplight to change."



IS COLLEGE HAZARDOUS FOR MALES?

There's more proof that America's college campuses may be intolerant toward men, noted Phyllis Schlafly in

SQUEAKY CHALK

a recent column. Underlining the point made by AIA's Malcolm Kline earlier this year, Schlafly stressed that the "DCL" (Dear Colleague Letter) sent out by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights spells doom for men, who must realize by now that feminist theory rules academia and that additional implementations to Title IX that originated in 1972 have now made it impossible for men to get a fair hearing on campus.

The letter issued by feminist bureaucrat Russlynn Ali, daughter of former world champion boxer Muhammad Ali, "is just a federal order, which colleges and universities must obey under threat of losing their funding." However, the worst part of this order is that it "rules that an accused man doesn't have to be judged guilty 'beyond a reasonable doubt,' of even the intermediate standard of 'clear and convincing' proof."

Schlafly reminds readers that campus disciplinary boards may not only include Women's Studies Department faculty members, but that the DCL "strongly discourages" allowing an accused man "to question or cross-examine the accuser" during hearings, and that punishment could easily extend from expulsion to being barred from grad school, "suffering irreparable damage to his reputation, and could possibly be exposed to criminal prosecution."



THE WAY WE WERE

After years of students being dumbed down by public education in America, it might be a good idea to read some snippets of an eighth grade final exam in 1895, posted by John Leo, and taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina Kansas, printed by the Salina Journal.

Grammar:

- Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
- Define verse, stanza and paragraph
- Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.

Arithmetic:

- Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days at 10 percent
- Write a bank check, a promissory note, and a receipt

•Find the cost of 6720 lbs. of coal @\$6.00 a ton.
U.S. History:

- Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
- Show the territorial growth of the United States. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

Orthography:

- What is meant by the following: alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology and syllabication.
- Give two rules for spelling words with final "e." Name two exceptions under each rule.
- Use the following correctly in a sentence: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise

Geography:

- Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
- Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
- Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.

Note: An Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) report, "Failing our Students, Failing America," recently noted that "college seniors know astoundingly little about America's history, political thought, and international relations," and although Harvard seniors scored the highest in the category of American civic knowledge, their average score was 69.9 percent, a D+.



CRAZY FOR U

by Malcolm A. Kline



When a veteran journalist tries to help his son apply to college and then writes up the experience, you get a riveting memoir that is also a much needed exposé. “Admissions stories are a staple of the news business, of course,”

Andrew Ferguson writes in *Crazy U: One Dad’s Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College*. “They have been since the first baby boomer editor realized he couldn’t afford the tuition of the school his kid desperately wanted to go to, and he dispatched his reporters to find out why the hell not.”

What makes *Crazy U* different is that Ferguson dispatched himself to do the research. Along the way, he provides some welcome translations of the jargon education professionals like to use. For example, Ferguson notes that, “Admissions committees at selective schools call their method ‘holistic,’ which involves weighing a dozen intangible factors along with hard data like SAT scores and grade-point averages in deciding whom to admit.” At the end of that same paragraph he claims, “A more practical and accurate term for holistic admissions is ‘completely subjective.’”

Ferguson also found that “There’s lots of useful information about ‘outcomes’ at American colleges and universities. But it’s not public.”

“It comes from the National Survey of Student Engagement (the acronym is pronounced ‘Nessie,’ like the monster in Scotland.” If this data were publicized, Ferguson predicts, “The effect might be revolutionary. Which is probably why all but a handful of college presidents have decided to keep the NSSE results secret.”

One rather surprising trend that Ferguson unearthed was the calculation among admissions insiders that so-called legacy admissions make up between one-quarter to one-third of college acceptances. These are the children of alumni, particularly prominent ones, selected by schools in a practice that many might think went out with *Gone With The Wind*.

Ironically, Ferguson describes the admissions office at Harvard, which does admit to the above percentage, as “housed in an old forbidding brick pile fronted by a stone porch and thick columns—what Tara would look like if it had been built by Calvinists.”

Supplementing the hard facts, Ferguson shares with us his efforts to counsel his son, self-deprecating though they may be, as when he advises the lad on how to solicit recommendations from teachers and other public school officials.

“It’s a little too late for sucking up,” the boy tells his father.

“It’s never too late for sucking up,” the dad says.

Additionally, Ferguson remembers his thoughts when dropping his progeny off to take the SAT. “Waiting at the doors, they all looked slightly lost, as if the combination of early-morning sleepiness and the significance of what they were about to do had settled around them like a fog,” Ferguson writes. “I learned later the real reason they were disoriented was that they had been told they couldn’t bring their cell phones into the building—none of them had gone four hours without sending a text message since middle school.”

Of the SAT, Ferguson observes, “That something so dull could have an effect so pyrotechnical is hard to credit.”

“It’s as if the Trojan War had been fought over Bette Midler.”

To show solidarity with his offspring, Ferguson took the SAT at home. “The math score,” Ferguson remembers, “I’m not giving my math score.”

“It was low enough to take your breath away, however—a level somewhere below ‘lobotomy patient’ but above ‘Phillies fan.’”

Of one of the “college nights” he attended in a hotel ballroom/basement, Ferguson observes, “It’s a strange

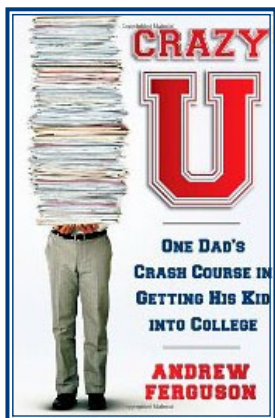
setting for a higher-education event, but again it's a mix of the high and the low, as if Donald Trump had decided to sponsor a chamber music festival."

Full disclosure, one of Ferguson's sources on why college costs so much is also one of Accuracy in Academia's favorite subjects, and the speaker at AIA's last author's night: As Ferguson accurately describes him, "Richard Vedder, distinguished professor of economics at Ohio University, who's studied college tuition so long, so thoroughly, and so honestly that college administrators hate him."



"This is my simple, one-sentence answer to why colleges keep raising their tuition: because they can," Vedder told Ferguson. "I mean, who's going to stop them? Parents? The government? There's nothing stopping them — literally nothing."

Andrew Ferguson will be the featured speaker at the next Accuracy in Academia author's night on October 26, 2011 from 6-8 PM. Go to www.academia.org for further details.



exemption year after year. Three states—Alaska, Ohio, and Arizona—have applied and have been granted waivers in consecutive years in 2 out of the 4 years that this has been tracked. The initial list of one portion of NCLB, regarding Indian reservation schools, waived 91 school districts in 17 states from having to comply with those regulations.

This year marks the ten-year anniversary of the passage of (NCLB) championed by then-President George W. Bush, which sought to establish baseline federal standards that state and local school districts need to meet in order to receive federal funding. Arguing that NCLB has failed to meet its lofty expectations, President Obama proposed his own plan, the "Race to the Top" program, much to the same effect. Both education policies rely on state and local school districts to tailor their goals and standards to those set in Washington, D.C., and have similarly ballooning costs, vague curriculum, and almost astronomical funding.

To be fair, thus far President Obama's program is much less expensive than NCLB ever was. The cost of NCLB, in the year 2010, according to the New American Foundation, came to about \$22 billion. From the year 2005 until 2010, the total cost of NCLB amounts to about \$130,652,000. Sadly, this isn't all the NCLB costs because these are "selected programs" and non-inclusive of all NCLB costs. As for Race to the Top, phase 1 (year 2010) cost up to \$4 billion.

Spencer Irvine is a research assistant at Accuracy in Academia.

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AIM Special Report



Headlines and Breadcrumbs:
Reaganomics and Obamanomics
in the Media and in Reality

AIM SPECIAL REPORT

“In our study of stories available online from The Washington Post and The New York Times, we found that during President Reagan’s first two years in office, the stories on “Reaganomics” were 13 percent favorable in the Post and 17 percent positive in the Times. The coverage of “Obamanomics” during President Obama’s first two years in office was nearly exactly the reverse with the treatment of his economic policies being overwhelmingly positive.”

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