Football is everywhere in the news today. PBS recently released a documentary entitled “League of Denial” which took the NFL to task for its supposed attempts at covering up medical issues that NFL players were being afflicted with after their time in the league.

Dan Flynn, author of the book, The War on Football: Saving America’s Game, dissected the lawsuit and the controversies surrounding the game, in remarks given at Accuracy in Academia’s author’s night on November 6, 2013. Flynn previously served as executive director of AIA.

The player’s lawsuit against the NFL has been highly publicized this year, but for Flynn this was more of a ploy than a real cry for help. For many of the plaintiffs, “this is litigation lottery stuff,” he observed. Flynn noted that 10% of the players in the lawsuit never played a down in an NFL game. “You got brain damage from that cup of coffee in the NFL?,” he asked in the speech to Capitol Hill interns.

One of the major medical issues is CTE, or Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, also known as trauma or head trauma, which is degenerative brain disease that has been known to affect boxers, and is now being discovered in some retired football players. “A cause and effect relationship has not as yet been demonstrated between CTE and concussions or exposure to contact sports,” said Flynn. He went on to say that there has been no truly scientific study on the cause and effect of playing football, such as the study that linked tobacco use to cancer in the 1960s.

Conversely, a National Institutes of Health study found that “the speculation that repeated concussion or subconcussive impacts cause CTE remains unproven. The extent to which age-related changes, psychiatric or mental health illness, alcohol/drug use or coexisting dementing illnesses contribute to this process is largely unaccounted for in the published literature.”

So why is everyone blaming football? As noted before, “A League of Denial” placed most of the blame on the NFL.
Dear Reader,

Whatever Santa brings you, be grateful you’re not stuck in one of these courses at Princeton:

- In the Groove: Technology and Music
- Critics of American Society
- Dramaturgy Workshop: Hoodwinked
- The Environment Can Be Funny
- "Too Cute!" and the New Asiamania
- What is Vernacular Filmmaking?
- The Undead
- Literary and Cultural Theory: Performance and Performativity
- Dramaturgy Workshop: Hoodwinked
- Gender and Sexuality in Modern America
- History of Pseudoscience
- Topics in History of Sex and Gender: History of Sexuality
- Evolution and the Behavior of the Sexes
- Feminist Media Studies
- Queer Citizenship
- Contemporary Feminist Theory
- Culture & Reproduction in Modern America
- Seminar in American Politics: Gender and American Politics
- Women and Gender in Islamic Societies
- Sex in Ancient Judaism and Christianity
- Gender and Development in the Americas
- Perilous Desires: Witches, Saints

Merry Christmas everybody!

All the best,

Mal Kline,
Executive Director
However, Flynn had some problems with the documentary. “You go 72 minutes into League of Denial before you hear a single voice critical of the overall thesis.”

On the flip side, Flynn brought up a 2012 CDC study of 3,439 retired NFL players from the 1959 to the 1988 seasons. The study came up with some surprising statistics. “Players had a much lower overall rate of death compared to men in the general U.S. population of similar age and racial mix. On average, NFL players are actually living longer than the average American male. Out of the 3,439 players in the study, 334 were deceased. Based on estimates from the general population, we anticipated roughly 625 deaths.” Essentially NFL players have a longer life expectancy than the average male.

One of the big issues for Flynn is the difference between the NFL, and youth up to high school leagues. “There’s no scientific evidence that you’re going to have cognitive issues if you’re an average high school football player.” He cited a Mayo Clinic study of all the male students who played high school football in Rochester, Minn., plus a control group from 1946-1956 which showed there was “…no increased risk of dementia, PD, or ALS among the 438 football players compared with the 140 non–football-playing male classmates.” The study goes on to conclude “that high school students who played football from 1946 to 1956 did not have an increased risk of later developing dementia, PD, or ALS compared with non–football-playing high school males, despite poorer equipment and less regard for concussions compared with today and no rules prohibiting head-first tackling (spearing).”

What does the future look like for football? Football has always been an adaptive game. The forward pass, the helmet, even the ball itself, are all adaptations to events or ideas brought to the game, and Flynn does not think football is going anywhere. Youth football is too important for too many kids to be tossed aside based on some professional athletes being hurt. After all, the cheerleaders have a higher statistical likelihood of injury than the players on the field.

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.

If you would like to comment on this article, e-mail mal.kline@academia.org.
AMHERST STUDENTS SEEING RED

With all the leftist dialogue on college campuses these days, sometimes the only break from propaganda occurs when students speak out in favor of more balanced discourse.

But Amherst College is in a different league, according to Katrin Marquez in the College Fix. At this uber liberal school, a member of the senior class actually wrote a column titled “The Lack of Leftist Discourse” in the school paper, which stated that despite the overload of libs on campus, there was still not enough information from a leftist perspective to meet students’ needs.

The writer claimed that instead of restricting students’ thinking to the narrow framework of liberalism, there should be room to create a “left of liberal” category that would include “radicalism, Marxism,” and “structural or post-structural frameworks of thought.” Apparently, the senior and her fellow travelers believed that they were “completely justified in ignoring and devaluing the opinions” of conservatives on campus, as if they didn’t even exist.

In fact, this group recently launched a “much more radical alternative” to the student-run, left-of-center website, inspired by the “leftist reading collective” that met last year on a regular basis, and tried to “unionize Amherst food service and custodial workers.”

These days, the Amherst campus environment is one that welcomes the call for more Marxist and anti-capitalist course material while anyone who dares to mention an opposition to abortion can expect nothing but humiliation and ridicule.

THE END IS NEAR

As if humans weren’t on the receiving end of enough scorn from environmentalists these days, Dr. Guy McPherson, a U. of Arizona professor emeritus, recently claimed during a speech that humans are “about as special as bacteria,” adding that in 2040, the human species will die off, and “there will be little or no humans,” according to NationalReview.Online.

To ensure that his audience at the Colorado University Environmental Center “got the point,” the prof explained that “global climate change” was responsible for this impending “Armageddon,” and advised everyone to abandon their materialistic pursuits for a more Socratic lifestyle.
However, apparently Dr. McPherson does believe that some humans are more special than bacteria, because he ended his talk by telling the audience that “he was gifted, and hopes that others would spread his message.”

BOYHOOD IS NOT A MENTAL ILLNESS

In his new book, Back to Normal: Why Ordinary Childhood Behavior Is Mistaken for ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, and Autism Spectrum Disorder, clinical psychologist Enrico Gnaulati put forth a premise that certain childhood behavioral disorders are being misdiagnosed “frequently with life-long, disturbing consequences,” according to the Daily Caller.

However, in a sideline argument, he also called attention to a taboo question in educational circles, namely whether we “label boys as mentally unstable, behaviorally unmanageable, academically underachieving, in need of special education services, or displaying behavior warranting school suspension, just because their behavior deviates noticeably from that of the average girl.”

To buttress his point, he noted that “In a sense, girl behavior has become the standard by which we judge all kids.”

Citing numerous examples of how boys’ typical behavior such as wrestling, “rough games of tag, and good guy/bad guy games that involve ‘shooting,’ are dismissed and condemned by the majority of elementary school teachers who are primarily women, there is usually no alternative path they suggest that will release boys’ “natural aggression.”

Contrary to the current mindset that has established zero tolerance policies in our public schools, Gnaulati believes that most boys who play rough games “are not on a path to mass murder . . . but simply on a path to manhood.”

These stereotypes that unfairly label boys do not bode well for the future, says the author. Without changes to the rigid behavioral mandates that govern young boys’ lives, they will grow up depressed and confused, suppressing their natural tendencies for fear of being misjudged as having “criminal traits or medical problems that need to be treated.”

A generation of social experimentation that produces fearful, submissive adult males may even lead to a “cultural collapse,” reminiscent of Weimar Germany, according to the “unorthodox feminist” Camille Paglia, who noted in a recent speech that America’s predisposition with games and leisure resembles that of late Rome.

Referring to the “fanatical hordes lined up outside our borders whose cult of heroic masculinity still has tremendous force,” Paglia wondered if our focus on gender neutrality is prepared to defend itself against that growing challenge.”

COMMON CORE TEACHES SECOND GRADERS TO BE GOOD COMRADES

One of the latest critiques of the “Common Core” curriculum was offered by Townhall’s Michael Schaus, who noted that Common Core teaching materials are taking a page out of the Alinsky handbook and teaching second graders that “land owners are intrinsically evil, that business owners are inherently greedy, and that Saul Alinsky radicals are the saviors of the everyman.”

Fox News noted that one of the textbook companies that formulates teaching materials under Common Core State Standards is trying to teach seven and eight year olds “about economic fairness by praising unions, protests and labor leader Cesar Chavez, according to an education watchdog group.

Cesar Chavez is not only one of liberal education’s
current heroes, but was actually honored by Google on Easter Sunday, 2013 instead of Jesus.

After students finish reading a glowing biography of Chavez in a Common Core textbook, they are asked to evaluate the “scales of fairness” between wealthy landowners, and lowly [non-union] workers.

“Fairness and equality exist when the scales are balanced,” teachers are prompted to instruct the students. They are then supposed to ask the students whether both sides, as presented in the plan, are equal, providing a correct answer of “no” in the teachers’ guide.

The objective is for second graders to understand the concept that wealthy business owners who have more than the people who work for them is clearly “unfair.”

Michael Schaus admits that although he hasn’t “flipped through the comprehensive list of teaching materials tied to this disturbingly Leninist interpretation of economic ‘fairness,’” he can “make a safe assumption that the impressionable second grade economists will not be taught about the prosperity generated by business owner’s wealth, or the natural fairness of private ownership and free market.”

“Once again the Common Core standards illustrate a decidedly creepy intrusion of politics into education from the highest levels. While education has been largely consumed by leftist philosophies for some time, the danger of Common Core is that this absorption of political activism in the classroom will now be pushed from the Federal level. . . . A painfully intense infringement on local control will await any districts that decide to adopt the Fed’s centrally planned concept of ‘education.’”

LOST GENERATIONS OF COLLEGE GRADS

With the continued uncertainty about the job market for college grads these days, it’s time to focus on some hard numbers that shed some much-needed light on the facts. Thanks to Tom Toth and Robert Romano of Americans for Limited Government for this information.

Take the school loan situation, for example. These loans were traditionally viewed as an “investment” in one’s future that always paid off, in an economy where businesses were waiting in the wings to hire entry level grads, and offer them packages of salaries, bonuses & health insurance.

However, the situation has undergone a drastic change in today’s job market:

• A recent Rutgers University study based on graduates from 2006 to 2011, shows that “only 51% are employed full-time, and a whopping 11% are unemployed, a number way above the current 3.8% rate of all college grads over 25.”

• Meanwhile, “44% of recent graduates have jobs they would have qualified for before going to college and accumulating student debt,” according to the Federal Reserve Bank.

• “Within three years of leaving school, 14.7% of these loans default, and for every loan that defaults, at least two more borrowers become delinquent.” (Dept. of Education)

There’s more disturbing news from Robert Romano:

• “11.2 percent of 39 million borrowers with student loans are 90 days-plus delinquent on making payments on the nation’s $986 billion of student loan debt...That’s more than 4.4 million Americans joining a lost generation of opportunity — and counting.”

• Unfortunately, these loans underestimate the real figures, because most of them haven’t yet entered the repayment cycle. Once that happens, “the lost generation’s ranks may swell to about 8.7 million.

The trap many newly minted college graduate
borrowers find themselves in today is that they cannot afford to take entry level positions to obtain the skills necessary to get the position that would ultimately enable full repayment of college loans.

Yet, this sorry record of finding jobs for college-educated individuals has had no effect on the federal government’s student loan program.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that “the federal government will bestow $105 billion in new student loans to about 12 million student borrowers this year alone. Assuming it takes 5 years to complete the coursework on average, that’s about $44,000 of total debt per student.” Unlike other debts, student loan debt cannot be defaulted on, so it will follow these borrowers around for 25 years.

“Another $1.26 trillion of loans will be given through 2023 to about 26 million more Americans. Should the delinquency rate hold, another 5.8 million could be unable to find work upon completing college, adding to the population of the highly educated, under-employed. So, if nothing changes, the lost generation could total 14.5 million by 2023.”

THE LAST HURRAH

At the end of a winning football season, school teams across the country usually celebrate with the traditional pizza party, but Coach Randall Burbach, who led the Corbett Middle School in Corbett, Oregon, to victory this fall, knew that plain old pizza would not be memorable enough, according to FoxNews 12. He wanted to do something completely different – so he announced he was taking the team to Hooters.

To many team parents and the school athletic department, this was not welcome news, so it’s a good thing that Coach Burbach, an unpaid volunteer, stated beforehand that his idea was “worth losing his coaching job over,” because that’s exactly what happened.

“Though he admitted that Hooters wasn’t exactly a pizza parlor, Burbach said he wanted to take his team on a coming-of-age style trip to wrap up the season.”

Despite the outrage that greeted his decision, Hooters of America capitalized on the coach’s move by not only picking up the tab for the soiree, but also donating 1,000 to the Corbett Booster Club, “so the entire community could join in celebrating the team’s winning season.”

Oddly enough, one of the team mothers, Michelle Rolens, had no problem with her son going to Hooters. Saying she thought that the party had been “blown out of proportion, Rolens noted that “as the primary breadwinner in my house, I don’t find it offensive to go to Hooters and see a little skin.”
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.