

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

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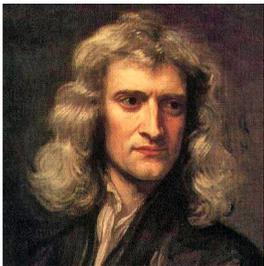
Forgotten History Remembered

By Malcolm A. Kline

Some history is worth repeating.

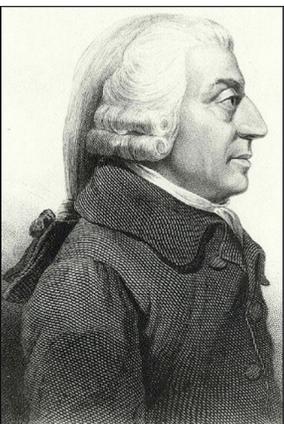


One of the nice things about going to a meeting of actual scholars, as opposed to academics who dominate most academic associations, is that you get to hear some forgotten history you might otherwise be unaware of.



“Sir Isaac Newton was named master of the mint,” economist George Gilder pointed out at the Philadelphia Society’s national meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina last month. “By the time he left office, gold was established as the basis for the value of the pound.”

“It was the climax of his career. His motto was, ‘One God, one man, one money.’” At least one contemporary of Sir Isaac’s might have agreed.



“Adam Smith was a great friend of both the American founding and of American founders personally, particularly Benjamin Franklin,” Ryan Hanley of Marquette University said at the Philadelphia Society’s national meeting. The Philadelphia Society was formed in 1964 in the wake of the Goldwater defeat.

Hanley is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Marquette. Moreover, “Adam Smith had a more robust understanding of happiness than Aristotle,” Hanley avers. “He divided it down to the economic, political and moral.” Indeed, the Scottish sage believed that “economic freedom led to human flourishing.”

Nevertheless, Hanley argues that “Smith goes well beyond material gains in defining flourishing and happiness.” For example, in his book, *Theories of Moral Sentiments*, Smith describes the “agreeable bands of love and affection.”

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



May 2016

Dear Reader,

We hit the road on business at least three times a year, and you are holding in your hand or viewing on your screen the results of our latest research trip. Once a year, we attend the Modern Language Association (MLA) annual convention.

We gave you our report on that in two issues of *Campus Report* this year. The other two excursions we make are to the two Philadelphia Society meetings held annually—one national and one regional. The MLA, of course, is the premier association of English professors and teachers of the various “studies” that predominate in academe.

The Philadelphia Society, which would never be mistaken for the MLA, is a gathering of conservative intellectuals formed in 1964 in the wake of the Goldwater defeat. Conservative intellectuals belong to this one. A look at the two groups by the numbers gives a good snapshot of the ideological imbalance in academia today.

Several thousand members belong to the MLA while several hundred are on the membership rolls of the Philadelphia Society. The MLA meeting features about 700 panels with at least three professors on each dais for a total of approximately 2,000 lecturers crammed into a four-day convention. Both Philadelphia Society meetings taken together run about three days and feature about 12 panels and speeches with about as many academics functioning as presenters.

Yet and still, the MLA meetings showcase trivia at best and, more frequently, outright disinformation. In stark contrast, the Philadelphia Society gatherings offer a refresher course—and a refreshing one it is—on history, politics, economics and philosophy. In this volume, we tried to give you the highlights and flavor of the last Society meeting.

Accurate reporting on academia is what we always endeavor to provide, for better or for worse. Unfortunately, it's usually the latter.

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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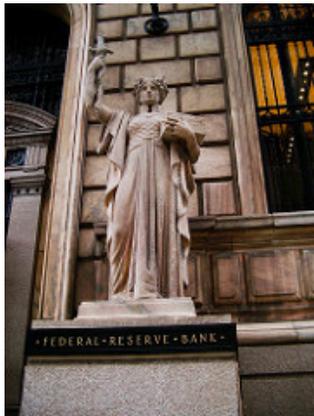
Yet and still, Smith was concerned with “the improvement in the living standards of the lower strands of people,” Hanley argues. Smith saw free markets as the best means of achieving this end as well.

Interestingly, Gordon Lloyd of the Ashbrook Center notes that most historians who do primary research agree that America



stumbled into the free market system that became its economy for a couple of hundred years. Lloyd attributes the trend to the forceful personality and emphasis on money of America’s

first Treasury secretary, Alexander Hamilton.



One of the scholars at the recent Philadelphia Society conclave of conservative intellectuals found an unexpected downside to tax cuts.

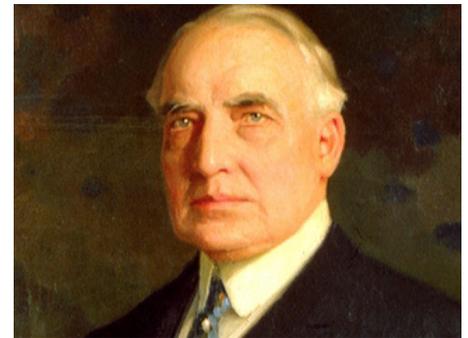
“Congress voted against Grover Cleveland’s tariff

cuts arguing that government will become bigger because of all the money coming into the Treasury,” Brian Domitrovic of Sam Houston State University said at the Society’s meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina last weekend. “When Alan Greenspan gave a speech that growth would lead the government to pay off the federal debt, the prospect that it would scared the Federal Reserve Board.”



Unfortunately, this is not a fate that is imminent. “Since 1913, every fiscal restraint has been removed step by step,” Harry Veryser of the University of Detroit Mercy pointed out at the Philadelphia Society meeting. “It took the Romans 200 years to do what these characters did,” Veryser observed. A fellowship of conservative intellectuals, the Philadelphia Society was formed in 1964 in the wake of the Goldwater defeat.

For one thing, Veryser noted, “war changes currencies.” For example, in the aftermath of World War I, “when Warren G. Harding ran against the Democrats, he ran against the ‘50-cent-dollar.’”



“The revisionism on Warren G. Harding starts next year,” said Amity Shlaes, the chair of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation, at the Philadelphia Society luncheon. Shlaes, who has also written critically of FDR, was the luncheon speaker at the Society’s annual meeting.

“Calvin Coolidge had four percent growth which candidates today only talk about as a goal,” Shlaes, the former Wall Street Journal reporter turned Coolidge biographer, said of the much-maligned former president.

Seventy-three percent was the top tax rate in 1923, Shlaes noted at the Philadelphia Society meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. “They got the top rate down to 25 percent and the number of millionaires (in the United States) jumped from 74 to 511.”





As you can see, Shlaes has a predilection for using the real numbers that academics avoid like the plague, but her research goes well beyond the numerical. She has extensively gone deep into the Coolidge record.

‘things of the spirit.’”

Indeed, Shlaes noted, one of the few speeches Coolidge gave was a Fourth of July address in Philadelphia (Coolidge was the only president born on that day). Nevertheless, he elected to give it the day after because in that particular year July 4 fell on a Sunday and Coolidge was in church.

“Coolidge liked the pocket veto (in which a bill is considered vetoed if the president doesn’t sign it within 10 days of Congress’s adjournment) because you don’t have to write a veto message and it cannot be overridden,” Shlaes pointed out. “Coolidge’s vetoes were overridden often.”

“He was a maestro of the pocket veto,” Shlaes averred. “He was the Isaac Stern of the pocket veto.” (By the way, Shlaes notes that Coolidge’s Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon, was even less of a chatterbox than his boss, although he shared Silent Cal’s outlook.)

Yet and still, although he devoted much time to “drafting tax plans to thwart the progressives,” Coolidge was hardly an economic determinist. “Coolidge believed that you push back the state in place of something and that something was spiritual fulfillment or fulfillment of the spirit,” according to Shlaes. “Coolidge called it

Nikolai Lenin came to power at about the same time Coolidge did, but with a diametrically different outlook. Moreover, while Coolidge “did not choose to run” for a second term, Lenin did not have much choice: he died in office, as it were. Yet and still, Lenin famously said that facts are stubborn things, and they are, no matter how much his fans in academia try to hide them.



“I grew up in Romania and have undertaken a study of the steps taken under communism,” Paul Dragos Aligica of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University said at the Philadelphia Society meeting. Aligica said. “There are two: Taking the markets out of the system; and 50-60 years later, trying to put the markets back in the system.”

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“They try to eliminate entire disciplines from the curriculum that have anything to do with the market and replace them with elements of the communist curricula with enforcement officers at every institution. Obviously you can take this system of measures and look around.”

In the United States, for instance, “Currently the public and academic view of markets is distorted,” Aligica said.

“I ran as a libertarian candidate for governor of North Carolina in 2008 against Bev Perdue and Pat McCrory,” Duke University professor Mike Munger said at the Charlotte meeting. “I didn’t cut into their totals but it did give me the opportunity to participate in the gubernatorial debates.

When the question of drought relief came up, Bev Purdue said, ‘when I shower, I have a bucket.’ If that’s what we’re looking at in economic education, why aren’t we doing better?”



“With the end of the Obama Administration, this country will have gone 16 consecutive years without a budget,” Harry Veryser of the University of Detroit Mercy pointed out.

In Vino Veritable Capitalism

“You could find the original capitalism in the monks who were given a plot of land and told to work it and did so with a vengeance. But they drank too much wine and became less productive. They started with a glass a day and worked their way up to a full bottle.”—David Walsh of Catholic University at the Philadelphia Society’s national meeting.

Adam Smith’s *Moral Sentiments*

“How selfish soever man may be supposed, there are evidently some principles in his nature, which interest him in the fortunes of others, and render their happiness necessary to him, though he derives nothing from it except the pleasure of seeing it. Of this kind is pity or compassion, the emotion which we feel for the misery of others, when we either see it, or are made to conceive it in a very lively manner. That we often derive sorrow from the sorrow of others, is a matter of fact too obvious to require any instances to prove it, for this sentiment, like all the other original passions of human nature, is by no means confined to the virtuous and humane, though they perhaps may feel it with the most exquisite sensibility.”—Adam Smith, *Theories of Moral Sentiments*.

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

SQUEAKY CHALK



By Deborah Lambert

ACADEMIC FREEDOM FIGHTER



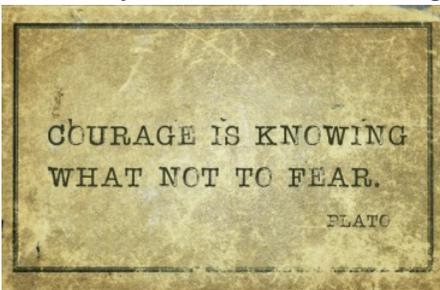
Dr. Everett Piper, president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, who summed up the state of higher education by noting that “This is not a daycare, it’s a university,” recently earned the 2016 Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick Award for Academic Freedom at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), which inspired some further observations on the current state of higher education, such as:

- The banner of tolerance has become a dark flag of tyranny almost overnight....and
- Education is in peril. Run by the State and its thought police, colleges across the land have become indoctrination camps, more so than campuses of open inquiry. Propaganda and power now reign where there used to be pursuit of truth.

In an interview with *The College Fix*, Dr. Piper offered more of his powerful insights:

College Fix: How can we convince students to be tough, to fight back against the “shut it down” mentality?

Dr. Piper: Ask them if they believe in intellectual liberty or if they’d rather have ideological fascism. Show



them that it’s fallacious for them to argue that they can’t tolerate my intolerance or that they hate those they find hateful. Let

the brokenness of their foreclosed worldview implode on itself...It is intellectual suicide to say that they know nothing can be known. They are sawing off the branch upon which they sit and we do them no favors by not trying to take away their saws.

What is your advice to students when dealing with a

fight for freedom of speech?

I would ask the rhetorical question: Do you believe in diversity of thought and are you open to contrary ideas? Do you believe that education should involve a robust debate where the best ideas are embraced and the worst ideas are discarded?

Is classical liberal education your goal or would you rather be subject to indoctrination that is controlled by those who happen to have the most power at a given time? Bottom line: What do you want from education: Power or principles? Veritas or vengeance? Information or ethics?

Can you expand on any experiences you may have had as a college administrator regarding free speech issues?

The interesting thing here is that being part of a Christian liberal arts college gives me much more freedom than any other academic community. When the judge of the debate is “truth” rather than politics, popularity, power or personalities, you can pursue ideas to their logical end. You can “play the game” because you can trust the referee.



YES, YOU CAN GET A COLLEGE TO CUT ITS TUITION PRICE

The acceptance of haggling over high priced items has recently grown, due to the success stories that have resulted from those yearning for everything from a new dishwasher to a luxury yacht.

But now comes word that negotiating over college tuition is not only becoming more commonplace, but actually expected by some schools, according to Lynn O’Shaughnessy, a higher education author/consultant, who suggests that students should “leverage offers of financial aid and discounts they’ve received from some colleges and universities to win a better deal from others.”

Because of skyrocketing college costs and falling enrollments, students and their families have realized that “sticker prices” aren’t set in stone, especially since “private nonprofit colleges that are heavily dependent on tuition have become more willing to cut deals to fill

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seats.” says Tom Green, associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

The figures tell the story, according to the Hechinger Report. While tuition costs have risen by 20 percent since 2008 to an average of \$32,000 per year, the price that students actually pay has risen by only 4.4 percent to an average of less than \$15,000 per year, according to the College Board.



THE F-WORD AND THE PUBLIC BODY

Life was so much easier when “body fat” could be addressed with some cans of Slim Fast and a gym membership.

On today’s politically correct and oh-so-serious college campuses, however, the term is not only viewed as a social justice issue, but an “emerging academic field” that focuses on “weightism,” “fat stigma,” the “weight based oppression” of fat people, and “fat studies” courses are popping up on college campuses across the country, according to The College Fix.

Case in point: Princeton University will be kicking off its fall 2016 semester with some dance courses, including one which focuses on fat people dancing, according to The Daily Caller. Titled “FAT: The F-Word and the Public Body,” the school explained that the course “investigates discourses and politics around the fat body from a performance studies perspective.”

The sample reading list for the course includes books such as *Fat Politics*, *Queering Fat Embodiment*, *Fat Talk Nation*, and *The Fat Studies Reader*.



PHILADELPHIA WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, was recently the site of this year’s White Privilege Conference. Instapundit’s Glenn Reynolds wasted no time in describing its contents like this: “If I were determined to keep minorities down forever, I couldn’t do better than pushing this agenda.”

Conference organizers were not content to focus on

“diversity.” They chose to identify their ideas as “deep diversity,” which utilizes “historical frameworks and social identity theory to explore the depth and breadth of diversity in [an] organization without tokenizing, trivializing, or further marginalizing any members of [the] organization.”

The Daily Caller pointed out that there was no doubt about the primary focus of the event after the first session, titled “No Freedom Unless We Call Out the Wizard Behind The Curtain: Critically Addressing the Corrosive Effects of Whiteness in Teacher Education and Professional Development.”

In fact, “teachers shouldn’t even bother teaching if they aren’t committed to promoting social justice in school.”

Special attention was given to the fact that certain traits that favored whites were emphasized to the detriment of non-white groups,” namely individual outcomes, discipline over relationships, and speaking proper English.

From the article:

The overriding message was that in training teachers, one should move away from all aspects of white privilege in education. This meant *touting the benefits of collective assessments* (measuring student learning at the class level instead of determining whether each student knows the material), as well as *eliminating all school grades entirely*.

The conference organizer said she freely employed these methods by allowing a student to complete an essay assignment as a graphic novel, and letting students “write in non-standard English or even foreign languages that she couldn’t understand.”

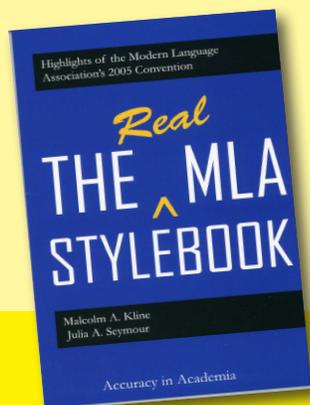
“If I don’t know [your language,] frankly, that’s my issue,” she said. “All I need to know is your thinking about it - I don’t really care how you do it.”

The Daily Caller summed up the overriding conference message as being that the current U.S. education system is “literally killing off non-white Americans.”

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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Mona Charen – Author and syndicated columnist



Karin Agness – President, Network of enlightened Women (NeW)



Star Parker – Founder/President, Center for Urban Renewal and Education, frequent guest on Sean Hannity



Diana Furchtgott-Roth – Director of Economic21, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research