

Opinion

12 professors guilty of encouraging free thought

It all began innocently enough. A few people decided that certain college professors might be corrupting their students' minds with ideas, so they decided to do something about it. A new organization was formed.



Karl Pallmeyer

The purpose of Accuracy In Academia was to determine if certain professors were guilty of thinking wrong thoughts about America, God, Money and Mankind. If so, these professors shouldn't be allowed to express their views to young, impressionable children, who, even though they are in college, are not responsible enough to make judgments about anything they are told. Since these children have been accepting blindly everything their parents have been telling them for years, they don't dare question anything that an older person tells them. These children need someone to look after them. That's where AIA comes in.

The AIA finds students who are pure of mind and body to sit in on potentially dangerous professors' classes. These faithful watchdogs can determine which professors are a threat to our society and should not be allowed to continue teaching.

The AIA watchdog at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos is Fred J. Alpheratz, a senior majoring in Republicanism. Alpheratz compiled a list of 12 professors who were not teaching things like they were supposed to. These 12 professors were arrested and brought to trial. The trial was held in the Joseph R. McCarthy Memorial Courtroom with the honorable Winston Z. Marmoset presiding. It went something like this: Marmoset: "Dr. H.G. Plutarch, you are a professor of history at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos are you not?"

Plutarch: "That is correct."
Marmoset: "You are charged with criticizing past American policies concerning the treatment of American Indians, civil rights, foreign relations and the Vietnam war. How do you plead?"
Plutarch: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Sigmund Skinner, professor of psychology at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos, you are charged with teaching Freudian theories on sexuality to students. How do you plead?"
Skinner: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Alexandria Babel, do you teach foreign languages at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos?"
Babel: "I do."

Marmoset: "You are charged with teaching students Latin, German, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. How do you plead?"

Babel: "Guilty."
Marmoset: "Dr. Charles Lamarck, you teach biology at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos, correct?"
Lamarck: "That's right."

Marmoset: "You are charged with requiring your students to read 'Origins of Species' and discussing Darwin's theories in class. How do you plead?"
Lamarck: "Guilty as charged."

Marmoset: "Dr. Harry Stotle, you are a philosophy professor are you not?"
Stotle: "I am."

Marmoset: "Yes. You are charged with teaching the works of Plato, Marx, Nietzsche and Machiavelli and with comparing Christianity with other religions. How do you plead?"
Stotle: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Emily D. Homer, you teach English at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos?"
Homer: "Yes."

Marmoset: "You are charged with requiring your students to read books by Salinger, Vonnegut, Twain, Catullus and Joyce. How do you plead?"
Homer: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Thomas Locke you are a professor of political science at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos, right?"
Locke: "Right-o!"

Marmoset: "How do you plead to the charges of teaching students about other systems of government, including communism?"
Locke: "I guess I'm guilty."

Marmoset: "Bob Bernstein, you teach journalism at the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos, how do you plead to the charges that you have told students that there needs to be greater freedom of information and that journalists have the right to report and comment on any government actions due to the First Amendment?"
Bernstein: "Guilty as charged."

Marmoset: "Dr. Milton Smith, it has been charged that in your economics class, you told your students that our country would be better off economically if our government would spend more money on social programs than on the military. How do you plead to that charge?"
Smith: "I said that so I guess I'm guilty."

Marmoset: "Baron Ludwig von Lennon, in your music appreciation class you told students that rock 'n' roll is a legitimate music form and sometimes offers valuable social insight."
Lennon: "That's true."

Marmoset: "How do you plead to the charge that you have played rock 'n' roll music to your class, Baron?"
Lennon: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Margaret Jung, you have been charged with teaching the customs and religions of foreign coun-

tries in your sociology class at the University of Cerebral Thanatos. How do you plead?"
Jung: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "Dr. Nicolaus Kepler your astronomy class you told students that the sun, not the earth, is the center of our solar system."
Kepler: "That's true, it is."

Marmoset: "How do you plead to such a charge?"
Kepler: "Guilty."

Marmoset: "In this case of the 12 professors from the Big University of Cerebral Thanatos, all 12 professors have pleaded guilty to the charges made against them. It is obvious, therefore, that all 12 are guilty of the greater crimes of exposing students to different ways and trying to make students think about things they are better left alone. I sentence all 12 to life imprisonment."

The 12 were sent to the Franz Kafka Prison for Enemies of State. They were able to read a newspaper account of how Fred J. Alpheratz, the anonymous witness against the 12 professors, awarded one of the state's highest decorations. All 12 remembered having Fred J. Alpheratz in one of their classes. He was the only student who flunked one of their classes.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalist and a columnist for The Battalion.



Vending machine assault nation's most serious crime

In Concord, Calif., a customer became enraged at an automated teller and kept punching it because the machine refused to dispense \$80 from the man's account.



Art Buchwald

The customer was arrested and charged with "malicious mischief."

This is not an isolated incident. According to police reports, so many people are beating up on automated machines that it has become this nation's most serious crime problem.

Johnny Hawke, who runs a home for battered machines, told me more than 50 percent of all aggravated assaults are committed against coin machines.

"Upright law-abiding citizens now think nothing of kicking a Coke machine in the groin, or shoving an index finger down the throat of a coin return slot. Priests have been known to punch out the glass panel of a cigarette machine over a two-bit misunderstanding. Vending machine hospitals are filled with broken candy bar racks and fractured Kleenex dispensers, while the perpetrators of these dastardly crimes are walking around scot-free."

I tried to defend the man in the

street. "It's true that people shouldn't assault coin-operated machines. But you have to blame some of the violence on the public's frustration when they don't get the product they paid for."

"What kind of country would this be if everyone kicked a vending machine that didn't work?" he cried.

"If you can't get your money back write a letter to the company," he replied.

"I tried that once," I protested. "I couldn't spring a Sprite out of the machine and it wouldn't give me my money back. So I wrote a letter on the spot to the soft drink people. Then I went to buy a stamp and damned if that machine didn't work either. So I drove a stake right through the heart of the word 'Sprite.'"

"Why did you stab the Sprite sign?"

"So there wouldn't be any witnesses to what I did to the stamp machine."

Hawke said the assaults are getting so serious that many machines are refusing to work unless they have guards. This defeats the whole idea of mechanical devices replacing people.

"Why so many attacks on automated tellers?"

He told me, "The automated teller muggings are acts of pure spite. People

used to rob banks, now they would prefer to beat up their teller machines. Things have gotten so bad that people kick an ATM whether it makes a mistake or not."

"How do you stop the violence?"

"We want tougher criminal penalties for any premeditated attack on an automated teller and we are insisting that anyone who hits the bulletproof glass with an umbrella be charged with assault with a deadly weapon."

"Will you get them?"

"People are starting to wake up to the vending machine crime wave in this country. They are furious at the bleeding heart judges who will not hand out tough sentences to abusers. Just the other day a man was accused of putting a bullet through a Laundromat machine because it missed the rinse cycle. He was sentenced to 20 years for involuntary manslaughter. The man will be out in 14 years to shoot another washer. When he does we will all ask, 'Why did it happen again?'"

"Do you find people beat up machines more in the daytime or at night?" I asked Hawke.

"It doesn't seem to matter. They beat the machines up in the daytime to get their money back. And they beat them up at night to hear them scream."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

A dangerous precedent

EDITOR:

I wish to write in response to KLS Computer's \$4.05 million lawsuit against the Texas A&M University System Comptroller as a result of the Micro Center. The suit contends that the Micro Center, by offering discounts to faculty and students, is unfair competition to local computer retailers.

By this same reasoning, the Department of Food Services should be shut down as they are unfair competition to local food establishments by offering savings through board plans. By this same reasoning, dorm spaces should not be offered as this would compete unfairly with local apartment landlords due to the cheaper cost of a dorm.

A victory in the courts by KLS Computers would set a dangerous precedent for the future of services offered to students by Texas A&M.

Mark Browning
Senator Ward I

Scobee memorial scholarship

EDITOR:

Now that it's been about a month since the space shuttle disaster, things have quieted down. There are fewer and fewer headline stories about the tragedy, and we're all about ready to put the incident in the past and move on with our lives. The few who are left wondering "What can be done now?" are usually advised to pick up and go on living — nothing can be changed now.

But that's not a very satisfying answer for the Mathematics/Science Teaching Scholars of Texas A&M: Dick Scobee, the commander of the shuttle flight was always supportive of our program and of education in general. We feel that something can be done, as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the shuttle disaster.

We've decided that the most appropriate thing for us to do is to establish a memorial scholarship in his name. We're working to raise \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship for a future math/science teacher.

We wanted to let all the students at A&M know that we have started a fund-raising campaign both on and off campus and welcome all support, assistance and participation.

Sharon Schulze
accompanied by 30 signatures

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