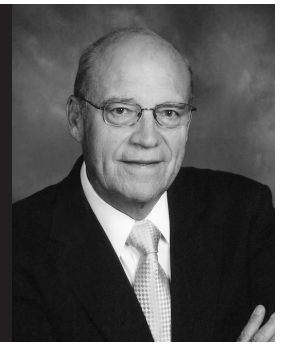




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report



Dr. David Noebel

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Honoring M. Stanton Evans

by Cliff Kincaid

Those who assembled on March 12 at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, Virginia, to celebrate the life of conservative thinker and writer M. Stanton Evans heard several references to his monumental 1994 work, *The Theme is Freedom*. This book is worth remembering and re-reading as we are being treated repeatedly to the spectacle in the media of “conservatives” endorsing gay rights and gay marriage.

In an illustration of what Stan called the “pagan ethic,” he cites on page 128 “the campaign to change societal views of homosexuality—to treat it as an ‘alternative lifestyle,’ as valid in its way as heterosexual conduct.” Stan comments, “Among other things, this is a reversion to pagan ways of thinking.” He cites acceptance of homosexuality in ancient civilizations such as Babylon and notes, “All of this was unequivocally condemned by the religion of the Bible.”

Yet, as Austin Ruse points out in his Breitbart article, “GOP Elite Ask Supreme Court to Impose Gay Marriage on America,” a brief to celebrate homosexual “marriage” as equal to traditional marriage has been submitted to the court and signed by 300 conservatives and/or Republicans, including no less than 26 former senior Mitt Romney staffers.

These so-called “conservatives,” who are not conservative in any real sense, are part of a “Project Right Side” that is designed to confuse the public about the meaning of the term. The “media” section of the website tells us how news organizations have covered the “conservative case for gay marriage.”

But there is nothing “conservative” about asking the Supreme Court to impose homosexual marriage on all 50 states. What’s more, as Stan Evans says, it is a return to paganism.

The fact that many don’t recognize this as paganism demonstrates how the definition of “conservatism” is being changed right before our eyes.

Many are deceived because the media repeatedly offer up so-called “conservatives” who endorse homosexual marriage. The names of several of them appear on the brief to the Supreme Court. They are:

- Alex Castellanos, a Republican media advisor who appears regularly on NBC’s Meet the Press and currently serves as a member of CNN’s “Best Political Team on Television”
- S.E. Cupp, CNN commentator
- Margaret Hoover, CNN contributor
- Abby Huntsman, MSNBC political commentator
- Ana Navarro, CNN commentator
- Nicolle Wallace, co-host of ABC’s “The View”

The subtitle of *The Theme Is Freedom* is “Religion, Politics, and the American Tradition.” The dedication reads, “For my father, who kept the faith.” The acknowledgments included the touching comments, “. . . these pages are not only dedicated to the memory of my father, but also reflect the many conversations I had with him across the decades about the religious basis of our society, and countless other issues.”

Stan described the book as “an effort to trace, conceptually and as a matter of historical fact, the nexus between religious values and the rise of our political system.” He notes for example:

- “That biblical teaching was the formative influence in the creation of Europe, and that Europe was the nursery of freedom as we know it, are both established facts of record.”
- “If Christian doctrine is opposed to freedom, then liberty ought to flourish where Christianity has had the smallest degree of influence, and languish where that influence is the greatest. That a general survey prima facie says the opposite

suggests that something in the conventional history is mistaken.”

- “. . . this correlation of Christianity with the rise of freedom is anything but accidental. In fact, the precepts of our religion provided the conceptual building blocks for the free societies of the West—including the very idea of liberty as we know it, limits on the power of the state, and institutions that gave these practical expression.”

The so-called conservatives who promote gay marriage can say anything they want, but their position is not conservative or Biblical. Regarding the latter, Robert A. Gagnon’s book, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, is the best authority. The case against same-sex intercourse is based on scripture.

In Chapter seven of his book, *The Rise of Neopaganism*, Stan Evans explains why and how Marxist concepts have become imbedded in Western thought. “More problematic in an immediate sense,” he writes, “are aspects of the Marxist worldview, generally not recognized as such, that have already penetrated liberal thought and are considered perfectly routine and normal.”

He is describing what we know to be the process of cultural Marxism. The return of paganism is cultural Marxism dressed up in “progressive” camouflage.

Paganism also denies the humanity of the unborn. “The Christian tradition from the earliest period says the unborn child is a human life that deserves respect and ought to be protected; the pagan view tells us it is not a legal person, and thus entitled to no protection,” Stan writes.

The pagan view is dominating America, thanks to the “conservatives” who join the liberals in either adopting or refusing to fight it. Stan describes how it works in practice for America’s children: “. . . it is considered perfectly proper for children from religious homes to be taught the precepts of Darwinian-Huxleyan evolution, extreme environmentalism, the value-free ‘alternative lifestyle’ view of homosexuality and sexual conduct generally and other Neopaganism in their school work. . . . Children may be taught the precepts of neopagan nature worship; they may not be taught the precepts of the Bible.”

Incredibly, the paganism even infiltrates groups which call themselves religious. The organization, Dignity USA, which claims to be Catholic, is holding a conference

featuring Dan Savage, described merely as a “writer, TV personality, and gay activist.” Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth describes Savage, who has been invited to the White House to celebrate “gay pride,” as “the face of progressive hate.” Catholic League president Bill Donohue says Savage has a history of offering obscene anti-Catholic rants.

The latest “conservative/libertarian” to jump aboard the gay marriage bandwagon is Charles C.W. Cooke of *National Review*, a Brit who argues in his new book, *The Conservatarian Manifesto*, that “there is more to be gained by including gays in the institution [of marriage] than by keeping them out.” With that statement, he dismisses the Judeo-Christian tradition, which is the foundation for our freedoms. “Gay Marriage: The Wrong Fight” is one of his chapter titles. The battle against gay marriage “has been lost,” he says.

It might be worthwhile to be pro-life, he concedes, since “scientific advances” might yet prove the unborn child is a human life. Again, there’s no reference by this modern “libertarian” to the religious tradition that human life is sacred.

Cooke, a legal immigrant to the United States, would be well-advised to return to Britain and fight for the Christian values that are quickly disappearing in his home country. Mike Overd, a Christian street preacher, is going on trial in Britain for proclaiming the gospel in a public setting. The group Christian Concern reports, “Mike has been preaching the gospel on the streets of Taunton for over five years. But he’s faced real opposition—police even appealed to the public in a local newspaper to record him preaching so that they could get evidence of him making ‘offensive remarks.’” He was previously charged with quoting anti-homosexual references from the Bible.

Robert Spencer of *Jihad Watch* reports that one of his most recent “offensive” comments may have been discussing the Muslim Prophet Muhammad marrying a 9-year-old girl by the name of Aisha. Overd compared the life of Muhammad to the perfect life of Jesus. Spencer asks, “Will British authorities seize and destroy copies of the hadith of Bukhari for stating that Aisha was nine [when] Muhammad consummated his marriage with her?” Bukhari’s collection is recognized by most Muslims as an

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade’s address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.

authentic record of stories about Muhammad.

Commenting on the case, Spencer notes, “Britain is dying, while its authorities do nothing to save it, for fear of being called ‘racist.’ When telling the truth becomes an offense for which someone can be arrested and prosecuted, the society in which this happens [is] in its death throes.”

Who and what killed Britain? Consider the book, *The Rise of Gay Rights and the Fall of the British Empire*. The author defines homosexuality as “resistance” to Western religious traditions and “imperialism.”

This is how Britain began its decline. The Brazilian philosopher and writer, Olavo de Carvalho, says every nation has an elite or aristocracy. When this group goes against the traditions of their own country, rather than defending them, we see the nation begin to decline in influence and power. He says the elites begin focusing on their egotistical sexual desires rather than the good or interests of the nation.

The same thing is happening in the United States. The founder of the modern gay-rights movement in the United States was Harry Hay, a member of the Communist Party who also championed the rights of pedophiles. Now, key members of the Republican establishment have joined this campaign for gay rights.

What “Project Right Side” has done for us is name the members of the conservative movement and the Republican establishment who are signing up to accelerate our own nation’s decline. One notable name on this list is David H. Koch, described as a “philanthropist” but more widely known as a major funder of the conservative movement and the Republican Party. The groups taking his money have a lot to answer for.

The result of these efforts, as Stan Evans predicted in his book, will be to help Barack Obama transform America into something we won’t be able to recognize as being in any sense American. It will be a Marxist or pagan America stripped of its Christian traditions.

Just like the Christian street preacher on trial in Britain, our children will lose their freedoms in the process. Stan Evans saw it coming. He warned us. Whether it’s called paganism or cultural Marxism, surrender would not be an option for Stan Evans.

—*USA Survival*, March 16, 2015

“Sodomy is an offense of so dark a nature, the very mention of which is a disgrace to human nature, a crime not fit to be named.” Wm. Blackstone, quoted in Robert R. Reilly, *Making Gay Okay: How Rationalizing Homosexual Behavior Is Changing Everything*, p. 68

Fox, CNN, MSNBC: “We’re for Gay Rights”

by Cliff Kincaid

The “Code of Ethics” of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) says that the media should “avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived.” But on the issue of homosexual rights, the media, from the left to the right, have taken a side. This includes the Fox News Channel, which many conservatives had hoped would stay true to its word of being “Fair & Balanced,” on the issue of gay rights.

The Fox News Channel is joining CBS News and CNN as “silver” sponsors of the upcoming National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) 20th annual New York “Headlines & Headliners” fundraising event. Gold sponsors include ABC News and Comcast Universal, owner of NBC and MSNBC. Daytime talk-show host Meredith Vieira is the host of this year’s event.

The SPJ ethics code urges the media to “avoid political and other outside activities that may compromise integrity or impartiality, or may damage credibility.”

But apparently that ethical standard doesn’t apply to media involvement in the homosexual movement.

Meanwhile, the media-supported Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is ecstatic that the ABC Family network show “The Fosters” has aired a kiss between two 13-year-old boys. The show features two lesbians as “parents” and includes a “transgender teen.”

Media sponsors of the 26th Annual GLAAD Media Awards include 21st Century Fox, the parent company of Fox News; Comcast/NBC Universal; Time Warner, parent of CNN; CBS Corporation; and Bloomberg.

Don’t expect the media to trumpet the news in any headlines or stories about their financial involvement in the homosexual movement. It is a secret that has to be kept hidden from the public because it constitutes a blatant violation of acceptable standards of journalistic behavior and media ethics.

The pro-gay bias in the media is not a big secret, of course. But the involvement of Fox News in the cause may come as a surprise to some. You can be sure Fox News will not admit on the air that the news channel has taken sides in the ongoing debate and that it financially supports the NLGJA.

We have tried over the years without success to get Fox News chief Roger Ailes to explain why his channel pours money into the NLGJA. He simply ignores our

inquiries. Many conservatives in the media are reluctant to press the issue out of fear they could be blackballed from appearing on the channel.

The bias shows up in certain ways, such as when the channel forced anchor Bret Baier to pull out of a Catholic conference devoted to traditional marriage. Reputed homosexual and Fox News anchor Shepard Smith occasionally badmouths supporters of traditional values on the air.

The NLGJA fundraiser two years ago showed Smith posing for a selfie taken by CNN anchor Don Lemon. Others posing for the picture included CNN's Ashleigh Banfield, MSNBC host Ronan Farrow, Fox News anchor Jamie Colby, and ABC News correspondent Amy Robach.

As the Supreme Court prepares to rule in a case that could impose homosexual marriage on all 50 states, the pro-gay term "marriage equality" is being used more frequently by the media. It is supposed to imply that giving special status to a traditional marriage between a man and a woman is somehow discriminatory.

Bill O'Reilly of Fox News, supposedly the hard-right conservative on the channel, says that homosexuals have the most "compelling" argument, and that opponents only "thump the Bible." The Bible condemns homosexual acts and declares that God's plan for a family stems from a male-female union. *See box below.*

The participation of representatives from Al Jazeera, which is funded by the Middle Eastern government of Qatar, is surprising. In Qatar, according to the State Department: "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons faced discrimination under the law and in practice. The law prohibits same-sex sexual conduct between men but does not explicitly prohibit same-sex relations between women."

The State Department says a man convicted of having same-sex sexual relations with a man 16-years-old or older in Qatar is subject to a sentence of seven years in prison, but that the number of such cases that came before this nation's courts during 2013 was unknown.

In advance of the New York fundraiser, the NLGJA is hosting another event known as the LGBT Media Journalists Convening, as well as the NLGJA's National Convention & 11th Annual LGBT Media Summit in San Francisco in September. The theme for the latter event is "Coming Home," a reference to San Francisco's reputation as the "Gay Capital of the US."

—*USA Survival*, March 16, 2015

Whence Marxist Brazil?

by Cliff Kincaid

With the Middle East in turmoil and Russia's Vladimir Putin threatening nuclear war, most of our media have missed a big story south of the border. President Barack Obama's fellow Marxist, Dilma Rousseff, is coming under tremendous pressure to resign her presidency in Brazil. As many as three million Brazilians took to the streets on Sunday to demand the impeachment of Rousseff, a former Marxist terrorist, and the end of the rule of the Brazilian Workers' Party.

Such a development would be a major blow to the anti-American left in Latin America, which has been operating since 1990 under the rubric of the São Paulo Forum, a pro-communist movement started by Rousseff's predecessor, Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva, and Fidel Castro.

In a growing scandal, the treasurer of the ruling Work-

You can see from the list of "Special Guests" for this year's NLGJA fundraiser that while outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC may disagree over some issues, on the matter of gay rights they are united. The list of "Special Guests" includes:

- Brooke Baldwin, CNN
- Ashleigh Banfield, CNN
- Josh Barro, The New York Times & MSNBC
- Jason Bellini, The Wall Street Journal
- Gio Benitez, ABC News
- Kate Bolduan, CNN
- Malan Breton, Fashion Designer
- Contessa Brewer, WNBC
- Frank Bruni, The New York Times
- Jason Carroll, CNN
- Carol Costello, CNN
- Jamie Colby, FOX News
- Frank DiLella, NY1
- Ronan Farrow, MSNBC
- Melissa Francis, FOX Business
- Kendis Gibson, ABC News
- Stephanie Gosk, NBC News
- LZ Granderson, ESPN & CNN
- Kimberly Guilfoyle, FOX News
- Sara Haines, ABC News
- Patrick Healy, The New York Times
- Simon Hobbs, CNBC
- Joseph Kapsch, The Wrap
- Randi Kaye, CNN
- Don Lemon, CNN
- Tom Llamas, ABC News
- Miguel Marquez, CNN
- Erin Moriarty, CBS News
- Bryan Norcross, The Weather Channel
- Soledad O'Brien, Al Jazeera America
- Richard Quest, CNN
- Trish Regan, FOX Business
- Rick Reichmuth, FOX News
- Amy Robach, ABC News
- Thomas Roberts, MSNBC
- Troy Roberts, CBS News
- Christine Romans, CNN
- Mara Schiavocampo, ABC News
- Brian Stelter, CNN
- Kris Van Cleave, CBS News
- Cecilia Vega, ABC News
- Ali Velshi, Al Jazeera America
- Gerri Willis, FOX Business
- Jenna Wolfe, NBC News

ers' Party has been charged with corruption and money laundering linked to the state-run oil company, Petrobras, a firm which has benefitted from US taxpayer loans provided through the Export-Import Bank under Obama.

While Obama has attempted to stifle oil development and production in the United States, his administration officially launched an "energy partnership" with Brazil in August of 2011. "We want to work with you. We want to help with technology and support to develop these oil reserves safely, and when you're ready to start selling, we want to be one of your best customers," Obama told a group of Brazilian business leaders.

Some stories appearing in the Western press did note that as many as one million Brazilians turned out on Sunday to protest massive corruption linked to the Rousseff administration. One photo from the march showed a Brazilian waving a sign that said, "We won't be another Venezuela," a reference to another Marxist basket case of economic failure and corruption.

But sources contacted by *Accuracy in Media* say the turnout was far larger, with as many as three million Brazilians in the streets.

Alessandro Cota, a Brazilian who is currently a philosophy and political science researcher at the Inter-American Institute for Philosophy, Government, and Social Thought, told *AIM*, "This March 15 is certainly a new beginning for Brazil and probably the end of the dreams of all those who wanted to turn the largest country of Latin America into a socialist republic. After 12 years under the rule of the Brazilian Workers' Party—8 years under President Lula (2003-2011), and 4 years under President Rousseff (who was re-elected last October for another four-year turn)—the Brazilian people, tired of waiting for opposition politicians to take action against the government, took the lead and decided to make history by themselves."

Brazilian philosopher Olavo de Carvalho, President of the Inter-American Institute for Philosophy, Government, and Social Thought, said, "Never and nowhere has a government been so completely rejected by its own population. But it is more than that. It is not only the rejection of a government, or a President. It is the rejection of the whole system of power that has been created by the Workers' Party, which includes intellectuals and opinion-makers in the big media. People are no longer afraid of going against the Workers' Party. Brazilians realized that all the power that President Lula, President Rousseff, and their minions had was based on a bluff, and now they are calling it."

In Brazil, Cota said, the actual turnout was three million people who made it clear that "they want President

Rousseff and the Workers' Party out." The figure of one million people who took to the streets was from the city of Sao Paulo alone.

He added, "It was the largest nationwide anti-government demonstration in the history of Brazil, and it happened just two days after the Workers Party's allies organized their own 'popular' demonstration in support of President Rousseff." He said the March 15 wave of protests was genuinely popular, a massive embodiment of the seven percent approval rating that Rousseff received only a few days ago. He said the March 15 demonstrations took place in 26 of the 27 Brazilian states and at least 160 cities, not to mention the anti-government protests that happened abroad.

By contrast, Cota said a pro-government demonstration was attended by a mix of card-carrying union members and people who got paid the equivalent of \$10.

It appears that the Brazilian mainstream media have decided to deliberately play down the anti-regime sentiment. Cota said, "According to Datafolha, a local polling company linked to the leftist newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, there were only 210 thousand people gathered on Avenida Paulista, the main thoroughfare of the city of São Paulo, a number that not only contradicted the official estimate of the State Police of São Paulo, but also the eyes of those who use them to see."

The protests in Brazil are giving hope to those who see an opportunity to defeat Marxism in the Western hemisphere.

The pro-communist association called the São Paulo Forum was created in 1990, after the collapse of the Soviet Union led many to believe communism itself was on the wane. However, that was when Fidel Castro reached out to Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva of the Workers' Party of Brazil, who would later become President of Brazil. An event was hosted in São Paulo, Brazil, bringing together what came to be known as the São Paulo Forum. The international movement included many different leftist groups, such as the communist narco-terrorists known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and communist and leftist parties in the region.

Incredibly, a report appeared which seemed to demonstrate a possible link between the Obama presidency and this leftist group.

On March 1, 2008, before US presidential elections, Operation Phoenix was launched by Colombian special security forces just inside the Ecuadorian border. Raúl Reyes, second in command of the FARC, was killed. Documents found in Reyes' computer after his death disclosed that "gringos" representing Obama wanted to

meet with the FARC and that they were opposed to US military aid for the Colombian government. Obama had been publicly critical of the Colombia government's human rights record.

The Bush administration, using the services of the NSA, helped the Colombian government of President Alvaro Uribe in its war with the Cuban-backed FARC by locating and killing terrorist leaders and decimating the organization. But Uribe's successor, President Juan Manuel Santos, the former defense minister, suddenly opened up negotiations with the FARC in Havana and has recently suspended the bombing of FARC camps and bases. As a result, the Santos-led negotiations could enable the FARC to escape criminal charges and emerge in the political process in Colombia as a respectable opposition movement.

Supporters of Uribe accuse Santos of allowing "Castro-Chavism" in the country, a reference to the long-time Cuban dictator and former Marxist ruler of Venezuela. Although the members of the São Paulo Forum do not believe in democracy, the FARC seems to have learned the lesson that they have to disguise themselves as democratic forces in order to further their goals, as their armed struggle has not been successful.

Like Obama in the US, these Marxists work through the system and slowly dismantle democratic institutions and checks on their power.

—USA Survival, March 16, 2015

Idiot's Delight

by Harvey Klehr

Review: *Dalton Trumbo Blacklisted Hollywood Radical*
by Larry Ceplair and Christopher Trumbo

The Hollywood Ten, a group of screenwriters and directors who briefly went to prison in 1950 for contempt of Congress when they refused to answer questions about Communist party affiliations from the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), have, in the past few decades, become cultural heroes. The movie industry, consumed by guilt for its blacklisting of uncooperative Communists and ex-Communists, has produced a slew of apologies. Blacklistees have received honors and awards and been hailed for their courage and unflinching dedication to free speech, while cooperative witnesses, most notably the late director Elia Kazan, have been excoriated for their supposed moral lapses in truthfully testifying about communism in Hollywood.

The most interesting and controversial member of the

Hollywood Ten was screenwriter Dalton Trumbo (1905-1976). The highest-paid writer in Hollywood when he ran afoul of HUAC, Trumbo has been widely credited with breaking the blacklist in 1960, when he received screen credits for writing both *Spartacus* and *Exodus*. With his acerbic wit, pugnacious personality, and withering insults, he managed to enrage, at different times, not only Hollywood conservatives but his own comrades as well.

This massive new biography, begun by Trumbo's son and completed, after his death, by historian Larry Ceplair (coauthor of an earlier history of communism in Hollywood), is, at turns, fascinating, enlightening, and contradictory. While it succeeds in portraying a man who was hardly a Stalinist automaton, it does suggest, against the authors' intentions, a talented screenwriter who was a political idiot.

Of Swiss and Scottish ancestry, Dalton Trumbo was born in 1905 and grew up in Grand Junction, Colorado, in a Christian Scientist household. He dropped out of college after one year, when his family's financial situation deteriorated, and moved to Los Angeles, where he worked in a bakery on the night shift for eight years, supporting his mother and two younger sisters. Obsessed with making a career and money as a writer, he suffered rejection after rejection before latching onto a part-time job writing movie reviews. His breakthrough came in 1934, when he was hired as a reader at Warner Brothers, published a novel, and had several short stories in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Ambitious and self-promoting, he soon got a screenwriting contract and became active in the fledgling Screen Writers Guild. His ascent was rapid: In 1938, he received eight screen credits, wrote a play that was briefly staged in New York, wrote his only successful novel, *Johnny Got His Gun*, and got married.

Although hailed as a powerful antiwar statement, *Johnny* was morally simplistic and politically incoherent. Even Trumbo wound up repudiating its message before readopting it when it suited his politics. The main character, a horribly disfigured World War I soldier, delivers an affecting but unrealistic message: If little people refuse to fight, wars will not occur. Trumbo later denied that he was a pacifist, telling the FBI in 1944 that he only opposed "jingoistic wars" and that the current conflict was a "people's war." By the time he directed a film version of *Johnny* in 1970, it was intended as an attack on American involvement in Vietnam.

When Trumbo wrote the novel, he was not yet a Communist; at the time, the party opposed pacifism. But when it was published, just after the Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed in September 1939, it was serialized in the *Daily Worker* and hailed for its antiwar stance. Trumbo remained opposed to

World War II, he later told the FBI, until June 22, 1941, the day Germany attacked the Soviet Union (although he also later insisted that he did not support American involvement until Pearl Harbor). Prior to the Nazi German invasion of Soviet Russia, he had argued that the conflict was not between “evil and righteousness” and that there was little to choose from between Churchill’s England and Hitler’s Germany. In fact, he argued, the blood of a German soldier was just as precious as that of an Englishman or a Pole.

Those disfigured in a people’s war were, presumably, part of the price to be paid for defeating tyranny, while those Jews turned over to Hitler in 1939 were a small price to pay for avoiding battlefield casualties. Trumbo’s moral compass was clearly revealed in a 1943 meeting with the FBI, when he offered to provide agents with information about pacifists and other war opponents who had written him admiringly about *Johnny* and discussed ways to spread its message more widely. When the interests of the Soviet Union were at stake, Trumbo believed that informing on political dissidents was a necessity.

Ceplair claims that Trumbo did not formally become a Communist until 1943, joining because several of his close friends—Hugo Butler, Michael Wilson, Ring Lardner Jr., and Ian Hunter—were members, not because of the party’s dogma. By Ceplair’s account, Trumbo was not a very dependable member, avoiding meetings and accepting party *diktats* but hardly being enthusiastic about them. Trumbo, Ceplair insists, was a Communist who did not believe “all the dogma and every pronouncement of the organization.” He was never “an apparatchik, an automaton, or a robotic follower of dogma,” nor was he even much interested in the Soviet Union.

But Ceplair provides numerous examples of a man faithfully toeing the party line. Trumbo went along with Earl Browder’s expulsion as president of the American Communist party in 1945 with not a murmur of protest. In fact, he opined that in a contest between Lenin and Browder, he preferred to believe that “Lenin was right.” When his friend (and later Hollywood Ten comrade) Albert Maltz faced party demands that he repudiate an article in which he had argued for more autonomy for artists in the face of the party’s ideological strictures, Trumbo avoided taking a public position but privately wrote critically about Maltz. After Maltz recanted, Trumbo gave a speech in which he insisted that screenwriters had to produce progressive works. He wrote proudly that Hollywood had not “produced anything so untrue and reactionary” as the publishing industry, which had brought out volumes by Arthur Koestler, Jan Valtin, John Dos Passos, James T. Farrell, and Leon Trotsky, most of whom had denounced

the Soviet Union and not “free speech.” He regularly slandered his anti-Communist opponents in the Screen Writers Guild as “fascists”—and with far less justification than their claims that Trumbo was a Communist. For good measure, this heroic champion of free speech, while editor of the Screen Writers Guild magazine, kept anti-Communist articles from appearing.

In his opening statement to HUAC, Trumbo compared the political atmosphere in Washington to Berlin in 1933. Throughout the early Cold War, he blamed the United States for fostering repression around the world, for ignoring Eastern European purge trials, for Soviet anti-Semitism, and for military aggression, mindlessly repeating the mantra that America alone impeded the “free interchange of ideas.” Neither the rhetoric nor the tactics of the Hollywood Ten endeared them to liberals whom they expected to support their right to belong (secretly) to an organization that denounced liberals as fascists. Basing their refusal to testify on the First Amendment instead of the Fifth Amendment, they were rebuffed by the Supreme Court, went to jail for contempt of Congress, and were blacklisted by the studios.

Dalton Trumbo made a very comfortable living even when he was blacklisted. A fast and compulsive writer, he churned out scripts at a prodigious rate while formally barred from Hollywood between 1954 and 1960, either writing or consulting on 60 screenplays, using more than a dozen pseudonyms and “fronts.” Independent Hollywood producers willingly paid cut-rate prices to get his talents. Most of his work was formulaic, but he also wrote *Roman Holiday* (1953), *The Sandpiper* (1965), and *The Brave One* (1956), for which “Robert Rich” received a screenwriting Oscar in 1957. One unwitting producer tried to hire Rich and threatened to go to another screenwriter—yet another Trumbo front—if his price was too high! By the end of the decade the blacklist was crumbling, and Trumbo received credit under his own name for *Spartacus* and *Exodus*.

Well-paid as he was, particularly after the blacklist ended, Trumbo was in constant financial trouble, spending everything he earned and then complaining that he had to accept more hack jobs instead of devoting himself to novels. A 26-month sojourn in Mexico with several of his fellow blacklistees after his release from prison contributed to his financial woes. A financially disastrous production of *Johnny Got His Gun*—designed to show that “all wars [including World War II] are irrational”—ruined him: His house went into foreclosure, he had to pawn his wife’s jewelry, his retirement accounts were drained, and he was pursued by the IRS.

Despite his success as a screenwriter, Trumbo despised what he did and yearned to write novels instead. About screenplays, he wrote his wife: “Basically, I hate them.” Appealing to Nelson Algren to serve as a front while he was blacklisted, Trumbo told Algren that screenplays involved “a combination of prose and construction and sentimentality and vulgarity that appalls even me, who am used to it. . . . Hollywood is a vast whorehouse.”

Trumbo had quietly left the Communist party around 1947-48, but he remained committed to its worldview and was critical of those who publicized their defection. He rejoined the party in 1956, in solidarity with the California Communists convicted under the Smith Act, but resigned again after a few months. Most of his complaints about the party, even those uttered publicly, were procedural, not substantive: He criticized its secrecy, its tedious meetings, and its lack of loyalty to the Hollywood Ten. Even the experience of being accused of chauvinism for a politicized script being considered for production by a group of his blacklisted friends—it praised North Korea—could not convince him that the Communist Party USA and its intolerant, narrow-minded minions were poor pillars of support for freedom of speech. He did enrage his old comrade Maltz by proclaiming that he bore no animus for those in Hollywood who had informed; they, too, were victims of HUAC.

Despite resurrecting his screenwriting career after 1960, Trumbo’s politics remained just as nutty as before: He refused to denounce communism, continually attacked anti-communism, called the United States “fundamentally racist,” and dabbled in Kennedy assassination conspiracy theories. Before he died in 1976, Trumbo summarized his talents and their limits in a handwritten note that Larry Ceplair found in Trumbo’s archive: “God put me in a position to make a fool of myself, but no one expected me to take such glorious advantage of it.”

—*The Weekly Standard*, March 23, 2015, p. 30f

Deforming Minds

by Michael Bauman

In China, the art of molding humans was developed hundreds of years ago. The practitioners of this ancient art would take a child two or three years old, place it in a porcelain vase, sometimes a vase grotesque in shape. Only the child’s head (and possibly feet) could protrude from the vase. The child would be kept in that vase for years, sometimes standing, sometimes reclining. All the while its small and pliable body grew and filled the unforgiving

contours of the vase. After several years in that binding predicament, the child’s body took on the shape of the vase and the child became a grotesque, misshapen, deformed, human monster. The child became as twisted as the vase, and the damage to his body was irreparable.

When the Frankensteinian practitioners of the art of remaking humans thought that the child’s shape was permanent, they broke the vase and removed the child, now perhaps eight or ten years old. Before them stood a helpless child shaped like a vase, a source of cruel amusement for the Chinese distortionists.

Even today, we have not done with such horrific human warping. Indeed, we sometimes do things far worse than deforming children’s bodies. We deform their souls. We create monsters of the mind. We twist, we truncate, their souls and force them to conform to the secular, under-educated, God-denying containers of the postmodern public school system into which we cram them. The twelve years that most American children spend in government schools, followed by the four years they spend in the leftist centers of higher indoctrination that we call colleges, distort the hapless young victims into the mindless sheep the secular state requires to fulfill its grand designs of human engineering. In those schools, we wring the creativity, individuality, and genius out of our young people, every last drop. We teach them to fit in, not stand out.

Have you noticed? We do the same in our churches and church schools. Young people who think for themselves, who arrive at conclusions not institutionally approved, are considered dangerous, rebellious, divergent. Perhaps they are. But at least they are not sheep, not lemmings. They are human creatures who are willing to ask—and to answer—the questions for which God has designed them, even if the deforming institutions around them are afraid of them and want to imprison their souls in the vases of sectarian indoctrination rather than nurture them in the fresh air and sunlight of the fields of discovery.

Genius, creativity, and the paradigm shifts to which they give rise, are liberating. Brain vases are not. But we have grown so used to the deformities we create that we think all folks ought to fit them on. The difference between the public schools and the churches is a matter of content, not method. That sad fact means that we ourselves have been deformed in the world vase, and that we reproduce after our own kind, if we can.

Christ Himself warned us off this path. He commanded us not to take the world’s shape. We are to be conformed to a different paradigm, His, in which alone we find our liberation because there, and only there, do we become what we were meant to be all along—the sons and daughters of God.