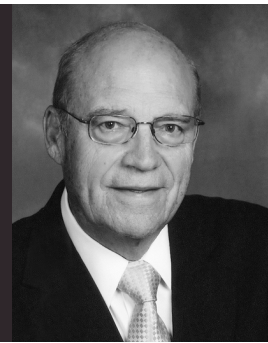




Dr. Fred Schwarz

# The Schwarz Report

62 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

December 2022

## Merry Christmas!

### The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the lodging place.

In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.”

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to people He favors!”

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough.

After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told.

—Luke 2:1-20 *Holman Christian Standard Bible*

# The Drag Queen Movement

by Andrea Widburg

Lately, it seems as if every library and school in America, even those in relatively conservative jurisdictions, is bringing in drag queens to perform for (and train) children. According to Christopher Rufo, this is not just a random cultural occurrence. It is, instead, the result of a deliberate, 40-year-long campaign to bring transvestites and children together in a “site of queer pleasure.” Rufo, along with Libs of TikTok, Matt Walsh, and many other culture warriors is brushing away the rainbows and sparkle to expose the hyper-sexuality behind transgenderism and the way it’s deliberately targeting American children.

Different people have different agendas for aggressively trying to insert drag and other non-traditional sexualities—that is, not marriage and family—into mainstream American culture. At a political level, offering an ethos of easy sexual gratification gets votes. At a secondary level, sexualizing children puts them at odds with their families, thereby destroying families and increasing the state’s power. Finally, at a more subtle level, sexualizing children breaks down their sense of personal integrity, leaving them vulnerable to manipulation and control.

Among the shock troops on the ground, though, there’s just one reason to sexualize children, and that’s for sex. It’s really not more complicated than that. However, those trying to “trans” your children have managed to hide this abusive and perverted motive behind phrases such as “gender-affirming care” and, most especially, behind pretty things: rainbows, sparkles, glitter, songs, and dances. As Rufo explains,

The drag queen might appear as a comic figure, but he carries an utterly serious message: the deconstruction of sex, the reconstruction of child sexuality, and the subversion of middle-class family life. The ideology that drives this movement was born in the sex dungeons of San Francisco and incubated in the academy. It is now being transmitted, with official state support, in a number of public libraries and schools across the United States.

Rufo’s analysis begins with “queer theory,” which Gayle S. Rubin, a lesbian activist, articulated in 1984 after immersing herself in San Francisco’s utterly debauched gay subcultures. (Let’s just say that there’s a reason AIDS spread so quickly in San Francisco.) Rubin decided that this subculture deserved to be given respect as a unique institution that was the counterpoint to the dominant narrative of heterosexual marriage and family.

Rubin then dressed the idea up in the language of Marxism, making queer culture a victim of heterosexual

cultural oppression. She understood that transforming sexuality would transform America. (Thankfully, Rufo explains most of the Marxist, academic jargon in which all this revolutionary talk is propounded.)

Of course, once you start deconstructing the stable, two-parent, heterosexual family that is the backbone of America, there’s nowhere to go but down to the very bottom of sexual morality:

Where does this process end? At its logical conclusion: the abolition of restrictions on the behavior at the bottom end of the moral spectrum—pedophilia. Though she uses euphemisms such as “boylovers” and “men who love underaged youth,” Rubin makes her case clearly and emphatically. \*\*\* These men are not deviants, but victims, in Rubin’s telling.

So, how do you devictimize pedophiles? By making them attractive, both to children (of course) and to society as a whole. Many leftist philosophers, including Michel Foucault, himself a pedophile and the father of queer theory, were on board with the plan.

Drag was the perfect vehicle, especially as it became avant-garde after the Stonewall riots. Before leftists embraced drag queens, they offered overtly sexual performances by and for homosexuals. After, they became trendy and were an opportunity to mock Middle American values.

Inevitably, though, the activists figured out that the best way to effect a complete cultural revolution was to make drag “family friendly.” It began with Hollywood, of course. I have nothing bad to say about RuPaul, about whom I know nothing, but as far as ordinary America was concerned, he was the beginning of dressing up drag in Middle American clothes, not as mockery, but as bait.

There’s so much more there that I cannot possibly distill it for this post. Suffice it to say that I urge you to read Rufo’s essay so that you truly understand that Drag Queen Story Hour and “family friendly” drag shows are anything but “family friendly.” They are, instead, the latest weapon in the American leftists’ endless attack on American stability, affluence, and happiness—and their targets are our children.

(One more thing: If you have any doubt about the agenda, think about the fact that most of these drag queens are abysmal at what they do: They can’t sing, they can’t dance, and many struggle with children’s books. They’re not offering performative value. Their value lies in undermining American mores. That’s all.)

—*American Thinker*, October 24, 2022

# Intelligent Design

by Jack Hellner

There are millions of known and unknown animal and plant species on Earth, yet there are few evolutionary trees to trace how they began.

A Ball State professor was fired for daring to bring up intelligent design along with evolution. The atheists who abhor the idea got the university to cave. He eventually got reinstated.

A physics professor whose intelligent design course, “Boundaries of Science”—a definite no-no in the no-longer-hallowed halls of academia—was dropped in 2013 by Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, after complaints from atheists, is scheduled to return to the BSU campus in late October.

When Professor Eric Hedin returns to his old stomping grounds on October 26, his topic of discussion will again be intelligent design (ID). The theory holds that certain features of the universe and living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process or natural selection.

Intelligent design is a worthy idea that deserves consideration in the academic realm. After all, animals and plants clearly evolved, yet the origin of life on Earth cannot be explained by evolution, nor can the infinite universe. Seems the left can’t handle the concept of intelligent design.

As *RedState* noted:

[U]nlike Creationism, the belief that God is the “absolute creator of heaven and earth, out of nothing,” intelligent design suggests a higher intelligence, scientific evidence, and physics are not mutually exclusive in discussions about the origin of the universe and subsequent life.

Sadly, leftists won’t tolerate diversity, whether it be about climate change, evolution, COVID, or when talking about biological sex.

Colleges are supposed to be incubators for teaching and learning. Sadly, they have essentially become thought police who indoctrinate instead of educate. They seek to silence those who dare disagree with their leftist agenda.

There are a multitude of things on Earth and throughout the universe that were not created due to evolution. Here is a sample:

The sun, moon, stars, planets.

Thunder, lightning, rain, tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, El Niño, La Niña, high tide, and low tide.

There are a huge number of natural elements that allow us to live and thrive that can’t be explained by evolution.

Any natural substance that humans use can be considered a natural resource. Oil, coal, natural gas, metals, stone, and sand are natural resources. Other natural resources are air, sunlight, soil, and water. Animals, birds, fish, and plants are natural resources as well.

There’s also the rotation and orbit of the Earth and gravity.

In intelligent design, the Earth was placed over 92 million miles from the Sun, the Earth’s heat source. The Sun’s temperature is around 27 million degrees at its core. If the Earth were closer, it would burn up. If it were farther away, we would freeze.

Soil contains a lot of natural nutrients and can’t be explained by evolution.

Soil is a major source of nutrients needed by plants for growth. The three main nutrients are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Together they make up the trio known as NPK. Other important nutrients are calcium, magnesium, and sulfur. Plants also need small quantities of iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, and molybdenum, known as trace elements because only traces are needed by the plant. The role these nutrients play in plant growth is complex, and this document provides only a brief outline.

Humans breathe out CO<sub>2</sub> that makes plants thrive, and plants emit oxygen that allows humans to live. Neither can be explained by evolution.

The process where a tiny sperm and tiny egg get together, and within a few months a human is born with all its body parts and organs formed, is an amazing creation that cannot be explained by evolution.

Women, not men, have the body parts necessary to carry a child from conception to birth.

Women have a womb (uterus), not men.

Women develop an amazing organ, the placenta, not men.

The placenta is an organ that develops in the uterus during pregnancy. This structure provides oxygen and nutrients to a growing baby. It also removes waste products from the baby’s blood. The placenta attaches to the wall of the uterus, and the baby’s umbilical cord arises from it.

Women have all the parts necessary for a birth canal to give birth, not men.

After birth, women can produce milk for the baby, not men. Breastmilk is an amazing creation, as the composition and nutrients change as the baby grows naturally.

The composition of your breast milk changes—and continues to change—to meet the unique needs of your baby, even as he or she grows into a toddler!

No matter what the media, educators, entertainers, and other Democrats say, men have not evolved to where

they can carry a baby and give birth. Men are basically the sperm donors because women have not evolved to where they produce sperm, and it takes two to tango.

The older I get, the more amazed I am at how blessed we are on Earth and with nature. The natural processes and instincts cannot be explained by evolution.

Here are a few more tidbits:

Humans have two sets of teeth. Elephants can have up to six sets in their lifetime.

Caterpillars eat poisonous milkweed in order to inject Monarch butterflies with a toxin that protects them from predators.

The mother penguin lays an egg and then hands it to the father for protection, who almost starves himself to death while protecting their baby penguin.

**Male emperor penguins will not eat for up to four months**, from the time they arrive at the colony to breed until the egg has hatched and the mother returns to feed. They lose almost half of their body weight during this time.

Isn't it amazing how much trouble animals will go to protect their unborn while a significant number of humans consider their unborn a nuisance and no more worthy of care than a clump of dirt?

To determine the sex of animals, all you have to do is examine their body parts. It doesn't make any difference how they feel.

I recently had two knee replacements. My knee joint was replaced by three natural resources: titanium, cobalt, and plastic (oil). Thank goodness the human brain was invented that allowed my arthritic knees to be replaced. My knees didn't evolve.

We hear a lot about artificial intelligence, but all computers and robots are developed by humans and programmed by humans. Algorithms at social media outlets, used to silence people, are designed by humans. The human brain is the source of artificial intelligence.

We should learn to admit that there are many things, especially about the origin of life and the universe, that are unexplainable and stop pretending that the science is settled.

Why would we trust politicians, bureaucrats, and others to control sea levels, temperatures, and storm activity when there are so many natural variables that we have no control over?

We should also stop pretending that a party who can't define a woman and which pretends men can give birth is the party of science.

—*American Thinker*, October 25, 2022

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## Air Force Academy Generals

by Scott Sturman

In September, the United States Air Force Academy class of 1972 met for its 50th year reunion. Compared to our experience, the Academy of today is virtually unrecognizable.

America's foundational institutions are under assault. For decades the siege progressed incrementally, imperceptible to most observers. But recently the pace has accelerated, avoiding all pretense of subtlety. In the case of USAFA, activist generals serve as a vivid example of how a few influential individuals are able to implement President Obama's call to fundamentally change American society.

Nowadays, when visiting USAFA, one is impressed by the comfortable, relaxed atmosphere. Gone are the days when cadets lived under unremitting pressure, stood at rigid attention, and bore the brunt of verbal abuse from upper class cadets. Uniforms are still worn, but in reality, cadet life is drifting away from that of a traditional military academy and towards a liberal arts environment.

According to *U.S. News'* Best College Rankings, the Academy's national ranking in the National Liberal Arts Colleges category increased from #39 to #18 from 2020 to 2022. USAFA ranks #1 in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, but this distinction only applies to schools that do not offer doctorate degrees. Currently, the civilian faculty, including visiting members, comprises 42% of the academic department.

Since 2013, when Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michael Gould introduced a comprehensive Diversity and Inclusion Program (D&I) in accordance with President Obama's Executive Order 13583, USAFA drifted away from its historic policy of avoiding political engagement. The enactment of the program served as a harbinger of the Academy's descent into divisive issues, when the plan declared D&I a "military necessity" and "as important as academics."

Superintendent Gould's successor, Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, achieved national notoriety with his handling of a racial graffiti incident directed at Black cadets at the USAFA Prep School in 2017. Silveria presumed the identity of the perpetrators, condemned racism to a national audience, and vowed to expel the culprits. To the general's dismay, an inquiry found that the guilty party was one of the Black cadets who was the supposed victim of the hate crime, but the damage had been done. The Superintendent had formed hasty conclusions, falsely accused innocent cadets based on predetermined assumptions, and tarnished the Academy's reputation.

Silveria's activism continued throughout his tenure. In July 2020, the USAFA football coaching staff

produced a social media video supporting the Marxist organization Black Lives Matter. This was a remarkable departure from the Academy’s ethos to publicly avoid politics, but Silveria did not intervene to remove the video. In the same month, in a letter to the Academy Family, he insinuated that systemic racism existed at USAFA. He directed that an investigation be completed within two months—the results of which are still confidential. STARRS, an organization pledged to resist racism and radical agendas in the military, submitted a Freedom of Information Act request in an effort to force transparency regarding the report’s contents—a request which remains unanswered after more than 700 days. Judicial Watch sued the US Department of Defense to release the document to the public.

Silveria retired in 2020 but left his replacement, Lt. Gen. Richard Clark to contend with 250 cadets involved in the largest cheating scandal in USAFA history that occurred during the final months of his tenure. The Honor Code forbids lying, cheating, stealing, or tolerating dishonorable conduct. Twenty years ago, the Commandant of Cadets briefed my graduating class that the current generation of cadets could not be expected to adhere to these standards. This March in an article in *Checkpoints Magazine*, Superintendent Clark reiterated a similar assessment, confirming a continued theme of low expectations.

As Superintendent Clark dealt with his predecessor’s problems, he continued his own activist agenda. He supported a required reading program for incoming cadets that included George Takei’s anti-American screed, *They Called Us Enemy*. Lynn Chandler-Garcia, a professor in the political science department, publicly acknowledged teaching Critical Race Theory at USAFA. General Clark disputed Professor Chandler’s claim and maintained that the subject is taught, but not promoted. Calls from the graduate community to clarify the issue by releasing the course syllabuses continue to be ignored.

General Clark has been a steadfast proponent of mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for all members of the Cadet Wing. He has denied all requests for religious and medical exemptions, citing obsolete data derived from the early stages of the pandemic, and failing to recognize the low probability of serious disease, and the negligible benefit and attendant risks of the vaccine in the healthy cadet population.

Last month all USAFA cadets were required to attend a D&I briefing that instructed them on preferred pronouns, the problems with using the words “mom” and “dad,” and the impropriety of Dr. Martin Luther King’s sage comments regarding the relative importance of one’s color and character. When the course’s slide presentation was leaked to the public, the Superintendent claimed that the subject matter was

taken out of context. This interpretation conflicted with the version told by cadets who attended the lecture.

Further controversy arose, when it was discovered that eligibility for a nine-week paid internship at a major aerospace company was based on sex and minority status. The Brooke Owens Fellowship stipulated that only gender minorities need apply, and cis-gender men specifically were instructed not to respond. Similarly, the Patti Grace Smith Fellowship offered a nine-week paid internship for only Black cadets interested in aerospace careers.

Applications to all military academies fell this year, but USAFA’s shortfall was far worse than at West Point and Annapolis. USAFA’s Director of Admissions blames the precipitous 46% drop in qualified candidates on Covid. With USAFA mired in controversy and the recently disclosed football team’s recruiting violations and placement on NCAA probation, one suspects that USAFA’s problems are endemic and self-inflicted.

Reverend Charles F. Aked, a prohibitionist, stated, “It has been said that for evil men to accomplish their purpose it is only necessary that good men should do nothing.” In Aked’s view, evil equated with the consumption of wine, beer, and whiskey.

Policies that politicize the Academy, that refute Dr. Martin Luther King’s comments about color and character, that contend today’s generation is unable to live by the Honor Code, and that create division rather than unity as the better military option, have far greater moral implications than the Reverend Aked’s crusade against alcohol.

One expression defined the focus of my class’s training: *E pluribus unum*, “Out of many, one,” which was inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States in 1782 and served as the *de facto* motto of the United States for 174 years. It must remain the mainstay of military experience.

—*American Thinker*, October 20, 2022



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Check out our blog at:

[www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com](http://www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com)

## Christopher Columbus: A Christian Activist

by Raymond Ibrahim

Another Columbus Day—or as the left calls it, “Indigenous Peoples Day”—has come and gone. It was “celebrated” with typical and outraged wokeism concerning the Italian explorer’s alleged “genocide” against the natives. And another Columbus memorial was also defaced in Massachusetts—with the words, “Genocider” and “Death to Amerika” sprawled with blood red ink.

Once venerated as a great hero, it is hard nowadays to find a kind word about Columbus among America’s leadership. This, of course, does not apply to Floridian governor Ron DeSantis, who has no problem defying political orthodoxy. In fact, last year he signed a proclamation stating:

Columbus stands a singular figure in Western Civilization, who exemplified courage, risk-taking, and heroism in the face of enormous odds; as a visionary who saw the possibilities of exploration beyond Europe; and as a founding father who laid the foundation for what would one day become the United States of America, which would commemorate Columbus by naming its federal district after him.

While all this is true, Columbus stands for and is a reminder of something else that is now little known if not completely (and intentionally) forgotten: he was, first and foremost, a Crusader—an avowed enemy of the jihad; and his expeditions were, first and foremost, about circumventing and ultimately retaliating against the Islamic sultanates surrounding and terrorizing Europe—not just “finding spices” as we were taught in high school.

When he was born, the then more than 800-year-old war against Islam—or rather defense against jihad—was at an all-time high. In 1453, when Columbus was 2-years-old, the Turks finally sacked Constantinople, an atrocity-laden event that rocked Christendom to its core.

Over the following years, Muslims continued making inroads deep into the Balkans, leaving much death and destruction in their wake, with millions of Slavs enslaved. (Yes, the two words are etymologically connected, and for this very reason.)

In 1480, when he was 29, the Turks even managed to invade Columbus’s native Italy, where, in the city of Otranto, they ritually beheaded 800 Italians—and sawed their archbishop in half—for refusing to recant Christianity and embrace Islam.

It was in this context that Spain’s monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella—themselves avowed Crusaders,

especially the queen, who concluded the centuries-long Reconquista of Spain by liberating Granada of Islam in 1492—took Columbus into their service.

They funded his ambitious voyage in an effort to launch, in the words of historian Louis Bertrand, “a final and definite Crusade against Islam by way of the Indies.” (It, of course, went awry and culminated in the incidental founding of the New World.)

Many Europeans were convinced that if only they could reach the peoples east of Islam—who if not Christian were at least “not as yet infected by the Muhammadan plague,” to quote Pope Nicholas V (d.1455)—together they could crush Islam between them. (The plan was centuries old and connected to the legend of Prester John, a supposedly great Christian monarch reigning in the East who would one day march westward and avenge Christendom by destroying Islam.)

All this comes out clearly in Columbus’s own letters: in one he refers to Ferdinand and Isabella as “enemies of the wretched sect of Muhammad” who are “resolve[d] to send me to the regions of the Indies, to see [how the people thereof can help in the war effort].” In another written to the monarchs after he reached the New World, Columbus offers to raise an army “for the war and conquest of Jerusalem.” (That his voyages centered on liberating Jerusalem from Islam is further evident in the title of one 2011 book, *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem*.)

Nor were Spain and Columbus the first to implement this strategy. Once Portugal was cleared of Islam in 1249, its military orders launched into Muslim Africa. “The great and overriding motivation behind [Prince] Henry the Navigator’s [b. 1394] explosive energy and expansive intellect,” writes historian George Grant, “was the simple desire to take the cross—to carry the crusading sword over to Africa and thus to open a new chapter in Christendom’s holy war against Islam.” He launched all those discovery voyages because “he sought to know if there were in those parts any Christian princes,” who “would aid him against the enemies of the faith,” wrote a contemporary.

Does all this make Columbus and by extension Ferdinand and Isabella—not to mention the whole of Christendom—“Islamophobes,” as those few modern critics who bother mentioning the jihadist backdrop of Columbus’s voyage allege?

For example, in an *LA Times* op-ed, Yale historian Alan Mikhail wrote:

A primary force behind Columbus’ Atlantic crossings was a fear and hatred of Islam. . . . This shaped how white Europeans engaged with the “New World” and its native peoples for centuries, and how today’s Americans understand the world. .

... Columbus was born into Europe's anti-Islamic mind-set in 1451 ...

While much of this is true, Mikhail does not bother explaining *why* there was such a “fear and hatred of Islam,” or why Europe had an “anti-Islamic mind-set,” in the first place. “White Europeans” were just unenlightened bigots (“racists” in contemporary, if infinitely overdone, parlance).

But therein lay the irony: yes, Columbus and Europeans were “Islamophobes”—but not in the way that word is used today. While the Greek word *phobos* has always meant “fear,” its usage today implies “irrational fear.” However, considering that for nearly a thousand years before Columbus, Islam had repeatedly attacked Christendom to the point of swallowing up three-quarters of its original territory, including for centuries Spain; that Islam's latest iteration, in the guise of the Ottoman Turks, was during Columbus's era devastating the Balkans and Mediterranean, slaughtering and enslaving any European who dared travel east through their domains; and that, even centuries after Columbus, Islam was *still* terrorizing the West—marching onto Vienna with 200,000 jihadists in 1683 and provoking America into its first war as a nation—the very suggestion that Western fears of Islam were, or are, “irrational” is itself the height of irrationalism.

—*FrontPageMag.com*, October 21, 2022

## Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* by Terry Paulding

*PERHAPS the sentiments contained in the following pages, are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defence of custom. But tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason.*

—Thomas Paine, introduction to *Common Sense*

It would behoove us all to review the text of Thomas Paine's 48-page pamphlet, which he published anonymously (fearing reprisal) in February 1776. Paine's wisdom applies as well today as it did back then, not because of his argument against the monarchy, but as a reminder that the self-government we championed then—and are losing now—carries responsibilities.

Paine donated the profits from the astounding 500,000 copies sold (when the US population was only 2.5 million) to Washington's army. Looking at his ideas reminds us that it was influential for a profound reason.

Let it be so again, as part of the guidance we need to follow out of the current morass.

Paine was British by birth and had no formal higher education, having dropped out of school at age 13. Therefore, he wrote simply, using accessible and resonant words. From the opening paragraphs:

Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

Paine aptly describes how a government must be formed, to have an orderly society

...because as the elected might by that means return and mix again with the general body of the electors in a few months, their fidelity to the public will be secured by the prudent reflection of not making a rod for themselves. And as this frequent interchange will establish a common interest with every part of the community, they will mutually and naturally support each other, and on this (not on the unmeaning name of king) depends the strength of government, and the happiness of the governed.

Clearly, we've grown away from that simplicity. A small populace governed by elected representatives people has become 340 million people governed by a nameless bureaucracy, plus a few elected officials who rarely aspire to represent most of their constituents. That part of Paine's writing devoted to arguing against the concept of hereditary, kingly rule resonates now that we have what was then unimaginable: an ingrained, bureaucratic inflexibility of rule.

Do we have a president in the sense our Founders conceived? On the face of it, the president today can, by fiat, change any rule. The executive order that put a halt to the Keystone pipeline, and started our descent into energy helplessness is an example. He (or, in Biden's case, his minions) can direct a corrupt bureaucracy to trample on the rights of the people he so inadroitly governs—a stark example is Biden's continued imprisonment, without trial, in horrific conditions, of people who walked into the Capitol building nearly two years ago.

Paine's writing reminds us that

Men who look upon themselves born to reign, and others to obey, soon grow insolent; selected from the rest of mankind their minds are early poisoned by important; and the world they act in differs so materially from the world at large, that they have but little opportunity of knowing its true interests, and when they succeed to the government are frequently the most ignorant and unfit of any throughout the dominions.

While that last was again written as an argument against the throne, it holds true now, perfectly describing Biden. Paine further asks this question: “Is the power who is jealous of our prosperity, a proper power to govern us?”

Such a simple question. It is demonstrably true that those now in power work against our prosperity. We see this in our wealth’s diminution through predictable inflation caused by blatantly bad fiscal and social policy. We, and our government, forget that, as Paine quotes Dragonetti, on *Virtue and Rewards*,

The science of the politician consists in fixing the true point of happiness and freedom. Those men would deserve the gratitude of ages, who should discover a mode of government that contained the greatest sum of individual happiness, **with the least national expense.** (Emphasis mine.)

Paine further says that

The more men have to lose, the less willing they are to venture. The rich are in general slaves to fear, and submit to courtly power with the trembling duplicity of a spaniel.

It is time, I think, to stop trembling and watching our freedom slip away. In much of the country, this election matters more than any before it, and we must consider it a start toward reversing America’s downward spiral. Keeping the feet of those whom we elect to the fire is step two. Complacency is no longer an option.

—*American Thinker*, October 17, 2022

## University of Minnesota Medical School

by Michael Applebaum, M.D.

It was reported that the incoming class of medical students at the University of Minnesota Medical School recited a homegrown oath at their “white coat” ceremony on August 19.

The affirmation included this: “We commit to uprooting the legacy and perpetuation of structural violence deeply embedded within the health care system.”

Well, that is a problem.

Speaking only for myself, I have always viewed my profession as one of legalized violence. The violence is

part of the structure of the system. Take the violence away and you are left with mostly “Too bad. Bummer.”-like treatment.

What is it that physicians do? We incise, excise, phlebotomize, amputate, extirpate, irradiate, inoculate, enucleate, medicate, intubate, and so forth.

Not touchy-feely stuff.

I have always found it humbling that society and individuals grant us, as a profession, the right to do things to them that if done in just about any other circumstance would be illegal. Cutting open an abdomen, drilling a hole in someone’s skull, lopping off a limb, jabbing medication into a stranger—all things health care professionals do—would be criminal offenses without the permission given us.

Plainly put, the medical profession regularly engages in violence. Structural violence. Justifiable violence. Violence, nonetheless.

Medicine is violent.

People can, and do, die from what health care providers do.

When you realize the gravity of what can result from your efforts, you are more likely to be cautious. When you discount it, you are less likely. Thinking you can “uproot” it and make it go away makes you both dangerous and deluded (given the current state of the art), in my humble opinion.

(Now, some may say that the work of psychiatrists is excepted. Okay. Maybe. However, they do order drugs and, don’t forget, words are violence, too. They are not completely off the hook.)

It is noteworthy that the speakers of the oath are medical students populating the Class of 2026 (entry-level), so they speak with authority based on ~~knowledge, skill, training, experience~~ fantasies.

I cannot say it is a great way to start. There is something, to me, at least, about having a practical or experienced foundation upon which to base pontificating. This is especially true for adults.

But that’s just me.

Some might conclude that the oath thing is good news, given their mindset. If these students are renouncing violence, then they may not be able to practice.

That could evoke a collective “woo-hoo!”

The fantasists also claim that they will, “hold ourselves accountable for our mistakes.” Wanna bet?

—*American Thinker*, October 11, 2022

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