



**STUDENT STORM TROOPERS:**  
“..... how radical, weird and out of touch college campuses  
have become!” – John Hawkins, November 2015

Written and compiled by Stephen L. Bakke  September 26, 2016

*It's all about safe spaces, micro-aggressions, trigger warnings, preferred gender references, student discomfort, professors indoctrinating students, free college, college president resignations, and other puzzling ..... uh ..... “stuff.”*

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**PART 1** - *Framing the Issue is Important!*      *Page 2*

**PART 2** - *A List of “Curious College Stuff”!*      *Page 3*

**PART 3** - *So Where Are We?*      *Page 8*

**PART 4** - *The Mallard Fillmore Appendix*      *Page 10*

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# PART 1

## *Framing the Issue is Important!*

For almost a year I've been creating/accumulating a file with no real designation other than "stuff about colleges." It's gotten rather thick as I've been adding reports, articles, and other information about just that – "stuff going on at U.S. colleges." The oldest item in that file is an article by political columnist John Hawkins which gave a list of 15 items *"that show how radical, weird and out of touch college campuses have become."* I chose that quote as an ideal subtitle to this report.

### *Is This a New Concern?*

With the help of George Will, and then while "poking around," I came across mention of the American Association of University Professors which issued a warning in its 1915 "Declaration of Principles." I quote from that report:

*The teacher ought also to be especially on his guard against taking unfair advantage of the student's immaturity by indoctrinating him with the teacher's own opinions .....*

Moving ahead in time, and skipping a whole bunch of important developments, let's go right to 1997 when the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) adopted (according to George Will) a *"surreptitious political agenda in the form of a new code of ethics, enjoining social workers to advocate for social justice ....., [to combat] 'the conservative trends of the past three decades' ....., Clearly ....., they are the opposite of conservatism."*

The Council on Social Work Education, the national accreditor of social work education programs, encourages (according to Mr. Will) the "ideological permeation of the curricula ....." Keeping this in mind, note that George Will reported this information several years ago:

- Social work students at Arizona State University must "demonstrate compliance with the NASW Code of Ethics."
- Berkeley considers compliance with NASW as proof of "suitability for the profession."
- At the University of Central Florida, students "must comply" with the NASW "Code."
- The University of Houston requires that students sign a pledge of adherence to the NASW "Code."
- "Academic misconduct" might be the charge at the University of Michigan for failure to comply with the "Code."

To conclude this section here are some more of Will's retelling of unbelievable college foolishness:

- In 2005 at Missouri State University, a social-work student who objected to a mandatory assignment to advocate for homosexual foster homes and adoption – it was required that all students sign a letter, on university stationery, to that effect. She objected on religious grounds and was charged with a Level 3 (most serious) violation of professional standards. She had a hearing and was required to write a paper about how she could "lessen the gap" between her ethics and those of the social-work profession. She sued and the university dropped its charges.
- A study by the conservative "watchdog" National Association of Scholars (NAS) found that at Rhode Island College's School of Social Work, a conservative student received a failing grade for not

participating in a course requirement that students lobby the state legislature for a cause mandated by the department.

- In the same NAS study, a conservative student abandoned pursuit of a social work degree at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Why? Because she wouldn't lobby the legislature on behalf of positions prescribed by the professor. Her explanation is that she was told, or it was insinuated to her, that it is impossible to be both a social worker and an opponent of abortion.

### ***About this Report***

With that context in mind, I'm embarking on this **4-PART** report which is really just a big list of anecdotes and incidents I've picked up on over the past year. Taken separately these items are just curiosities. Taken as a whole, this becomes very worrisome for any objective observer – especially when you consider I made no concerted effort to create this list. I just kept setting aside things that crossed my desk or my computer screen.

In the **4<sup>th</sup>** and final instalment you will find a “whole bunch” of Bruce Tinsley's hilarious and insightful Mallard Fillmore political cartoons.

### ***A Couple of Definitions***

*Trigger Warning* – A statement at the start of a piece of writing, video, etc. alerting the reader or viewer to the fact that it contains potentially distressing material.

*Microaggression* – A statement, action, or incident regarded as an indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority.

## ***PART 2***

### ***A List of “Curious College Stuff”!***

In **PART 1** I presented some background on this crazy subject of *Student Storm Troopers*. Now, take a leisurely walk through the modern college and university atmosphere of political correctness. It's really interesting if you can keep your composure. I obtained all of these from legitimate authors and sources but have “double verified” very few of the reports. In almost every case I have been able to identify the relevant college or university. I believe these summaries are “directionally correct” and probably err mostly due to their extreme brevity – i.e. there could be “more to the story.”

🗿 The University of Minnesota has issued a guide on microaggressions and has a training program for librarians that teaches them about microaggressions and how to intervene if they see one.

🗿 Students at the University of Minnesota killed a proposed moment of silence for 9/11 victims due to concerns that Muslim students would be offended.

🗿 A published educational text, a reprint of The U.S. Constitution and other founding documents is preceded by a disclaimer as to the current relevance of these documents – a “trigger warning.”

🐼 Professors at the University of California at Berkeley have been official warned against saying such things as “America is the land of opportunity” because it’s consider to be a “microaggression.”

🐼 Another “Berkeley” microaggression to be avoided by staff and students is asking “Where are you from?” or “Where were you born?” Supposedly this is similar to pointing out “you are not American.”

🐼 At the University of Illinois at Urbana, a report identifies a room full of “white only” students as an act of microaggression which the white students are participating in, just by sitting in the room.

🐼 California State University Los Angeles had to barricade the entrances of a theater where conservative commentator Ben Shapiro was set to deliver a speech about censorship and diversity.

🐼 Because of Ben Shapiro’s remarks, students at CSU-LA set up a “healing” a space to deal with pain caused by having him speak on campus, even though the event was 3 months prior, and few attended.

🐼 Students at Brown University complained of emotional stress and poor grades after several months spent protesting. They blamed the University for insisting they complete their homework.

🐼 Professor Salvador Vidal-Ortiz of American University teaches that capitalism dehumanizes brown and black people. Although light skinned he won’t be called “white” because it’s a violent race.

🐼 Portland State University offered a course teaching how to “make whiteness strange.” The professor stated that whiteness must be dismantled if racial justice is ever to be achieved.

🐼 A UCLA professor removed the capitalization of the word “indigenous” from a student’s report. That was considered microaggression because it removed the student’s emphasis on his heritage.

🐼 UCLA law students wore intermural t-shirts with a professor’s picture on it – he had organized the game. This was protested as microaggression because of a book the professor had written.

🐼 Black Lives Matter protesters invaded the library and shouted at white students, things like “you filthy white f---s!” The school apologized to them and referred to their protest as “a beautiful thing.”

🐼 The University of Minnesota libraries have “relaxation spaces.” These are areas where studying is forbidden. There are lego play tables, librarians doing reiki sessions and a roaming choir.

🐼 Here’s something for the “almost” college students. A suburban Washington high school promoted self-esteem by naming 117 valedictorians out of a class of 457.

🐼 Santa Clara University near San Francisco told students to call 911 if they were offended by something. This was later rescinded.



🐼 Ivy League schools are moving away from using the term “Master” to designate the heads of their residential colleges. This was thought to evoke racist conflicts and slavery.

🐼 In 2012 it was found that all nine University of California campuses had been compromised by too many politicized courses – e.g. there was a clear attempt to erase the study of Western tradition.

🐼 The University of Missouri’s President Wolfe and Chancellor Loftin resigned after prolonged and much publicized demonstrations making questionable claims of poor handling of racial incidents.

🐼 The University of Missouri Diversity Office distributed information giving examples of microaggressions to be avoided. For example, don’t say “you people are so inspiring” to the disabled.

🐼 More from the University of Missouri – another example of microaggression is the fact that women aren’t asked as often as men to help move boxes around the office.

🐼 And two more microaggressions from the University of Missouri would be to state: “Everyone can succeed in this society” or “The most qualified person should get the job.”

🐼 In an early “gender reference” debate, some University of Tennessee educators stated their concern that students might be offended by the use of traditional pronouns like she, he him and hers.

🐼 A Professor at Polk State College in Florida has allegedly failed a humanities student after she refused to concede that Jesus is a “myth” or that Christianity oppresses women.

🐼 At UCLA, “color blindness,” the idea we shouldn’t obsess about another’s race, is a microaggression. Refusing to acknowledge an individual as a “racial/cultural” being is objected to.

🐼 According to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the phrase “politically correct” is now a microaggression.



🐼 The University of New Hampshire’s Bias-Free Language Guide objects to “Caucasian,” “illegal immigrant,” “mother,” “father,” and “American.” Saying “healthy” is said to shame unhealthy persons.

🐼 The Community College of Baltimore County allegedly denied admission to its Radiation Therapy Program because of religious beliefs. A faculty member stated: the field isn’t a place for religion.”

### ZIGGY

🐼 Clemson University apologized for serving Mexican food because some students took to Twitter claiming the menu culturally insensitive.

🐼 In another early gender confusion incident, an all-women’s college canceled “Vagina Monologues,” because it excludes “women” without vaginas.

🗨️ A Black Lives Matter leader, teaching at Yale, gave a lecture on the historical merits of looting as a form of protest. Required reading put modern looters on par with those behind the Boston Tea Party.

🗨️ An Assistant Dean at Cornell told a journalist that the University would allow an ISIS terrorist to hold a training camp on campus. He said it would be like bring in a coach to train a sports team.

🗨️ Ohio University students demanded a police investigation of an incident when conservative students added a trigger warning to a designated “free speech” wall.

🗨️ Harvard University announced it was going to prosecute any student it found to be a member of a male- or female-only club starting in 2017. The focus is apparently on fraternities and sororities.

🗨️ The University of North Carolina I apparently infested with microaggressions. For example, one of their guidelines suggestions refraining from complimenting a woman on her footwear.

🗨️ More from UNC – It’s a microaggression to have only two gender reference options. To do so suggests “you must fit in the gender binary.”

🗨️ And another gem from UNC – It’s a microaggression to have dress codes that require/suggest men and women to dress differently – i.e. to have separate dress codes or standards.

🗨️ Another UNC guideline would recommend against celebrating Christmas or taking a Christmas vacation. This would minimize others around you who have non-Christian spiritual rituals.

🗨️ Let’s keep going at UNC – You shouldn’t invite colleagues to join you a round of golf because it presumes they have the resources necessary to play the game.

🗨️ In fairness, the UNC did deny these were official policy Rather, they are just guidelines permitted on its website. This material was removed in June 2016.

🗨️ Emory University students protested “sidewalk terrorism,” after someone “chalked” Trump 2016 on the sidewalk. They could no longer feel safe there. Why didn’t they just erase it?

🗨️ The Princeton University HR department has largely wiped the word “man” from its vocabulary. A four-page memo aims to be more gender inclusive.

🗨️ At Lebanon Valley College students demanded that “Lynch Memorial Hall,” originally named after a former president, be renamed because of the unsavory reference to “put to death by hanging.”

🗨️ Hampshire College will offer what is euphemistically called “identity-based housing. That’s segregated housing for the traditionally oppressed - e.g. sexual orientation, race, culture, gender, etc.





☹ University of Connecticut administrators believe black men will do better if they spend more time together. Hence, they are planning a new residence hall – “a space for African-American men.”

☹ Segregated housing is planned for black students at California State University Los Angeles. The goal is to combat microaggressions and racially insensitive remarks. Is segregation the new “hip.”

☹ Morain Valley Community College also attempted segregation in a class “limited to African American students.” After much notoriety, the effort was abandoned.

☹ The President of Ripon college encouraged professors in all disciplines to disparage Donald Trump. He suggested Trump’s “bigotry” is a valid topic for almost any course.

☹ A Cornell University Dean of Students candidate emphasized he wanted to be dean for “all students.” A diversity advocate objected because this emphasis would hurt marginalized students.

☹ At Brown University, tampons will now be available in the men’s rooms. I guess in a gender confused culture, not all people who menstruate are women. I learned a new term: “trans-inclusivity.”

☹ Clark University’s chief diversity officer issued microaggression cautions/guidelines for new students: don’t ask a black student if he plays basketball and don’t seek math help from an Asian, etc.

☹ At Gonzaga University a gender studies class handout warns that “asking an Asian person to help with math and science problem” is a microaggression.

☹ Other items on the Gonzaga handout of microaggressions is asking Asian or Latino American persons, “Where are you from?” Also, one shouldn’t tell a person of color, you are “so articulate.”

☹ Other Gonzaga microaggressions are “asking an Asian American to teach them words in their native language,” and “everyone can succeed in this society, if they work hard enough.”

☹ California State University San Marcos, released a “trigger warning” notifying students and faculty of an upcoming pro-life display on campus. The email said it could be “disturbing and offensive.”

☹ Re: the last item, the email also advised that resources would be available for students “who may need assistance” after being exposed to the pro-life display. Hmmm – traumatized by abortion!

☹ At Champlain College, nonconforming gender inclusiveness led to distributing hundreds of “pronoun pins” during orientation. Students could then advertise their preferred gender pronoun.

☹ Vanderbilt University has decided to add gender pronouns to its staff nameplates. I guess this is to add a new courtesy to faculty members who are gender non-conforming.

☹ At Pomona College new students were welcomed with posters instructing on “How to be a (Better) White Ally.” Signs state white people should “acknowledge you privilege.” And so on.

🗨 At San Francisco State University, a Jewish student was blocked (by an anti-Israeli professor) from appointment to the Student Judicial Council on the grounds that the student was pro-Israel.

🗨 Colorado College has been accused of “body shaming” for their commitment to a healthy lifestyle. These values are apparently exclusionary to those who are out of shape or otherwise unhealthy.

🗨 Re: the prior item, a student complained that she routinely experiences “emotional injury” due to her lack of “body privilege.” I’ve now learned two new terms: “body privilege” and “otherness.”

🗨 A former Master at Yale’s Silliman College sided with his wife in criticizing the University for telling students not to wear culturally insensitive Halloween costumes. Anger and protests ensued.

🗨 Re: the last item, a student compared the pain she endured from his supporting his wife on the issue to getting a soccer ball kicked in your face and having your nose broken. The Master resigned.

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That’s the list. There is none larger. But as you would imagine, my job was almost exclusively clerical. In compiling this list, I gleaned information from my accumulated file of others who have dealt with the subject over the last year. I haven’t provided appropriate footnotes to give attribution because that would be almost as long as this list. I reviewed reports and analyses of dozens of experts and “pundits.” If anyone would like the source of any of these items just contact me and you will have it.

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Next in “**PART 3**” I will do a little “summing up.” And if this is all too discouraging, just be ready to squint through your tears and stay tuned for “**PART 4**” which will present a “whole bunch” of **Bruce Tinsley’s** hilarious and insightful **Mallard Fillmore** political cartoons – all about this topic of “Curious College Stuff.”

## **PART 3**

### ***So Where Are We?***

What’s actually been going on in colleges and universities is “Freedom of Speech” VS. “Freedom of Speech.” In fact, “Free Speech” might be trying to kill “Free Speech”! And “tolerance” is becoming “intolerance.” When someone tries to ensure freedom of speech by support a controversial discussion or speaker, there’s likely to be a “shout-down” by students. When challenged, the students insist their “freedom of speech” is being infringed. Some of these students and their supporters believe they gain advantage or status by exhibiting outrage – and it turns into a giant case of circular arguments.

It’s a slow process, but here’s what I see happening: First there’s a worthy push for freedom and tolerance; then more and more; and on and on! We eventually discover the definition of infinite tolerance and extreme insistence on freedom is actually ..... intolerance and limited freedom of speech.



What was identified by the American Association of University Professors way back in 1915 (Refer to "**PART 1**") continues to be the trend, only much more of a concern/threat. Chance Layton of the National Association of Scholars commented in March of this year, giving the NAS reaction to findings by the Higher Education Research Institute:

*College students' heightened sensitivity, embodied in their impulse to find "safe spaces" from ideas they dislike, is an epidemic of closed minds ..... as students become more politically active on campus, they are beginning to limit personal liberties, especially First Amendment freedoms.*

**But there is some good news.** Dr. Robert J. Zimmer, president of the University of Chicago has spoken out about the problem of political correctness on college and university campuses:

*Free speech is at risk at the very institution where it should be assured: the university.*

And in August the Dean of Students, John Ellison of the same University of Chicago, issued a "Welcome" letter to students in which he commented on his "no coddling" policy. He's taking this stand in the face of significant faculty "push-back." We'll have to watch for developments. Here's a portion of what he wrote:

*Our commitment to academic freedom means we do not support so-called "trigger warnings," we do not cancel invited speakers because their topics might prove controversial, and we do not condone the creation of intellectual "safe spaces" where individuals can retreat from ideas and perspectives at odds with their own.*

And a blog post by Dr. Everett Piper, President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University in November of 2015 had this to say:

*I actually had a student come forward after a university chapel service and complain he felt "victimized" by a sermon ..... Our culture has actually taught our kids to be this self-absorbed and narcissistic ..... Anyone who dares challenge them and, thus, makes them "feel bad" about themselves, is a "hater," a "bigot," and "oppressor," and a "victimizer." I have a message for this young man That feeling of discomfort you have after listening to a sermon is called a conscience ..... This is not a day care. This is a university.*

Economist Thomas Sowell has been critical of the many examples of intolerance on campuses. He recently recommended two sources of information for parents and students seeking out information on freedom of speech on campus. These are the college guide "**Choosing the Right College**" and also information available from the **Foundation for Individual Rights in Education**.

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I guess "the beat goes on." This philosophical debate isn't likely to be solved soon given the fact that a majority of the nation's faculty seem to be in sympathy with the policies and events that bother so many of us. So, squint through your tears and stay tuned for "**PART 4**" which will present a "whole bunch" of **Bruce Tinsley's** hilarious and insightful **Mallard Fillmore** political cartoons – all about this topic of "Curious College Stuff."

# PART 4

## The Mallard Fillmore Appendix

In this, the final part, you will find a “whole bunch” of **Bruce Tinsley’s** hilarious and insightful **Mallard Fillmore** political cartoons. Think and enjoy! (*Check out more of Mallard Fillmore’s wisdom [HERE](#).*)

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley











