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Essay 2 – Final Draft

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The Poison that is Liberal Indoctrination:

How American College Education is Going Up in Price *and* Going Down the Tubes

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish...¹” that every man, woman, and child, regardless of ability or interest, shall be educated. What a grand idea! A country that will make education a priority for every person, legal citizen or not, and whether you want it or not. And not just a priority, but a socio-psychosis, that if you have an education you will get everything you want, and that if you do not have an education, or do not agree with the system, you will be looked down upon, and you will die poor and lone, you narrow-minded capitalist. While education is a great thing for those who dually want it and need it, it is the government’s biggest pork project and cash cow, seeing our college campuses ghastly becoming the factories that turn out mindless, numb, go-with-the-flow, status quo liberals who confuse the very ideals of critical thinking, self-expression, free will, tolerance and democracy with that of the totalitarianism-Marxist-radical-anti-American cocktail of ideals of the elitist professors whom our very tax dollars are helping to promote. It is time to unveil the college scam, expose the truths, and bring to light the ulterior motive, which is not to educate our

¹ From the preamble of the United States Constitution. Jefferson, Washington, Franklin, et al, 1787.

students, but to instead take their money (or their parent's, the taxpayer's, etc.) and their time, and use it for something of the contrary. The United States of America will not be destroyed by forces that attack us from the outside, but instead, our liberties and freedoms will be poisoned from within by the indoctrination of our students.

Education is not something solely instilled by an institution, and moreover, is not something completely instilled by a mentor, professor, or parent. The natural curiosity and desire to obtain knowledge is altogether a uniquely human trait. We yearn to discover new things, and likewise, we check up on things of old to compare and contrast. We ask questions, we do research, and then (hopefully) we produce an informed opinion. It is of our own will that we can learn and become educated. Even Frederick Douglass, a slave child constrained from the ability to even read a book or newspaper, let alone attend school, found ways to quench his thirst for knowledge.

The plan in which I adopted, and the one by which I was most successful, was that of making friends of all the little white boys whom I met in the street. As many of these as I could, I converted into teachers. With their kindly aid, obtained at different times and different places. I finally succeeded in learning to read. When I was sent on errands, I always took my book with me, and by going one part of my errand quickly, I found time to get a lesson before my return. (Douglass)

The heroic story of slave child to adult abolitionist that is Frederick Douglass proves to us, that no matter what we face in life, whether it is tremendous hardships or tremendous luck, we have the inherent ability to rise above and do better, and thus has always been the motto of America, and hopefully always will be. We can, by divine providence, succeed, if only we, the individual,

put our minds to it, just as Frederick Douglass did. But so much of individual responsibility and individual liberty is left out of our dialogue these days, or as in the case of most college campuses, the ideals are only in the dialogue so that they may be shat upon by indoctrinators whose bias enables them to proclaim America's deviance because of the horrors that were the slavery years. Last I checked, the "black man" has every such opportunity the "white man" has, if not more so now. This is of course, provided these proverbial men we are comparing are completely heterosexual, but that's another argument. Still, we all have the opportunity to succeed. But no amount of education, especially that from a college, can guarantee that we achieve it. It is up to us, the individual, to succeed.

Many people make the argument that college is a good investment, and that you will learn many things, and become successful. To those statements, I ask *learn what?* and *be successful at what?* Learn things you will never use in your life? Be successful at beer pong? In his article, "The College Scam", Fox News anchor John Stossel helps to answer some of these questions about college.

I got a BA in psychology from Princeton. But I didn't learn much. Well, I did learn from my seven roommates. I learned about poker, chasing women, etc. But I was bored by my professor's tedious lectures. I think I succeeded in TV because the professors were so boring, I wanted to use video to make education better. I learned how to do that on the job, at a TV station in Portland, Oregon. I never took a journalism course. My business is filled with people who did not attend journalism school. What puzzles me is why the market doesn't punish colleges that don't serve their customers well. The opposite has happened: tuitions have risen four times faster than inflation. (Stossel)

There are other testimonies that are similar to Mr. Stossel's. In fact, there are too many to quote in one essay. In fact, current and former students of Mesa College share similar stories. By this, we can agree on a few simple, yet often overlooked facts about college:

1. College is expensive. Very expensive.
2. You will learn things that have nothing to do with your field of study, and will not affect your life or career outcome.
3. College is a social hub, with many people being able to recall various social activities that took place, rather than the actual education they got.
4. College graduates can often find themselves in careers that may not relate to their field of study, and in which their education for that career was obtained while on the job, and not in a classroom.
5. The majority of college graduates incur mounds of debt, due in part to their education.

Stossel also goes on to say that “for many people, college is a scam,” and he goes on to cite successful people such as Sir Richard Branson who never went to college, and people like Bill Gates, who is probably one of the most successful college dropouts to date. These examples prove that you can achieve success on your own, and sometimes without a college degree. This is where being different, and being an individual pays off.

So if college is expensive, and people aren't really learning much, and it isn't necessarily making people successful, then what is the purpose of college these days? And why are there so many colleges if they aren't turning out impeccable, productive citizens? I can tell you why. Because most of our colleges are state-run institutions, propped up by taxpayer dollars and

federal government dollars (along with federal government bureaucracy) and so, dare I say, these institutions are “too big to fail”. And since they are too big to fail, it means we need to keep pumping money into them and make sure that there is still a client base (students) for them, right? Sounds like a job for the private sector if you ask me. But why is it that since colleges are no longer the overwhelming place to learn, and succeed at life, have they become the centers of socialist-communist enclaves? And why have the aging hipsters and activists turned to education as a career? Perhaps to project their slanted ideas of life on the next generation, in hopes that the new crop of liberals might actually make into a reality what the liberals of the past have only dreamed of. Glenn Beck, once noted as the number one hated conservative in America by liberals, offers this:

The other good thing about not staying in college was that I was left with no other option but to educate myself. So, instead of regurgitating the ideas of tweedy intellectuals dressed up as my own, I simply started to read and take in as much as I possibly could. I wasn't expecting to find answers – I was just hoping to discover more questions and better way to ask them. As I researched to understand things such as the meaning of the universe and my place in it, I learned something profound: There is no one person who has all the right answers... If I read something and it made sense to me, I immediately went out to find a book by someone who thought the first guy was a nut-job. It was only then, after reading and studying both sides of the issue, that I felt free to make up my own mind – and even then, my ideas usually fell somewhere in the middle. (Beck 110)

Beck, who went back to school years later and earned his Doctorate in Humanities, shows that just as with Frederick Douglass, it is up to us to thirst for the knowledge, and then fulfill our want and need of it by our own actions. Beck goes on to state our children's education is being

hijacked, and there is sadly very little we can do about it. A lot of the liberal indoctrination is brought on to our students by college faculty who are protected by tenure. “Tenure, like labor unions... had a time and a purpose. But as those things have gotten older, they’ve had to fight to stay relevant.” (Beck 112) A faculty member with tenure is essentially safeguarded from termination of their employment of the institution they are employed by, and can pretty much teach a class any way they see fit, even in a way that has nothing to do with the course subject.

According to a survey commissioned by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni conducted at the University of Connecticut, almost half of students said that their professor use the classroom to present their personal political views or “frequently comment on politics in class even though it has nothing to do with the course,” while almost a third said that they feel they “have to agree with the professor’s political or social views in order to get a good grade”. (Beck 117)

Beck does reconcile this, and say that he does not think that a professor should be fired for saying America is evil and communism is a great idea. While Beck concludes the approach is wrong, he does state that “presenting those ideas should inspire others to stand up and say, ‘I think you’re wrong, and here’s why.’” (113). Instead of the old guard “do as I say” mentality, and accepting what is presented to us, we should ask questions to better understand the matter, and that is where our colleges are failing: we are teaching to the test, teaching to agree with false ideologies as the only right answers, and we are teaching that those who dare to question or disagree should be silenced. That’s just as lame as my Roman Catholic friends who say “well that’s just how I was raised” when I point out the blasphemies in the doctrine and practices of the Roman church, and back it up with logic and biblical examples. Just because you were raised to

disrespect women doesn't make it right. Just because your professor tells you to vote for Obama doesn't mean you should.

Oh America, when will we learn what we have gotten ourselves into? The wall in Berlin may have been torn down, but the radical leftist ideas that put it up are still intact, and they made their way into your college classroom in a nice tweed suite, complete with horned rim glasses, a briefcase, and an iPhone. If it doesn't look like a threat, it must not be a threat, right? These people are only there to liberate and educate our students from the diatribe American culture they have grown up with. I disagree. I know that these people, the self-proclaimed liberals, have actually made our students less educated, less liberated, and more like sheep, dependent on following someone, or worse, dependent on a government who yearns for their allegiance with our march towards complete tyranny. The failed ideas of the left have helped to poison generations of students. With the inability to affectively think, question, argue, research, and communicate, it is no wonder that our country is in the sad shape that it is in. It is up to us, the individual, to rise above and do better. It is up to us to question, read both sides, and take a stand against one-sided remarks. The collective cannot save you, and it cannot save us. It is up to us to do what is right. Cut the head off the liberal snake. Ease the pain of those who are suffering from its bite with reason and logic. Make a stand. It is up to you, the individual. Education starts with you. You are the key.

Works Cited

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