

August 5, 2013

Bill McGurn knows why some Dems are getting upset with Weiner.

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Turns out Lois Lerner doesn't waste any time siccing attorneys on free market groups. **Kimberley Strassel** has the story about the ties between the IRS and the FEC.

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Benno Schmidt, former president of Yale and CCNY board chair, defends Mitch Daniels in the squabble over Zinn and his book.

Most Americans would agree that academic freedom is a sacred right of the academy and crucial to the American experiment in democracy. But what is it really?

That's the question raised by the Associated Press's July 16 release of emails between Mitch Daniels, when he was the governor of Indiana, and his staff concerning Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States." The emails were written in 2010 and Mr. Daniels, whose second term as governor ended this January, is now president of Purdue University in Indiana.

Published in 1980, Zinn's "A People's History" (the author died in 2010 at age 87) has been a staple of Advanced Placement courses at the high-school level and omnipresent in college syllabi for decades. Praised by some for focusing on American history from the ground up, the book has been condemned by others as emblematic of the biased, left-leaning, tendentious and inaccurate drivel that too often passes as definitive in American higher education.

Mr. Daniels falls squarely among the critics. Zinn's history, the then-governor wrote in February 2010, "is a truly execrable, anti-factual piece of disinformation that misstates American history on every page." Then Mr. Daniels asked: "Can someone assure me that it is not in use anywhere in Indiana? If it is, how do we get rid of it before any more young people are force-fed a totally false version of our history?" ...

The **Center for Investigative Reporting** provides more proof you can get well by doing good.

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One of these deans, Judy Olian of the Anderson School of Management, has at least twice tackled the arduous 56-mile cycling leg of the long course relay at Monterey County's Wildflower Triathlon, according to her expense records and race results. She described herself in a 2011 Los Angeles Times profile as a "cardio junkie."

With a medical waiver granted by UCLA, however, she has an expense account that regularly includes business-class travel. She spends more on airfare and other travel expenses per year than any other UCLA dean or the chancellor, and she also far outpaces her counterpart at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

Olian's travel is part of a pattern of lavish spending at the public university, which routinely bends its rules for its top academic officials, according to an analysis by The Center for Investigative Reporting of documents obtained through the state Public Records Act.

Officials have taken flights costing more than \$10,000, taken chauffeured town cars to the airport and spent nights at a Four Seasons hotel at university expense.

The UCLA officials added luxury and comfort to their travels while the UC system underwent one of the worst funding crises in its history. Undergraduates have seen tuition and fees increase nearly 70 percent since the 2008 school year.

Overall, Chancellor Gene Block and 17 deans who oversee the schools of business, film and theater, law, medicine and others spent about \$2 million on travel and entertainment from 2008 to 2012. About half a million went to first- or business-class airfare for the six deans with medical exemptions, according to documents. ...

Pickings from [August 1st](#) was delighted to run an editorial from Chattanooga's Times/Free Press. Now we learn the author has been fired. [James Taranto](#) with the story.

President Obama gave a speech about jobs in Chattanooga, Tenn., this week, and left a job opening in his wake--though he couldn't save the job of the man who formerly held the position. [Drew Johnson](#) is now using Twitter to advertise his availability: "I need a job. Resume: Columnist & opinion pg editor, founded thriving free market think tank, exposed Al Gore's home electricity consumption."

What better way to end the week--assuming you're not Drew Johnson--than with a journalistic kerfuffle? In an unsigned statement his former employer, the Chattanooga Times Free Press, explains why he is no longer the Tennessee newspaper's editorial page editor: ...

NY Post

[The biggest Weiner of all](#)

The comparisons make sense

by William McGurn

Amid the spectacle that has become Anthony Weiner's campaign for mayor, New Yorkers have heard many arguments calling for him to withdraw. Surely the least persuasive of these is the one advanced on national TV by Dee Dee Myers: that Bill and Hillary find his continued candidacy distasteful.

Like so many others statements that involve the name Clinton, Myers later "clarified" her comments by saying she hadn't actually spoken to the Clintons before saying they wanted Weiner out. Her remarks, however, fit with all the other anonymous complaints we hear that the Clintons are "livid" over the comparisons between Anthony and Bill — or Hillary and Huma.



'I did not have sex with that woman': President Bill Clinton's denials in the Lewinsky affair were as bad as Anthony Weiner's lies.

And here we have Weiner's real sin: It's not that he's treated women shabbily. It's that the national focus on Carlos Danger is an uncomfortable reminder of Bill Clinton's own antics in office — and the way those around him fought to help him remain in office.

On the material facts, it's easy to understand why Weiner is resisting calls to step down. For every argument against Anthony applies even more forcefully to Bill:

Everyone deserves a second chance, but not a third chance. In Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, we learned about Gennifer Flowers. Later, we were treated to a parade of wronged women: Paula Jones, Kathleen Willey, Juanita Broaddrick. If Anthony Weiner doesn't deserve a "third" chance, what about the 8th and 9th chances given Bill Clinton?

That's the Clinton standard. Dee Dee Myers herself noted this during a long interview on the Clinton presidency for a PBS documentary. "How many second chances does any one person deserve?" she asked. "And Clinton's view is, as many second chances as a person is willing to try to take."

It's not the sex, it's the lying. Please. Clinton was the man who parsed the meaning of the word "is." The man who claimed to a grand jury, as president, that he hadn't had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky on the grounds that while receiving oral sex constitutes sexual relations, giving oral sex is not.

It's true that when the first Weiner sexts emerged, instead of owning up to his behavior, he (like Clinton) lashed out at his accusers. This time around, when the Sydney Leathers sexts emerged, he was better prepared.

At the outset of his mayoral run, Weiner issued a carefully parsed statement — no doubt approved by his wife, Huma Abedin — that was Clintonian to its core: There are other women out there, Weiner said, and we might hear from them.

The implication being, of course, that these were women he'd sexted before resigning from Congress, not after.

There's something especially creepy about a congressman sexting to young women. Well, yes. But if it's creepy for a middle-aged congressman or mayoral candidate to be trolling for young women on the Internet, what about a middle-aged president hitting on interns?

Again, here's Myers, writing for CNN in 1998: "The president's relationship with Monica Lewinsky was so reckless as to seem pathological. He knew the consequences of getting caught, but he went ahead. For 18 months. In the West Wing of the White House."

And while Bill didn't have Twitter and instant messaging in his day, he was more than adept at using the technology of his time to gratify himself. Late at night, he would have phone sex with Lewinsky, even though at one point he speculated a foreign power might be listening in.

In the years since the Clintons left the White House, they've worked hard on two things: to burnish Bill's reputation as an elder statesman and to fulfill Hillary's ambitions for the presidency. L'affaire Weiner reminds us how much we are required to overlook in service of these two goals.

NBC's Andrea Mitchell, always an avatar of the received wisdom, recently nailed it on "Today," when she said people close to the Clintons are wondering why Huma Abedin is "letting this happen to Hillary, her long-time mentor?"

There we have it. This was supposed to be Hillary's triumphant week, with a highly photographed White House lunch with President Obama and the announcement of a new NBC biopic. Instead, we have a new Lewinsky sex tape, Tammy Wynette comparisons with Huma Abedin and a reminder that before there was Little Anthony Weiner there was Big Bill Weiner.

And for that, as our sinking candidate for mayor is finding out, there can be no forgiveness.

WSJ

New Links Emerge in the IRS Scandal

Emails released this week sweep the Federal Election Commission into the conservative-targeting probe.

by Kimberley A. Strassel

Congressional investigators this week released emails suggesting that staff at the Federal Election Commission have been engaged in their own conservative targeting, with help from the IRS's infamous Lois Lerner. This means more than just an expansion of the probe to the FEC. It's a new link to the Obama team.

In May this column noted that the targeting of conservatives started in 2008, when liberals began a coordinated campaign of siccing the federal government on political opponents. The Obama campaign helped pioneer this tactic.

In late summer of 2008, Obama lawyer Bob Bauer took issue with ads run against his boss by a 501(c)(4) conservative outfit called American Issues Project. Mr. Bauer filed a complaint with the FEC, called on the criminal division of the Justice Department to prosecute AIP, and demanded to see documents the group had filed with the IRS.

Thanks to Congress's newly released emails, we now know that FEC attorneys went to Ms. Lerner to pry out information about AIP—the organization the Obama campaign wanted targeted. An email from Feb. 3, 2009, shows an FEC attorney asking Ms. Lerner "whether the IRS had issued an exemption letter" to AIP, and requesting that she share "any information" on the group. Nine minutes after Ms. Lerner received this FEC email, she directed IRS attorneys to fulfill the request.



Douglas Shulman, former IRS commissioner (left), Lois Lerner, the then-director of the IRS's exempt-organizations office, and Neal Wolin, deputy secretary of the Treasury, at a congressional hearing, May 22.

This matters because FEC staff didn't have permission from the Commission to conduct this inquiry. It matters because the IRS is prohibited from sharing confidential information, even with the FEC. What the IRS divulged is unclear. Congressional investigators are demanding to see all communications between the IRS and FEC since 2008, and given that Ms. Lerner came out of the FEC's office of the general counsel, that correspondence could prove illuminating.

It also matters because we now know FEC staff engaged in a multiyear effort to deliver to the Obama campaign its win against AIP. This past week, FEC Vice Chairman Don McGahn, joined by his two fellow Republican commissioners, wrote an extraordinary statement recounting the staff's behavior in the case.

When the FEC receives a complaint, it falls to the general counsel's office to first issue a report on the merits of the alleged campaign violations. The six-person commission then votes on

whether there is a "reason to believe" a violation occurred. No formal investigations are to take place before that point.

The Obama team's complaint broadly claimed AIP was masquerading as a nonprofit, when it should have registered as a highly regulated political action committee. It was a ludicrous claim (see below), yet the FEC staff issued a report in April 2009 recommending the commission go after AIP, not long after its attorneys had been in touch with Ms. Lerner.

When the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* made most of the Obama complaint irrelevant, the staff withdrew its first report, then took 18 months to come up with a second rationale for why the commission should pursue AIP. All this time, FEC staff—Mr. McGahn recounts—were conducting an unauthorized investigation into AIP. The staff was also improperly withholding the results of its research from AIP.

When new issues made its second attempt moot, the general counsel's office went after the group with a third report. AIP's defense all along was that it spent the majority of its money from 2007 to 2010 on its "major" organizational "purpose" of educating and informing the public of conservative principles, and only a minority (less than one-third) on direct campaign expenditures. As such, it easily meets the tests for being a 501(c)(4).

And so the FEC staff's third report presented a novel theory. The staff argued that AIP ought to be judged on what it spent per "calendar year." By shortening the timeline, and looking only at AIP's spending in 2008—an election year—the staff argued AIP had violated campaign law.

The Republican commissioners were appalled, noting that FEC staff had always taken a multiyear view of expenditures, including when it came to cases against liberal groups, like the League of Conservation Voters or the Moveon.org Voter Fund. The FEC staff also sought to impose this new standard after the fact, with no notice to election players and no input from the commissioners.

Vice Chairman McGahn's statement is scathing. "Here," he writes, FEC staff "could be seen as manipulating the timeline to reach the conclusion that AIP is a political committee. . . . Such after-the-fact determinations create the appearance of impropriety, whether or not such impropriety exists."

The broader AIP case is, in fact, beyond improper. It's fishy. The Obama campaign takes its vendetta against a political opponent to the FEC. The FEC staff, as part of an extraordinary campaign to bring down AIP and other 501(c)(4) groups, reaches out to Lois Lerner, the woman overseeing IRS targeting. Mr. McGahn has also noted that FEC staff has in recent years had an improperly tight relationship with the Justice Department—to which the Obama campaign also complained about AIP.

Democrats are increasingly desperate to suggest that the IRS scandal was the work of a few rogue agents. With the stink spreading to new parts of the federal government, that's getting harder to do.

WSJ

Mitch Daniels's Gift to Academic Freedom

His skepticism about the merits of a sacrosanct liberal history textbook has sparked an overdue debate.

by Benno Schmidt

Most Americans would agree that academic freedom is a sacred right of the academy and crucial to the American experiment in democracy. But what is it really?

That's the question raised by the Associated Press's July 16 release of emails between Mitch [Daniels](#), when he was the governor of Indiana, and his staff concerning Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States." The emails were written in 2010 and Mr. Daniels, whose second term as governor ended this January, is now president of Purdue University in Indiana.

Published in 1980, Zinn's "A People's History" (the author died in 2010 at age 87) has been a staple of Advanced Placement courses at the high-school level and omnipresent in college syllabi for decades. Praised by some for focusing on American history from the ground up, the book has been condemned by others as emblematic of the biased, left-leaning, tendentious and inaccurate drivel that too often passes as definitive in American higher education.

Mr. Daniels falls squarely among the critics. Zinn's history, the then-governor wrote in February 2010, "is a truly execrable, anti-factual piece of disinformation that misstates American history on every page." Then Mr. Daniels asked: "Can someone assure me that it is not in use anywhere in Indiana? If it is, how do we get rid of it before any more young people are force-fed a totally false version of our history?"

Did Mr. Daniels—the future university president—violate academic freedom with his outburst? A July 22 open letter signed by 90 Purdue professors suggested as much, saying the teachers were "troubled" by his actions, in particular by his continuing to criticize Zinn's book after taking over at the university. Demanding retaliatory funding cuts or preventing college faculty from teaching or publishing certain ideas would have amounted to such a violation. It appears Mr. Daniels, either as governor or as Purdue president, did none of these. In his emails, he aired his unhappiness with Zinn's account of American history, but there is currently no evidence that anything was done by him or his staff to act upon his heated remarks.

Moreover, in a written response to the Purdue professors' letter, he explained that as governor he was only concerned about the teaching of Zinn's book in Indiana's K-12 schools, and that he is "passionately dedicated to the freest realm of inquiry possible at Purdue."

But what about his criticism? Do politicians or outside groups violate academic freedom when they criticize academics? Again, the answer is no.

Inquiries of this sort about teaching materials are not unusual in the life of a university president. Presidents take such inquiries seriously and follow up to make sure that the curriculum and materials are of the highest quality. Public scrutiny helps institutions fulfill their mission. It rightly keeps institutions on their toes.

Academic freedom is faculty's freedom to teach. But, more important, it is also students' freedom to learn. It is, as University of Wisconsin Prof. Donald Downs writes in the American Council of Trustees and Alumni guidebook, "Free to Teach, Free to Learn": "the right to pursue the truth in scholarship and teaching, and to enjoy authority regarding such academic matters as the nature of the curriculum, [and] faculty governance." At the same time, it is "maintaining respect for the truth (which means avoiding bias in its various forms), exercising professional and fair judgment, and maintaining professional competence."

In other words: Academic freedom is a right *and* a responsibility. In recent times, the academy has too often been focused on rights and privileges rather than responsibility and accountability.

Mr. Daniels surely won't be the last politician hoping to do something in the face of frequent imbalance and bias in the academy. And it won't be the last time that faculty and others raise rightful concerns about inappropriate interference. That is why the recent email revelation offers not only Purdue, but the academic community at large, a long-overdue opportunity to undertake a robust self-examination of what academic freedom is—and isn't.

Politicians can't dictate course syllabi or reading lists in higher education. But nor should faculty be allowed to engage in indoctrination and professional irresponsibility without being held to account. And yet, over the past 50 years, that is essentially what has happened. The greatest threat to academic freedom today is not from outside the academy, but from within. Political correctness and "speech codes" that stifle debate are common on America's campuses. The assumption seems to be that the purpose of education is to induce correct opinion rather than to search for wisdom and to liberate the mind.

If academics want to continue to enjoy the great privilege of academic freedom, they cannot forget the obligations that underline the grant of that privilege. The American Association of University Professors itself recognized those obligations in its seminal statement, the 1915 Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom, which is today nearly forgotten: "If this profession should prove itself unwilling to purge its ranks of the incompetent and unworthy, or to prevent the freedom which it claims . . . from being used as a shelter for inefficiency, for superficiality, or for uncritical and intemperate partisanship, it is certain that the task will be performed by others."

It's time that college and university trustees, presidents and faculty made a concerted effort to ensure and engender a culture of academic freedom—and responsibility. If integrity is not maintained from within, the public will attempt to impose it from without. Mr. Daniels's emails have sparked a needed debate on this defining value.

Mr. Schmidt, chairman of the City University of New York Board of Trustees, is a former president of Yale University and a contributor to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni guidebook, "Free to Teach, Free to Learn."

Center for Investigative Reporting

[UCLA officials bend travel rules with first-class flights, luxury hotels](#)

by Erica Perez and Agustin Armendariz



At UCLA, Chancellor Gene Block and 17 deans who oversee the schools of business, film and theater, law, medicine and others spent about \$2 million on travel and entertainment from 2008 to 2012.

Thirteen years ago, the University of California changed its ban on flying business or first class on the university's dime, adding a special exception for employees with a medical need.

What followed at UCLA was an acute outbreak of medical need.

Over the past several years, six of 17 academic deans at the Westwood campus routinely have submitted doctors' notes stating they have a medical need to fly in a class other than economy, costing the university \$234,000 more than it would have for coach-class flights, expense records show.

One of these deans, Judy Olian of the Anderson School of Management, has at least twice tackled the arduous 56-mile cycling leg of the long course relay at Monterey County's Wildflower Triathlon, according to her expense records and race results. She described herself in a 2011 Los Angeles Times profile as a "cardio junkie."

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Olian's travel is part of a pattern of lavish spending at the public university, which routinely bends its rules for its top academic officials, according to an analysis by The Center for Investigative Reporting of documents obtained through the state Public Records Act.

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Judy Olian, dean of the UCLA Anderson School of Management, is seen with Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz (left) and former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden in 2008. The university paid about \$296,000 for Olian's premium airfares from 2008 to May 2012.

The UCLA officials added luxury and comfort to their travels while the UC system underwent one of the worst funding crises in its history. Undergraduates have seen tuition and fees increase nearly 70 percent since the 2008 school year.

Overall, Chancellor Gene Block and 17 deans who oversee the schools of business, film and theater, law, medicine and others spent about \$2 million on travel and entertainment from 2008 to 2012. About half a million went to first- or business-class airfare for the six deans with medical exemptions, according to documents.

UCLA is not the only place within the state's public university system with liberal spending on executives. The UC Board of Regents this month approved an annual car allowance of \$8,916 and a "relocation" bonus of \$142,500 for incoming President Janet Napolitano, the departing Department of Homeland Security chief.

Considered one of the best universities in the country, UCLA justifies its expenses as a way to personally connect with wealthy donors and compensate for years of declining state support.

Patrick Callan, president of the nonprofit Higher Education Policy Institute in San Jose, Calif., said no one would deny that university officials need to travel. But well-compensated administrators, he said, do not need to live luxuriously to raise money.

“Maybe we have to throw fancy parties sometimes for them (donors),” he said. “But that we have to live that lifestyle ourselves as senior higher education administrators seems to me to be pretty questionable.”

The UCLA expense reports were submitted for attending meetings with donors, stoking new educational partnerships in foreign locales and attending academic conferences and film festivals.

For all six deans with medical exemptions, UCLA spent \$486,000 on 130 business- or first-class airfares from 2008 to mid-2012, university records show. UCLA could have saved at least \$234,000 by purchasing economy-class tickets based on an analysis of typical fares from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics and the Airline Tariff Publishing Co., which provides fare data.

Overall, the university paid about \$296,000 for Olian’s premium airfares from 2008 to May 2012. Airfare for a [June 2010 multistop trip to Washington, D.C., and Asia](#) cost the university \$12,000.

In contrast, UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business dean, Richard Lyons, spent \$107,000 on travel and entertainment from 2008 to 2012 – about one-sixth of Olian’s \$647,000 tab for meals, lodging, registration fees, car service, airfare and other expenses, according to records obtained from UCLA Records Management and Information Practices through a public records request.

For some government watchdogs, the spending appears excessive. Callan said that while he could not comment on the propriety of each individual trip, the pattern of spending damages the public credibility of the university.

“The question is whether this kind of upscale travel is appropriate at a time when there’s so much belt-tightening going on inside the university, with the faculty not seeing salary increases and students who were seeing huge tuition increases during that time,” Callan said.

“It strikes me as not very good judgment. It’s not very appropriate.”

UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton said in a written statement that travel is an essential component of campus leaders’ efforts to cultivate relationships and engage alumni around the world. He said unforeseen circumstances and practical considerations sometimes warrant exceptions to travel policy.

“While today’s times demand financial prudence, UCLA must make investments in travel and entertainment-related activities to continue its trajectory as one of the world’s top research universities and a national leader in securing gifts and research funding,” the statement said.

The expenses troubled a state lawmaker who has been a frequent critic of the university’s spending. Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, said the deans’ expenditures should be examined further.

“Sadly, the UC system has a bad track record when it comes to spending public money openly and responsibly,” Yee said. “It is worth looking into the matter so we can assure our tax dollars are being spent wisely.”



Melnitz Hall houses production and teaching facilities for UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. The school's dean, Teri Schwartz, is one of six academic deans at the university who routinely submitted doctors' notes stating they have a medical need to fly in a class other than economy.

Premium airfare

For Olian, 61, the costs add up quickly because she has a doctor's note that allows her to fly business or first class on her frequent trips to the East Coast and abroad.

At the same time, she competes in athletic events. In April 2011, [she conquered the Wildflower Triathlon's considerably difficult cycling leg in about four and a half hours.](#) The course includes a dreaded five-mile hill that climbs 1,000 feet, earning it the nickname "Nasty Grade."

A month before joining a university-sponsored triathlon relay team in the 2011 race, Olian used a doctor's note to justify [flying first class to Florida](#), where she met with a donor and attended The Wall Street Journal's Women in the Economy conference. UCLA paid about \$2,400 for the airfare, nearly four times as much as the average fares at that time.

None of the deans would comment about their expenses or medical waivers. UCLA Anderson spokeswoman Allison Holmes declined to identify Olian's medical condition but said it allows her to bike.

"There are many medical conditions that enable individuals to do certain activities, but not others, (such as) fly in confined spaces for longer flights," she said.

UCLA's Anderson School of Management provided a list of \$49,000 in travel and entertainment expenses that officials said had been reimbursed by outside organizations. But there was no way to verify that these credits corresponded to the documents provided by UCLA Records Management.

The business school also expects to be reimbursed by external groups for an additional \$29,000 in travel expenses. The school has not yet received the money, even though Olian took the trips between June 2009 and February 2012.

Holmes said the business school does not use state funding to pay for travel and entertainment expenses, relying instead on sources such as tuition revenue and donations. She said the school considers travel and entertainment to be necessary investments.

“Fundraising is therefore vital for the dean of UCLA Anderson in the face of diminishing state support, in order for us to remain the world-class school that we are and have been,” she said.

“Globalization is one of the biggest priorities for Anderson, and the dean’s results have been remarkable, including many new global alumni chapters and global immersion programs, a new global center, two joint global degree programs and an applicant pool that is now over 50 percent from abroad.”

About 6 percent of the business school’s budget comes from state funds, with the rest coming from tuition, fundraising and revenue-generating operations. That will change this fall under a self-supporting model approved in June by outgoing UC President Mark G. Yudof.

The change means state funding that previously went to UCLA Anderson will go to other UCLA programs, and the business school will be able to retain all of its tuition revenue. The move gives the school more flexibility to set tuition, and officials hope it will encourage donors to provide more philanthropic support.

Citing privacy reasons, the university would not disclose the specific details of medical needs or disabilities used to justify extra expenditures.

But [unredacted travel records](#) obtained by CIR said “medically diagnosed back issues” made it impossible for Teri Schwartz, dean of the university’s School of Theater, Film and Television, to fly coach.

Last year, Schwartz met with donors and potential supporters in London and attended the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship in Oxford. The university paid \$6,500 for her airfare on that trip.

In all, UCLA paid \$45,000 to book or reimburse business- and first-class flights for Schwartz from July 2009, when she started the job, to May 2012. She also used the [medical note to justify flying first class](#) on shorter flights, such as an hourlong hop from [Los Angeles to Las Vegas](#) that [cost \\$543](#).

For Schwartz, a former producer whose credits include “Sister Act” and “Beaches,” no expense has proved too small to put on the university’s tab.

On her way to and from the airport in a hired town car, Schwartz would ride with her dog in tow, expensing \$5 each way for an [extra stop at a kennel](#). In March 2010, an official from UCLA Corporate Financial Services [told](#) Schwartz that she could not ask the university to pay the extra \$10, calling it a personal expense.

The next day, the limousine company [sent an email](#) to the film school apologizing for sending incorrect invoices. The original receipts showed itemized \$5 charges for “Extra stop: kennel.” The [new invoices charged the same amount](#) but no longer itemized the pet pickup and drop-off.

From that point forward, records show, Schwartz submitted invoices that charged the same amount but no longer itemized kennel stops. UCLA reimbursed the full amounts.

Leveraging policy's exceptions

UC travel policy requires employees to fly coach with the following exceptions: when there is a medical need, when coach is unavailable, when using coach would be more expensive or time consuming, or when the trip involves overnight travel without time to rest before work begins.

UCLA has paid \$75,000 for premium flights for School of Nursing Dean Courtney Lyder since his tenure began in August 2008. Lyder used a doctor's note – redacted by UCLA – to justify nearly half of these trips. Other times, he skirted the restriction because he said he needed extra rest on the plane before a busy schedule of meetings.

From 2008 until she stepped down in July 2012, Dr. Linda Rosenstock, then-dean of the Fielding School of Public Health, billed UCLA for about \$40,000 in premium flights, mostly to Washington, D.C.

For most of those flights, Rosenstock used a doctor's note that allowed first-class travel for [flights of more than two hours](#).

In [one trip to Washington](#) to talk to legislators about the school's Global Bio Lab in April 2009, Rosenstock used UCLA funds to purchase premium flights for herself [and a major donor](#) at a cost of \$2,200 each – an approved exception to UC travel policy, which generally prohibits paying for travel expenses on others' behalf.

Rosenstock's expense report noted that the presence of the donor, whose name was redacted, was important because of her relationships with lawmakers.

After Rosenstock stepped down, her successor, Dr. Jody Heymann, quickly obtained her own medical note justifying premium flights. She has used it at least once since she took the reins in January to fly [business class](#) to [London](#) for meetings.

Franklin D. Gilliam Jr., dean of the Luskin School of Public Affairs, has billed UCLA for roughly \$17,000 in premium airfares since September 2008, when he started the job. His doctor's note cites a medical disability that requires business-class accommodations for extended travel – including trips to the East Coast, Midwest and Australia.

Gilliam also has used the note to justify using a car service. An expense report for 2009 [limousine rides](#) between Gilliam's home and the airport [said](#) that "because of Dean Gilliam's disability, it is recommended that he travel with business class arrangements to allow change of positions."

The university reimbursed School of Dentistry Dean No-Hee Park for about \$12,000 in premium flights since 2008, each time using a doctor's note that advised using business class or higher for flights of more than four hours.

Several officials have sought exemptions successfully to other travel policies meant to contain costs.



Chancellor Gene Block (second from left) and School of Theater, Film and Television Dean Teri Schwartz have expensed tens of thousands of dollars for travel and entertainment. The pair is seen with Jeff Skoll (left) and Jim Berk of Participant Media during an event at UCLA.

Block's expenses include about \$40,000 for chauffeured car service from 2008 to 2012. The chancellor, who does not have a medical exemption, often [justifies the expense](#) by saying he needs a "private setting with ample light" to review documents and prepare for meetings, according to UCLA documents.

The film school's Schwartz, 63, has hired a chauffeured vehicle routinely instead of a regular taxi, including two town-car trips costing \$665 between London and Oxford. She uses her doctor's note to justify traveling to and from airports by car service.

UCLA paid [Red Carpet Limousine \\$842](#) to take Olian from Los Angeles to San Diego and back for a donor's 80th birthday party. Olian gave the donor, whose name was redacted from university records, a \$234 pair of engraved cufflinks, which also was expensed and reimbursed.

Olian's expense report [explained](#) that the car transportation was nearly half the cost of flying to the event and staying at a hotel overnight.

However, if Olian had booked an average round-trip premium fare to San Diego of \$260, a \$200 hotel stay, her typical \$160 round-trip car service to and from the Los Angeles airport and a \$20 breakfast, the cost of flying still would have been about \$200 less than the car service.

Staying close to home

The university does not have dollar limits on lodging expenses, requiring only that room rates be "reasonable." The accounting department occasionally questions the high price of a luxury hotel, but by and large, these expenses end up getting reimbursed.

In 2009, Rosenstock, the former public health dean, expensed a [\\$724-per-night room](#) at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla., because that's where the Society of Medical Administrators was holding its annual meeting.

She also stayed in a [\\$675-per-night room](#) at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York in September 2008 for the Clinton Global Initiative.

UC rules state that hotel stays shouldn't be expensed unless an employee is attending an event at least 40 miles away from UCLA. But on several occasions, that rule has been ignored for the comfort of the university's top leaders.

For a conference in Pasadena, 26 miles from UCLA, Block stayed at The Langham Huntington hotel for two nights at [a cost of about \\$250 per night](#) because events began early in the morning and ended late in the evening.

For Schwartz's attendance at the February 2010 TED conference in Long Beach, UCLA [paid more than \\$1,000 for a four-night stay at the Westin Hotel](#) – even though it was about 30 miles away from UCLA.

When UCLA's travel department questioned the expense, Schwartz responded in a note that she had to attend after-conference meetings each night, making a hotel stay necessary.

["THIS SHOULD BE SELF-EXPLANATORY AS TO WHY EVERYONE STAYS AT THE HOTEL!" she wrote in all caps.](#)

UCLA approved the expense.

Allison Baird-James, associate vice chancellor and controller, is in charge of approving expense reports for the university's deans. In a statement, she wrote that when a portion of a UCLA official's expense report appears to fall outside the university's travel reimbursement policy, it is returned to the requester for further clarification or personal payment.

She declined to comment further.

In some cases, expenses are denied. In 2009, Timothy Stowell, then dean of the Division of Humanities, purchased a business-class airfare from Los Angeles to London for \$2,200 and requested reimbursement for \$1,900 – claiming this was the cost of an equivalent coach fare.

But an auditor from UCLA accounting flagged the request and said the university's travel department could have gotten a coach fare for \$1,400. Stowell's staff reduced his reimbursement request as a result.

WSJ - Best of the Web

Scenes From a Shoving

Johnny Paycheck costs Johnson his paycheck.

by James Taranto

President Obama gave a speech about jobs in Chattanooga, Tenn., this week, and left a job opening in his wake--though he couldn't save the job of the man who formerly held the position. [Drew Johnson](#) is now using Twitter to advertise his availability: "I need a job. Resume: Columnist & opinion pg editor, founded thriving free market think tank, exposed Al Gore's home electricity consumption."

What better way to end the week--assuming you're not Drew Johnson--than with a journalistic kerfuffle? In an unsigned statement his former employer, the Chattanooga Times Free Press, explains why he is no longer the Tennessee newspaper's editorial page editor:

Free Press editor Drew Johnson has been terminated after placing a headline on an editorial outside of normal editing procedures.

Johnson's headline, "Take your jobs plan and shove it, Mr. President: Your policies have harmed Chattanooga enough," appeared on the Free Press page Tuesday, the day President Barack Obama visited the city.

The headline was inappropriate for this newspaper. It was not the original headline approved for publication, and Johnson violated the normal editing process when he changed the headline.

The newspaper's decision to terminate Johnson had nothing to do with the content of the editorial, which criticized the president's job creation ideas and Chattanooga's Smart Grid. The Free Press page has often printed editorials critical of the president and his policies.

The Chattanooga Times Free Press is unique in that it has two editorial pages, the conservative Free Press page and the liberal Times page. This newspaper places high value on expressions of divergent opinion, but will not permit violations of its standards.

The TFP doesn't report Johnson's side of the story, but plenty of other news outlets do, including the [Chattanoogan](#), a rival online-only newspaper, which quotes from his Twitter feed:

Soon after his dismissal, Mr. Johnson sent out this tweet, "I just became the first person in the history of newspapers to be fired for writing a paper's most-read article." . . .

He also wrote, "The policy I 'broke' did not exist when I 'broke' it. It was created after people complained about the headline & was applied retroactively. Any time the paper wanted to change the headline online (which is how most people read the editorial), they could've.

"We change headlines all the time at the last minute. I had a filler headline in that stunk and thought of that Johnny Paycheck song."

We used the [editorial](#) in [Tuesday's column](#) for one of our inimitable headline gags, ironically playing off the parochialism and not the "shove it." Our gag headline, "Fog in Channel, Continent Cut Off," still works with the sanitized TFP headline, "President Obama's Policies Have Harmed Chattanooga Enough."

So what are we to make of all this? TFP management says it fired Johnson for a violation of procedure, but it's abundantly clear that a disagreement over content is at the heart of this dispute. The TFP statement acknowledges deeming the Johnson headline "inappropriate."

That strikes us as a highly defensible position. To be sure, Johnson's play on "Take This Job and Shove It" was a clever pop-culture reference. When he wrote the headline, he was evidently focused on the cleverness, not on the rudeness of the exhortation to "shove it." Conservatives who think the firing unjust and politically biased might want to ask if they would have the same reaction if the scenario were reversed and a liberal editorialist were fired over a similar headline addressed to George W. Bush.



Drew Johnson

Johnson has a defender in Betsy Phillips of [Nashville Scene](#), an alternative weekly. A liberal and two-time Obama voter, Phillips calls the headline "rude and unwelcoming," but she argues there's nothing wrong with being rude to the president: "He is not our king." She thinks the Johnson-TFP dispute emblematic of a clash among Tennessee Republicans between "the brash folks who tell it like they see it" and "the folks who think putting on a polite, reasonable face is important."

But one could just as easily construe that as a *justification* for Johnson's termination. If the TFP's owners wish the Free Press's editorial page to be a voice for "polite, reasonable" Republicans, they are within their rights, and it seems a sensible thing to do, to let go an editor who is a poor fit because he turns out to be too "brash."

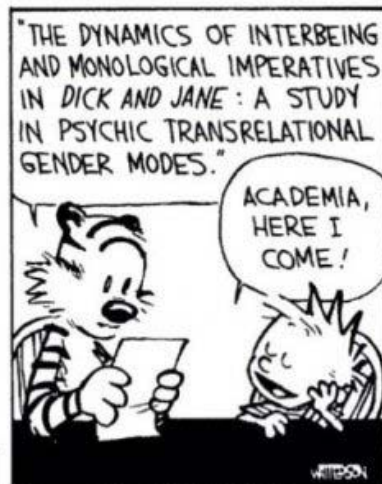
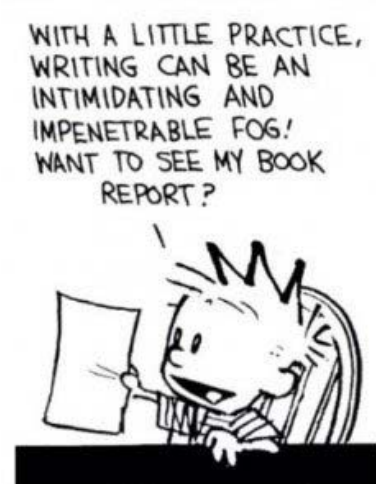
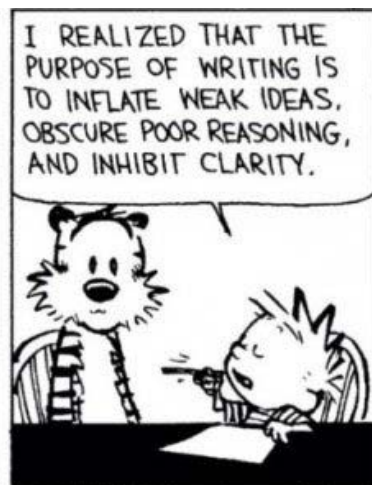
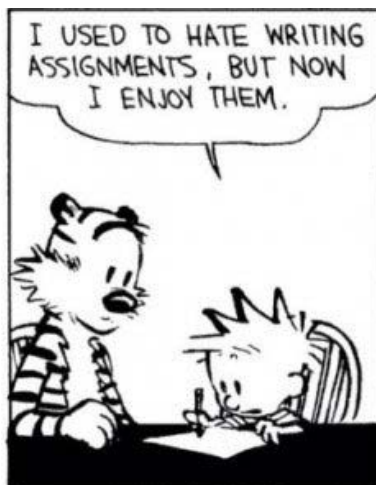
All that said, the TFP's claim that Johnson was fired for violating editorial procedures is incredible. He tells the [Daily Caller](#) that the rule in question was imposed in *reaction* to the disputed editorial headline: "I was fired retroactively for violating a policy that was not in place when I violated the policy."

The "policy" does sound like a pretense--an effort by management to duck responsibility for what was in fact a decision based on editorial content (a decision, we should note, that is likely to offend a substantial minority of the paper's readers). And whether the policy was established before or after the fact, it is, quite simply, bizarre. What kind of newspaper gives a man the title "editorial page editor" while denying him the authority to write headlines for editorials?

MODERN EDUCATION

CREATING PEOPLE WHO ARE SMART ENOUGH TO ACCURATELY REPEAT WHAT THEY'RE TOLD AND FOLLOW ORDERS

AND DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK THIS MAKES THEM SMARTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE





MIKE LESTER
Washington Post/WeinerGrip
8-1-13

REPORTING
ON ANTHONY
WEINER'S
VIRTUAL SEX
LIFE IS SO
DISGUSTING,
I NEED A
CIGARETTE...

