

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

CAMPUS REPORT

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MLA REWRITES HISTORY

By Spencer Irvine

Applying MLA style to history can yield misinformation.

When English teachers encounter history, they tend to rewrite it. This tendency was on display in January, as thousands of English professors from around the world gathered at the Modern Language Association (MLA) convention in Vancouver, Canada.

Victims of Communism Ignored

The fall of communism and socialism have “robbed” the “post-Sovietized world,” Noemi Marin of Florida Atlantic University suggested at this year’s MLA. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the world has ignored the “traumatic coloniality” and the resulting “trauma had been going on for forty-five years before now,” Marin alleges. The new focus of the debate should be “between communist studies and postcolonial studies” and create “subjective constructivist ideas about identity,” she avers.

Herta Mueller, who won the 2009 Nobel Prize for literature and grew up in Romania under communist rule, offers a different perspective of life under Soviet rule. “My grandmother would work from dawn till dusk until she couldn’t stand up anymore.... And then there would be maybe more money and more land,” she recalls. “They did what they had to do. And then, after 1945, everything was gone. The land was taken by the collective farm. My mother was deported to the USSR. She spent five years in a labor camp, paying for the ‘collective guilt’ of Hitler’s deeds [Mueller’s family was German.] They called that internment ‘Aufbauarbeit,’ ‘reconstruction work.’”

“My grandfather never got used to those changes. He was a poor man now. He couldn’t go to the barber’s three times a week to get shaved, like he used to. And that was no small thing, mind you. That was his social life. He used to go there to meet the community, his peers. It was a ritual which he was forced to give up. What happened to him was socially degrading. And my grandfather, and that whole generation of grandfathers turned outcasts by the new regime, have never ever accepted socialism. Then my mother returned from the USSR in 1950, after five years in the labor camp, after she’d witnessed death and famine.”

Nevertheless, Marin claimed at the MLA confab that communism’s fall has led to the current, “active colonization

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



February 2015

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,

Last month, our chairman, Don Irvine, and our staff writer, Spencer Irvine, headed north to cover the Modern Language Association (MLA) convention in Vancouver, Canada.

We make this trek every year because the MLA is just about the largest professional association in academia in the world. Thousands of English professors from around the world go to these annual confabs in order to showcase their courses, which, as you can see by Spencer's article, border on the bizarre.

Moreover, most English departments make new hires here as well. Although many may view the MLA as an artifact of the past, they are very much in the moment academically, although being au courant in academe today does not necessarily mean you are really on top of things. Indeed, we've found the disconnect to reality to be most prevalent in what is now known as "The Humanities." After reading Spencer's article, you may agree.

You can see what we have reported from previous MLA meetings on our website—www.academia.org. We maintain the site and disseminate this newsletter in order to keep you apprised of what is happening in higher education, although the story is often not a pretty one.

Nevertheless, either through tuition or taxes, you are paying for it. We deliver our product to you for free.

Yet and still, were it not for the contributions of readers like you, for which we are most grateful, we could not function and serve you.

CAMPUS REPORT

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All the best,

Mal Kline,
Executive Director



of city life” in places like Romania. Perhaps Romanians prefer the so-called “active colonization” of urban life to the active starvation of communism. “Nicolae Ceausescu was born on January 26, 1918,” Biography.com notes of the last communist dictator of that country, who was frequently called “the last Stalinist.”

“He met future Romanian leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej in prison, and succeeded him after his death in 1965,” the biography site informs us. “He ruled Romania according to orthodox Communist principles, causing food shortages by forcing the export of most of the country’s agricultural products.”

“The resulting unrest led to the collapse of Ceausescu’s regime and his execution in 1989.”

Fog on the Border

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, U.S. and Mexico, signed by President Clinton encourages graphic posts of murders of Mexicans by cartels and corrupt officials, panelists on a panel another MLA session claimed. NAFTA Encourages Violence in Mexico, MLA Panel Alleges

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, U.S. and Mexico, signed by President Clinton encourages graphic posts of murders of Mexicans by cartels and corrupt officials, panelists on a panel at the Modern Language Association (MLA) meeting in Vancouver, Canada claimed.

Professor Hilda Chacon, Nazareth College of Rochester, said the graphic images of executed Mexican students and other civilians were due to the emergence of the Internet and cyberspace. This creation of “a complex, mirage of images of violence” has created “an exoticized good for

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violent consumption...[in]...post-NAFTA Mexico.”

Ignacio Corona of Ohio State University, said, “There is no Mexican modernity...only future guarantee[s]” of NAFTA and wealth. He said, “We have not had to wait to arrive at the NAFTA, neoliberalism or the narcoterrorism state.” He predicted that these “NAFTA marks” could bring revolution. Mexico is struggling today, he said, because the “revolution’s lack remains its promise.”

Actually, according to Amnesty International (AI), violence in Mexico predated both NAFTA and the Internet by quite a few years. “President Calderón’s government continued to ignore evidence of widespread human rights violations, such as arbitrary detentions, torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, committed by security and police forces,” AI reported in its 2013 human rights report on Mexico. “During his six-year presidency, which ended in December 2012, more than 60,000 people were killed and 150,000 displaced as a result of drug-related violence.”

“Drug cartels and other criminal gangs were responsible for the vast majority of killings and abductions, but often operated in collusion with public officials. The criminal justice system remained gravely flawed with 98% of all crimes going unpunished. Indigenous Peoples were at particular risk of unfair criminal justice proceedings. Migrants in transit were victims of attacks, including abduction, rape and people trafficking. Several journalists and human rights activists were killed, attacked or threatened. A protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists was established in law. Violence against women and girls was widespread. **Impunity for grave human rights violations committed during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s persisted.** The National Supreme Court (Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, SCJN) incorporated human rights obligations into groundbreaking rulings, including restrictions on military jurisdiction. The new government of President Enrique Peña Nieto signed a pact with other political parties, which included some human rights commitments, and made promises to combat continuing high levels of poverty.”

Professor Hilda Chacon, Nazareth College of Rochester,

SQUEAKY CHALK

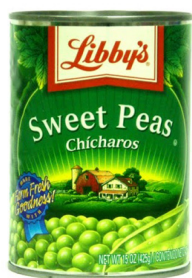
by Deborah Lambert



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WANTS INTRUDERS CANNED

A middle school principal recently put forth a novel idea for scaring off armed intruders. Priscilla Holley, principal of the W.F. Burns Middle School in Valley, Alabama, outside of Huntsville, suggested that students defend their own turf by throwing cans of food to ward off intruders. She even sent a note home to parents, asking them to instruct their children to bring eight-ounce cans of food to school.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THROW FOOD



"The procedure will be the same as we have done in the past with the addition of arming our students with a canned food item. We realize at first this may seem odd; however, it is a practice that would catch an intruder off-guard. The canned food item could stun the intruder or even knock him out until the

police arrive. The canned food item will give students a sense of empowerment to protect themselves and will make them feel secure in case an intruder enters their classroom."

In retrospect, the school could have used some from public relations support to better explain what they meant.

After the idea had prompted howls of outrage from parents, County School superintendent Kelli Hodge stepped in to explain that it was designed as part of a procedure in working with Auburn University's Department of Public Safety, according to ABC News."The major point of the training (which is called ALICE - Alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate) is to be able to get kids evacuated and not be sitting ducks hiding under desks," Hodge wrote in an email.

The idea is to provide students with a plan, to show that even when they are barricaded behind closed doors to avoid the shooter, there are still steps that may increase their safety.

For example, if the attacker breaks into the room. "Start gathering several items you can use to protect yourself. Every room has something you can use to distract and defend from the aggressors' attack."



POLITICAL CORRECTNESS ISN'T FUNNY

Back in the good old days, campus humor became a familiar entertainment medium that propelled offbeat, raunchy and/or knee-slapping humor into a thriving industry. However, Christopher White recently reported in *The College Fix* that the epidemic of political correctness has slammed that door shut, because many comedians refuse to play by the new rules. Case in point: Chris Rock recently explained that he stopped performing on college campuses because of the "free speech zones," "sensitivity

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training” and “speech police” that have seized control of campus culture these days.

Simply put, it’s dangerous to say the wrong thing on a college campus, because the very institutions that formerly championed freedom of speech have fallen under the yoke of political correctness. And as Chris Rock forcefully pointed out, they’re determined not to offend anybody, since today’s college kids are raised in a culture of “We’re not going to keep score in the game because we don’t want anyone to lose.” Plus, they absolutely ignore the topic of race. You can’t say “the black kid over there.” No, it’s “the guy with the red shoes.” You can’t even be offensive on your way to being inoffensive.

...This is not as much fun as it used to be.

Rock “further lamented the culture of social media and offensiveness, saying that if a comedian slips up even once, it’ll get blasted out on social media and that comic’s career might be ruined. ‘It’s scary,’ he said, ‘because the thing about comedians is that they’re the only ones who practice in front of a crowd... if you think you don’t have room to make mistakes, it’s going to lead to safer, gooier stand-up.’”



TOP TEN LIST OF MOST OUTRAGEOUS PROFESSORS

Gone are the days when college faculty members aspired to be respected and revered by a majority of students in their classes. Instead, today’s crop of professors who openly espouse left-wing views, proclaim them to students, regardless of the blowback. This results in their views becoming highly publicized by news sources on the right.

Take for example the “Wall of Shame: Top 10 Most Outrageously Biased Professors of 2014” published by The College Fix. Some of the award winners are listed below:

1. Susan Douglas, a communications professor at the University of Michigan, caused quite a stir late last year

when she began an oped by stating “I hate Republicans,” claiming that the GOP bears more guilt than the Dems for “the era of polarization.”

2. “Metropolitan State University Professor Charles Angeletti forced his students to recite a satirical Pledge of Allegiance that characterized America and Republicans as racist, homophobic, sexist and anti-poor.”



3. Kankakee Community College Adjunct Professor Stephanie Baran told attendees at a White Privilege Conference that she would be “down” with the idea of “kicking out capitalism,” describing herself as a “vulgar Marxist” because she desires “to see the entire dismantling of the system versus the other, softer, kinder, brutal Marxists.” The White Privilege Conference website says its purpose is to examine “challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world.”

5. Professor Fran Quigley, a clinical professor of law at the school’s Health and Human Rights Clinic at Indiana University’s School of Law, claimed that state Republican leaders who support “rock-bottom minimum wage for workers, massive deforestation without consequence, privatized infrastructure and virtually nonexistent public safety or government health care” will turn Indiana into Haiti.

6. UC Santa Barbara feminist studies professor Mireille Miller-Young apparently went ballistic when she came across a graphic anti-abortion display on campus. Leading a small group of students to chant “Take down the sign,” she and two of the students snatched up one of the pro-lifer’s displays and fled the scene.

7. “UC Santa Barbara instructor Otis Madison, who taught a black studies course called ‘The Obama Phenomenon,’ told Ted Cruz-supporting ‘teabaggers’ to ‘get the hell out of his classroom before he sent them home to their mother in a body bag,’” according to a student in the class.

9. A South Texas College professor was apparently caught on camera comparing the rise of the Nazis and the Tea Party and “how they politically came to power.” He later added that at some point people realized, “Oh, these Nazis are a bunch of nuts,” just like people today have realized “these tea party people are a bunch of nuts.” The student who took the video told *The Blaze* that the professor frequently trashes Christians and Republicans.

10. Professor Iris Outlaw, Director of Multicultural Student Programs at Notre Dame University, is currently teaching a “White Privilege Seminar” designed to help students acknowledge and understand their “white privilege,” develop a “personal transformation,” and find ways to “disrupt ... oppression.”



UVA REINSTATES PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY

The University of Virginia has reinstated Phi Kappa Psi, the fraternity accused of gang rape in the Rolling Stone’s misreported story. “We welcome Phi Kappa Psi, and we look forward to working with all fraternities and sororities in enhancing and promoting a safe environment for all,” UVA president Teresa Sullivan said in a statement.

“In the wake of the article’s publication online in November, the Phi Kappa Psi house was vandalized and the fraternity voluntarily suspended its charter at the university as police investigated the allegations. In December, the fraternity issued a statement denying the

claims described in Rolling Stone and noted that its own inquiry into the allegations revealed factual inaccuracies,” The Washington Post reported.

“We are pleased that the University and the Charlottesville Police Department have cleared our fraternity of any involvement in this case,” said Phi Psi president Stephen Scipione, a junior. “In today’s 24-hour news cycle, we all have a tendency to rush to judgment without having all of the facts in front of us. As a result, our fraternity was vandalized, our members ostracized based on false information.”

In a new contract between the UVA and its fraternities, one of the primary mandates calls for enhanced safety measures and focuses on reducing binge drinking. Phi Psi was not only the first fraternity to sign the new agreement, but has also taken part in a sexual assault awareness program.

The Washington Examiner’s Ashe Schow wrote that Police Captain Gary Pleasants said in an email that while there is “no substantive basis that the alleged incident occurred at THAT fraternity. . . we are still investigating and will release a statement once that investigation has been completed.”

Meanwhile, Rolling Stone still hasn’t fired anyone associated with this misreported story. In fact, the author Sabrina Rubin Erdely, who wrote the story for their November, 2014 issue, is still reporting on it.

said the graphic images of executed Mexican students and other civilians were due to the emergence of the Internet and cyberspace. This creation of “a complex, mirage of images of violence” has created “an exoticized good for violent consumption...[in]...post-NAFTA Mexico.”

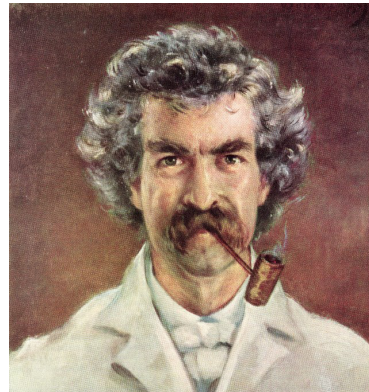
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made promises to combat continuing high levels of poverty. “

Mark Twain, Wild Colonial Boy?



At the MLA convention, Professor Molly Ball, an instructor at UC-Davis focusing in early American literature, culture and queer and feminist theory, argued that Mark Twain and other American writers looked down on the “disjointed and inarticulate” Hawaiian natives, as “perilously out of sync...caught between a traditional past and modern present.” Twain wrote in such a way, that “the Hawaiian kingdom is portrayed as disintegrating” and “functioning alternately as economic resource to be exploited” and “territory to be annexed,” Ball alleged.

Interestingly, Twain’s observations about Hawaii were so positive, contrary to Ball’s assertions, that they are used in travel brochures for the fiftieth state to this day. “No alien land in all the world has any deep strong charm for me but that one, no other land could so longingly and so beseechingly haunt me, sleeping and waking, through half a lifetime, as that one has done,” Twain wrote. “Other things leave me, but it abides; other things change, but it remains the same.”

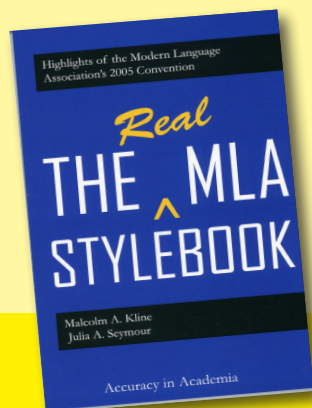
“For me the balmy airs are always blowing, its summer seas flashing in the sun; the pulsing of its surfbeat is in my ear; I can see its garlanded crags, its leaping cascades, its plummy palms drowsing by the shore, its remote summits floating like islands above the cloud wrack; I can feel the spirit of its wildland solitudes, I can hear the splash of its brooks; in my nostrils still lives the breath of flowers that perished twenty years ago.”



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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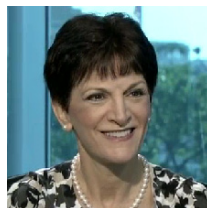
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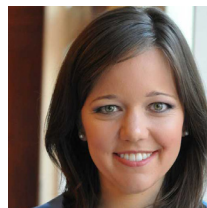
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