

Rotten to the Core: Obama's War on Academic Standards (Part 1)

By Michelle Malkin • January 23, 2013 09:43 AM

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This year, I'll be using my syndicated column and blog space to expose how progressive "reformers" — mal-formers — are corrupting our schools. One of my New Year's resolutions is to provide you in-depth coverage of this vital issue that too often gets shunted off the daily political/partisan agenda. While the GOP tries to solve its ills with better software and communications consultants, the conservative movement — and America — face much larger problems. It doesn't start with the "low-information voter." It starts with the no-knowledge student. This is the first in an ongoing series on "Common Core," the stealthy federal takeover of school curriculum and standards across the country. As longtime readers know, my own experience with this ongoing sabotage of academic excellence dates back to my early reporting on the Clinton-era "Goals 2000" and "outcome-based" education and extends to my recent parental experience with "Everyday Math".

The good news is that grass-roots education and parental groups, brave teachers, and professors are fighting back. See the resource list/links at the bottom of this column and stay tuned for much more.

Rotten to the Core: Obama's War on Academic Standards (Part 1)
by Michelle Malkin

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America's downfall doesn't begin with the "low-information voter." It starts with the no-knowledge student.

For decades, collectivist agitators in our schools have chipped away at academic excellence in the name of fairness, diversity and social justice. "Progressive" reformers denounced Western civilization requirements, the Founding Fathers and the Great Books as racist. They attacked traditional grammar classes as irrelevant in modern life. They deemed ability grouping of students (tracking) bad for self-esteem. They replaced time-tested rote techniques and standard algorithms with fuzzy math, inventive spelling and multicultural claptrap.

Under President Obama, these top-down mal-formers — empowered by Washington education bureaucrats and backed by misguided liberal philanthropists led by billionaire Bill Gates — are now presiding over a radical makeover of your children's school curriculum. It's being done in the name of federal "Common Core" standards that do anything but raise achievement standards.

Common Core was enabled by Obama's federal stimulus law and his



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Department of Education's "Race to the Top" gimmickry. The administration bribed cash-starved states into adopting unseen instructional standards as a condition of winning billions of dollars in grants. Even states that lost their bids for Race to the Top money were required to commit to a dumbed-down and amorphous curricular "alignment."

In practice, Common Core's dubious "college- and career"-ready standards undermine local control of education, usurp state autonomy over curricular materials, and foist untested, mediocre and incoherent pedagogical theories on America's schoolchildren.

Over the next several weeks and months, I'll use this column space to expose who's behind this disastrous scheme in D.C. backrooms. I'll tell you who's fighting it in grassroots tea party and parental revolts across the country from Massachusetts to Indiana, Texas, Georgia and Utah. And most importantly, I'll explain how this unprecedented federal meddling is corrupting our children's classrooms and textbooks.

There's no better illustration of Common Core's duplicitous talk of higher standards than to start with its math "reforms." While Common Core promoters assert their standards are "internationally benchmarked," independent members of the expert panel in charge of validating the standards refute the claim. Panel member Dr. Sandra Stotsky of the University of Arkansas reported, "No material was ever provided to the Validation Committee or to the public on the specific college readiness expectations of other leading nations in mathematics" or other subjects.

In fact, Stanford University professor James Milgram, the only mathematician on the validation panel, concluded that the Common Core math scheme would place American students two years behind their peers in other high-achieving countries. In protest, Milgram refused to sign off on the standards. He's not alone.

Professor Jonathan Goodman of New York University found that the Common Core math standards imposed "significantly lower expectations with respect to algebra and geometry than the published standards of other countries."

Under Common Core, as the American Principles Project and Pioneer Institute point out, algebra I instruction is pushed to 9th grade, instead of 8th grade, as commonly taught. Division is postponed from 5th to 6th grade. Prime factorization, common denominators, conversions of fractions and decimals, and algebraic manipulation are de-emphasized or eschewed. Traditional Euclidean geometry is replaced with an experimental approach that had not been previously pilot-tested in the U.S.

Ze'ev Wurman, a prominent software architect, electrical engineer and longtime math advisory expert in California and Washington, D.C., points out that Common Core delays proficiency with addition and subtraction until 4th grade and proficiency with basic multiplication until 5th grade, and skimps on logarithms, mathematical induction, parametric equations and trigonometry at the high school level.

I cannot sum up the stakes any more clearly than Wurman did in his critique of this mess and the vested interests behind it:

"I believe the Common Core marks the cessation of educational standards improvement in the United States. No state has any reason left to aspire for first-rate standards, as all states will be judged by the same mediocre national benchmark enforced by the federal government. Moreover, there are organizations that have reasons to work for lower and less-demanding standards, specifically teachers unions and professional teacher organizations. While they may not admit it, they have a vested interest in lowering the accountability bar for their members. ...This will be done in the name of 'critical thinking' and '21st-century' skills, and in faraway Washington, D.C., well beyond the reach of parents and most states and employers."

This is all in keeping with my own experience as a parent of elementary- and middle-school age kids who were exposed to "Everyday Math" nonsense. This and other fads abandon "drill and kill" memorization techniques for fuzzy "critical thinking" methods that put the cart of "why" in front of the horse of "how." In other words: Instead of doing the grunt work of hammering times



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tables and basic functions into kids' heads first, the faddists have turned to wacky, wordy non-math alternatives to encourage "conceptual" understanding — without any mastery of the fundamentals of math.

Common Core is rotten to the core. The corruption of math education is just the beginning.

A starter list of resources/background/related links:

Truth in American Education is a blog devoted to watchdogging Common Core across the country.

The MA-based **Pioneer Institute** is the leading think tank tracking and fighting Common Core.

Pioneer's Jim Stergios has an education blog, **Rock the Schoolhouse**, on Boston.com.

Hoosier Moms Say No to Common Core is Ground Zero for the parental revolt against Common Core in Indiana.

Utah moms against Common Core have a great blog.

A Mother Speaks Out: Children For Sale – Guest Post by Alyson Williams.

Stanley Kurtz has written about Common Core at NRO **here** and **here**.

Mary Grabar has written about Common Core and Team Chicago's lefties **here**.

Phyllis Schlafly, as always, sounded the alarm **here**.

This must-read piece by James Shuls connects **Common Core, math corruption, and the need for school choice**.

Heritage resources on Common Core.

Videos:

APP's full video series on Common Core here. Here's part one to get you started.

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Cato's Neal McCluskey dissects the Common Core folly:

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Comments

On January 23rd, 2013 at 9:59 am, **happyscrapper** said: **#1**

Michelle, I can't begin to tell you how glad I am that you are focusing on this issue! This has been my biggest frustration as I have seen my 3 grandchildren go into the government school system. I fear for them and vow to check everything the school is planting in their innocent brains! Taking back our country MUST begin with our children! Thank you for honing in on this vital issue! I look forward to more articles from you and perhaps more information how I can personally get more involved in my own community.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:08 am, **Pasadena Phil** said: **#2**

"While the GOP tries to solve its ills with better software and communications consultants..."

Much of which is being focused on finding a "final solution" for the "conservative problem". How about getting out there and actually *meeting real people!* Grassroots support doesn't come out of a computer.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:13 am, **happyscrapper** said: **#3**

I am especially unhappy with how the schools seem to keep very bright students back instead of putting them into more accelerated classes. My 8 year-old grandson is a math whiz, also reading at 6th grade level (he is in 3rd grade). He reads constantly and LOVES math! What potential! He is in an accelerated reading class, but is bored in math and isn't learning much. Now I hear on F&F this a.m. that there is another push to eliminate the use of red pens for marking tests and papers. Apparently, having a red check mark to highlight errors is hurting poor little Johnnie's tender feelings! I thought that nonsense had already been settled! Now they trying again.

Is there NO WAY to stop these morons? They just keep at it ad nauseum until people give in! Then the kids get to college and discover that...wow...they don't know even the basics! So what happens next? Cheating. This is what we are relying on to run our country and our businesses...kids who sailed through

school with their feelings carefully protected and who weren't taught the basic tasks of deductive reasoning, debate, the true history of our country and why it is exceptional, oh, and HOW TO LOSE!

The regressives are ruining our children and we have been allowing it! What is wrong with us? This crap must stop and stop NOW!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:14 am, **RedDog** said: #4
Remedial lesson children:

Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted. Give us the child for eight years and it will be a Bolshevik forever..... Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:14 am, **happyscrapper** said: #5

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:08 am, Pasadena Phil said:
"While the GOP tries to solve its ills with better software and communications consultants..."
Much of which is being focused on finding a "final solution" for the "conservative problem". How about getting out there and actually meeting real people! Grassroots support doesn't come out of a computer.

YES!! What you said!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:16 am, **RedDog** said: #6

While the GOP tries to solve its ills with better software and communications consultants, the conservative movement — and America — face much larger problems.

Bingo.

I am forwarding this article to my daughter who home-schools her three kids.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:24 am, **petee** said: #7

i was talking to a 20 something at a best buy the other day. he was in the auto audio section. so we start talking about cars. i mention about a motor that went on me, and this kid had no idea of what i was talking about. then i asked him a few more automotive questions, blank stare from him. then i asked him if he owned a car, why yes he did. then i asked him if he likes getting ripped off, nope he says. then i asked him why he never even bothered to figure out the basics of what makes his car work, another blank stare. but in his defense, he did know everything there was to know about lady gaga!
this kid is what michelle must be talking about.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:27 am, **Rogue Cheddar** said: #8
Someday soon the following will be true:

I'm Joe Biden and I are smarter than a twelfth grader!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:28 am, **RedDog** said: #9

"I believe the Common Core marks the cessation of educational standards improvement in the United States. No state has any reason left to aspire for first-rate standards, as all states will be judged by the same mediocre national benchmark enforced by the federal government. Moreover, there are organizations that have reasons to work for lower and less-demanding standards, specifically teachers unions and professional teacher organizations...."

Other than Lenin's plan of debauching the currency and destroying the middle class through taxation and inflation, I can't think of a better way to destroy American Civilization than ruining the education system.

Mucho thanks to Barack and all the Marxian Democrats! FORWARD!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:29 am, **Marshall_Will** said: #10

MM said,

America's downfall doesn't begin with the "low-information voter."

(That such a demographic ever existed?)

Hearing Michelle attempt to explain "Mayan Math" last Nov. at Portland State was hysterical! I guess it 'works' by eliminating all other possible (and irrelevant) solutions before arriving [eventually] at the correct one?

She could hardly keep a straight face! It's the proper context and approach to Regressive 'education' distractions. We're not even *entertaining* it and yes, we find them laughable!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:30 am, **RedDog** said: #11

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:27 am, Rogue Cheddar said:

Someday soon the following will be true:

I'm Joe Biden and I are smarter than a ~~twelfth grader!~~ cowwege gwadawate!

Mo betta. Fo shizzle.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:33 am, **Pasadena Phil** said: #12

Common Core just might be the very target we need to shut down the Education Department and finally get the federal government out of the education business.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:37 am, **RedDog** said: #13

In other words: Instead of doing the grunt work of hammering times tables and basic functions into kids' heads first, the faddists have turned to wacky, wordy non-math alternatives to encourage "conceptual" understanding — without any mastery of the fundamentals of math.

My experience in prison ministry showed me that the average convict could only read at a third grade level at best. Math skills were virtually non-existent, especially with regard to fractions and percentages. Seeing "man on the street" interviews (Leno, O'Brien etc.) the average Liberal schlub is not much better, certainly re: history and basic civics.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:37 am, **RedDog** said: #14

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:33 am, Pasadena Phil said:

Common Core just might be the very target we need to shut down the Education Department and finally get the federal government out of the education business.

Excellent idea.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:38 am, **WaterBoyz** said: #15

On January 23, 2013 at 10:08 AM, Pasadena Phil said:

“While the GOP tries to solve its ills with better software and communications consultants...”

Much of which is being focused on finding a “final solution” for the “conservative problem”. How about getting out there and actually *meeting real people!* Grassroots support doesn't come out of a computer.

As Erick at Red State has chronicled, the behind the scenes at the RNC is filled with a few chosen people who operate an incestuous money-for-their-pockets machine that is geared to keep the elites in power. Winning or promoting the Conservative position is not on the “To Do” list. Reagan won because he brought in his own people with fresh ideas and no allegiances to the “Old Guard”.

It could work again.

Since we can't bridge the gap between us and our currently elected elites we should be arming those with Conservative Values.

Weepy and crew have already announced where they stand and it is not in our WE THE PEOPLE best interest.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:38 am, **happyscrapper** said: #16

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:27 am, Rogue Cheddar said:
Someday soon the following will be true:

I'm Joe Biden and I are smarter than a twelfth grader!

What is really sad about that is...many of these kids ARE smart! They just had a rotten education. If you are not taught to think for yourself, and if your feelings are constantly being protected, and if you never lose, and if you aren't allow to even go out and play dodge ball for fear of injury...you end like that kid in Best Buy. Maybe not a moron at all. Just a typical product of the government school system. I bet if you asked him, he would know a lot about global warming and the spotted owl! These kids have been brainwashed and their potential for great things has been stifled to the point where their lives are wasted. Progressivism is the scourge of this country and has been for decades. We just were asleep. And now look at what has been wrought...a nation of little Joe Bidens!

I have talked to college kids who help out at my daughter's camp. A bunch of know-it-all tree huggers who don't have a clue about the real world. And you can't tell them a thing because they know everything and they KNOW they are right.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:39 am, **mondamay** said: #17

I'm fairly sure we really never did any rote drilling of times tables when I was in the multiplication appropriate grades (early to mid 80's). My parents worked with me on that some, though.

Public schools have been really bad for a really long time, now.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:39 am, **RedDog** said: #18

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:24 am, peteee said:
... he did know everything there was to know about lady gaga!
this kid is what michelle must be talking about.

Great. His generation will be running the country soon too. Swell.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:41 am, **conservativesRus** said: #19

As a small business owner/employer, I find it difficult to hire new/recent high school graduates. The kids graduating today (even from the top of their class) generally can't read (with comprehension), can't write and can't do the most basic of math. There are exceptions of course but on average, the kids are less prepared than even 15 years ago.

From where I sit, "No Child Left Behind" works out to "Only Home Schooled Kids Learn Anything".

And for all those tempted to claim it's an R or D issue, it's a big government issue and as far as I can tell, both parties are all for big government.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:41 am, **mondamay** said: #20

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:38 am, WaterBoyz said: It could work again.

Or it could if campaign finance laws hadn't been stacked against it.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:42 am, **happyscrapper** said: #21

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:33 am, Pasadena Phil said:
Common Core just might be the very target we need to shut down the Education Department and finally get the federal government out of the education business.

Where do we begin? I'm in!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:42 am, **RedDog** said: #22

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:38 am, WaterBoyz said:

Reagan won because he brought in his own people with fresh ideas and no allegiances to the "Old Guard".

Good point. As I said on the Biden thread:

On January 23rd, 2013 at 9:35 am, RedDog said:

... I am with Rush in the belief that the Republican Party cannot win the presidency again by presenting a "moderate" candidate supposedly acceptable to the Left. That alone suggests that the Republican elites really consider America to be center-left, not center-right. If Romney could not win under that philosophy, no one can. We need a Reaganesque "bold color not weak pastel" rock solid Constitutional Conservative.

We are in a street fight and the Republicans are still playing the game under 1950s rules.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:43 am, **NavyGal** said: #23

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:13 am, happyscrapper said:
I am especially unhappy with how the schools seem to keep very bright students back instead of putting them into more accelerated classes. My 8 year-old grandson is a math whiz, also reading at 6th grade level (he is in 3rd grade). He reads constantly and LOVES math! What potential! He is in an accelerated reading class, but is bored in math and isn't learning much.

Some years ago, the stuporintendant (not a typo) of the Dayton, Ohio school system declared that advanced classes for gifted students were elitist and had

no place in the public school system. However, the football, basketball and baseball teams could recruit only the best players. How are athletic teams NOT elitist?????

Thankfully, my two kids were spared that garbage as we lived in a suburb where the schools, at that time, were pretty good.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:46 am, **stillontheroad** said: #24

Ok children, take out your tablets, and then click on the Math icon -

Ready - 2+2=

Children scream out "4"

Now put that tablet away and now, 3+3=

Blank faces - scared looks -

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:47 am, **RedDog** said: #25

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:41 am, conservativesRus said:
... And for all those tempted to claim it's an R or D issue, it's a big government issue and as far as I can tell, both parties are all for big government.

That's the dirty little secret. And that's the alliance that needs to be shattered.

Reform of education and fire-walling the Constitution with a solid fair tax and balanced budget amendment is critical.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:47 am, **conservativesRus** said: #26

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:28 am, RedDog said:
Mucho thanks to Barack and all the Marxian Democrats! FORWARD!

Please don't forget prior Presidents or Congress for their establishment of Dept of Education and continued centralization of the education apparatus. GWB and the R's deserves at much credit too.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:49 am, **Pasadena Phil** said: #27

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:37 am, RedDog said:

Doesn't the mission statement for the DOE contain wording about the need to maintain high standards in education? They are doing the very opposite. Isn't that the very best reason for shutting it down?

"Excellence in education" isn't about making sure that everyone graduates (Bush's intellectually moronic "No Child Left Behind") while feeling good about themselves. It's about imparting an understanding about the society they are a part of and learning the important things they need to at least get started in their "pursuit of happiness". It's learning how to learn and graduating into a world you understand.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:50 am, **John Deaux** said: #28

They're not interested in helping kids realize their potential, their entire goal is to raise good little taxpayers who are convinced that the Progressive vision is best for all.

That's the big reason they've turned history class into boring name and date memorization.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:55 am, **happyscrapper** said: #29

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:43 am, NavyGal said:

And it isn't only the lack of learning that is going on in the schools! Just look at what they are doing to our kid's rights. Five year olds are getting suspended for saying normal five year old things. High schoolers kicked out of school for giving their friend an aspirin or a Midol tablet. They are saying our kids have to check their Constitutional rights at the door. NO!! THEY!! DON'T!! Walk down the hall reading the Bible...they have that right. Pray before class...they have that right.

There are some things kids shouldn't be saying and that should be investigated, like, "I am coming back with a gun and shooting everyone in the school". But telling a 5 year old you are going to shoot her with your bubble gun is not exactly a capital offense. Yet, the Stuporintendants can't discern the difference? That alone is a perfect example of a poor education in deductive reasoning. We are seeing it in our leaders and school officials...that is how long our schools have been screwing up our kids!! At least 40 years! These people are now running our most important institutions, when they themselves are deeply flawed.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:59 am, **Marshall_Will** said: #30
happyscrapper said,

Where do we begin? I'm in!

Count me in too. The first step is getting the Boomers over grieving for that underwater McMansion, inflated property tax bill and FUBAR 401k wounds they've been licking.

We're obsessed w/ how our lavish retirements have evaporated and every other issue facing this nation comes in a distant 2nd. A wake-up call of the rudest form is in order. Start yesterday.

What we need to share is that this isn't this Administration's garden variety over reach. It is OverKILL. They already have teacher's unions in their hip pocket, the kids aren't learning a THING and force-feeding them big fat stacks of cash (we don't HAVE btw) won't make things any 'better'.

But it's important to make this about Common Core, not Obama and not about Dem's. We need everyone outraged on this one.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:04 am, **happyscrapper** said: #31
"It's learning how to learn and graduating into a world you understand".

Phil...this is an excellent phrase and motto for reform of the educational system!

Learn how to learn and graduate into a world you understand!

I really like that! Simple, basic, yet profound.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:06 am, **Marshall_Will** said: #32
NavyGal said,

declared that advanced classes for gifted students were elitist and had no place in the public school system. **However, the football, basketball and baseball teams could recruit only the best players.**

Elitist, meaning they could read at their grade level? They won't REST until every student is at the dumbest student's level..!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:07 am, **happyscrapper** said: #33

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:59 am, Marshall_Will said:

I agree, Marshall, this isn't about Obama. But it IS about progressivism! Both dems and republicans are progressive. I believe that only Conservatives will solve it.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:09 am, **WaterBoyz** said: #34

OT

Looks like Hillary has had plenty of time to practice getting her and the WH's story straight.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday defended the administration's response the night of the September 2012 terror attack in Libya, testifying before Congress that there were "no delays in decision-making" despite accounts to the contrary.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:09 am, **RedDog** said: #35

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:49 am, Pasadena Phil said:
.... Isn't that the very best reason for shutting it down?

It is going to take some real hard-as*es a long long time to kill off these departments. It has never been done before. These things are worse than Star Gate's Guaoul or the Borg. Crikey. It will be an unprecedented effort.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:18 am, **Pasadena Phil** said: #36

BTW, later today the House GOP leadership is going to indulge in yet another unilateral surrender by voting to extend the debt ceiling for a couple of months and getting absolutely nothing in return.

Wouldn't it be better to simply abolish the GOP and stop pretending that they are helping? We would be fighting Dems hammer and tong were it not for having to constantly work past the GOP wagons circled around the Dem Mother Ship.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:21 am, **Pasadena Phil** said: #37

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:09 am, RedDog said:

It is going to take some real hard-as*es a long long time to kill off these departments.

The House can defund them with a stroke of a pen. Instead, it's always about "across-the-board belt tightening" (code for reducing the rate of acceleration of spending growth).

Just. Cut.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:29 am, **Misscheryl** said: #38

The reason liberals and progressives have been as successful as they have is because they've been able to vilify conservatives as uncaring, mean spirited people who will throw anyone under the bus if it means they can make a dime on it. barry has been very successful in this agenda and because he's black and black people suffered at the hands of "whitey" so many years ago, well, it lends a certain "humanity" to him. Regardless of whether it's true or not – he knows the value of the color of his skin though his family were never slaves. It feels good to pat him on the back and say "we're with you and will support you because we feel so bad for 'your people' and we want you to know that."

We have got to get better at explaining WHY our beliefs are better for mankind and America. That's where we have always been lacking. Why is it better?

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:30 am, **NavyGal** said: #39

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:06 am, Marshall_Will said:

NavyGal said,

declared that advanced classes for gifted students were elitist and had no place in the public school system.

However, the football, basketball and baseball teams could recruit only the best players.

Elitist, meaning they could read at their grade level? They won't REST until every student is at the dumbest student's level..!

Right, the proggies are so blinded by their vision of 'redistribution' that they think they can redistribute intelligence.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:31 am, **WaterBoyz** said: #40

#36 Pasadena Phil said:

BTW, later today the House GOP leadership is going to indulge in yet another unilateral surrender by voting to extend the debt ceiling for a couple of months and getting absolutely nothing in return.

Wouldn't it be better to simply abolish the GOP and stop pretending that they are helping? We would be fighting Dems hammer and tong were it not for having to constantly work past the GOP wagons circled around the Dem Mother Ship.

Wonder if the R elites get any royalties whenever they invoke the Lucy.CharlieBrown.Football playbook? It would seem so since they play it all the time.

So, I guess Weepy was right when he said that we can't get anything done because we only have a third of a third.

Once you let the dept ceiling get a 90 day "pass" won't this open the door for abuse in the future? Kinda like a tax that never gets revoked or a gimme program never getting the ax?

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:34 am, **Marshall_Will** said: #41
happy,

The key to disbanding will be in not even bothering to attach O'Drama's fingerprints, DNA and educational murder weapon to the crime scene. Why drag potential disbanders thru another Whodunit when we all know whom?

Forcing CC to buckle under its own lack of merit (or any real purpose) means O will have to do the splits to elbow his way into the conversation, taking ownership of this debacle.

We'll *continue* to ignore and by the time he shoves Common Core's apparatchiks out of the way, he'll have a nationwide edu-insurrection on his hands.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:34 am, **WaterBoyz** said: #42

#38 Misscheryl said:

The Rs have no PR skills. Yea I know, the LSM is not on our side, but every camera and every mic should have an articulate Conservative in front of it every day.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:43 am, **conservativesRus** said: #43

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:34 am, WaterBoyz said:
The Rs have no PR skills.

I view it differently maybe even to the point of disagreement. My contention is that most of the R's have no message. For example, what was GWB's core governmental philosophy? For the current crop of R's, what would be their message? I suspect it is "We support growing government in a different direction. We don't believe in The Constitution either. Please vote for us". PR is not the R's problem. The problem is CORE BELIEF.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:45 am, *Pasadena Phil* said: #44

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:43 am, conservativesRus said:

I view it differently maybe even to the point of disagreement. My contention is that most of the R's have no message.

Exactly. The party that doesn't believe in anything. The party that wages content-free campaigns. A fog bank of empty platitudes and "We're not as bad as the other guy" rhetoric.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:01 pm, *ted* said: #45

I went to public school. I'm not a fan of public school.

My girlfriend comes from a family of 9 homeschooled kids. She constantly amazes me with her vast knowledge of history, the arts, politics, etc. She's a very talented soprano, author, poet, illustrator and the list goes on. She's a refreshingly FREE thinker and her free thought leads her to be conservative.

All of her siblings are quite intelligent, well educated and have similarly broad talents. They are all free of that weird "I need to fit in and look cool" disease that public school inflicts on children. They're all very socially graceful people who know how to behave in public. They have a natural self-esteem balanced by a natural humility. They also know a lot about the US Constitution and are not shy about their civic duties. Her mom and dad are amazing people.

When I have kids, they will be homeschooled, period.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:05 pm, *drbage* said: #46

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:43 am, conservativesRus said:
On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:45 am, Pasadena Phil said

The reps of the party that we hear speaking all the time led by McCain, Graham, McConnell, and Boehner need to come out of the proverbial closet and admit that they are NOT Republicans, but GAGAs (go along to get along).

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:09 pm, *txvet2* said: #47

This "Common Core" may be an acceleration of the problem, but it's hardly a new one. You can almost guess the ages of commenters here by the frequency, number and type of grammatical and spelling errors – and I'd guess that this blog has a better educated membership than many.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:32 pm, *Misscheryl* said: #48

As I've mentioned in the past, I worked in higher education. The state of our children's education is pathetic. Most high school graduates must take remedial courses after graduation because they cannot qualify for college math and other college courses. We had an American Indian who is known to hate America teaching "history." We had a black woman who used foul language when communicating with her students and taught political science when in fact she was teaching students about Barry's plan for America. Students complained about her constantly – but administration refused to do anything. As a conservative, I was not allowed to discuss my views, but anyone who touted the progressive political agenda got a free pass. Signs on facility doors that said

“turn off fox,” “Black Power!” were common place. This is what they are doing to our kids today. They can’t read or write, but they get an “A” in America hatred.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:34 pm, **greenfairie** said: #49

I’m tired of seeing internet posts that look like they were written by someone whose native language is Klingon or were written by an illiterate fool. Decades of dumbed-down education have made “Idiocracy” a reality.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:40 pm, **conservativesRus** said: #50

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:05 pm, drbage said:

I think they are perfect R’s...party first, beliefs second or not at all.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:50 pm, **happyscrapper** said: #51

Edukashun is over rayded. I dont knead to reed or rite. there are tauking books now.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:56 pm, **mondamay** said: #52

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:50 pm, happyscrapper said: there are

You inadvertently got that part right (other than the capitalization). You should have said “their are” or “they’re are”. 😊

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:56 pm, **DonkeyHoatie** said: #53

Even before the kids reach school age, they are started in on the political correctness.

My son (age 3) was watching a cartoon on Disney channel, and during every commercial break, they invited the children to join them in a “Pledge of Allegiance to the Planet.” Before they even start learning about the pledge to the flag, the liberal media is inculcating them with an idea that contradicts American values.

Needless to say, my son doesn’t watch Disney Channel anymore.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:01 pm, **Misscheryl** said: #54

The Disney Channel and Sesame Street is the beginning of your child’s indoctrination.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:02 pm, **happyscrapper** said: #55

On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:56 pm, mondamay said:
On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:50 pm, happyscrapper said: there are
You inadvertently got that part right (other than the capitalization). You should have said “their are” or “they’re are”.

It is really hard to write a sentence like that! Seriously, typos jump off the page at me all the time. I am rather obsessed with them. I did a lot of the proof-reading at work because I caught things no one else saw! So, getting a few things right was inevitable! 😊

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:06 pm, **DesertLover** said: #56

Afternoon,

HRC is not the only individual in the Obama administration that needs to be answering questions about Benghazi ...

Recommend even more questions for those in the **Afternoon PoD** ... enjoy ...



On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:28 pm, **happyscrapper** said: #57

DL...I hope SOMEONE asks where those survivors are!! We have a right to know. Why the complete silence? What is being hidden? Where are they and why hasn't anyone come forward? Have they all been sequestered or something? This whole thing still smells like last week's dog poop. If they don't get these questions answered today, they will never be answered!!

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:31 pm, **doriangrey** said: #58

Hillary Clinton's aide is **Huma Abedin**. Huma's mother and older brother are high level Muslim Brotherhood officials. Al Qaeda is the violent Militant enforcement wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. In a world where security were taken seriously, Hillary Clinton and Huma Abedin would have been arrested and tried for TREASON.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:35 pm, **DesertLover** said: #59

happyscrapper ...

There was one attempt to bring it up and get an answer ... but, of course, it was simply sidestepped by SOS HRC with one of her rambling filibustering non-answers that ran out the stupid "5 minute" limit per committee member ...

Next Question! ...

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:39 pm, **RedDog** said: #60

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:34 am, WaterBoyz said:
... Yea I know, the LSM is not on our side, but every camera and every mic should have an articulate Conservative in front of it every day.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:43 am, conservativesRus said:
PR is not the R's problem. The problem is CORE BELIEF.

I agree with both of you.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:48 pm, **rambler** said: #61

When it was decided that there needed to be a national standard for schools across the country, education went into the dumper. We went from having teachers being the most educated in the country to now being the least educated. How many college students start out wanting to be teachers? How many become teachers because they were not doing well in their preferred major and switch to education because it was easier? How many teachers today have sufficient knowledge to teach the subjects they are teaching? Everything about public schools has declined since the '50s. Thanks to libs, all can be quite happy being stupid.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:00 pm, **DesertLover** said: #62

rambler ... #61 ...

Good point ...

When I was in H.S. all my teachers had their college degrees with a Major in the subject they were teaching ... English majors taught English, History majors taught history, Math majors taught math, etc.

Now, in most states, they get a college degree and then pass some sort of generic test for a "State Teaching Certificate" ...

What they teach in a classroom today has no connection to a specific academic discipline ...

In fact, in most universities the major for many of those becoming teachers is now "Education" ...

In the classroom they are handed a syllabus from the powers that be of what

they are supposed to teach and how they are supposed to teach whatever the class is they get assigned ...

I have 2 daughters and an ex-wife that are teachers and they fight the system every day over the misinformation they are expected to present to students ...

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:10 pm, **Mister P** said: #63

The public education system has been a disaster for decades. Lots of rhetoric, lots of money, poor results. I am especially concerned about the alienation of boys. They drop out at an alarming rate. 55 percent of college students are now girls.

I call them the Lost Boys.

We have been woefully short of qualified Math and Science teachers for 30 years. School districts have increased requirements, but have had no one to teach the extra courses. They solved the problem by shifting teachers from music, art and social studies into those classes.

Colleges will tell you they have students who are math and science illiterates. Home schoolers get a far better education. I suggest we do NOT waste our time with public schools. Focus on helping private schools and parents willing to teach at home.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:12 pm, **Mister P** said: #64

Now, in most states, they get a college degree and then pass some sort of generic test for a "State Teaching Certificate" ...

School districts are requiring teachers to be able to teach multiple subjects in High School. Basically they are glorified elementary school teachers.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:14 pm, **Collateral Damage** said: #65

What exactly do Americans expect??? The Communist Party USA (CPUSA.org) have LONG been massive supporters of unions in general, but especially TEACHERS unions. "Teach you children well." Why do Americans wonder when their kids come home from school with ALL manner of MARXIST/SOCIALIST attitudes????

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:24 pm, **Danceswithdachshunds** said: #66

I know an urban school kindergarten teacher who was picked by the school principle because of her history of doing a good job (as reported by 1st grade teachers concerning those students who had had that kindergarten teacher).

..picked to teach a 'new' program that is blatantly Marxist called "**Tools of the Mind**" that has principles established by Lenin's chief psychologist **Lev Vygotsky**.

This teacher HATES the program and it goes against everything she used to do that she found to work well. Unfortunately she cannot just say no and the parents of the children she has are mostly immigrants / non-English speaking / poor / low education / single mother / etc. who have no idea that their little kids are being subjected to collectivist brainwashing. That plus there was a \$35 bribe to them to say yes on a parental consent form that included a totally misleading description of the program. (**which included their kid being DNA swabbed!**)

The teaching for example disallows the use of rankings of anything – even when such are not even comparative such as "the first day of the month"... no no little comrade Johnny! It is not "first", it is "day number one".

Children are encouraged to always act as one the group – no matter what they are doing, "we're all on the same team here". Individualism is discouraged; following the teacher's ~~orders~~ suggestions is far more important than any exhibition of unique ability. There is no competition allowed, no rewards handed out to children who do the best.

It's just outrageous, parents in suburbia would likely join together to tar and feather a superintendent/principle who tried to invoke such crap on their kids which is why they do not dare try to launch it on kids with educated parents.

Who is behind all this? Commie Psychologists (big surprise..)

March to the beat of the statist drum little comrades:

In a series of rigorous experimental trials, Tools of the Mind has been shown to have a significant impact on self-regulation of preschool children.

There's no reason to force people to do what you want if you can condition them to do as you want.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:24 pm, **Hangfire** said: #67

The Federal government has no business at all involving itself with education for anyone other than military personnel.

We have 50 state governors that should drive the quality of education in their respective states.

Another reason for the dumbing-down of education in this country is that the urban areas are driving the agenda. They get the attention, the money, the programs, and therefore generate the waste.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:44 pm, **DesertLover** said: #68

Mister P ... #64 ...

That was my point ...

If someone doesn't know math they can't effectively teach it ...

If one doesn't know English grammar and spelling themselves they can't effectively teach English skills ...

If one doesn't know the Periodic Table and how basic chemistry properties interact they can't effectively teach Chemistry ...

The "multi-subject" teacher is only of value in the K-3/4 levels ... after that there needs to be more stringent teacher certifications commensurate with the topic requirements to properly teach more advanced subjects at a higher level ...

That continuing subject certification requirement should gradually become even more in-depth specialized in their teaching disciplines by the high school years ...

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:57 pm, **mondamay** said: #69

On January 23rd, 2013 at 2:24 pm, Hangfire said: Another reason for the dumbing-down of education in this country is that the urban areas are driving the agenda.

They are certainly dumbing down the vote, and driving the direction of this faltering country.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 3:35 pm, **WaterBoyz** said: #70

On January 23, 2013 at 02:44 PM, DesertLover said:
Mister P ... #64 ...

That was my point ...

If someone doesn't know math they can't effectively teach it ...

If one doesn't know English grammar and spelling themselves they can't

effectively teach English skills ...

If one doesn't know the Periodic Table and how basic chemistry properties interact they can't effectively teach Chemistry ...

The "multi-subject" teacher is only of value in the K-3/4 levels ... after that there needs to be more stringent teacher certifications commensurate with the topic requirements to properly teach more advanced subjects at a higher level ...

That continuing subject certification requirement should gradually become even more in-depth specialized in their teaching disciplines by the high school years ...

My kid had an English teacher in HS that came from Yugoslavia as an adult. The teacher may have passed the written but definitely failed the verbal test.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 4:06 pm, **DesertLover** said: #71

WaterBoyz ...

I hear ya.

One of my daughters had tremendous problems with math in H.S. ...

I was able to help her, but the biggest issue, other than the fact that her teacher was definitely not proficient in math, was the books she had to use ...

It seems every mathematics college professor feels required to produce a new math book and then convince school systems to adopt it ... and as part of that exercise they feel obligated to come up with their own names for every math function ...

The problem here was that my daughter would come asking for help and I would ask her, "what type of math functions are you working with right now?" ...

She would answer with some function name I had never heard of ...

I would take the book, send her off to do her other homework, and then figure out just what she was supposed to be doing ...

I almost always found that the math function she was studying was something I had learned many years before ... but not with the name it was being called in her book ...

Once I would call her back and explain to her exactly what she was supposed to be doing she would say "Oh, is that what I'm supposed to be doing?" ...

Then off to her room to do the homework and back in no time with all the math problems done for me to check ... and rarely were any of them wrong when she came back ...

Her H.S. math problems were mainly the teacher and the math book being used ...

It became obvious that it wasn't her because she went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude with a 3.94 GPA at Az State ...

Sorry this is so long but kind of an involved example ...

On January 23rd, 2013 at 5:05 pm, **doriangrey** said: #72

What is the Truth? Is Obama's soft Marxist Coup turning Hard?

On January 23rd, 2013 at 6:01 pm, **rambler** said: #73

If someone doesn't know math, they can't effectively teach it.

Well, they do it all the time which is why kids don't know it very well and are not prepared for college. The books are poorly written and the teachers need the answer key. No math teacher I ever had needed the answer key because

they knew math.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 6:05 pm, **rambler** said: #74

Check out the prep books available for teachers to study for their certification exam. It reads like a middle school test prep book. If the standard isn't very high for the teachers, then it won't be very high for the students. The smart kids all know who the stupid teachers are.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 6:33 pm, **DesertLover** said: #75

Evening,

Despite the debut of the "Hillary 2016 Show" today the House managed to pass a bill to extend the "debt ceiling" another 3 months with the "budget or no pay" attachment ...

The potential impact of that extension is addressed in the **Evening PoD** ... enjoy ... 😊

On January 23rd, 2013 at 7:17 pm, **DesertLover** said: #76

rambler ... key word ... "effectively" ... 😊

On January 23rd, 2013 at 7:19 pm, **CO2 Producer** said: #77

With thirteen-digit deficits, a fourteen-digit debt, and insignificant cuts, two theories come to mind:

1. Those in charge of the economy are prime exhibits of their own policies, mathematically inept and ignorant in comprehending really big numbers.
2. Those in charge of the economy only stand to benefit from a citizenry who's mathematically inept and ignorant in comprehending really big numbers.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 7:54 pm, **ChapBix** said: #78

#3. On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:13 am, happyscrapper said:

Is there NO WAY to stop these morons? They just keep at it ad nauseum until people give in! **Then the kids get to college and discover that...wow...they don't know even the basics! So what happens next?**

Those students are funneled into universities that teach the next generation of teachers.

Your grandson sounds like one fantastic youngster. No substitute like a concerned grandmother or grandfather with the needed, old-school skills to properly teach the current generation and move them along. It would be immensely helpful if the youngster could be taken out of the government school he is currently and home schooled where he could advance at his own pace.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 8:00 pm, **ChapBix** said: #79

Another compelling reason for abolishing the federal Dept. of Mis-Education, a gross waste of tax expenditures.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 9:51 pm, **ChapBix** said: #80

#29. On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:55 am, happyscrapper said:

Some folks are more agitated with students reading from a Bible or praying than truly disturbed behavior that would result in gunfire.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:16 pm, **ChapBix** said: #81

#39. On January 23rd, 2013 at 11:30 am, NavyGal said:

Right, the proggies are so blinded by their vision of 'redistribution' that they think they can redistribute intelligence **and allegiance**.

It would appear they are becoming increasingly successful at that.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:26 pm, **ChapBix** said: #82

#45. On January 23rd, 2013 at 12:01 pm, ted said:

When I have kids, they will be homeschooled, period.

Glad to hear it! Two of my sisters home schooled all of their children up to high school, and through high school with one of the sisters. All of them are delightful and well-versed in multiple subjects.

Have enjoyed many of the comments on here on solving the problem of under-educated children and young adults who are the product of a Frankenstein mis-educational system.

On January 23rd, 2013 at 10:38 pm, **ChapBix** said: #83

#59. On January 23rd, 2013 at 1:35 pm, DesertLover said:

happyscrapper ...

There was one attempt to bring it up and get an answer ... but, of course, it was simply sidestepped by SOS HRC with one of her rambling filibustering non-answers that ran out the stupid "5 minute" limit per committee member ...

Next Question! ...

Is this part of the training to become a lawyer?

On January 24th, 2013 at 7:30 am, **DesertLover** said: #84

Morning,

Now that Hillary has finally presented her "sham testimony" before Congress we can move on to the fight over Obama's various cabinet secretary nominees for his second term ...

We start off with the hearings for the appointment addressed in the **Morning PoD** ... enjoy ... 😊

On January 24th, 2013 at 10:05 am, **cheapseat** said: #85

As I've said before, The school of education in any University in the US is remedial high school for girls who didn't get math, science or english during 9th grade. It has the easiest core curriculum of any 4 year college degree, and hence produces a plethora of "teachers who couldn't spell cat if you spotted them the c and the t. Average SAT score for applicants entering the school of education is about 800. Your national average for all high schoolers who take the SAT is about a thousand. You get 400 points for signingt your name. So out of a possible 1200 points you could score, you scored 400 or 33% correct answers. You wonder why our kids are getting less educated by the year. Undereducated morons rarely impart wisdom, and that is why teachers strenuously object to being tested for competency by any means other than "peer review". It takes one to judge one.

On January 24th, 2013 at 10:30 am, **Misscheryl** said: #86

I saw this today. Given enough time, it will become required curriculum at California public schools.

" Q -

On January 24th, 2013 at 11:21 am, **ted** said: #87

To those saying “you have to know math to be able to teach math” – I totally agree, and I had a horrible incident in college of which this reminds me.

I was in a college English class and –pardon me if this sounds racist– but it was culture shock listening to some of the people in my class speaking “English”. I’d never encountered such grammatically poor utterances before. The professor was a black woman and her English was terrible. Half of the class was made up of mouthy black girls whose prior education was severely lacking– but they had an overabundance of self-esteem and attitude. There was also a small group of about ten kids like myself who would just sit there and look at each other and wonder what bizzarro universe we were living in– I could not fathom why some people would go on using the word “axe” instead of “ask”– and that still boggles my mind. Surely, I thought, an English class would be that place where this stuff gets ironed out.

At the end of the semester, we were asked (or “axed”) to write a paper on something controversial– we were allowed to choose; but we were told not to pick something like abortion that had been discussed to death. I was feeling a bit brave, so I chose to write a paper on “black English”– and this was before it was called “Ebonics” by some. There were lots of books on it, some written by black scholars. I researched the subject and wrote a very good paper on it. I kind of figured that it might agitate my professor, but I was under the impression that challenging the authority and speaking freely was something that was encouraged at college.

Needless to say, my paper came back with an “F” on it and the professor made sure to fail me in the class. I had to retake English, which was utterly ridiculous. The next semester I had a white male professor and for the final paper, I submitted the same paper I’d written for this black female teacher and I got an “A” on the paper and an “A” in the class.

Campus freedom of speech and thought is strictly a one-way street.

On January 24th, 2013 at 11:34 am, **ted** said: #88

Just wanted to add something else– I just saw a story at Breitbart about how Van Jones is praising Obama for being a “Communitarian”. I haven’t heard that word in a long time. When I got to college, I had a political science professor who was a big lefty. The first thing she did was blatantly foist this idea called “Communitarianism” on us. She’d talk about it all day long almost like a person with Aspergers would; but–like Van Jones– she could never define it. It all sounded like communism to me– and I knew she had to be a communist– but she’d always fall back on this label of “Communitarian”.

How these people are allowed to infiltrate institutions of learning and corrupt the minds of impressionable kids is beyond me.

On January 24th, 2013 at 1:26 pm, **rambler** said: #89

Yes, DesertLover... I should have been more clear. Effectively teaching propaganda in stead of anything which would resemble an education. They are effective at being the losers they always were.

I think today’s inept teachers are getting back at the system which cause them so much pain. They were the bottom of their class and could not keep up with the smart kids. So they felt bad. So now they are making the losers feel good and the good students feel bad. With this kind of a system, all will be losers except those who can achieve in spite of the lousy system.

I have seen teachers give more homework to the smart kids because the theory was to have all students to spend the same number on minutes on the homework and the smart kids could get the work done faster so they needed more mindless busy work. Silly work like draw democracy, freedom, communism, socialism. Draw.... in an english class. Draw things which were concepts. Guess she went to one of those commie poster making seminars.

On January 24th, 2013 at 1:33 pm, **RedDog** said: #90

On January 24th, 2013 at 10:30 am, Misscheryl said:

I saw this today. Given enough time, it will become required curriculum at California public schools.

I'm thinking these "teachers" have the bad Catholic priests beat by a long shot, but you would never know it waiting for Vichy Press Corps to report.

On January 24th, 2013 at 1:41 pm, **Misscheryl** said: #91

1:33 pm, RedDog said:

You miss the fundamental difference between the two. The reason it isn't ok for priests is because they don't approve so it's hypocritical. If California teachers and liberals do it, it isn't wrong because they are just expressing themselves.

On January 24th, 2013 at 1:55 pm, **marco** said: #92

'The Bell Curve' explains why the policies of the left won't work. They debunk the book and the research while practicing school busing, affirmative action, diversity, head start, self-esteem studies, no child left behind, it takes a village, black studies, women studies,on and on...with little discernible teaching or learning occurring! I think the book was banned as racist back in the days when my kids were in school!

On January 24th, 2013 at 2:01 pm, **Misscheryl** said: #93

1:55 pm, marco said:

'The Bell Curve' explains why..

I'm a firm believer in left to their own devices, only the strongest will survive. We have the enabling liberal progressives to thank for going against nature and putting us in the fix we're in today.

On January 24th, 2013 at 5:41 pm, **rocketman** said: #94

HI MISS_CHERYL-#93. It will be pretty ugly when our economy finally crashes and there isn't any money left to fund the social safety nets. At that point our society may devolve into riots and class warfare between the "low information" and "low motivation" people and those who worked hard and improved themselves and their economic potential.

It's the Darwin Award-bigtime! Not much employment when companies shut down, and a degree in Ebonics or Sociology guarantees no job. It's not for nothing that lots of people are arming up and getting ready. Like British P.M. Margaret Thatcher said, "Socialism only works until you run out of other people's money!"

Comrade Obama, His Regime, and the RINO enablers are bringing on a real crisis that will hit us pretty soon. Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin, Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez, and Zimbabwe's Mugabe sure knew / know how to take a successful, prosperous economy and how to turn it into real misery for most of those who were so stupid as to back their plans to take prosperity from companies and workers and "redistribute" it to them. Communism fails every time and every place it is tried. And The Good Comrade is openly and actively bringing it to us now.

John Bibb

On January 24th, 2013 at 5:45 pm, **Misscheryl** said: #95

5:41 pm, rocketman said:

You do know there are some that would call you a crazy, paranoid nutjob. I would call you experienced and wise.

On January 24th, 2013 at 6:19 pm, **Danceswithdachshunds** said: #96

Progressives are always so smug about being for *diversity* in everything but here they are advocating for a one size fits all monolithic curriculum.

Typical hypocrites.

One thing that seemed to be absent in the discussion was the use of calculators in the classroom. I couldn't find mention of them in the 'core standards' for math – does that mean I'm finally getting my way to have them tossed out? If there is one thing responsible for the decline of math ability it's calculators and computers being used to 'teach' math. What they actually do is allow the math part of the brain to atrophy because a machine is doing all the hard work.

In that respect it does NOT matter what the calculations are. Whether you are going to compete in football, soccer, basketball, baseball or track – you have to actually run to get your leg muscles in shape to participate in any of those sports.

The brain is no different and the calculation part of it has to be in shape before it can be expected to climb the ladder of increasingly harder math concepts. Otherwise it would be like expecting someone to run a marathon because they've watched a lot of them on TV.

On January 24th, 2013 at 6:55 pm, **granite** said: #97

On January 24th, 2013 at 6:19 pm, Danceswithdachshunds said:

If there is one thing responsible for the decline of math ability it's calculators and computers being used to 'teach' math. What they actually do is allow the math part of the brain to atrophy because a machine is doing all the hard work.

Correct.

On January 24th, 2013 at 9:39 pm, **rocketman** said: #98

HI AGAIN MISS_CHERYL-#95. Thank you for your kind comment! I get some that are not so nice, and apparently got booted from Hot Air a year ago for "callin 'em like I sees 'em".

A man was feeling bad and got an appointment with a doctor to try to find out what was wrong with him. The doctor did the standard physical exams and ordered the normal blood and urine lab work. When the results came in they all looked normal.

During the followup session the doctor decided that the patient must be having some kind of psychological issues. He decided to do the Rosarch Ink Blot test. He slopped some ink on the paper, folded it, opened it up again, and asked the patient, "What does this remind you of?"

The patient studied it a while and replied, "Sex!". The doc studied the paper, and said, "Somehow I don't see it. Let's try again". He did so, and got the same result from the patient. Ditto for the third try.

The doctor finally got angry and berated the man. "What's wrong with you? None of these ink blots looks at all like sex!"

The patient got angry also and said, "Why are you getting mad at me, doc? You're the guy drawing all the dirty pictures!"

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. We used to have a poster on the wall at work that had a crazy looking guy peeking over a wall. Which had a sign on it that said, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean that they're not out to get you!".

If it looks like a duck, waddles like a duck, quacks like a duck, poops like a duck,.....

John Bibb

On January 25th, 2013 at 8:36 am, *graysonret* said: #99

What they actually do is allow the math part of the brain to atrophy because a machine is doing all the hard work.

A few ywars ago, I stopped by a drug store (national chain) to purchase a few items. When I got to check-out, the cash register broke down. The clerk could not add the items manually (though I repeatedly told her the total was \$4.25). She called over the manager who also couldn't add the items; though I kept repeating "\$4.25". I finally got disgusted and walked out. It's amazing that these two morons couldn't add 4 items up in their heads without a machine.

On January 25th, 2013 at 10:42 am, *Misscheryl* said: #100

graysonret, and not one person under 30 can count out change if their life depended on it.

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