

# National News

---

## What Does a Stanford Education Buy You?

In a random survey conducted by the *Stanford Review*, Stanford University students scored an average of 50% on a list of eight basic questions, relating to the history of Western Civilization, Alex Robbins reported in the *Review* on June 5. In 1997, Stanford replaced their "Western Civilization" program with a new "Culture, Ideas, and Values" curriculum.

Below are the questions, and the percent who answered correctly:

1. Who is the current British Prime Minister? 60%
2. Who wrote *The Wealth of Nations*? 50%
3. Which came first, the Renaissance or the Enlightenment? 70%
4. Which 16th-Century scholar first proposed that the Earth revolves around the Sun? 25%
5. Name *one* inventor of the printing press? 45%
6. What was the *exact* date of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor? 40%
7. Which came first, the American or the French Revolution? 65%
8. Who was the first leader of the Soviet Union? 40%

In addition, the official "answer" to one of the eight questions, was incorrect. On question 4, 25% gave the "correct" answer of "Copernicus," while 64% answered "Galileo." Both are wrong. The first scholar known to have proposed that the Earth revolves around the Sun was Aristarchus, in the Third Century B.C.

Graduating seniors did the best on the test, but not by much: They scored 55% correct.

---

## Texas Puts Screws on Ex-Death Row Inmate

Despite the fact that Clarence Brandley was wrongfully held on Texas's death row for nine years, the state is requiring him to pay child support for that time, the Death Penalty Information Center reported on June 5.

Brandley's children are now adults. Texas is demanding that his employer deduct weekly child support back-payments from his salary for the next five years.

The Texas Attorney General's Office child-support division claims that the "special circumstances" of Brandley's wrongful conviction do not supersede his obligation to make the payments, which were current when he was arrested for murder more than 20 years ago. Brandley's conviction was thrown out when State District Judge Perry Pickett said that in his 30 years on the bench, "no case has presented a more shocking scenario of the effects of racial prejudice, perjured testimony, witness intimidation, [and] an investigation the outcome of which was predetermined."

---

## USS Liberty Veterans Demand Investigation

The *USS Liberty* Veterans Association published a full-page ad in the *Washington Times* on June 6, marking the 35th anniversary of the day, June 8, 1967, that "America's banner and honor was treacherously trashed by our so-called ally, Israel," when 34 Americans were killed and 172 wounded in the attack on the U.S. ship. They called upon President George Bush to create a special Presidential panel "to finally investigate the attack and cover-up of the *USS Liberty*."

The ad, published as an open letter to the President, contains a detailed description of the Israeli attack, which is described as deliberate, and undertaken by the Israelis "knowing full well our identity of the ship." The ad also tells how the crew "was ordered to remain silent under threat of court martial, imprisonment, or worse, and we all knew what worse meant."

"Israel's premeditated, sneak attack on the *USS Liberty* was a direct attack on America," the letter says. "The disgraceful refusal of unpatriotic American government officials of dubious allegiance to defend America and come to the aid of brave Americans under attack can only be characterized as treasonous."

The May 31 issue of *EIR* covered the story of the *USS Liberty*, raising new questions about the complicity of U.S. officials,

without which the attack could not have occurred.

---

## Virginia Flunks Its Standards of Learning

The mandatory "Standards of Learning" test, instituted a few years ago in Virginia and other states, is touted for being able to guarantee that students know fundamentals of history, math, science, etc. In a practice test for eighth graders given on May 16 at a Northern Virginia middle school, the following question was #47:

"Question: Whose idea, expressed in the Declaration of Independence, was that people have natural rights to life, liberty, and property?"

- A. George Washington
- B. Patrick Henry
- C. John Adams
- D. John Locke

As Virginia patriots of earlier generations knew, the Declaration actually speaks of the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," a formulation chosen by the Signers in repudiation of John Locke's formulation, "life, liberty, and property." Locke was the author of the pro-slavery Constitution of South Carolina, and his ideas about the primacy of "property" were embodied in the Confederate Constitution. It was the American followers of Gottfried Leibniz and his advocate Emmerich Vattel, who emphasized the philosophical and moral concept of "the pursuit of happiness" (see Robert Trout, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," *Fidelio*, Spring 1997).

---

## O'Neill Boosts Free Trade for Africa

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill chose a forum at Georgetown University on June 5, following his trip to Africa with Irish rock star Bono, to put forth U.S. economic policy for Africa, making clear his opposition to the role of state support for infrastructure and economic development. He told the audience that the government is not the source

of prosperity, and that only private citizens, and only private initiative, can create economic wealth.

Ignoring the effects of colonialism and decades of looting by the International Monetary Fund, O'Neill held only the African nations responsible for the poverty of their people, due to their failure to fight corruption and promote good governance. While observing that 45%—300 million—of the continent's people do not have access to clean water, he asserted that all that is necessary to turn things around is "entrepreneurial enthusiasm." His model, which he cited more than once, was how a single mother with several children in Ghana used a \$50 micro-loan to start a successful restaurant and related businesses that now employ 14 people.

One seasoned diplomatic representative from Africa told *EIR* privately, that it was all talk, and at the end of the day, nothing will be done by the Bush Administration to help Africa.

## Michael Ledeen Foment's 'Insurrection' in Iran

Michael Ledeen, National Security Council consultant to the Reagan Administration and now a resident scholar at the neo-conservative American Enterprise Institute, calls for an "insurrection" in Iran, in a statement posted on the AEI website and published in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 5.

Ledeen is the author of *Universal Fascism*—a concept which he supports—and a leading figure in the Iran-Contra and "Jerusalem Temple Mount" projects.

He writes that at a commemorative event for the Ayatollah Khomeini, who died in 1989, there were seven representatives from al-Qaeda, "whose leader, Osama bin Laden, has been reported by local newspapers to be living in a remote region of Iran itself."

Ledeen writes, "Just two weeks ago, Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, deputy leader of the Council of Experts—perhaps the most powerful institution in Iran—publicly warned that the country was on the verge of insurrection." This unrest is primarily due to the economic devastation wrought by the "mullacracy," says Ledeen.

Ledeen backs President Bush for includ-

ing Iran in his "Axis of Evil" formulation, during the State of the Union address, noting: "The mullahs . . . have intensified their terror campaign against the United States and its allies. They aim to drive America out of Afghanistan, just as Khomeini did in Lebanon in the 1980s: by killing and kidnaping Americans, and eventually demonstrating that the United States does not have staying power." But, despite Bush's speech, "We still have no Iran strategy." What is needed, Ledeen says, is a bombardment with radio and TV broadcasts in Farsi, a sustained condemnation of the "mullacracy" by American leaders, and material assistance to those leading the freedom movement in Iran.

Ledeen concludes: "It is hard to imagine that the Iranian people require enormous support to rid themselves of meddling priests, and unlike the challenge in Iraq, one can readily envisage a successful regime change in Tehran without dropping a single American bomb or firing a single American bullet."

## Falwell: Keep All The Immigrants Out

Arguing that we have to accept sacrifices to protect freedom, Rev. Jerry Falwell of the Christian Coalition suggested some sacrifices to be made—by foreigners and people of races and religions that are not his own. Writing on WorldNetDaily on June 8, Falwell lauded Attorney General John Ashcroft's plan to fingerprint and photograph 100,000 foreign visitors, but he didn't stop there. "I believe it is time to simply close down our immigration doors," to protect U.S. citizens, and to halt all visitor visas from nations linked to terrorism, he said.

"Ensuring that our people are safe may mean building a wall from San Diego to Brownsville," Falwell continued. "If it does, let's get on with the construction."

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) wrote a column in the *Washington Times* on June 9, in favor of ethnic profiling against Arabs and Muslims. North charged that "political correctness" is why the FBI failed to pursue the Phoenix and Minneapolis reports about Middle Easterners attending flight schools.

**THE U.S. NAVY** will unilaterally stop and search ships in the Mediterranean, in international waters, looking for weapons shipments and terrorists, the State Department confirmed June 3. Southern European countries have been informed, and so far Spain has rejected the policy.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS** in 15 states are cutting back to a four-day school week to save money, the *New York Times* reported on June 9. In Colorado, 36 of 180 districts have gone to four days; in Wyoming, 20 of 48 districts. Many working parents have been forced to put their children in day-care centers on Fridays.

**RUPERT MURDOCH'S** *New York Post* demanded that CIA Director George Tenet be fired, for meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. In its June 8 editorial, the *Post* attacked Tenet's refusal to call Arafat a terrorist.

**RONALD LAUDER** called on American Jews to leave the Democratic Party and join the GOP, in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary on June 10. Lauder is heir to the Estée Lauder cosmetics empire, and designated successor to Edgar Bronfman as head of the World Jewish Congress. He cited the Christian Right's support for Israel as evidence that the Republican Party is able to deliver support for Israel, and argued that Jews had largely been in the Republican Party until the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidency.

**SEN. GEORGE VOINOVICH** (R-Ohio) said that he will refuse to attend Senate hearings on mountaintop coal mining, chaired by Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), because rock star Kevin Richardson was scheduled to testify as an "expert" witness. According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, a Richardson spokesman defended the star's expertise on the grounds that "he flew over the area." Voinovich denounced a "disturbing trend" by the Committee's Democratic leadership to call celebrity witnesses.