



THE TORCH

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Campus Chaos

From a speech by **Dr. Duke Pesta**, University of Wisconsin Professor of Renaissance Literature, and one of the nation's foremost experts on the federal takeover of education and Common Core.

Ever wonder why all the universities and colleges are filled with liberal professors and there is no real discourse in college classes? It is because the professors are trained by the same schools, have never held real jobs, and are isolated. They attend public (government) schools from kindergarten through high school, go to public (government) colleges, stay on for a Masters degree and a PhD degree, and then are hired by universities—even Christian ones—to teach. After seven years, they receive tenure, are guaranteed protection, and cannot be fired.

American classical education has been hijacked by educational socialism. From kindergarten on, faith in God, country, and self are being attacked. Social justice and Marxism are promoted and taught. We cannot fix the problem anymore. Schools, the media, and Hollywood have your kids. Even homeschooled kids. I once overheard a university professor say, "I want to beat the Jesus out of her" when talking about a homeschooled student in one of his classes.

At the beginning of every semester, I give what I call a "Cultural Literacy test" to college freshman. I have given over 1,800 of these quizzes. Ninety-three percent know Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner, yet only 66 percent know he was a U.S. President. Eighty percent were unable to list another country that held slaves in the past 2,500 years. Seventy-five percent defined capitalism as "greedy, selfish, or unfair," while 85 percent said socialism was "fair and equal." **American kids don't know American history and have been taught that equality is everything.**

The first two years of college are general education classes worth 60 credits. What's being taught in those two years are feminism, racism, Marxism, transgenderism, and

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environmentalism. Freshmen English courses are not graded on punctuation, grammar, or syntax, but solely on the professor's opinion. "Green Chemistry" and "Feminist Biology" are popular classes, because they are easier than regular chemistry and biology classes. "Cultural Math" has no right or wrong answers, making sure everyone feels good about themselves. The most balanced courses of study are agriculture and business. That is where you will find the most conservative teachers.

My solution? **No kid needs college at 17 or 18.** The average age to graduate from college is 25. It usually takes five to six years to get an undergrad degree these days, because the classes are so watered down. Take that two-year window after high school to live at home, go to a community college for the general ed classes (many are online—it is hard to politicize online) and work or intern 12 to 15 hours a week. Then finish the last two years at a university or college, live off campus, and work a few hours a week. Not only will the student be more mature, but think of the money saved!

Student loan debt is now \$1.2 trillion. Many college kids wanted Bernie Sanders for president because he was going to erase student loans and offer free college for everyone. Thankfully, college kids don't vote.

If high school grads do decide to go to a big university as freshmen, never, *ever*, let them live in the dorm. **Dorm life is where the liberal agenda is pushed.** Girls and boys live together, often sharing the same room; to live in separate dorms/rooms is sexist. Student fees cover birth control pills and morning-after pills dispensed by dorm leaders, some who actually have a degree in "Dorm Management." The

University of Wisconsin is building a brand new dorm for only transgendered students, but somehow that is not sexist. Gender is a construct—you are what you say you are; to disagree is racist or sexist.

State universities are beholden to their state legislators for money. The big universities get 75 percent of the state money, while the branches and smaller public colleges get 25 percent. Many branches of universities are closing for lack of funds. Socialists need money, which is why college tuition is going up. Maybe Margaret Thatcher had it right when she said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

NOTE: According to the National Association of Scholars, nearly 40 percent of liberal arts colleges in America have no Republicans among the faculty. The analysis of nearly 8,700 professors at 51 colleges found that the overall ratio of Democrats to Republicans was 10 to 1. But be encouraged by Tammy Morgan's article on page 3. Christian teachers can make a real difference in public education if they "don't leave Jesus in the parking lot."

Dr. Duke Pesta is also the FreedomProject Academy's Academic Director in Appleton, Wisconsin, and is committed to restoring the nation through Classical education, teaching Judeo-Christian values, and by preparing patriot leaders. For more information on Dr. Pesta and FPA's classical curriculum, search "Dr. Duke Pesta."

Let's LIFT Our Teachers!

By **Tammy Morgan**, Education Chair for Texas Eagle Forum

When you open up your social media pages this time of year, you will find “First Day of School” pictures filling up the feeds. Whether your children are enrolled in a public or private school, homeschooled or beyond the school age, you can't escape the nostalgic buzz that surrounds this time of year. The school zone signs begin flashing, reminding us to slow down and be aware. The football boys are back on the field, enduring the heat, to get ready for the excitement that the Friday night lights will bring. With all of the signs of school starting all around you, have you given any thought to how education affects you, your children, or your grandchildren? Have you considered that the future of our nation is sitting in the classrooms of today?

My love for education began in elementary school. It was my third grade year, and I had no idea that I would encounter a teacher that would change my life forever. Her name was Mrs. Trower. I was a timid eight year old without much awareness or belief in myself. It wasn't one single thing that Mrs. Trower did, but a whole year of building up and encouraging that changed my life forever. As a result of Mrs. Trower's love and affirmation, she took me from being a mediocre student to a top performer in the class. Most importantly, Mrs. Trower's example led me to my calling: education. From that day on, I never wanted to do anything but become a teacher. Most of us have at least one teacher that fondly sticks in our memory. Chances are that teacher saw things in each of us that we couldn't see in ourselves.

I recently read of a movement among some Christians to pull away from public schools. On the one hand, I fully believe that parents know what setting is best for their own children to receive an education. On the other hand, I wholeheartedly believe that we need more Christians in the field of education than ever before. The students rolling into classrooms this fall are a reflection of our world. You only have to watch the news for a few seconds to discover that this nation we live in is hurting and broken. Needless to say, the students we teach today need the influence of godly teachers more than ever.

A poll conducted by the Barna Group, revealed that nearly half of the nation's public school teachers are practicing Christians. So, why are we not seeing the dividends of Christian influence in public schools? Are our Christian educators taking Jesus with them into the classroom or leaving him at the school door? After visiting with many educators it is clear that they are afraid of litigious consequences for making their faith too visible. In other words, they are fearful and not fully living out their calling.

Unlike many professions, the rewards of teaching are long-term. It may take decades for teachers to see the fruits of their

labor. That is why teachers need our encouragement today! Organizations like Christian Educators Association International are rising to the challenge. Within the past two years, they have started a movement called LIFT America. LIFT stands for Lasting Impact Fellowship for Teachers (www.ceai.org/lift-america). **The goal of LIFT America is for teachers to form support groups within their school and communities to remind them that their greatest source of strength as they walk into the classroom is the Lord.**

“The key to revival in this nation begins with Christian educators.”

Through LIFT America, our teachers also learn about the legal guidelines and boundaries for Christian educators in public schools. When our teachers know their rights and boundaries, they can teach without fear. We want our teachers to be empowered and ready to meet the challenges of the classroom. We want teachers who have the strength and determination to make connections with their students and see them through the lens of who our Lord has created them to become. What hidden gems lie beneath the surface just waiting to be exposed? Teachers hold the tools to reveal gifts and empower students to live to their full potential.

It cannot be denied that the students sitting in the seats of our public schools will become the future leaders, parents, and policy makers of tomorrow. Being passive about the education system in our communities is no longer an option. We, as a nation, have too much at stake. If our parents, churches, and communities pray for and encourage our teachers to fully live out their calling, our schools will change. In fact, our state and nation will change. The key to revival in this nation begins with Christian educators. When educators make Christ a living reality in their classrooms hearts and lives will be changed.

Wake up Christians, our schools need your prayers and support! Attend a school board meeting, serve on a committee, and find a teacher or better yet an entire campus to daily lift in prayer. Together let's start a movement that will affect our children, grandchildren and this nation. Together let's LIFT our teachers!

Paxton Wins Massive Judgment Against Obamacare

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is celebrating a court ruling that will recover over \$300 million for Texas taxpayers. The original lawsuit, filed by Texas and five other states against the federal government in October of 2015, fought against an Obama-era regulation that penalized states that didn't force their taxpayers to pay the Health Insurance Providers Fee to help fund Obamacare. States that refused to pay the fee had their Medicaid funds reduced. A decision by the Northern U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruled that the fee was unconstitutional, ordering the IRS to reimburse the states for the fee. "Obamacare is unconstitutional, plain and simple," Paxton said. "We all know that the feds cannot tax the states, and we're proud to return this illegally collected money to the people of Texas." In total, over \$839 million was recouped by the states that brought the suit, which include Texas, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. The decision is just the latest in a series of executive and judicial moves to dismantle the failed experiment of Obamacare.
SOURCE: Empower Texans, 8/23/18

Gov. Abbott Seeing Red Over Red-Light Cameras

Red-light cameras don't seem to have the safety outcome for which they were designed, although they are terrific revenue-raisers for local government. Gov. Greg Abbott says he's about had it with red-light cameras. "More and more I think it's time to do away with red-light cameras in Texas," declared the governor, linking to a study asserting there's no evidence red-light cameras lead to safety improvements. The study conducted by two economists at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, finds "no evidence" of public safety improvements due to any photo-snapping of red-light runners. The Texas Senate voted in the last session to get rid of them. The House failed to act, but Gov. Abbott's interest could make all the difference in 2019.
SOURCE: William Murchison, "Governor Seeing Red at Red-Light Cameras," Institute for Policy Innovation, 8/8/18

Diversity Is Not a Strength

It has become increasingly popular to speak of racial and ethnic diversity as a civic strength. From multicultural festivals to pronouncements from political leaders, the message is the same: our differences make us stronger. But a massive new study, based on detailed interviews of nearly 30,000 people across America, has concluded just the opposite. Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam has found that the greater the diversity in a community, the fewer people vote and the less they volunteer, the less they give to charity and work on community projects. In the most diverse communities, neighbors trust one another about half as much as they do in the most homogenous settings. The study, the largest ever on civic engagement in America, found that virtually all measures of civic health are lower in more diverse settings. The only thing that ever allowed Americans to believe that diversity is a strength was our uniting culture. Without the now-destroyed Melting Pot to keep us together, diversity is one of our Nation's great weaknesses.
SOURCE: John Hawkins, "Diversity Is a Weakness, Not a Strength," Townhall.com, 10/21/17

Animal Cracker Boxes Uncaged

After more than a century of imprisonment, Barnum's cracker creatures are roaming free—until they meet their mushy demise in the mouths of children, anyway. After pressure from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Nabisco has rolled out a redesign of its Barnum's animal crackers box, which takes its name from the famed circus that historically featured animals behind bars. Now, the box shows the animals in formation, asserting their freedom on the savanna. In an April 2016 letter, PETA implored Nabisco to change its advertising, as public resistance to circuses grew because of allegations about abuse of circus animals. Ben Williamson, a PETA media director, said, "The new box for the animal crackers reflects that society no longer tolerates the chaining and caging of wild animals."
SOURCE: The Washington Post, 8/21/18

Quote of the Month

"Believe it or not, I still have faith in the students who are attending our 4,000 or so institutions of higher learning. Though many young people are swayed by the constant bombardment of progressive ideology and propaganda heaped out by the scoopful on campus, most of the young people weather the storm. If they come to college with conservative values, they will most likely leave with them, as well."

~ Dr. Sam Clovis, "The Myth of Campus Diversity,"
Canada Free Press, 8/7/18

Great American Quote

"We've become accustomed of late of putting little books into the hands of children containing fables and moral lessons. We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principal text of our schools."

~ Founding Father Fisher Ames,
1758–1808

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