“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” ~ Ronald Reagan June 12th, 1987

“…Tear down this wall.” These four words, spoken by President Reagan, showed the Soviet Union, along with the rest of the communist world, that this country was willing to meet with them, to welcome them back into the rest of the civilized world. Not exactly with open arms, but with the hope that someday we could all cohabitate this planet in peace.

The struggle against communism did not end with the fall of the USSR. It is alive and well in the hearts of other countries. China, Vietnam, Cuba, Laos, and North Korea are the five active communist states today. The victims of these regimes, along with countless others from the USSR and other communist states, have long suffered in silence. The true extent of the brutal governments’ violence towards their own people may never be known, but recent estimates place the total number of victims of communist regimes around the globe at 100 million.

Lee Edwards spoke at Accuracy in Academia’s Constitution Night Event about this very topic. Edwards, a Distinguished Fellow in Conservative Thought for the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at the Heritage Foundation, is the founder of the Victims of Communism Foundation, which created and runs the Victims of Communism Memorial.

On June 12th, 2007, the 20th anniversary of Reagan’s speech on the wall, the Victims of Communism Memorial...
Dear Reader,

At one of the many higher education conclaves I go to, one of the panelists—Michael Greenstone of MIT—vexed over the question of how to get more men on campus. “The elite schools are hard-pressed to reach 50-50,” he said.

It should be noted that Greenstone is a scholar who occasionally deviates from the academic zeitgeist. In 2008, for example, he signed onto a letter opposing a federal bailout of the finance industry.

Nevertheless, here are two suggestions for how to lure more men back to college:

1. Bring back R.O.T.C.; and
2. Ease up or eliminate Title IX regulations. Not the law, just the regulations that go with it.

“Two-thirds of the military’s officers come from the R.O.T.C. program,” I noted in a column on our website, academia.org, nine years ago. “The good news is that the proportion of schools offering R.O.T.C. is double what it was a decade ago.”

“The bad news is that this means that one-fifth of colleges were offering R.O.T.C. in 2003 compared to one-tenth in 1993.” The proportions are not much better now.

As for Title IX, passed in 1972, here’s what the law actually says: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal assistance.” The federal government’s Title IX regulations, that the Department of Education issued, starting in the late 1970s led colleges to eliminate popular men’s sports teams and add moribund women’s athletic franchises in order to prove gender neutrality in athletics. Since that time, the number of male athletes on campus decreased while the number of women on collegiate playing fields rose, reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a research arm of the U. S. Congress, show.

All the best,

Mal Kline,
Executive Director
was dedicated by President George W. Bush. This memorial is dedicated to victims of all communist regimes everywhere, not a single event but for all victims of such an oppressive ideology.

That’s not the only step that Dr. Edwards and the Victims of Communism Foundation are taking. Step Two of their plan is the creation of the online museum, Globalmuseumoncommunism.org. This website allows anyone across the globe to trace the history of communism, view a gallery of heroes that celebrates men and women who gave their lives in the pursuit of liberty, a hall of infamy presenting facts about the leaders of these regimes, and an interactive map of communism around the world.

Step Three is the planned Museum on Communism. The Victims of Communism Foundation is currently in the fundraising stage for the planned museum. Total costs are projected at 100 million dollars. The country of Hungary has started the drive with a donation of one million dollars. If one dollar is donated for each death attributed to communism, it would cover the entire cost of the museum.

The true extent of these brutal regimes may never see the light of day. The Black Book of Communism estimates that around 100 million people were victims of Communist governments, but the true number may never be known. Most countries don’t keep accurate records of their victims, and when records exist, the access to them is severely limited. Most are often lost or destroyed when a country starts making positive steps towards democratization. The Victims of Communism Memorial is dedicated to all victims, those known and unknown, past, present and future.

A student at Catholic University, Joe Daly is an intern at the American Journalism Center, a training program run jointly by Accuracy in Academia and its sister organization, Accuracy in Media.

The way communism is remembered in America today is important to Edwards. His foundation is creating what they call a “curriculum on communism.” The plan is to provide this information to public and private schools, make it available in homeschooling materials, so that children can be properly educated about the facts of communism.
READING THE CONSTITUTION

By Joe Daly

On September 17th, Peter Knickerbocker spoke to a crowd at Accuracy in Academia’s Constitution Night event. First thing on the agenda? Telling people to read the Constitution. Yes, the Constitution of the United States, signed in 1787, that created the basis for the entire country we know and love today.

Why is it so important to read a 226-year-old document? Peter Knickerbocker, along with his cohorts at Wereadtheconstitution.com, thinks that this is the single most important thing for an American citizen to do. For Knickerbocker, actually sitting down and reading the Constitution provides a host of benefits. If nothing else at least the reader gets a enjoyable history lesson. Reading, this document allows us to understand founding principles of limited government established by “We the People” of the United States.

But reading the Constitution alone is not enough. To truly take an active part in the political discussions at work or school, one must fully understand how to treat this document and in what context to read it in. Knickerbocker echoes the view of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia that the Constitution must be understood in the context of what the people during the time the Constitution was ratified understood the words in the document to mean. People need to know not just the words of the Constitution, but what they were written to protect.

For those who want to learn more about the Constitution, Knickerbocker explained that the first step should be to read the document. Wereadtheconstitution.org offers many “scripts” for anywhere from two people to a large group in order to make the reading easier. Public readings of the Constitution not only serve as a reminder of what created this country, but also create a situations where citizens can come discuss and learn about the foundations of our nation’s government.
SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert

COLLEGE SUED FOR STOPPING CONSTITUTION HANDOUT

After a series of confrontations between school officials and students at Modesto Junior College in California, school administrators decided to ban students from handing out copies of the Constitution on Constitution Day. Now, one of the students has filed a lawsuit, according to World Net Daily.

The incident occurred when a campus police officer informed student Robert Van Tuinen that he could not pass out any materials without first registering with the student development office,” according to The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). When Van Tuinen spoke with a school administrator, she told him that handing out literature was restricted to a free speech zone “in front of the student center, in that little cement area.”

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is now representing student Van Tuinen in his case against the school. FIRE President Greg Lukianoff said that school officials, who were caught on camera intervening, “were so unfamiliar with the basic principles of free speech that they prevented him from passing out the Constitution to his fellow students on Constitution Day.”

This situation was replicated at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, when “an officer told students they would have to go through his office to get permission, ‘any time you want to approach our students.’”

When an incredulous student asked: “We can’t hand out Constitutions?” The officer said: “That’s right.”

He then explained that in accordance with “proper protocol,” students had to submit a request and school officials would “check our calendar, make sure it doesn’t conflict with what we’re doing, then we’ll approve it or deny it.”

Meanwhile, during a similar situation at Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin, officials made sure students understood the rules by threatening one student that he would “go and get security to explain it in more detail.

THE OCCUPY AMERICA MOVEMENT

When was the last time you thought that entering a national park might be considered an act of civil disobedience?

During the recent government shutdown, Jamison Perez, a 24-year-old Colorado Mesa University student, decided he’d had it up to here with Washington putting “a stranglehold on our national treasures, so he crossed the man-made barrier” to the Colorado National Monument “as an act of defiance,” according to the College Fix.

Inspired by the one-man Monument Militia Chris Cox, college students from coast to coast discovered ways to show their love of country during the recent government shutdown. Michelle Malkin reported that even threats of fines and possible imprisonment didn’t deter groups such as the one which went to the Pearl Harbor Memorial to clean up trash and “mow for America.”

Meanwhile, Utah Governor Gary Herbert decided to ante up a total of $1.67 million in order to keep the state’s national sites open for up to 10 days. His actions earned high praise from Utah State University junior Andy Pierucci, who said “People are living their lives in fear. I have hope when I see people like Governor Herbert.”

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CAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES SAVE HIGHER ED?

The current brouhaha over the astronomical cost of college tuition plus the student loan debt overload has caused an outpouring of outrage from students and their families around the country. It has led eminent scholar and political commentator William Bennett to question the premise, “Is College Worth It?” in his latest book.

State universities are frequently mentioned as cost-effective alternatives to pricey private colleges and universities, but another possibility has not been discussed – that is, community colleges.

In a recent piece for The College Fix, Kevin Golembiewski offered some mighty strong reasons why community colleges could “play an
important role in addressing our student debt crisis.”

Golembiewski began his “higher education journey” at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida. Although he realizes the value of that experience, he admits that he felt like a failure during his time as a cash-strapped student, and was embarrassed when his friends at four-year schools asked where he studied.

He now understands the benefits of going to a community college. For example, the “average tuition is $3,130 compared to a whopping $8,660 at a public, in-state university,” while out-of-state school tuitions run over $20,000.

But there’s something even more important that no one talks about – and that is, “community colleges offer a quality education.”

Kevin recalls that “Every one of my classes was taught by a professor, not a graduate assistant. When I turned in an assignment, I received it back full of red ink, with personal comments about my work,” thanks to the class size of 20 to 30 students, which allowed for more personal attention.

More intriguing facts:

- 85 percent of community college profs have a master’s, doctorate or professional degree
- Community college profs aren’t under the same “publish or perish” pressure as their university peers

Clearly, community colleges have the potential to become a market force that could drive down the overall cost of higher education. Kevin, who went on to graduate from Holy Cross University and this year from Harvard Law School, foresees a time when tuitions at prestigious colleges and universities would be forced to compete with those of community colleges – but realizes that would also require an extensive marketing campaign to boost the community college image. He even suggested establishing a ranking procedure for “top community colleges that would be comparable to the annual U.S. News and World Report update of university rankings.”

DIVISIVE RELIGIOUS DORM DISPUTE

Considering the current trend of religious-themed dorms on our nation’s campuses, it’s unusual for a non-secular dorm to attract any special notice. But when a religious dorm recently opened on the campus of Troy University in Alabama, it even caught the attention of The New York Times.

“There are many clues that life at the newest residence hall on the campus of Troy University is not centered on parties and beer,” reporter Kim Severson explained to the Times audience, adding that the newly opened Newman Center freshman residence hall catered to students who enjoy spending evenings in “clergy-led discussions on the meaning of God and a few good-natured rounds of ‘Stump the Priest.’”

“It’s not about proselytizing, but about bringing a values-based opportunity to this campus,” according to Troy’s chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr., who cited a recent study showing that 70-75 percent of Troy students said that faith was very important in their lives.

However, Annie Laurie Gaylor, founder and president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF), not only regarded the new dorm as “too cozy,” but viewed the entire concept of religious-based dorms as a “very insidious” idea. In fact, on August 1st, the Foundation sent a letter to Troy University, in which FFRF attorney Andrew Seidel alleged that “the new dorm violated fair housing laws, and constitutional provisions,” by giving “unconstitutional” preference to religious vs. non-religious students.

While Nicholas Cervera, an attorney for the school, said that there were no requirements for living in the dorm, and that students could practice any faith they chose, including atheism, the Freedom from Religion Foundation’s staff attorney, Andrew Seidel, stated that the school could easily clear up any confusion by simply declaring the new housing space a secular dorm.

“Students who wish to live in the Newman Center are required to be ‘respectful of diversity,’ but the facility itself is not respectful of diversity,” said Seidel, adding that “its sole purpose is to create a space for devoutly religious, thereby excluding the nonreligious...
and religious students who are not devout enough.”

In their response to the FFRF letter, Troy University attorney Brian Boyle explained that the Newman Center’s 376-bed dormitory is available to all students, and is not designated specifically for students of any religious group. He added that any misunderstandings that may have occurred were the fault of media misreporting, according to the Troy Messenger.

The bottom line is that “while statements were made early on in talks about Troy’s Newman Center dorm regarding preferential placement to religious students, the university’s guidelines to live in the dorm are value-based, not faith-based.”

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POPN PROF’S MELTDOWN

To demonstrate that there’s no shortage of unusual characters in academia these days, one has to travel no further than Pasadena City College where the storied career of one Hugo Schwyzer, “gender studies professor and onetime darling of the feminist blogosphere,” ended with a resounding thud last month.

Cathy Young reported in Minding the Campus that Schwyzer’s formal background in medieval Scottish history always seemed to clash with his career, which involved teaching “gender studies, body image and pornography.”

Granted, he developed into quite the campus popstar due to his unique opinions, such as “white male privilege was a key factor in mass shootings,” and “in a rape culture, women are justified in viewing every man as a potential rapist.” Meanwhile, he “chastised middle-aged men for perpetuating insidious gender injustice by lusting after young women.”

The beginning of the end for the attractive, boyish looking mid-forties academic occurred early in 2013 when “he invited a number of adult performers to speak” during his “Navigating Pornography” class, according to the Pasadena Star News.

And Hugo’s downward spiral took a nose dive after he discussed his sordid past in an interview that was posted on a couple of high-profile feminist websites. Shortly afterward, one of the feminists demanded to know, “Why are you giving this animal a platform?”

Last month, after his trail of secret student relationships became public, the formerly tenured instructor (not professor) resigned his post.

Perhaps some of his former campus coterie will miss his larger-than-life presence, and long for the days of the “Slutwalks” he helped organize to protest that “a woman’s revealing dress is not an invitation to sexual assault.”

However, after multiple suicide attempts, the disgraced porn prof bowed out with the following sentiments: “I’m gravely disabled and cannot take care of myself and I cannot stay away from the Internet (he had a Weiner problem), so I’m going to turn my will and my life over to others.”

Regarding the prof’s demise, reporter Cathy Young asked: “Will Schwyzer’s rise and fall prompt some rethinking of campus gender politics? Unfortunately, within the academy itself, that’s about as likely as the establishment of a Hugo Schwyzer Scholarship in Women’s Studies. But for the rest of us, at least, his tale can be a cautionary one.”
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.