

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

CAMPUS REPORT

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CATHOLIC SCHOLARS BLAST GOP

By: Malcolm A. Kline

Nevertheless, while their paper trail on matters political is voluminous, their output on matters of faith is a bit less so.

Forty-four scholars signed onto an open letter critical of former U. S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) and former U. S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) but a look at the signatories raises more questions about them than about the presidential candidates.

The letter states:

“We challenge our fellow Catholics Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum to stop perpetuating ugly racial stereotypes on the campaign trail. Mr. Gingrich has frequently attacked President Obama as a ‘food stamp president’ and claimed that African Americans are content to collect welfare benefits rather than pursue employment. Campaigning in Iowa, Mr. Santorum remarked: ‘I don’t want to make black people’s lives better by giving them somebody else’s money.’”

“These college professors made a connection that Gingrich didn’t, between African Americans and food stamps,” the Cardinal Newman Society notes. “And the accusation that Santorum said, ‘I don’t want to make black people’s lives better by giving them somebody else’s money’ is also unproven. Check the video.”

Actually, more than one-quarter of those who signed the letter (14) represent groups with a Catholic imprimatur that focus on issues not normally associated with doctrinal Catholicism—welfare, immigration and taxes. These groups include Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good.

Of this, and similar groups, Accuracy in Media’s Cliff Kincaid recently noted that “These groups, including Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, are designed to give the impression that Catholics are less concerned about issues like stopping abortion and protecting the sanctity of traditional marriage than passing government health care.”

The 30 academics who joined them do indeed come from the theology departments of well-known Catholic colleges and universities. Nevertheless, while their paper trail on matters political is voluminous, their output on matters of faith is a bit less so.

Specifically, a search of the more than two-dozen theologians turns up only two who have condemned abortion implicitly. For example, in a 2010 interview, Steven Schneck, director of the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at The Catholic University of America, told the Catholic News Agency “that it was ‘gratifying’ to see individual Tea Party representatives oppose

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



March 2012

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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Dear Reader,

We discovered while assembling this report that it is relatively easy to round up scores of Catholic scholars to weigh in on issues that seem to be well outside the Mother Church's purview, such as raising the debt ceiling. When the Church is under attack, though, these public intellectuals are much harder to find.

Contrast the 44 academics from 15 Catholic colleges and universities with the four university presidents who chose to take a stand against regulations from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would force Catholic charities to provide birth control pills and even abortifacents.

"On August 1, 2011 HHS published an interim final rule requiring most health insurance plans to cover, at no added cost to subscribers, sterilization procedures and prescription contraceptives, including pills that act after fertilization to induce abortions," John Garvey, president of Catholic University, told the U. S. House Government Reform Committee on February 16, 2012. "On January 20, 2012 HHS announced its intention to make the rule final."

"The final rule includes an exemption for churches and religious orders. The exemption does not cover colleges and universities (like The Catholic University of America), religiously affiliated hospitals and health care systems, or religious social services organizations (like Catholic Charities). To be exempt, institutions must exist for the purpose of inculcating religious values. They must also employ and serve "primarily persons who share the religious tenets of the organization."² The final rule would thus force a Catholic hospital or soup kitchen, if it wanted an exemption, to ask not 'Are you sick (or hungry)?' but 'Are you Catholic?'³

Garvey, a layman, deserves great credit for taking on the Obama Administration on this issue. Few others have. Thus far, from what we have been able to determine, the honor role is exclusively limited to Catholic University, Ave Maria, Belmont Abbey and Thomas Aquinas College.

Here in our office we are perpetually engaged in not only the Paper Chase but also the People Chase. We track down these academics and find out what they are up to so that you don't have to. This is work we could not pursue if it weren't for you—our faithful supporters.

All the best,

Mal Kline
Executive director.

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abortion ‘even though libertarianism theoretically is suspicious of government promoting moral or religious values.’”

In 2002, **Rev. John F. Kavanaugh S.J.**, Professor of Philosophy at St. Louis University, wrote “One thing the Democrats really stand for, however, is abortion—abortion on demand, abortion without restraint, abortion paid for by all of us, abortion for the poor of the earth. I am not a one-issue voter, but they have become a one-issue party.”

Schneck and Father Kavanaugh’s co-signers have not issued anywhere near such clarion denunciations of the practice of abortion. For instance, **Rev. David Hollenbach, S.J.**, who led a quintet of signatures from Boston College, has credited the Clinton Administration, somewhat inaccurately, with reducing the number of abortions: He failed to take note of state restrictions on the operation put in place during the Clinton years.

Also, as we have noted, Hollenbach questioned the pro-life credentials of Condoleeza Rice, a speaker at BC, while passing on those of U. S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., another guest lecturer with a solidly pro-choice voting record in Congress.

Like Hollenbach, the other signers are distinctly left-leaning. **Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J.**, a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University, to name one, thinks that the U.S. Catholic Bishops, who have issued pastoral letters calling for increased welfare spending and nuclear disarmament, are too right wing. Not too surprisingly, Father Reese is “go-to Catholic” for much of the so-called mainstream media: He writes regularly for the Washington Post.

Then there is the last lady on the list—Nancy Dallavalle, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Fairfield University. On **Rate My Professors.com**, one of her students describes her as a Christian feminist. Another gives an idea of what this means.

“I lost points on my paper for referring to god as ‘He,’” the reviewer remembered. “The reason: ‘I won’t have any sexism in my class.’”

Catholic Academics Blast GOP

The signatories are as follows:

Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, Associate Professor of Theology, Marquette University. From rate my professors.com: “He is a great lecturer and is not what you would expect of a Catholic Priest!” and “For one of our classes, we got to play monopoly with the concepts of class lecture. Can you say fun? :)”

Rev. Anthony J. Pogorelc, M.Div., Ph.D., The Catholic University of America, Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies. From university home page: “His specialization is the sociology of religion; his research focus is social movements and professional ministers.”



Rev. David
Hollenbach S.J.

Rev. David Hollenbach, S.J., University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College (see text)

Rev. John F. Kavanaugh S.J., Professor of Philosophy, St. Louis University (see text)

Rev. Jim Keenan, S.J., Founders Professor in Theology, Boston College, *A History of Catholic Moral Theology in the Twentieth Century: From Confessing Sins to Liberating Consciences*. (Continuum, 2010).

Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Senior Fellow, Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University (see text)

Steven Schneck, Director, Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, The Catholic University of America (See text)

Sister Mary Ann Hinsdale, Assoc. Prof. of Theology, Boston College. From university page: “Hinsdale’s specializations are ecclesiology, Christology, theological anthropology, and feminist theologies.”

M. Shawn Copeland, Associate Professor of Theology, Boston College. From U. S. Catholic web site: “Copeland is one of today’s leading black theologians and in her most recent research has focused on the exploitation of black women and the lessons from their experiences for discipleship today.”

Todd Whitmore, Associate Professor, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame. From university page: “Whitmore’s areas of interest include Catholic social teaching and social ethics.”

Terrence W. Tilley, Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., Professor of Catholic Theology, Chair, Theology Department, Fordham University, Bronx, NY. From his website—Some of the mottos which guide Dr. Tilley’s work: “Theology is a team sport.” “Always particularize (in the face of universal claims).” “Always historicize (in the face of absolute claims).” “Always pluralize (in the face of dichotomous claims).” “All religion is popular.” “All theology is local.”

Michael E. Lee, Associate Professor, Theology Department, Fordham University, Bronx, NY. From his website—**Research Interests:** Christology, soteriology, Christian spirituality, Latin American theology (particularly liberation theologies), and U.S. Latino/a theology.”

Paul Lakeland, Aloysius P. Kelley S.J. Professor of Catholic Studies, Director, Center for Catholic Studies Fairfield University. From RMP: “Okay, so Dr. Lakeland is pretty radical/liberal, but at the same time he leaves things open to a different perspective” and “nice man...be careful of his theology!”

Lisa Sowle Cahill, Monan Professor of Theology, Boston College. From her website—“Research Interests: History of Christian ethics; New Testament and ethics; Catholic social ethics; feminist theology and sex and gender ethics; bioethics; ethics of war and peace.

Tobias Winright, Associate Professor of Theological Ethics, Saint Louis University. From his website: “While I teach and write in the area of fundamental moral theology, most of my courses and publications theologically address social questions such as war and peace, environmental ethics, economic justice, and issues in criminal justice.”

Christopher Pramuk, Assistant Professor of Theology, Xavier University, Cincinnati. From RMP: “He did not push religion on us, but rather allowed us to have our own thoughts and he elaborated off of that,” and “It’s rare you’ll meet a theology professor who’s liberal enough to really advocate explorations in thinking and faith.” **Articles: Peer-Reviewed Journals:** “‘The Street is for Celebration’: Racial Consciousness and the Music of the Inner City.” (under review).

John Sniegocki, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Xavier University, Cincinnati. *Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Globalization: The Quest for Alternatives*, by John Sniegocki

Kathleen Maas Weigert, Carolyn Farrell, BVM Professor of Women and Leadership, Loyola University, Chicago. From university home page: “She is the co-designer of Notre Dame’s ‘Concentration in Peace Studies.’”

Daniel K. Finn, Professor of Theology and Economics, St. John’s University, Minnesota, Recent Articles/Chapters: “Libertarian Heresy: The Fundamentalism of Free-market Theology,” *Commonweal*, September 26, 2008.

Gerald J. Beyer, Associate Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia. RMP: “this guy gets off on failing people. expects you to know everything about war and peace, and if you dont agree with him he will fail you, or embarrass you in front of the class.”



Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Associate Professor of Theology, Faculty Director, Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice, Fordham University, Bronx, NY. *Monopoly on Salvation? A Feminist Response to Religious Pluralism* (Continuum, 2005).

John Inglis, Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Dayton. From RMP: “Despite what some say, he is very smart. And yes, he is open about his previous drug use, but that only makes him more endearing” and “Weird guy... talks about drugs a lot, and also doesn’t teach the stuff very well.”

Anthony B. Smith, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Dayton, also signed onto a letter urging the Speaker of the House to “Listen to the Catholic Church, not the TEA party,” in a vote on the debt ceiling.

David O’Brien, University Professor of Faith and Culture, University of Dayton—“We need—the world needs—Christian witnesses and liberation theologians, but we also need liberation lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers, technicians and entrepreneurs.” (October 14, 2011 speech at university).

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William L. Portier, Mary Ann Spearin Chair of Catholic Theology, University of Dayton, also signed onto “A Catholic Call to Abolish the death penalty,” but we could find no “Catholic Call to abolish abortion” that he affixed his John Hancock to.

Alex Mikulich, Research Fellow, Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University, New Orleans. From university page: “an anti-racist Roman Catholic social ethicist, activist, and scholar working to address white moral complicity and racism in the Roman Catholic Church and society.”

Kristin Heyer, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Santa Clara University. From university page: “Her research focuses on the ethics of immigration, Catholic political engagement, moral agency and Christian social ethics.”

Vincent Miller, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Dayton. He is author of *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture* (New York: Continuum, 2003).

Nancy Dallavalle, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Fairfield University. (See text.)



Catholic Groups Blast GOP

Representatives from the following groups signed onto the letter from Catholic scholars critical of Republican presidential candidates Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich. The information on the groups comes from the organizations’ own websites.

- Leadership Conference of Women Religious—“Organization to further the standings of Catholic *women* in *religious* groups.”
- UNITE HERE—“UNITE HERE represents workers throughout the U.S. and Canada who work in the hotel, gaming, food service, manufacturing, textile, distribution, laundry, and airport industries.” From union’s own web site.
- Pax Christi USA— “ strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence.”
- Pax Christi International—see above
- Center of Concern—“During the 1980’s, the Center moved from a primary focus on global institutions to participation in social movements - the peace movement, the women’s movement, the labor movement.”
- NETWORK—“*a Catholic* leader in the global movement for *justice* and peace—educates, organizes and *lobbies* for economic and *social* transformation.”— From group web site
- Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good—see text
- Catholics United—“a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting the message of justice and the common good found at the heart of the Catholic Social Tradition. We accomplish this mission through online advocacy and educational activities.”

SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert



LONG-EARED SCHOLAR?



If you think it's about time for your dog to spend his/her idle hours pursuing more constructive activities than drooling on your couch or chasing squirrels, here's a thought, especially if you reside in Texas.

That's where a basset hound named Molly recently got her high school diploma, although it probably won't get her the job of her dreams, according to Time.com.

This dubious accomplishment became a reality when a Texas law to prevent discrimination against home-schooled students turned into a scheme to make a quick buck "off the backs of students looking for a shortcut to a diploma."

When the intrepid watchdogs at KTOU-Houston decided to dig into this operation, they paid \$300 to an online institution so the photographer's basset hound could take the course.

The curriculum required some human help to determine "how many sides to a triangle," and "the President lives in the White House – True or False,?" but all in all, it was worth the effort. A few days later, the diploma arrived, along with an email message, "Dear Molly: You have truly reached a new milestone in your educational career – Sit back and enjoy your new life of being a high school graduate from Lincoln Academy."

While there's a humorous side to this story, it does reveal some flaws in the Texas law. "They're giving credit, and for a fee, printing out a diploma– that ought to be a definition of a diploma mill," said Tim Lambert of the Texas Home School Coalition, during an interview with KHOU.

Lambert, who helped draft the law that is now being abused, is one of many who are rightfully outraged that even non-canine recipients of these diplomas find they're not worth the paper they're printed on.

As for Molly, all that hard work may have earned her some momentary "bragging rights at the dog park," but word on the canine street is that basset hounds are still the laziest

dogs on the planet whose only claim to fame is howling at the moon.

◆◆◆◆ THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST?

Amid the constant drumbeat of doom about declining educational standards in the U.S. comes a story revealing that apparently things are not going so swimmingly at Oxford University either.

In fact, the Daily Telegraph mentioned the fact that "about a quarter of Freshers at Harvard are sent off to remedial English and math classes reveals that the blight of high schools not preparing students well is not unique to Britain."

The sad truth is that some Oxford students "are unable to spell words like 'erupt' and 'across' correctly and give answers that show a worrying degree of inaccuracy," according to the Daily Telegraph.

One English examiner noted that "We encountered a distinct sense of undeveloped critical thought, first year level" "information dumped but not tackled."

Another tutor who was marking Cold War history papers said: "The clotted residuum of A-level work was noticeable in a clutch of questions."

Examiners beamed with pride at some work, which was good enough to be in academic journals, but groused at larger numbers that were dull or worse.

Answers about Jane Austen, Dickens and Cicero tended toward the "dreadfully banal," and tutors complained that students had apparently memorized "old class essays and regurgitated them, regardless of the questions asked."

But it was the "startling" abuse of the English language that was most offensive and shocking. Tutors blamed spelling mistakes on an over-reliance on computer spell-checkers.

Since the world no longer allows students the luxury of time and contemplation involved in getting a liberal arts degree, "colleges have become trade schools by another name."

In fact, John Agresto, former president of St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM, noted today "barely 2 percent of B.A.s are awarded in History, and only 3.5 in English Literature, while nearly a third of undergraduate degrees are awarded in business, the health professions and education."

◆◆◆◆ COLLEGE IN NAME ONLY

Although he is sometimes referred to as "Britain's professor of crap," Prof. Les Ebdon, vice chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire, is a slam-dunk to obtain a high-

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profile government post, titled the “Director of the Office of Fair Access.”

Translated, this means that Ebdon will oversee the drive “to ensure that universities recruit more students from working class backgrounds.”

When reviewing his background and experience, is he really qualified to handle this job? Yes and yes. “Looking at some of the Mickey Mouse courses offered by his college, it is not hard to see why,” says the London Daily Mail.

“Take its two-year course in carnival arts, offering undergraduates the chance to ‘learn how to design and make carnival costumes and decorations.’ Or if steel drumming and feather-bikini stitching (and, presumably, riot control) are not to your taste, Prof Ebdon offers degrees in beauty spa management. Work experience ‘is gained from working in the college’s own salon’. It brings new resonance to the term ‘foundation’ course.

“There is a course in ‘breastfeeding counseling,’ a degree in football studies, and a post-grad course in sport tourism management. That one promises ‘academic theory in tourism, leisure and events.’

“The university also offers a course in ‘travel agency management.’ It encourages people already working in the travel business to come along for a couple of years to ‘fine-tune those personal qualities that will make you an excellent candidate for travel management positions.’ Is it really the duty of public money to get travel agents promoted?”

“Prof Ebdon, a leading critic of university fees, thinks so. Those whose taxes help fund the University of Bedfordshire and his salary (some £246,000 at last count) may disagree. His proposed berth at the Office for Fair Access pays £45,000 for just two days a week.”



WASHINGTON POST’S PRO-GAY PROMO

In another effort to promote the breakdown of the family, the Washington Post recently promoted the gay tolerance movement in the D.C. schools under the headline, “Redefining Family.”

Adorned with photos of lesbian moms, the piece by Michael Alison Chandler noted that “In the national push to prevent bullying, more elementary schools are introducing lessons about gay tolerance. Some lessons begin before the first day of kindergarten.”

As far as teacher Melissa Grant is concerned, children at this age, are open, and “they just kind of find it interesting,” which is why her presentation doesn’t value one type of “family” over another.

Now that the District of Columbia has joined San Francisco, Minneapolis and Cambridge, MA in welcoming alternative lifestyles, the school system’s numerous liaisons with the gay community even included a D. C. school contingent marching in last year’s gay pride parade.

Although the Post doesn’t say it, the demonization of religious traditions by the liberal press and the “highly publicized teen suicides tied to anti-gay bullying,” normally lead to a call for the introduction of “safety” education, according to Tim Graham of the Media Research Center.

On a national level, Eliza Byard, executive director of the New York-based Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, claims that since anti-gay slurs “are part of the hidden curriculum in schools from Day One,” it was necessary to launch a “No-Name-Calling Week campaign, eight years ago. It was initially aimed at Middle School students, but many of the 30,000 educators who downloaded the materials were from elementary schools.



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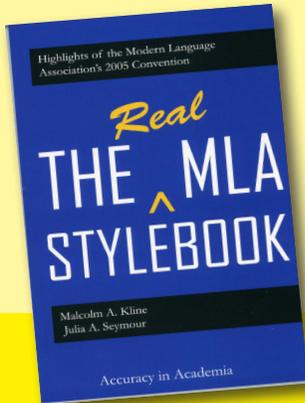
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The REAL MLA Stylebook

To show what college and university English Departments are really teaching, Accuracy in Academia compiled *The REAL MLA Stylebook*, filled with quotes from a recent convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA) where thousands of English professors gather to push their politically correct, radical agenda. Outsiders who attend this event expecting to learn more about Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare are in for a rude awakening when they discover that panels are more likely to focus on topics such as “Marxism and Globalization;” “What’s the Matter with Whiteness;” and “Queering Faulkner.”

This book is must-reading for anyone interested in learning more about the mindset of faculty members who are tasked with teaching the great works of the English language to our nation’s students.



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