Field trips to museums in Washington, D. C. are nothing new but the latest archive in our nation’s capital may break records set by other museums in the Smithsonian network.

The much-heralded National African-American Museum of Culture and History, part of the historic Smithsonian Institution and museums, does not live up to the historical accuracy it promises.

Here are some important historical figures who we looked for, but could not find any mention of in the nation’s newest museum:

1. George Washington Carver, a botanist and inventor

2. Thurgood Marshall, the first black Supreme Court justice

3. Clarence Thomas, who replaced Marshall as the lone black American on the Supreme Court

4. Matthew Henson, who explored the North Pole

5. Condoleezza Rice, except for a joint photo with Colin Powell, there is no mention of her accomplishments as a National Security Advisor and being the first black woman to hold that position

6. Colin Powell, whose sole appearance was in a joint photo with Condoleezza Rice and there was no

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December 2016

Dear Reader,

Sometimes you find some unparalleled insights in the most unexpected places. Recently at a thrift store I purchased the 46-year-old career memoir of an actress whose popularity peaked in the 1940s. In it I found an eerie warning for America today. In *A Life On Film* (1971), Mary Astor, probably most famous for her role in the film *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), wrote, “A country without a memory is neither a child nor an amnesiac, but neither is it a country.”

One could argue that the media and academia are the two greatest repositories of the national memory and are failing miserably in this mission. At the interstice of both, as our friends at the Modern Language Association (MLA) would say, is the Chronicle of Higher Education. In the November 18, 2016 issue, the Chronicle features an article entitled “What if Trump Really Does Shut Down the Dept. of Education.” For a tabloid page, Chronicle reporter Sarah Brown interviews sources and invites them to speculate on the question.

Here’s what’s missing. The U. S. Department of Education is 37 years old. Before President Carter created it, the United States managed to plug along without it, mostly with rising test scores and graduation rates for 203 years.

Along parallel lines, in our cover story, our staff writer Spencer Irvine shows us what’s missing in the newly minted, much-ballyhooed African-American museum here in our nation’s capital. Multitudes of students of virtually every age bracket will tour this archive. Students easily get “museumed-out” in the best of times. Yet and still, when there is a paucity of informational content, it will be much tougher to lure them away from Candy Crush saga.

We actually view preserving our history as part of our mission and would like to believe we succeed at it more often than not. In this endeavor, as in all we do, we are working for you, and are grateful for all the support you have given us.

*Merry Christmas!*

All the best,

Mal Kline,
Executive Director
mention of his accomplishments as the first black Secretary of State

7. Astronaut Guion Bluford, the first African-American in space

8. Tim Scott, the first African-American U.S. Senator in a Southern state since the Reconstruction

9. Edward Brooke, a black Republican who was the first U.S. Senator elected by popular vote

10. Thomas Sowell, a conservative intellectual

11. The Al Sharpton-Tawana Brawley controversy, where Brawley accused four white men of rape, which was discovered to be a false accusation

12. Joycelyn Elders, the first African-American U.S. Surgeon General

13. Josiah Henson, a slave-turned-free-man and speaker, who escaped to Canada and became a well-known public speaker against slavery

Moreover, we could not even find any mention of the following sports culture and pop culture icons in this cultural museum:

1. O.J. Simpson, the NFL star-turned-pop culture icon after the infamous car chase and trial acquittal

2. Willie Mays, a Baseball Hall of Fame outfielder and world champion

3. Lynn Swann, a Pro Football Hall of Fame and Super Bowl-winning wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers

4. Bo Jackson, a two-sport athlete in the NFL and MLB

5. Barry Sanders, a Pro Football Hall of Fame running back with the Detroit Lions

6. Magic Johnson, a Basketball Hall of Fame basketball player who became the face of the AIDS epidemic

7. Deion "Primetime" Sanders, a flashy two-sport athlete in the NFL and MLB

8. Denzel Washington, a prominent, award-winning actor

9. Halle Barry, an Academy Award winning actress

10. Harry Belafonte, a legendary actor in his heyday

11. Satchel Paige, a legendary pitcher in the Negro Leagues

There was one mention of Doug Williams, the Super Bowl-winning quarterback for the Washington Redskins, but it was a lone photo on the wall and did not explain his accomplishment in detail.

Also, the Gettysburg Address, given by President Abraham Lincoln after the Civil War battle of Gettysburg, was also missing from displays and exhibits. Another missing piece in the museum was the ad, "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste," which was an effort to get education scholarships for black children. There was no mention of the rape hoax at Duke University, where a black female wrongly accused the Duke men's lacrosse team of rape, which ruined the lives of the accused.

Other aspects of history that were missing included the fact that African Americans were Republican politicians after the Civil War; Dr. Ben Carson's political affiliation; the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the “War on Poverty” under President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Spencer Irvine serves as a staff writer and director of social media at Accuracy in Academia.
MEET BETSY DEVOS, TRUMP’S PICK FOR EDUCATION SECRETARY

President-elect Donald Trump has selected billionaire philanthropist Betsy DeVos, a relatively unknown figure on the national scene, to head the U.S. Department of Education.

Calling her a “brilliant and passionate education advocate,” Trump said in a press release that “under her leadership we will reform the U.S. education system and break the bureaucracy that is holding our children back so that we can deliver world-class education and school choice to all families.” Although DeVos earns high praise from conservatives for her pro-school choice positions, she is a polarizing figure to public education supporters, who claim she could destroy public schools with vouchers.

In order to set the record straight about her association with Common Core, The Daily Signal reported that “upon accepting the position of education secretary, DeVos issued a statement clarifying that she is not a supporter of Common Core ‘period,’” adding that although organizations she has been a part of support Common Core, that’s not her position, especially since “it got turned into a federalized boondoggle.”

She strongly supports school vouchers, charter schools and homeschooling as options that should be available to parents in order to put them back in charge of their children’s education.

DeVos’ in-laws, Richard and Helen DeVos, are longtime personal supporters of The Heritage Foundation, and her husband Dick DeVos is the son of the co-founder of Amway, a company that has become a world famous success story.

PERPETUAL OUTRAGE AS A WAY OF LIFE

In the wild and wooly aftermath of the Trump victory, the place to be, if you were looking for lunacy, was our college campuses, where coloring books and therapy dogs were dé rigeur for the precious snowflakes, who inspired Campus Reform with the following headlines:

- Admins Seek to Stymie Media Inquiries from ‘Right Wing Types’
- GW Students March on White House with Ultimatum
- White Pomona Students Create Club to Renounce Whiteness
- Students Demand Sanctuary Campus to Protect Them from Trump
Wooster notes that the present situation reminds him of Oscar Wilde’s observation that “the problem with socialism is that it takes up so many evenings.” Today, certain elements of the student body spend much of their time protesting, then demand that certain colleges stop giving grades below a “C” because “campus activism is so important.”

"Visual stimulus ranked as extremely important to students, with many defining the trustworthiness of a tweet based on the size of attached photos and the tweet’s level of detail,” according to The Wall Street Journal.” There’s more. Since students find it difficult to evaluate online news sources, many schools now offer media literacy courses, but the decline in the number of librarians means that students are left with fewer options for seeking help.

Stanford Professor Sam Wineburg, lead author of the study, suggests that in order to build students’ ability to decipher fact from fiction, they “should learn how to properly fact check and question the legitimacy of websites by using other sources of information and that a site’s high Google ranking does not immediately guarantee that the content it hosts is factual or accurate.”

The question is, how can students who live in an alternate universe of safe spaces and microaggressions, possibly make meaningful evaluations about the truthfulness of what they read on Facebook?

Three universities in Virginia associated with America’s founders are currently bogged down in free speech battles over what students, professors and others can say or not say, according to the American Thinker. At the University of Virginia, President Teresa Sullivan was presented with a faculty letter, asking that she stop quoting Thomas Jefferson in her communication with professors, students and staff. The letter explained that “For many of us, the inclusion of Jefferson quotations in these emails undermines the message of unity, equality and civility that you are attempting to convey.”

At James Madison University, administrators gave student leaders a list of “35 things that they shouldn’t say during orientation.” One example: “I don’t see difference. We are all part of the same race, the human race.” Shortly thereafter, communications director Bill Wyatt said this was “just an exercise . . . to get our volunteers to understand how
language affects others….”

At George Mason University, the GMU Senior Assistant Director of Admissions Andrew Bunting noted on Facebook regarding the National Association of Marriage (NOM) that “If you agree with them, then that is your opinion. Just know that to the rest of us, you are a piece of worthless trash.”

Note: As of this date, Bunting has not been disciplined by the school, despite his unseemly comment that maligned the beliefs of millions of people.

One more thing: The College Fix reported that a University of Virginia police officer was forced to resign for “abuse of a PA system” when he shouted “Make America great Again” on Election Night. The University’s Police Department released a statement, saying that officers should “exhibit empathy and concern for community members, treating all with due dignity and respect.”

Comments about this incident included one which asked if a campus police officer would have been disciplined for shouting “Hope and Change” in 2008 and 2012.

ARE TRUMP SUPPORTERS THE NEW COUNTER CULTURE?

At the University of Delaware, student Trump supporters may not be wearing their “Make America Great Again” hats to the dining hall, but there’s a lot of pride in the belief that they represent the “Trump underground” on our nation’s campuses, according to Buzz Feed.

“It’s the new counterculture,” said UD student Jared, an undergraduate who wore a suit and tie to a recent meeting of the UD College Republicans, adding that “It’s the equivalent of being a hippie protesting at Kent State.”

“Or being grunge in the ‘90s,” another student chimed in. Trump’s win is clearly a plus for students who have had it up to here with progressive concepts that have gone mainstream, such as “trigger warnings,” “safe spaces” and “microaggressions.”

And yet, the continuing drama is threatening everyone’s freedom of speech. Andrew Lipman, a UD senior and chairman of the Delaware Federation of College Republicans, noted that UD had been cited as a school that “silences conservative speech, because it’s considered hateful.”
Besides all the front burner issues that need to be addressed, the new Trump administration will have another challenge, that of fixing our education system, since nearly 25% of millennials believe that socialism is a better system than democracy.

### STUDENTS GIVE WESTERN CULTURE A FAILING GRADE

Professor Duke Pesta, Associate Professor of English at U. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, gives new students a quiz at the beginning of every year to test their knowledge of history. The top three factoids that stick with students are the corrupt nature of the Republic, the wickedness of the founding fathers, and the evils of free markets.

But that’s not all. While they are ignorant about the influence of Marxist ideology and communist governments over the past century, most of them define socialism as “fairness.” Today, “the social justice warriors on America’s campuses argue that even reading the great books of Western culture is at best a microaggression, and at worst an insidious form of cultural imperialism and indoctrination.”
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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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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