

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

CAMPUS REPORT

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OBAMACARE HITS ACADEMIA, HARD

By Malcolm A. Kline

Be careful what you ask for, you might get it.

They were among the biggest cheerleaders for Obamacare: Now they are learning, the hard way, that the predictions of the law’s naysayers are largely coming true.

For example, Obamacare’s enthusiasts mostly dismissed the warnings of analysts who predicted skyrocketing health care costs once the law went into effect. Flash forward.

“Faculty leaders will push the Board of Trustees to add at least \$1 million to the University’s budget to cover more employee health care costs after two years of skyrocketing out-of-pocket payments,” Mary Ellen McIntire reported in the *GW Hatchet* on May 12, 2014. “The Faculty Senate blasted administrators for cutting about 10 percent in funding for the University’s health care benefits over the last four years.”

“Meanwhile, health care costs for employees rose nearly 25 percent since 2012.” The *GW Hatchet* is the student newspaper at George Washington University.

Meanwhile, too, teachers’ unions may have lustily cheered Obamacare’s passage but school districts are now struggling to comply with its mandates.

Many of the thousand or so waivers that the Obama Administration granted various entities to delay implementation of the law went to school districts. Now that they’ve run out, these districts are in full panic mode.

Mark Benigni, superintendent of the Meriden Public Schools in central Connecticut testified before Congress last year on the law’s impact. “Are we supposed to lay off full-time teachers so that we can provide insurance coverage to part-time employees?” Benigni asked the U. S. House of Representatives Education & the Workforce Committee. “If I had to cut five reading teachers to pay for benefits for substitute teachers, I’m not sure that would be best for our students.”

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



June 2014

Dear Reader,

The nature of our work leads us, more often than not, to accentuate the negative. We don't plan it that way. We report on what is happening in academia, which is not a happy place.

Nevertheless, lately there have been signs of hope and change, as a famous guy might say. For one thing, Harvard cancelled a satanic black mass when Catholics objected, perhaps the first time that university has ever shown any concern for those of us of the Catholic faith.

Moreover, as our correspondent Deborah Lambert notes, the University of South Carolina Upstate actually cancelled its women's studies program. Academia has only been adding such programs to its catalogue for each of the past three decades.

Against this backdrop, Accuracy in Academia is launching a series of online classes through ConservativeUniversity.org, beginning with a series on women's studies featuring:

- **Kate Obenshain** – Author/political pundit, frequent O'Reilly Factor guest;
- **Star Parker** – Founder/President, Center for Urban Renewal and Education & frequent guest on Sean Hannity's show on Fox News;
- **Karin Agness** – President, Network of enlightened Women (NeW);
- **Hadley Heath** – Director of Health Policy, Independent Women's Forum; and
- **Diana Furchtgott-Roth** – Director of Economic21, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

You can support this series by going to <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sex-lies-and-women-s-studies/x/4411299> and making a donation. Thank you for all the support you have given us. The way we look at it, we're working for you.

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



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CAMPUS REPORT

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“Benigni told ASBJ that he is sympathetic to the law’s intent of expanding health insurance coverage and improving the health of all Americans, particularly the poor,” Lawrence Hardy reported in the American School Board Journal. “But there is no denying the potential impact on his district.”

We Found The One Percent

Those of us in the 99 percent have had few encounters with the one percent of wealthy elites we keep hearing about. We did find a good place to start looking, though: the front office at your local state university.

The Chronicle of Higher Education shows us who belongs to the millionaires’ club—presidents of public colleges who made more than a million dollars this school year:



- E. Gordon Gee, Ohio State University, \$6,057,615

- R. Bowen Loftin, Texas A & M at College Station, \$1,6363,274



- Hamid A. Shirvani, North Dakota University, \$1,311,095

- Renu Khator, University of Houston main campus, \$1,266,000



- Sally K. Mason, University of Iowa, \$1,139,705

- Michael A. McRobbie, Indiana University, \$1,111,924



- Michael F. Adams, University of Georgia, \$1,074, 869

- V. Gordon Moulton, University of South Alabama, \$1,072,121



- Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, \$1,037,357

SQUEAKY CHALK

by Deborah Lambert



LIFE LESSONS

“There’s boring grad speeches, and then there’s the ones you actually pay attention to,” according to The New York Post, which explains the memorable tidbits that ESPN analyst Jay Bilas handed over during his commencement speech at Queens University of Charlotte:



“Don’t click on Internet porn at work,” he advised the graduates, adding that another suggestion to keep in mind was that “men should wear an undershirt underneath a suit and tie.”

“Don’t ask me why. Just do it. It just works,” he said.

Bilas also said that graduates should “take tons of pictures,” adding that, “In the future, you are really going to like the way that you look now. This is the smallest your butt will ever be, and you have the most hair now that you’ll ever have.”



NO PAIN, NO GAIN?

Let’s say an 18 year old female student was knocked off her bike by a car in a large city. What would she do while waiting for the ambulance to come?

Despite her injuries during a recent accident, at least one Beijing student named Wang Dafan didn’t waste a moment of time, according to YouTube.

She simply reached into her bag, “grabbed her electronic dictionary while still sprawled on the ground, and started memorizing 107 new words for her English lesson that afternoon.” “We couldn’t believe it when we got there,” said a police spokesman. “She was obviously in pain but she was using an electronic dictionary to memorize English words for her university lessons.” Wang, who has already received numerous academic honors, said: “I was in pain but the study kept my mind off feeling hurt. I think that we are all on this earth for such a short time that we owe it to our family, friends and each other to become the best that we can be and you can only do this if you are educated.” “She is currently a student at Capital Normal University in Beijing and hopes to continue her studies at Oxford or Cambridge in the future and plans for a career in academia.”



SCHOOL SPENDAHOLICS RUN DRY ON RESULTS

When it comes to the DC public schools, their records are tough to beat. Although they spend more per pupil than any other jurisdiction in the country (nearly \$30K), they unfortunately score dead last on standardized tests.

In fact, NationalReview.com reported that last year, 83 percent of eighth graders were not “proficient” in

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The AJC is a joint project of Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia

reading and 81 percent weren't "proficient" in math. And when D.C. students took the National Association of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests last year, they came in at the bottom of the heap, with only 17 percent of students taking the test rated as "proficient."

Using the Digest of Educational Statistics as a guide, DC public schools' annual expenditure per student is a little less, coming in at \$28,403. This reference also has a breakdown of how the money is allocated.

It shows that \$10,584 per student is spent on "instruction," which involves "activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students."

Another \$5487 goes for "capital outlays," which includes "the acquisition of land and buildings; building construction, remodeling," etc.

The sum of \$2,321 is spent on "operation and maintenance," which includes "salary, benefits, supplies, and contractual fees for supervision of operations and maintenance," etc. Then they spent \$2,124 on "interest on school debt."

Another \$1,613 is spent on "instructional staff," \$1,546 on "school administration," \$1,404 on "student transportation," \$1,208 on "student support," \$866 on "general administration," \$761 on "food services," \$450 on "other support services."

The saga continues.



WOMEN'S CENTER SHUTDOWN

The recently announced closing of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina Upstate, effective July 1, 2014, has sparked outrage and disappointment in some quarters, particularly among those who say they viewed the Center as a place that welcomed those with alternative lifestyles.

Eric Owens of *The Daily Caller* may have illuminated the backstory, saying that while school officials

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blamed efforts to cut spending for the decision, in a statement obtained by *Inside Higher Ed*, Chancellor Tom Moore said the center's closure was "particularly hard, given the importance of their programming and the unfortunate timing of this announcement."

According to Owens, Moore's reference to "unfortunate timing" goes back to the school's decision in March to host Butchy McTyke, an LGBT activist and performer, whose explicit goal is to teach students how to be lesbians, or at least be better lesbians.



It is believed that the decision to eliminate the Center came about after the cancellation of Butchy's recent play called "How to be a Lesbian in 10 Days or Less," which supporters called a humorous satire, while South Carolina legislators described it "a call to recruitment."

A write up for the Center says that "Past events include an international film series, a book club, and multiple academic conferences on topics ranging from leadership and negotiation skills to contemporary media culture and innovative theories of gender and sexuality."

TRANSLATION: students were shown European soft porn; read 50 Shades of Gray; and sat in on a wide variety of lectures given by militant feminists with chips on their shoulders who complained about the alleged gender-pay gap and demanded free birth control.

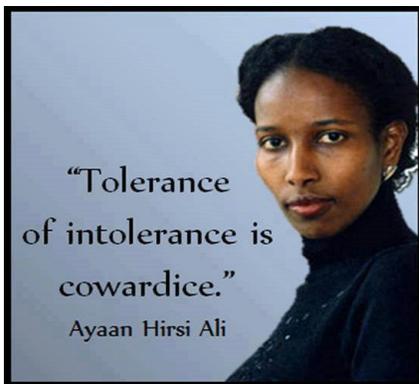
"Granted, this is a hypothetical translation," noted Owens, "but I'm probably not that far off."



BONFIRE OF THE HUMANITIES



This year's crop of college and university commencement speakers may be remembered more for who was banned than what was said. In a column titled "Bonfire of the Humanities," The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Henninger recounts some of the claims and counter-claims that have characterized the 2014 season.



The big one occurred in April when Brandeis University banned Somali feminist Ayaan Hirsi Ali from its commencement podium on the grounds that that "Ms. Hirsi Ali's record of anti-Islam statements" violates Brandeis's "core values."

That was followed in mid-May by a Smith College announcement that Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, would not be speaking at this year's commencement because an "online petition signed by some 480 offended Smithies said the IMF is associated with 'imperialistic and patriarchal systems that oppress and abuse women worldwide.'" Ms. Lagarde withdrew "to preserve the celebratory spirit"

of Smith's commencement.

But the *pièce de résistance* occurred when Haverford College forced commencement speaker Robert J. Birgeneau, the former chancellor of UC Berkeley, to withdraw his commencement gig, because they were upset that "in 2011 the Berkeley police used 'force' against Occupy protesters in Sproul Plaza. They said Mr. Birgeneau could speak at Haverford if he agreed to nine conditions, including his support for reparations for the victims of Berkeley's violence."

Mr. Birgeneau responded in writing by saying that «As a longtime civil rights activist and firm supporter of nonviolence, I do not respond to untruthful, violent verbal attacks.»

It wasn't always this way. And Henninger suggests that if the liberal administrators who run Smith and Haverford are scratching their heads these days, wondering what happened, he would sum it up by saying, "You're all conservatives now."

Years ago, when leftists first launched their rants, saying that "many conservative ideas were immoral and deserved to be suppressed," most liberals stood on the sidelines, watched the tantrums in silence and let it happen.

Henninger believes "This shunning and isolation of "conservative" teachers by their left-wing colleagues (with many liberals silent in acquiescence) weakened the foundational ideas of American universities—freedom of inquiry and the speech rights in the First Amendment.

Maybe the libs thought it would all work out somehow. But instead, it opened the door for "aggrieved professors and their students to concoct behavior, ideas and words" that resulted in "offensive books being banned and history texts rewritten to conform."

In short, the activist academic left "grabbed the liberals' good faith and wrecked it, allowing the nuttiest professors to dumb down courses and even whole disciplines into tendentious gibberish."

COLLEGE GRADUATES AWAKENED RUDELY

By Malcolm A. Kline

It's never pretty watching college graduates facing the cold, cruel world of the job market after being trained by people who have steadfastly avoided such a bracing encounter for most of their careers.

We can see this exercise played out on one of our local campuses—George Washington University. “While GW has poured millions of dollars into improving career services, the percentage of students employed within six months of graduation has hovered at about 63 percent over the past three years, according to a survey released last month,” Allison Kowalski reported in *The GW Hatchet* on May 12, 2014.

The efforts these students make to buck up each other's spirits range from the seriocomic to the poignant. You can see the entire range on display in a column by Emily Holland that appeared in that same issue of the *Hatchet* and was entitled “Awkward family dinner conversations and how to avoid them.”

For example, she urges humanities majors to respond to parents fearful of their career prospects by saying, “Actually, the unemployment rate for people who studied the humanities is comparable to those in other fields, so I'm not really at a loss. And not everyone studying a ‘dying field’ wants to be a teacher. I can basically do any job I want. Plus, studies show that employers like to hire students with a foundation in interdisciplinary work. Do you use your major in your job? No? OK. Can you pass the bread basket, please?”

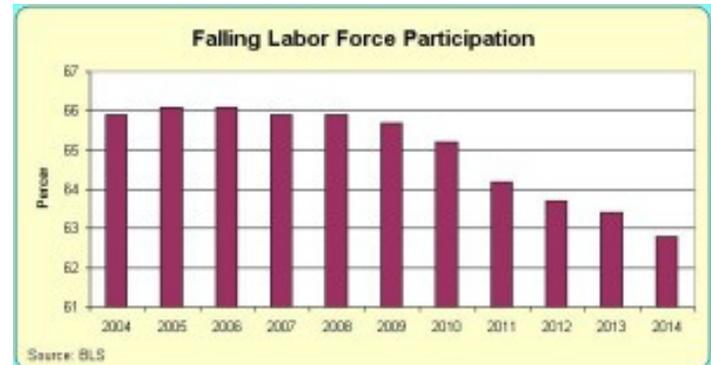
She urges budding political scientists to take a more pragmatic approach: “Almost 10,000 college students intern on Capitol Hill during the summer, so that isn't the best predictor for my future success. Also, I could go to law school, join a nonprofit or take a year off and give myself a little bit of a break. The possibilities are endless. Just because I majored in political science doesn't mean I'm pegged to be president.”

Malcolm A. Kline is the Executive Director of Accuracy in Academia.

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

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Beyond Rosy Jobs Forecasts



It's one thing when a right-wing think tank scores the economy under a Democratic president. It's quite another when a left-wing think tank gives it a failing grade.

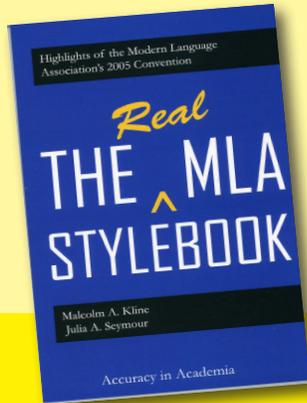
“The Great Recession officially ended in June 2009, nearly five years ago,” **Heidi Shierholz, Alyssa Davis and Will Kimball** write in *The Class of 2014: The Weak Economy Is Idling Too Many Young Graduates*, a report released Thursday by the Economic Policy Institute. “However, the labor market has made agonizingly slow progress toward a full recovery, and the slack that remains continues to be devastating for workers of all ages.”

“The U.S. labor market still has a deficit of more than 7 million jobs, and the unemployment rate has been at 6.6 percent or higher for five-and-a-half years. (In comparison, the *highest* unemployment rate in the early 2000s downturn was 6.3 percent, for one month in 2003.) The weak labor market has been, and continues to be, very tough on young workers: At 14.5 percent, the March 2014 unemployment rate of workers under age 25 was slightly over twice as high as the overall unemployment rate, 6.7 percent. Though the labor market is headed in the right direction, it is improving very slowly, and the job prospects for young high school and college graduates remain dim.” The EPI shares an office building with President Obama's favorite think tank—the Center for American Progress.

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.



You can order your copy of *The REAL MLA Stylebook* using the coupon below or order online at the AIM store: www.ShopAIM.org

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