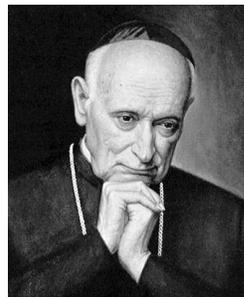


Mindszenty Report



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Mr. Chips Meets Dr. Bill The War for the Soul of American Higher Education

One of the most enduring books of the last century was James Hilton's 1934 novel *Goodbye Mr. Chips*. It told the story of Arthur Chipping, a shy but dedicated man who taught at an all-male academy in England. While *Mr. Chips* did not teach in a college, his professorial demeanor can easily serve as the symbol of a black robed sage who placed education and character formation ahead of ideology and indoctrination. One need only contrast the tradition fixture of Arthur Chipping next to that of the radical professors of today, such as Dr. William (Bill) Ayers to see what has happened to higher education.

A Marxist Laboratory

The Culture War has been fought on several battlefields during the last half century. While most of the media attention has addressed the life issues, such as abortion, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research, the college campus has virtually ceded its field to the radical left. A modern day *Mr. Chips* would not recognize the American college campus today. From the rustic seclusion of 1930s, where traditional views of religion, patriotism, family, sexual morality and truth were the standard, American higher education has become a bastion of atheism, anti-Americanism, casual sexual *hook-ups*, and unrestricted relativism.

Once a citadel of intellectual learning, the college campus has been transformed into a Marxist laboratory, designed to analyze the plight of mankind and accelerate the advent of utopia on earth. The innate wisdom of Western Civilization that is Socrates, Dante, Shakespeare and Bacon, what the Marxists derisively label DWM or *Dead White Males*, has been cast on the ash heap of revolution.

Many date the start of this watershed movement in higher education with the riots outside the Democratic National Convention in August of 1968. Anti-Vietnam War demonstrators were empowered by their denial of the presidency to Democratic presidential nominee Hubert Humphrey.

Many of these radicals opted for the academic life, especially the humanities and the social sciences. They became the next generation of college professors with their students becoming the intellectual clay with which they could overthrow the traditionalist establishment. Their teaching positions gave them a fortress for their new causes---civil rights, abortion, homosexuality and global warming. According to Harvard biologist Richard Lewontin, the university is a

factory that makes... ideological weapons for class struggle, for class warfare, and trains people in their use. For the revolution they traded their bombs and riot gear for tenure and a captive audience.

Red Magic

The ideological weapons of Marxist college professors have had 40 years to work their red magic. Since the Vietnam Era, journalist Howard Kurtz says American academia has been transformed into the *most postmodernist, know-nothing, anti-American, anti-military, anti-capitalist, Marxist institution in our society*. Courses about religion, patriotism, family and property have virtually disappeared from their curricula. They have been replaced with propaganda sessions about the dangers of man-induced global warming and the joys of the homosexual life style. The secular college campus has become a concrete bunker of situation ethics and moral relativity. Their professors lecture on the evils of American civilization and its victimization of oppressed minorities all over the world. While their annual salaries have steadily risen, university teachers still do not earn as much as their counterparts in corporate industry. However they have become a new elite that has ruled through the power of the grade and their ability to manipulate the minds of countless students. Professor Walter Williams, respected educator and journalist, writes: "Many professors... use their classrooms to proselytize students. While acceptable at most universities, it is academically dishonest to do so. Like others, I have my own values and opinions, but they never become a part of classroom discussion"

Several studies have exposed the extent to which college faculties have adopted Marxist praxis as their god of instruction. A 2005 study by George Mason University economist Daniel Klein found that Democrats outnumbered Republicans among the faculty by a staggering ratio of nearly 10 to 1 at UC Berkeley and 7.6 to 1 at Stanford. In the humanities and social sciences the ratio of voter registration for Democrats to Republicans was 16 to 1 at both campuses, with an incredible 30 to 1 for assistant and associate professors. Not a single Republican taught anthropology or journalism.

Another 2005 study by Stanley Rothman, S. Robert Lichter and Neil Nevitte discovered that only 15% of those teaching at American colleges and universities describe themselves as conservative, while 72% identified themselves as liberal. The

imbalance is almost as striking in partisan terms, with 50 % of the faculty saying they were Democrats with only 11% as Republicans.

Red Diaper Baby David Horowitz has personalized these surveys and statistics in his 2006 book *The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America*. The book is populated with many of the usual leftist suspects in higher education, including *Dr. Bill Ayers* and his wife Bernadette Dohrn, an adjunct law professor at Northwestern University, Harvard racist Cornel West, and Ward Churchill, the former Colorado professor who compared the victims of 9/11 to Nazis who deserved what they got. Horowitz also cites Michael Berube, Todd Gitlin, and Victor Navasky for their efforts in purging their universities of all their conservative faculty members.

A Volcanic Eminence

The radical change from *Mr. Chips* to *Dr. Bill* raises the immediate question as to how this happened so quickly. Marx had several acolytes who spread his doctrine to the U. S. college campus, especially the deconstructionists Jacques Derrida, Leo Strauss, and Herbert Marcuse, the German émigré philosopher from the Frankfurt School. But the most important academic agent was sociologist Charles Wright Mills.

C. Wright Mills' stern bearded countenance and gimlet eyes seem to convey an air of righteous indignation. The long-time Columbia University sociologist projected a *volcanic eminence* that ignited his students' deep-seated need for moral fire. A student of sociologist Max Weber as well as Marx, Mills was highly critical of capitalism, bureaucracies, and elite social classes, particularly in the United States. Born in Waco, Texas in 1916, he was a Machiavellian cloaked in the idealist skin of a revolutionary avatar.

After the publication of his 1956 bestseller, *The Power Elite*, Mills emerged as an acid critic of the military-industrial complex and one of the earliest leaders of the New Left movement of the 1960s. Since it had been over a century since the *Communist Manifesto*, Mills reasoned a new agent of change was necessary. Like Marcuse, Mills had urged his fellow scholars to abandon the workingman as the vehicle of class warfare and substitute some other group as the vanguard of Marxist revolution. It did not take him long to find the answer in his own environs. While Marcuse focused on women and the family, Mills chose the college campus with their professors serving as the new agents of change for social revolution. In just 25 years he was able to attract several thousand college professors to work for *change* in American higher education.

To affect his cultural revolution, Mills envisioned a community of social scientists similar to Plato's philosopher-kings, who would wield power through knowledge. He believed that college professors, the *people of knowledge*, could bring about change and the good society through the proper application of man's humanistic knowledge. While Mills considered himself a maverick against the *academic establishment*, the irony is not lost that he established an academic power elite that reigns in higher education today.

Land O'Lakes

The Catholic university has not been immune to the seductive glamour of the Marxist intellectual revolution. In July of 1967, a group of twenty-six Catholic educators and administrators gathered at a conference center in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin to discuss how Catholic higher education could participate in the evangelization of the world, called for by the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

Notre Dame President Father Theodore Hesburgh was the main architect of the infamous 1967 Land O'Lakes conference. Father Hesburgh, who celebrated his 91st birthday in May of 2008, was educated at Notre Dame University and the Gregorian University in Rome. He has served his Church for seven decades and his name is synonymous with Notre Dame. During his long tenure (1952-1987), Notre Dame not only grew in athletic prestige but it raised its academic profile in an exponential manner.

Land O'Lakes produced *On the Nature of the Contemporary Catholic University*, a 1,500-word statement that not only seriously changed the nature of the role and identity of Catholic universities but also effectively separated the Church from its traditional intellectual moorings, especially through the introduction of lay governing boards. The relationship between academic freedom and the Magisterium was the salient issue. The conferees believed that in order to perform its teaching and research functions effectively, their universities must have absolute autonomy to pursue truth in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external to the academic community itself.

Unfortunately academic freedom became a relativist lair where the personal opinions of dissident faculty members were professed as truth. Many of the decisions of Land O' Lakes eventually led to the virtual secularization of most of American Catholic higher education to the bitter chagrin of loyal alumni.

The conference also reflected Father Hesburgh's vain attempt to adapt Catholic spiritual views to the modern era so that Notre Dame could profit from the treasure trove of government funding that was making it more difficult for the Catholic colleges and universities to compete on the open market. He thought he could do this without endangering the spiritual heritage of their Catholic institutions. He was wrong! What they did was muddy the waters of Catholic moral and epistemological standards.

A Catholic Potemkin Village

The aftermath of Land O' Lakes was shameful. Bowing to the anti-authoritarianism of the epoch and the religious indifference of their non-Catholic students and faculty, most Catholic colleges watered down Church teachings, jeopardizing their Catholic identity. According to blogger Wilson Miscamble, the American Catholic University possessed a certain *Potemkin village* quality. While their buildings are quite real, *what goes on within their walls has increasingly lost its distinctive Catholic content, appearing virtually indistinguishable from their secular counterparts*. Students emerge from Catholic schools unfamiliar with the riches of the Church's intellectual tradition and their imaginations untouched by its religious sensibility.

Many Catholics who have fallen in step with the materialistic drumbeat of the times have applauded the relative ascendancy of Catholic universities in academic and athletic circles. Parents who value the past traditions of a strong Catholic education such as those proposed in Cardinal John Newman's 19th century classic, *The Idea of a University*, which argued that a college entailed the search for universal truth as its only objective, have been appalled by the departure of their schools from the path to salvation.

The turmoil of the 1960's with Vietnam and Vatican II also threw Catholic higher education into disarray. If Catholic beliefs about human life, morality and culture were not going to be taught at their universities, then what was the point of a Catholic institution? To promote an institution as Catholic without teaching the faith within its hallowed walls was also a form of false advertisement. It also begged the question as to why would Catholic parents spend enormous sums of money to send their children to a campus that was nothing more than a secular school decorated with crosses?

A Compromised Faith

Part of the problem was the government. Federal aid brought more non-Catholics into the Catholic system. The universities hired more non-Catholic teachers and as a result Catholic higher education became less *Catholic*. When their faculties were predominantly Catholic the curricula at Catholic colleges was distinctively Catholic. The large influx of non-Catholic faculty, many with a Marxist mindset, seriously compromised Catholic identity. Many non-Catholic professors not only dissented from Church doctrinal teachings, they actively work to undermine the faith of their students.

There are abundant examples of faculty-sponsored or instigated behavior that contradicts Catholic dogma and its moral doctrines. Eve Ensler's vulgar and immoral play, *The Vagina Monologues* has been the most frequent and widespread public affront to Catholic teachings on sexuality, and has been welcomed and applauded at many Catholic universities. The 2008 presidential campaign showcased the fissures in Catholic higher education. Many faculty members and students helped at Senator Barack Obama rallies during his campaign, despite his extreme pro-abortion views. Nine professors at Catholic colleges and universities served on his Catholic National Advisory Committee. Xavier University in Cincinnati hosted an Obama Campaign for Change rally on the eve of the election, and St. Peter's College in New Jersey hosted an Obama rally featuring a choir of Catholic school children.

In October Fairfield University launched Project Halo, a high impact event with an innovative perspective on preventing acts of intolerance towards gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Over a thousand St. Louis University students

demonstrated before the Federal Court House in opposition to Proposition 8 that overturned gay marriage in California. Students participating in the Cultural Diversity Seminar, sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns of the University of Notre Dame, went to Chicago for their fall break and were immersed in the city's sexual subcultures.

A Nationwide Renewal

In 1983 John Paul II courageously acted to preserve the vestiges of Catholic higher education, especially in the United States. He revised the Code of Canon Law to create a new section for Catholic colleges, including the requirement that Catholic theology professors must have a *mandatum* from the local bishop, affirming that they will teach within the full communion of the Church. This provided a reasonable assurance that students would receive Catholic instructions in Theology and Philosophy.

In 1990 the Pope issued the Ex Corde Ecclesiae, the apostolic constitution on Catholic education, which defined what constitutes a Catholic college. Its General Norms are binding on any school that wishes to call itself *Catholic*. It also gave each local bishop the right to rule on the Catholicity of each college in his diocese.

There has been nationwide renewal of Catholic higher education underway for a generation. New faithful Catholic colleges are springing up, such as Christendom College in Virginia, Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in New Hampshire, and Ave Maria University in Florida. Catholic leaders are planning to establish several more in the next decade. Watchdog organizations, such as Patrick Reilly's The Cardinal Newman Society, have influenced Catholic universities with a systematic use of hierarchical pressure, and a public relations campaign, designed to expose the universities' deviations from Catholic orthodoxy and morality.

All this might be too little too late to restore traditional Catholic education. In their 2006 book *Catholic Higher Education* Melanie Morey and John Piderit, S.J. argue that it will be extremely difficult to maintain even a Catholic facade in academia life unless Catholic universities confront faculty composition and address the need to recruit a committed Catholic faculty. If Catholic higher education fails to rectify this, there might be no viable alternative to the liberal universities that have been drawing the country to the godless abyss of self-destruction. Dr. Bill will effectively have laid Mr. Chips to rest.

William A. Borst, Ph.D. is the author of Liberalism: Fatal Consequences and the Scorpion and the Frog: A Natural Conspiracy. Both are available from the author at PO Box 16271; St. Louis, MO 63105 or write BBPROF@sbcglobal.net.

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Conferences in 2009



The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation will host a one-day Conference in Chicago! You, your family and friends are invited to attend this conference on **FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM**

Chicago, IL - Saturday, April 4, 2009

Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Information: Don Ludwin 773-229-0375

Chrm: Kevin Haney 630-730-7112

Speakers:

Rev. Frank Phillips, C.R.

Pastor, St John Cantius

“Building the Faith in the Parish Church”

Phyllis Schlafly

President, Eagle Forum

Are You Ready for Obama “Change”?

Richard Thompson

President, Thomas More Law Center

“The Catholic Answer to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)”

Steve Mosher

President, Population Research Institute

“Finding God in China”

This will be a great day of information, motivation, spiritual support and an opportunity to meet old friends and new interested ones! Mark your calendar now! Hope to see you in the Windy City!

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Louisville, KY - July 17-18

The Galt House-East Tower

Fourth Street at the River, Louisville, KY

Friday Evening Mass, Banquet, Keynote Address

Welcome/Introduction by Rev. Edmund McCaffrey

Speakers on Friday and Saturday:

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Archbishop Joseph Turch, Louisville

Reverend Roger Arnsparger, Charlotte, NC

Reverend Benedict Groeschel, NY

Info: Eternal Life-Rev. Edmund McCaffrey, President

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2 PETER 2:1

“But there were false prophets also among the people, just as among you there will be lying teachers who will bring destructive sects.”

Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)

Freedom of Choice Act is a bill in Congress introduced by California Senator Barbara Boxer. If passed it would nullify every bit of pro-life legislation and regulations enacted at the state and federal levels since the Supreme Court’s notorious Roe and Doe decisions of January 1973.

According to an analysis of FOCA, abortion would actually advance from a “right” to a “federal entitlement” that the government must fund and promote.

Unfortunately, the new Congress includes the largest number of pro-abortion members since 1993; they are under heavy pressure from the Planned Parenthood abortion lobby to overturn restrictions barring taxpayer-funded abortions, parental-consent laws, informed-consent laws, and waiting periods, even partial birth abortion. The Freedom of Choice Act if passed would eliminate all of these essential laws and regulations.

PRAY PRAY PRAY

Hush Rush

The so-called Fairness Doctrine (the Censorship Doctrine) is an anti-free-speech scheme to silence conservative talk radio which the censorship proponents believe has gained too much influence over how the public thinks. Therefore they are pushing for government control by imposing FCC regulations to require radio stations to provide equal time for opposing viewpoints. This would create a conceptual and administrative nightmare for the stations, and essentially eliminate programs such as Rush Limbaugh, Laura Ingraham, Sean Hannity and others; Christian programs are also seriously threatened. Congress is considering the Broadcaster Freedom Act which will thwart attempts to enact the Fairness Doctrine.

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE HAWAIIAN CANDIDATE: PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS CURIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH RADICALS—Traces the character and conflicted youth of Barack Obama and his political development, especially his Saul Alinsky, Chicago and ACORN connections. Obama’s associations with terrorist Bill Ayers, radicals Louis Farrakan, Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Muslim Rashid Khalidi are examined. Ask for 1/09

A SIGN OF CONTRADICTION: THE 2008 ELECTION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA—Cites the divisions among Catholics, especially the powerful Catholic politicians and celebrities, in ignoring their Church’s teachings on the abortion issue; exposes the Kennedy Family as the origin of the Catholic sign of contradiction; Obama’s Catholic success is attributed to the “Seamless Garment” legacy of Cardinal Bernardin. Ask for 12/08

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: BATTLEGROUND FOR POLITICIANS, SOCIAL ENGINEERS AND OTHER SCOUNDRELS—Recalls the wisdom of the Founding Fathers struggling to insure the document’s separation of powers and longevity. Draws upon the book “Who Killed the Constitution?” to show the well-intentioned but flawed clauses that have enabled progressive forces to ignore, twist and abrogate this amazing work. Ask for 11/08

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