

CAMPUS REPORT

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SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

By: Malcolm A. Kline



Submitted for your consideration, as Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling used to say, is the honor roll, if you could call it that, of the professors you might call "America's Least Wanted."

Because of the nature of our work, we don't often get to do "best of" lists. By definition, almost, we are chronicling professors of questionable scholarship in our often vain search for accuracy in academia.

What we have assembled, then, is something of a bottom 10 list, sort of a reverse U. S. News & World Report ranking. Indeed, it was hard to narrow down such a selection from the more than 100 professors a year whose antics we cover.

Arguably, and we would argue the point, our own roster is perhaps a truer reflection of life in the Ivory Tower than most publications offer. Submitted for your consideration, as Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling used to say, is the honor roll, if you could call it that, of the professors you might call "America's Least Wanted."

Because we still work in the old inverted pyramid style of reporting, we will take the pedagogue we consider most notable first:

o That would have to be **Montclair State University's Grover C. Furr** who is still intent on proving that Joseph Stalin was framed on charges that he committed genocide, no matter what the Russians themselves may say.

• For his part, **Lowell "Rusty" Pritchard of Emory** is trying to warn the globe that "humans have caused most of the warming" "since 1950" despite temperatures that dropped in the intervening years.

• On the home front, **Brigham Young University's Valerie Hegstrom** says "I have to teach my female and male students to think like women" when studying Spanish literature. "When people ask me how I can stand it, I say that I believe in striking out in the heart of the patriarchy," Dr. Hegstrom explained of her decision to stay at BYU.

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SEX AND THE MLA

By: **Bethany Stotts**



Chicago, Ill— It seems like some professors simply can't get their mind off sexuality and have allowed this fixation to color their professional work. A teacher of Lesbian Bisexual Gay Transgender Queer (LBGTQ) studies at **Santa Clara University**, **Professor Linda Garber** asserts that she had, as an untenured professor, been nervous about teaching sex in class "and I decided, well, maybe for just a few years I could teach sexuality not sex."

Other Modern Language Association (MLA) panel speakers found a queer agenda in children's movies and the poetic structures of Christopher Marlowe. Noting that penguins typically mate through "heart songs," **English Professor Vin Nardizzi** detects a sexual agenda behind Happy Feet protagonist Mumble's decision to tap-dance for a little girl visiting the zoo. "[Mumble] is queer in the sense that he engages in a non-normative reproductive action," asserts Nardizzi. "The film's ending, I argue, endeavors to sway its theatre audience to concur with the human figure to interpret—indeed, to misinterpret—the meaning of Mumble's tapping," the **University of British Columbia professor** said. The Canadian professor added "At the aquarium, we see Mumble perking up when the little girl appears, that is, to the rhythm of the mating call. The film works to ward off the implications of this sort of reproductive encounter by translating a form of species preservation, [or] reproduction, into the conservationist efforts of benign humans" (emphasis added).

Professor Laura Dietz of Angelo State University argues for a sexual interpretation of Marlowe's 16th century poetic structures, which match

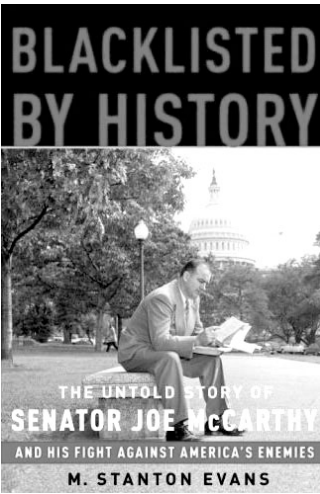
lines of equal length instead of a classical unequal male-female pairing. She argues that "Marlowe's move away from the heterometric [poetic] structure is also a move away from the heteronormativity of the Amore." "Feminine and masculine become virtually indistinguishable without an extra foot—or appendage, so to speak," she said. This change has long-standing social implications, Dietz argues, "create lasting consequences for sexual and gender politics.... Marlowe implies that epic and affairs of the state are shaped by the same erotic structures of elegy, and it is this *embedded sexuality*, the very structure of epic poetics—and thus of national poetics—that influences the destiny of nations" (emphasis added).

Lake Forest College Professor Christopher Reed expressed delight over the queer references found in *Will & Grace* "which were unmarked as such" because "so often in sitcoms you can see that they're coming" and then they are explained to the viewers. Using the pleasure evoked by *Will & Grace* and a Liam Sullivan sketch titled "Shoes" as a model for improving higher education, Reed said "And I think it's because that kind of compellingness [sic], that comes from the identification—whether we want to or not—with [Kelly's] consumerist desires, but we also [identify with] the failure to successfully inhabit or embody those desires as they are conceptually presented to us in mass culture." Referring to the cross-dressing, shoe-crazed protagonist, Reed said "Kelly is completely compelling."

Bethany Stotts is a Staff Writer at Accuracy in Academia.

McCarthy Without The Ism

by: Malcolm A. Kline



As with his last book, *The Theme Is Freedom*, veteran journalist **M.**

S t a n t o n E v a n s demolishes another set of mis-

conceptions in his new book *Blacklisted By History: The Untold Story of Senator Joe McCarthy and His Fight Against America's Enemies*. What he did with those disparate subjects—America's founding and the Cold War in the United States—is to challenge prevailing wisdom accepted by both the left and the right.

In *The Theme Is Freedom*, he made a convincing case that America's freedoms come not from the Enlightenment but from the Bible. In *Blacklisted By History*, he has accomplished another great task: actually measuring up the record of America's most hated senator, at least by the so-called elites.

At a December 12 Heritage Foundation forum, author **Herbert Romerstein** offered words of advice that the editors of National Review should have heeded before running **Ron Radosh's** error-based review of Evans' book: "McCarthyism is a term that should not be used by conservatives."

Romerstein worked as an investiga-

tor for the U. S. House Un-American Activities Committee. "I know the history of Soviet propaganda," Romerstein said. "One of the most powerful tools is to take a man's name and put 'ism' at the end of it."

"All discussion is stopped." That's essentially what happens, save for those instances when certain conservatives, in a very maladroit manner, try making hay with the phrase "McCarthyism of the Left."

That the very mention of the term would turn legions of conservatives into the Petrified Forest was an outcome that the really hard left anticipated early on. "Gus Hall in 1950 urged party members to 'fight McCarthyism,'" Romerstein told the audience at Heritage.

McCarthy had only given his maiden speech on communist subversion in government agencies earlier that year. Hall was formerly the head of the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA).

The CPUSA, we now know from the Soviet archives, was a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of Moscow at the time, contra the conventional view of the party as a bunch of home-grown, dreamy-eyed romantics. We also know from those same archives and from declassified U. S. government documents that Joe McCarthy hit bullseye with his charges of security risks working in sensitive and policy-making positions in the U. S. government.

"There was sort of an affirmative action program for communists in the government," Evans said at

Heritage. Agencies cobbled together during World War II such as the Office of War Information (OWI) and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) actively recruited communists at a time when the Soviet Union was considered our “noble ally.”

The O. S. S. was the precursor to the CIA. “After the war when these agencies were abolished, they went to other agencies,” Evans said of the noble ally’s adherents employed by OWI and OSS.

The State Department, locus of Senator McCarthy’s attentions, was one of these. “During the Cold War that followed, the government did not want people to know how many they had hired,” Evans related. “Some they got rid of.”

“They got Alger Hiss to resign.” Critics of Evans’ book offer the view that communist penetration of the federal government had ended by the time McCarthy came on the scene with the charges of internal security lapses that he made at Wheeling, West Virginia in February of 1950.

Evans and Romerstein disagree. “China was aflame and as of December 1951, John Stewart Service was still at State when the Truman loyalty board got him out over ‘reasonable doubt,’” Evans points out.

The source of that “reasonable

doubt,” Evans suggests, was none other than the Wisconsin Republican himself. McCarthy questioned “Old China Hand” Service’s advocacy of Mao Tse Tung and actions on his behalf while he worked at State.

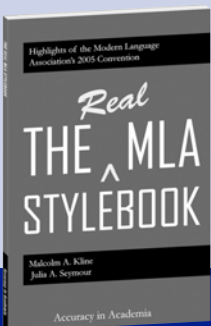
“One of the spies at Fort Monmouth was part of the Rosenberg ring,” Romerstein observes. Co-author of *The Venona Secrets*, about cable traffic between the Soviet Union and its agents, Romerstein has studied both the former case, investigated by Senator McCarthy in the 1950s, and the latter, from the 1940s.

“In 1953, although many of these people were kicked out of the government, they were still trying to influence policy and there were still enough of them in the government to do so,” Romerstein told the crowd at Heritage. A former staffer with the House Internal Security Subcommittee, Romerstein’s last government job was as a Soviet disinformation expert at the Voice of America during the Reagan years.

“In the 1950s, the debate was over containment and liberation,” Romerstein says. “We never had a liberation president until Ronald Reagan.”

Then we won the Cold War.

Blacklisted By History is available from the AIM store: www.ShopAIM.org



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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SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

Continued from front page

• **Rachel B. Reinhard of the State University of New York at Cortland** vexes over the attitudes of the future teachers she instructs: “My students see themselves as conveyors of knowledge or as coaches or mentors, not activists.”

• **The University of Chicago’s Jane Dailey** got herself a spot on the honor roll with her thesis on “Sex, Segregation and the Sacred After *Brown*.”

• **The University of California at Riverside’s Jennifer Doyle** makes our final cut because of the slide show that she presented at the Modern Language Association’s (MLA) annual convention which featured a naked artist sitting on a pyramid the hard way. In the next slide, a pyramid was replaced by a baseball bat.

• **Lafayette College’s Michael Benitez** finished his presentation at a multicultural conference with a rap song and told his student audience: “You’re only an expert on your own experiences.”

• **Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College**, found an interesting link between labor economics and criminology. “The drug offenders are only hurting themselves,” she said at a

conference last summer. “Why don’t we expunge those records and get those people back in the labor pool?”

• **Johns Hopkins University professor Richard Halpern** found sexual references only an academic could unearth in Norman Rockwell’s paintings.

Finally, in tenth place, we have a trio of honorable mentions:

• **Lisa Jane Moore of Purchase College in the State University of New York system** for writing the book *Sperm Counts: Overcome by Man’s Most Precious Fluid*;

• **Northwestern University’s Michael S. Sherry** for scouring the Watergate tapes in search of Richard Nixon’s views on homosexuality; and

• **The University of Washington’s Jessica Burstein** for looking for love in all the wrong places, namely the MLA, and writing about it in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Incidentally, many of

these top-of-the-bottom profs work for state universities so they provide a very human answer to the anguished question: “Where would you cut government spending?”



Grover C. Furr is waiting for The Great Leap Forward.



Jessica Burstein is waiting for the next academic conference.



The World Government Four

by: *Malcolm A. Kline*

Unfortunately, what starts in academia, unlike Vegas vacations, does not stay there, or even repose in the United States. In our end-of-the-year reviews, we feel that we must take special notice of a quartet of professors who have been actively working to erode American national sovereignty through the sort of proposals that come dangerously close to becoming reality no matter how conceptually divorced they are from it.

Probably the mildest of the lot is **Father J. Bryan Hehir, now at Harvard, who argues that “We have moved from sovereignty to intervention but you will always have sovereignty because that is how you get admitted to the UN.”**

DePaul University law professor M. Cherif Bassiouni designed the International Criminal Court (ICC), as Cliff Kincaid of Accuracy in Media notes. The ICC is a UN creation that largely looks upon the U. S. as a felonious party.

Bassiouni moonlights as a war crimes expert for the UN. We have been unable to uncover any instance in which he found communist governments guilty of such injustices.

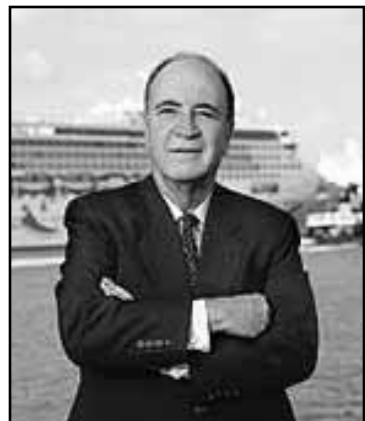
From his perch at American University, former Carter Administration official Robert Pastor works feverishly to create a North American Union among the U. S., Canada and Mexico. “Of course Mexico doesn’t like us,” he said at a panel last year that

Mary Kapp covered for this newsletter. “We stole one-third of their country.”

Speaking of theft, Pastor noted of the South-of-the-border variety, “When a police officer gets paid \$100 a month, and he is dealing with people who get three or four million per drug transaction, it is hard to keep him honest.” As former U. S. House Majority Leader Richard Armey likes to say, “When you make a deal with the devil you are always the junior partner.”

University of Miami law professor Bernard Oxman uses his spare time—a luxury academics have way too much of—to tweak and promote the UN Law of the Sea Treaty. “The web site of University of Miami law professor Bernard H. Oxman claims he is an arbitrator of choice of some of the 150 nations that signed onto the two-decade-old pact that Ronald Reagan refused to put his presidential signature on,” this correspondent pointed out last October.

Oxman admitted in congressional testimony last Fall that under LOST, the UN could arbitrate disputes between nations.



Bernard Oxman LOST at Sea.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By *Malcolm A. Kline*



February, 2008

Dear Reader,

We really did have a hard time narrowing down our pantheon of the professoriate on page one and five. Yet another two worthy of recognition are:

- Laura Ireland, who started Lewis & Clark College's National Center for Animal Law; and
- UCLA psychologist Paul R. Abramson, who found a right for professors to date their students in the United States Constitution. Let's hope that he never gets to explain that as an expert witness in court.

We have full stories on both of them as well as on our Top Ten plus posted on our web site—www.campusreportonline.net. We run ourselves ragged trying to catch lectures by such folk so that we can report to you what they are teaching and preaching.

Being there takes the guesswork out of "he said/she said" charges and accusations hurled at a distance by students and professors alike. Moreover, professors can't put us on double-secret probation or kick us off campus so we have the liberty that many student journalists do not enjoy.

We use this freedom on your behalf so that we can give you the most extensive reports we can on what is happening on American college campuses. In turn, we could not do this without you.

We are most grateful for the help that you have already given.

Cordially,



Mal Kline
Executive Director

P.S. Please feel free to e-mail me with stories on what is happening on your own campus at mal.kline@academia.org

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