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## Faculty Senate Newsletter, January 2013

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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January 31, 2013



### *President's Welcome*

The wave of discussion concerning large-scale reorganization of not only higher education but also the K-12 offering that is currently crashing through the LSU campuses is nothing new. It has been surfed by all the other Systems in Louisiana. The University of Louisiana System has dropped units, acquired new institutions, and relocated the basis of tenure to allow for euphemistic "flexibility"; Southern University has allowed campuses to slip into exigency; LCTCS has embarked on an expansion program. As with all waves, the rush of talk—or propaganda—is sustained less by the material in the wave than by the energy of the process. For

one, the drive to modernize higher education is woefully short on data (the notorious AGB reports, for example, contain no objective, historical, or measurable information). What is of even greater concern, however, is the building of the proposed reform on unexamined premises. "Unexamined" is a negating modifier suggesting that the assumptions that are in play might be better regarded as superstitions, hopes, or prejudices.

A review of what is now nearly five years of talk about restructuring of one kind or another reveals at least seventeen unexamined premises that are easily countered. Here is a quick-start guide to the faulty assumptions that are being taken for granted in the current debate and an equally quick set of counter-propositions.

1. *Cheapest is best; paring down budgets saves money and does more with less.* Consider the long-term cost of deferred maintenance, declining enrollment, and the collective expense of thousands of students driving to distant campuses when programs are consolidated.
2. *The least administered is best.* The attempt by AGB consultants to streamline the LSU bureaucracy ended up expanding the vice-president count to twenty; the efforts of streamlining commissions such as LAPERC consumed hundreds of thousands of dollars with no result.
3. *The most centralized is best.* This may be true in populous states where campuses stand near to one another, but the cost of running operations such as procurement or HRM from a central location in a population-dispersed state such as Louisiana has not been calculated.
4. *The most homogenous is best.* The notion that all campuses of any one kind—regional, research, community—ought to be ghetto-ized into their respective separate systems, a form of academic monoculture, is more likely to promote conformity than synergy.
5. *Productivity should start now.* Long-term growth generally proves more rewarding than short-term fixes.
6. *Productivity requires change.* The cult of "change," which began with the campaigns of Bill Clinton, substitutes a process for a fact. Change can be for the worse.
7. *Productivity arises from agreement.* Most System management board meetings nowadays resemble cheerleading camps, leaving one wondering how innovation will arise from repetition and agreement by reflex.
8. *Productivity requires structural change.* To date, the turnover and the tweaking in all of Louisiana's systems has produced only deterioration. Even the authors of the AGB report admitted that the success of a structure depends on the character of those who manage it.
9. *Productivity results from imitation.* How many times have Louisiana educators heard that we must innovate by finding an example of novelty and copying it?
10. *Productivity is measured by workforce development.* This old saw has already borne bad results for the aerospace engineers of the 1960s and 1970s, who were counseled to train for a trendy job in the expectation of a perpetual race to space but who ended up unemployed.
11. *Productivity arises from assessment.* The mania for measurement rests on an irrational faith that humans can improve forever, a theory for which there is no evidence.
12. *Productivity results from privatization.* Does any parent believe that \$8,000.00 per year in tuition is less expensive than quality public schools?
13. *Prominent figures and celebrities make the best leaders.* The cult of celebrity arises more from the hope for a Messiah than from an accurate measure of the accomplishments of the rich and famous.
14. *Non-traditional candidates for presidencies who come from the business world know best how to operate a university.* Less is not more—it is simply less. Candidates without university experience lack knowledge of universities.
15. *Standard practices should be in place at all institutions within a system.* Donors, alumni, and supporters offer their benefactions and assistance to institutions owing to approval of local customs and campus traditions.

(continued on page 2)

### **Wisconsin Indicted on Louisiana RAP**

Among the latest self-justifying myths of Louisiana's management boards is the notion that only a businessperson can manage a university or university system and that persons with genuine academic credentials lack the ability to lead institutions with multi-billion dollar budgets. This myth originates in narcissism: in the hope by members of management boards, who often enough emerge from the business community, that the "CEO" of a system will resemble the images that supervisors or regents or trustees see in their mirrors and that the grandeur of the presidential position will overshadow the inadequacies of the business profile when it comes to the leading of the learned. This call for a university or system president who is as inadequate as are the trustees themselves has lately resonated through countless southern and Louisiana universities but has elicited what the public press describes as "blowback" at the prestigious University of Wisconsin, where faculty activists not only blasted managers for valorizing business leaders but have also succeeded in attracting considerable media attention to their cause. Faculty spokesman Ron Kalil scoured business interests for their attempt to turn the University of Wisconsin away from its primary duty, producing educated citizens and training scholars for advanced research, and toward the supporting of private ventures.

### **Credit Union Service Centers Can Coins**

Paper money—old fashioned "bills"—contains the legend, "legal tender for all debts, public and private." Although no such usage warranty appears on the coins of our realm, no one ever doubted that, if one were sufficiently perverse, one could roll into a Mercedes dealership with 200,000 rolls of pennies and successfully purchase a luxury auto or one could offer up six quarters for a copy of the Sunday newspaper. Numismatics enthusiasts, however, have lately suffered a blow as Credit Union Service Centers ("CUSC"), which provide satellite branch services for most of the credit unions that academic professionals patronize, have ceased accepting rolled coins for deposits (and also are unwilling to take time to count loose change). This, despite the fact that member credit unions (such as Campus Federal Credit Union) pay substantial fees to CUSC to service customers. Upon discovering the problem—uncovered during an episode early in the year at Telco Credit Union on Airline Highway—the *Newsletter* team asked Campus Federal Credit Union CEO John Milazzo to probe this matter. Mr. Milazzo confirmed that, indeed, the CUSC had adopted an anti-coin policy, at least when it comes to CUSC rather than local branch customers. What a strange state of affairs it is when a bank rejects money!

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME (continued)

16. *An unlimited market for online education awaits tomorrow's universities.* No one has provided evidence that the population is expanding without limitation or that average human intelligence is increasing—let alone that there are jobs for thousands of certificate holders.

17. *Management board members should be appointed by political and geographical region.* This idea precludes the kind of vocational, intellectual, experiential, and economic diversity that characterizes the boards of successful universities.

If those seventeen misconceptions fail to give pause when thinking about restructuring, then second thoughts will surely come from the recognition that the people who are now campaigning for reform are the very same ones whose former bright ideas have produced the present calamities in higher education.

## HIGHER EDUCATION HEADLINER

### John Milazzo, President and CEO of Campus Federal Credit Union

As the U.S. economy slowly inches its way back to a level of relative comfort, many are turning their concern from national finances to more local ones, and with good cause. There is no lack of reasons to become invested in one's own financial health. For those within the LSU community and beyond, Campus Federal Credit Union (CFCU) may be a great place to turn.



The financial institution with over 40,000 members and just shy of half a billion dollars in assets is doing big things in the Louisiana financial sector, and that is just the way President and CEO John Milazzo likes to see things take shape. After twenty-eight years of service to Campus Federal, Milazzo is excitingly anticipating retirement but only with the knowledge that CFCU is going strong in the face of today's difficulties.

Misconceptions about the nature of credit unions and their similarities to banks continue, but Milazzo is happy to clear up any misunderstandings. "What's unique about a credit union as opposed to a bank is that in a credit union members have to have some common bond." Initially, the common bond among CFCU members was LSU. "Now, [the service community] has grown quite a bit. The faculty, staff, students, and alumni of LSU are still our primary field of membership. We also serve their family members," he explains. A special designation to serve areas with populations who are unbanked and underserved has also extended membership to anyone who lives, works, worships, or studies in East Baton Rouge, Caddo, Orleans, or Bossier parishes.

Milazzo believes that the services provided by CFCU can meet the needs of just about anyone. "We do most of what you would find at a bank. We have all types of savings accounts, checking accounts, and investment accounts. We also have all types of loans, from home loans to signature loans" in addition to credit cards. The Credit Union has also extended its services to commercial businesses too. The relatively new division Member Business Services handles deposits, loans, and the other needs of businesses. A significant focus for the five-year-old division is professional students who may need a helping hand as they begin their pursuits.

This and other significant measures demonstrate how strong the Credit Union's ties to the University community are. "We are very true to LSU. What's good for LSU is good for the Credit Union, What's not so good for LSU is not good for the Credit Union." CFCU has not gone untouched by the financial down cycles of the University, but it has made attempts to strengthen itself outside of the University realm. "We diversify and try to do things outside of LSU, but we don't want to ever forget that LSU brought us where we are. The old saying is that 'you dance with the date that brought you,' and that is what we are doing. The date that brought us is LSU and we are going to be with LSU, but we want to make sure we are going to be viable. . . When things turn around for LSU, I am sure things will turn around for us." The key to restoring LSU to its rightful glory, Milazzo says, is to tap into the University's greatest assets: its students. Alumni are particularly important, as only they can determine and repay the value of the degree they have received through donations and endowments.

Milazzo's insistence that the Credit Union continues to further its connection to LSU should come as no surprise. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, the CEO began his studies at LSU while working his first real job in the mail room of a local bank. After dutifully serving his country during the Vietnam War, Milazzo returned to his studies and the bank where he worked his way up a different set of ranks. He ascended from the mail room to a teller position; a later management trainee program led to assistant branch manager and then branch manager positions at another local bank. Stints at The Bank of New Orleans and Hibernia also called before Milazzo finally hit his stride at Campus Federal in 1985.

In the years since his start at CFCU, Milazzo has been a part of many exciting projects. For one, CFCU surpassed the bigger names in banking to become the first entity in Louisiana to offer online banking as an option. He was also there to see a merger with Our Lady of the Lake Credit Union in 2012. One of his favorite initiatives is a financial literacy series offered to the general public and LSU staff members. Over the course of many weeks, participants learn why and how they should save, invest, and use credit cards responsibly. The Credit Union is looking to establish classes for faculty as well.

Although he will retire at the end of the year with forty-four years of banking under his belt, Milazzo has not turned a blind eye to the future of banking. He imagines that someday soon the industry as a whole will shrink. There will be fewer but larger financial institutions that are highly regulated with many fewer branches. Fees and services will serve as primary sources of income.

Milazzo's twenty-eight years of service to Campus Federal Credit Union have been mutually beneficial to both him and the Credit Union. He says that the opportunity to meet, help, and get to know others has been both "rewarding and fulfilling." This sense of satisfaction has no doubt contributed to his ability to see the Credit Union grow into the 3rd largest in the state under his tutelage. In the midst of one of the more economically trying times of his career, President and CEO Milazzo still happily says, "I'm very proud to be a part of the Credit Union."

## University of Louisiana at Lafayette Updates Faculty Senate Constitution

A report from Lafayette indicates that faculty members at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are deep in the process of revising and updating the constitution and bylaws of their Faculty Senate. Long overdue, the formalizing of faculty governance arrangements at the most comprehensive of the University of Louisiana System campuses bodes fair to set a new direction for the University of Louisiana System campuses, which have suffered under bad publicity resulting from the disrespecting of bedrock institutions such as tenure and from impromptu dismissals that may have cost more in bad press and litigation costs than will ever be retrieved from payroll savings. Presumably new University of Louisiana System President Sandra Woolley will want to enhance her reputation for faculty-friendliness by collaborating in the refreshment of faculty prerogatives—and authority.

## Fogel Updo Underlines Market Value of LA Credentials

Most veterans of Louisiana higher education are familiar with the meteoric career of Daniel Fogel, who, after serving as the Provost at LSU A&M, soared to success as the President of the University of Vermont but was sadly undone by a media hungry for cheesy stories. Leaving behind Vermont cheese in favor of the Vermont pickle barrel, Fogel popped up in a news release by top-ten executive search firm Witt/Kieffer (and, as Germanists know, "Kieffer" or "Kiefer" is a "cooper," of barrel-maker, per Cracker-Barrel . Said announcement from Witt/Kieffer reports that Fogel has emerged as a member of the Witt/Kieffer Education Leadership Council, a migratory think-tank that advises colleges and universities hither and yon concerning transitions between presidential regimes. All of which is to demonstrate that Louisiana credentials can provide leverage.

## Credit Union Roars to New Income High

Campus Federal Credit Union, which provides financial services to colleagues on campuses across the state, has roared to a new income high, posting an annual increase in net income for the year ending in December 2012 of a whopping 567%. Although this number was enlarged slightly by comparison to losses from a federal assessment on credit unions in the previous year (arising from the demands of a risk management pool that had been tapped out by the recession), the CFCU nevertheless stands out as one of Louisiana's greatest success stories. Congratulations are due to CFCU president John Milazzo and his staff of ever-courteous helpers—and financial wizards.



Credit Union revenues



Happy Mardi Gras Newsletter Readers!

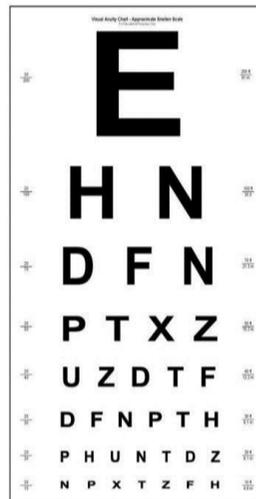
## LSU Transition Sent to Slaughter House, Eyes Shielded

In one of the strangest turns yet in the bizarre saga of the LSU “transition,” control of the initial meeting of the LSU Transition Advisory Team was transferred to LSU’s latest consulting squad, *SSA Consultants*, a local Baton Rouge firm whose numerically gigantic list of clients includes only two higher education institutions: Rick Perry’s University of Texas and the Naval War College (a fit credential for advising a System resolved to torpedo itself). Following an agenda that, in a remarkable interpretation of the open meetings law, was distributed five minutes before the start of the conclave, consultant Christel Slaughter, one of the two Ss in “SSA” Consultants, tore through an agenda that was programmed down to the minute and that allocated a quarter of an hour for previously unannounced public comment, comment that drew no speakers after two of the Transition Team members, including the allegedly conscientious General Russell Honoré, had slipped off to their next engagements.

The two Slaughters—Christel and “Bill”—hold no less than five degrees from Louisiana Universities but none from the big world outside our borders and none from other than business and management schools yet have shown no reluctance about prescribing a future for the thousands of trained professionals of wide and diverse experience who work for LSU System institutions. Indeed, at one confessional moment, Slaughter winked her eye and noted that she would be explaining to LSU media people how to “scrub” new releases of language that might alarm academic personnel.

Slaughter’s first move was to shorten vision, declaring, without explanation or vote, that “LSU 2015” would replace “oneLSU” as the rallying cry for the cultural and administrative revolution pushed by LSU’s supporters. According to the oracular Slaughter, “oneLSU just didn’t work” (perhaps because the devilry behind it had been exposed). Apparently, even the 20/20 vision suggested by “LSU 2020,” the LSU A&M mission statement, looked too far into the future. But, then, looking far into the future is neither and LSU nor an SSA specialty. A visit to the web site of the *House of Slaughter* reveals more than a little chumminess among the interest groups at play. SSA, for example, presents itself as a key player in “*Blueprint Louisiana*,” the lead instigator in the dismantling of the charity health care system in Louisiana, a frequent agitator for the devolution of the LSU System, and a favorite venue for Flagship Coalition boss Sean Reilly as well as for celebrity physician and clinic magnate Philip Rozeman. No wonder that SACSCOC, the accrediting agency for most of Louisiana’s universities, is wondering whether the separation of roles—donor, administrator, booster, manager—is adequate for what once billed itself as a “great University.”

Perhaps the most telling clue to the future as envisioned by SSA Consultants is a motto on the company website that summarizes its own mission statement. “SSA Consultants does not stop until our vase runneth over—at which point we go get a new vase.” The last time the *Newsletter* staff read *The Good Book*, the “cup runneth over” line alluded to friendly and charitable favors offered by God in exchange for humility and appreciation. How remarkable it is that, in an era concerned with recycling, SSA should call for dumping the gifts of the mind while calling for a spill (holy BP!).



Is LSU System vision failing?

## Sweep Swept, Information Scrubbed

Given the number of disappearances at the Lakeshore Building, it might be best to submit, to the facilities naming committee, a proposal to re-title the LSU System Building “the Department of Missing Persons.” Given the number of persons who have vanished from that office without a trace, readers of the famous Pentecostalist novel series, *Left Behind*, in which righteous persons one day disappear from the earth for “the meeting in the air,” might be tempted to conjecture that the increasingly vacant ghost house along the University Lake might well be the starting point for the Rapture. Taking a more secular view of the phenomenon—which some wits have also associated with the gassy sinkhole in Bayou Corne—observers have notes that, when it comes to quick exits from the LSU System, publicity and competence seem to have entered into an inverse relationship. Looking at those who have disappeared without a public farewell, it is easy to infer that the better one is doing one’s job, the less likely it is that one’s sudden disappearance will be noted.

The latest to be raptured away from 3912 Lakeshore Drive include the staff of the much-loved and universally read *LSU Media Sweep*, the daily digest of news pertinent to Louisiana higher education and the number-one source of information about not only the events in Louisiana universities but the public response to them. The mysterious disappearance of the Sweep staff, along with the disappearance of the *Sweep* itself, has given rise to speculation about an information flow clampdown in the LSU System, there having been no indication of an intention to resume publication of a chronicle that, by reporting all the education news without bias, frequently embarrassed the many would-be admirals on the poop deck of the Flagship school.

As the *Newsletter* goes to press, LSU Media Relations seems to be making a bid to fill the gap by promising some sort of successor to the *Sweep*. A meeting is scheduled between LSU Faculty Senate officials and LSU Media Relations to review concerns about the sweeping of the LSU System press room and to ensure that Louisiana educators continue to receive the full spectrum of news, not only about LSU but about the entire higher educational project in our state.



The Rapture may be starting at the LSU System office.

## Christmas Card Design of the Year

Each and every year brings an abundance of Christmas cards to the Newsletter office, all of them with adorned with dazzling imagery and thoughtful good wishes. This year, one card stands out for the excellence of its design: the greetings from LSU A&M University College. This remarkable card manages to evoke a holiday feel from a non-holiday palette, using purple, gold, and white to suggest the holiday atmosphere that surrounds the usual red and green hues of the season. A brilliant light atop the card suggests both the Star of Bethlehem and the precipice of a Christmas tree without exposing the University to the charge of promoting religion in a secular institution. From the aforementioned radiance twirls down a highly motile ribbon that escape the static look of most Christmas iconography and that seems to evoke prancing reindeer unhindered by gravity. Applause equaling the thunder of Donner’s and Blitzen’s hooves is due to the designers at LSU A&M University College for a layout that breaks out of the (card) box!



1st Place Christmas Card Winners! -University College

Runner-Up in the competition: The LSU AM Office of Research and Development, which, per its moniker, developed an image of a Christmas trees in which the



2nd Place Christmas Card- LSU ORED

rounded forms of ornament balls were abstracted into green wheel-like forms that both defined and decorated this virtual tree. Also daring on the ORED card is the delivery of the treetop ornament by a dove that looks rather more like the olive-bearing avian who hailed Noah out of the Ark than the cream puff hybrid pigeon who usually appears above altars and manger scenes. All those circles that compose the ORED tree (with emphasis on “O”) also prove that, when it comes to grantsmanship, it may well pay to reinvent the wheel.

## Congratulations, Kuhn!

Anyone who has visited Egypt knows that the pyramids, no matter how smooth and finished they might appear, present rough surfaces that are pockmarked with perils for even the most proficient climbers. Pharaoh’s eternal habitat allegorizes the itinerary of merit in Louisiana, where the well-intentioned and skillful face a long, arduous, and dangerous climb up the pyramid of, if not power, at least prominence. Dante, the author of *The Divine Comedy*, observes that all the citizens of heaven shout with joy whenever a soul leaps from purgatory into paradise. Although the purgatorial metaphor may not match up with the Egyptian analogy, we nevertheless celebrate, in any available fashion, the culmination of the career of Robert “Bob” Kuhn, who has been appointed as interim Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer at LSU. A tireless friend of the faculty, a warrior for accuracy, and a genuine man of (dry) wit, Kuhn has made it to the top of the pyramid on the strength of merit without any chips or dents in his character from those brittle stones that comprise the reputation-tombs of past economic emperors. Hail and applause, Great Kuhn, possibly the last Man (or Person) of Merit to receive a just reward!

## LINCOLN (Steven Spielberg, 2012)

By Carl Freedman

Aside from his reputation as the most commercially successful director of our time—and, by some measures, of all time—Steven Spielberg is best known for technical virtuosity. He began as a near-prodigy who, in his early twenties, was already composing shots whose complex originality awed and baffled veteran Hollywood filmmakers; and he has been dazzling millions of filmgoers with visual spectacle ever since. For example, the Mothership in *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND* (1977) is one of the most overwhelming and exquisitely crafted space vehicles in all of cinema: perhaps the finest since those in Kubrick's *2001* (1968). Yet I have always felt that the most powerful scene in the entire Spielberg oeuvre is the one in *JAWS* (1975) where Captain Quint (Robert Shaw) tells how, during his naval service in World War II, a Japanese submarine torpedoed the USS Indianapolis, sinking the ship in twelve minutes and forcing over 500 men into shark-infested waters. Spielberg, the wizard of visual technique, achieves his most memorable impact just by pointing a camera at a man who is sitting in a chair and telling a story.

*LINCOLN* seems to me, overall, the best film that Spielberg has yet made; and, in formal terms, it is more deeply allied to Captain Quint's monologue than to almost anything else he has done in the intervening decades. It is a movie composed mainly of talk, most of it devoted to the various political machinations that in 1865 led the U.S. Congress to pass the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing slavery. You might argue that it is really more a writer's movie and an actors' movie than it is a director's movie. The excellent screenplay is by the playwright Tony Kushner, best known for *ANGELS IN AMERICA* (1993), his remarkable "gay fantasia on national themes"; while Daniel Day-Lewis, the most consistently brilliant actor of his generation, gives a stunning performance in the title role, supported by unusually strong secondary performances by Sally Field as the First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, by David Strathairn as Secretary of State William Seward, and—most splendidly of all—by Tommy Lee Jones as Thaddeus Stevens, the great leader of the Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives. Especially because of his more accustomed directorial flamboyance, Spielberg deserves real credit for recognizing the virtues of directorial restraint, which here helps to produce perhaps the most convincing and three-dimensional cinematic portrait we are ever likely to have of America's most widely revered president.

The movie's Lincoln is relaxed and humorous in social manner, and yet never free from a deep inner melancholy; naturally and sincerely modest, though not given to underestimating his own considerable abilities; and always ready with an effective turn of phrase, displaying the sort of erudition that derives from vast private reading rather than from formal education. Politically, he is guided by certain core ideals—above all his determination to preserve the Union and his loathing for slavery—while also enjoying, and being supremely skilled at, the game of politics for its own sake; and he is not above a little prevarication here and a little bribery there in a good cause. Up to a certain point, he has an instinctive preference for compromise and conciliation that often frustrates his more unbending allies in the anti-slavery movement. But, when it comes to what he regards as fundamental principles, he is made of steel. All of this seems more or less faithful to the biographical record, while at least some of the elements of the film's Lincoln make it easy to believe the rumors that Kushner also intended to offer an implied portrait of Lincoln's most prominent admirer today, Barack Obama.

The consummate acting in *LINCOLN* intersects in various interesting ways with the film's examination of political character and personality. Thaddeus Stevens, for instance—who, historically, was almost certainly the most devoted and emphatic advocate for racial equality that the United States has ever produced among comparably powerful electoral politicians—is clearly meant to be contrasted with Lincoln. And Stevens's fiery Abolitionist passion and his savage open contempt for slavery's supporters might well be considered more inspiring than Lincoln's much more cautious, diplomatic approach. Yet could Stevens, in Lincoln's place, actually have gotten the Thirteenth Amendment through Congress? Then again, were Stevens's "extremism" and Lincoln's "moderation" both perhaps necessary in order to crush the most odious of all American institutions? The film raises such questions without necessarily claiming to settle them. But it is surely worth noticing that, on the too rare instances where we see Stevens and Lincoln together, Tommy Lee Jones does something of which I would not have believed any human being on earth to be capable: he very nearly steals a scene from Daniel Day-Lewis.

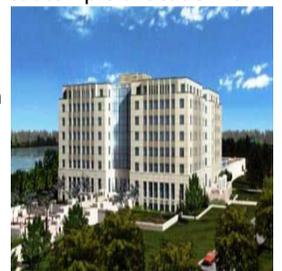
The further question, however, is whether, in making a movie about the end of slavery, it is legitimate to focus only on Washington politicians like Lincoln and Stevens in the first place. This issue has generated most of the extensive controversy provoked by *LINCOLN*, and it points to a curious pattern in Spielberg's work. He is clearly attracted to narratives in which the relatively privileged and powerful save those who are unable to do much for themselves. In *SCHINDLER'S LIST* (1993), an affluent German businessman of impeccably "Aryan" ethnicity saves Jews from the Nazi gas chambers. It is a little difficult to imagine that Spielberg might make a film about, say, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, in which a motley collection of half-starved Jews with very primitive firearms managed, for quite a while, to make fools of Hitler's best-trained and best-equipped storm troopers. *AMISTAD* (1997) asks us to admire John Quincy Adams, a New England aristocrat and former president, as he defends the rights of a group of kidnapped Africans—and also the British Navy, as it helps to destroy the American slave trade. That the people of western Africa could ever effectively defend themselves is something the film acknowledges only to a quite limited degree.

In much the same way, *LINCOLN* is (to put the matter in deliberately anachronistic terms) an "inside the Beltway" film, in which the struggle against slavery appears to take place almost entirely in Washington, DC. You would not know, from Spielberg's movie, that the Thirteenth Amendment originated not in the White House or Congress but in the grass-roots efforts of Abolitionist feminists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Still less would you guess that, while the House of Representatives debated the amendment in January 1865, thousands of slaves were freeing themselves as they joined Sherman's army, which was marching victoriously through South Carolina, and helped to burn the plantations in which they had been held in bondage. By the end of the Civil War, nearly 180,000 black Union soldiers—one-fifth of all African-American adult men under the age of 45, and one tenth of the entire Union army—had served; another 30,000 black sailors comprised a quarter of the Union navy. In August 1864, Lincoln himself had written that, but for the black troops under his command, he would have been "compelled to abandon the war in three weeks."

(continued on page 5)

## University of Louisiana System Head Embarks on Campus Pilgrimage

Occasionally Louisiana does something right—usually in the wrong way, but sometimes in the right way, too. After an embarrassing effort at an in-house search that yielded only a handful of candidates, the power players at the University of Louisiana seemed to have made a big move in the right direction with the arrival of new University of Louisiana chieftain Sandra Woolley. The likeable Woolley, whose admirably edgy and daringly easygoing manner transmit a message of confidence without pretense, brings vitality as well as precision to a System in which patriarchy has routinely bested performance. Woolley has yet to prove herself and has yet to lock horns with state officialdom, yet she has already entered into productive parleys with faculty representatives. Better, she has taken a cure from Geoffrey Chaucer and embarked on a spring-semester pilgrimage around the University of Louisiana campuses, a tour which, by her own wise and generous insistence, includes contact time with faculty. Signals emanating from the Claiborne Building—the great temple of academic administration in Louisiana—indicate that Woolley is attuned to such major problems as the retirement plan debacle. Woolley arrives at the moment when economic indicators begin to curve upward. Hopeful faculty eagerly await the results of the new day that she may bring.



Sandra Woolley brings new life to Claiborne Building

## Penn State: We're Not A Role Model for LSU

One bit of propaganda for the proposed LSU-LSU System merger claims that prestigious institutions such as Penn State have enjoyed great success with this model. Word has arrived at our *Newsletter* northeast bureau that Penn State itself is abjuring this model on the grounds that vesting so much power in one individual is, at best, "lopsided" and, at worst, dangerous. Read the full story [online](#).

## Shreveport Celebrity Doctor Breaks Rebel Ranks, Realigns with LSU

In one of the most striking turnabouts in *Newsletter* history, Minden-based celebrity cardiologist Philip Rozeman, who previously had encouraged the rearrangement and re-affiliation of north Louisiana campuses, has broken ranks with the secessionists and has also affirmed the urgency of maintaining an independent LSU-affiliated Chancellor at the LSUHSC-Shreveport



The north and south reconcile

medical campuses. In a December 10th *editorial*, Rozeman declared that positive results have flowed from the presence of an executive advocate at the Shreveport medical complex and reminded President William Jenkins, who now enthuses about restructuring, that Jenkins himself had promoted the freestanding Chancellorship.

## MOVIE REVIEW (continued)

That *LINCOLN* fails to acknowledge that slavery was ended at least as much by black warriors as by white politicians must, I think, seriously qualify our admiration for this skillfully made film. Even so, I also think that there are several considerations that ought to moderate the excessive zeal of some who have attacked Spielberg's movie. In the first place, *LINCOLN* does not claim, explicitly or implicitly, to say all there is to be said about Abolition—an absurd ambition for any film. The machinations of political Washington were far from the whole story, but not an unimportant part of it either. Second, more than *SCHINDLER'S LIST* or *AMISTAD*, *LINCOLN* does self-consciously acknowledge its own partiality. In the opening scene, the president chats with two black Union soldiers, both former slaves, who inform him that, if captured, they would not be taken prisoner but immediately murdered by the Confederates—and also that they are paid half the wages of the white troops, even while being required to buy their own uniforms. This powerful scene is largely unconnected to the rest of the movie, and might best be taken as an implied self-critique on Spielberg's part of it. Finally, it ought to be said in defense of *LINCOLN* that it does, at least, make clear that the Civil War was primarily about slavery, not "states' rights," or "Northern aggression," or "Southern rebellion," or anything else of the sort. To professional historians this point may now be as inarguable as the law of gravitation to professional physicists or the theory of evolution to professional biologists; but it has been quite otherwise in Hollywood. From *THE BIRTH OF A NATION* (D. W. Griffith, 1915) to *GONE WITH THE WIND* (Victor Fleming, 1939) and beyond, Hollywood has tended to represent the Civil War with terrible racist mendacity. Exceptions—like Edward Zwick's *GLORY* (1989)—have been rare. To this shameful tradition, Spielberg's *LINCOLN* provides an insufficient but very necessary corrective.

—Carl Freedman

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## LSU Logo Sinks Tower

Only a few years after promo man Michael Ruffner, the former Virginia Slims advertising executive who departed from the University of West Georgia amidst questions concerning the [dismissal of a whistleblower](#) informed everyone on the Baton Rouge campus that a new logo featuring a cartoon-style version of the LSU campanile was the only way to make LSU look modern and to reach recruited students, the A&M campus has decided to sink the periscope on Ruffner's yellow submarine. Scuttling what looked more like a roost for Donald Duck than an imitation Italian bell tower, LSU A&M has now given up on design altogether, creating a new line of austere stationery that eliminates all icons and that looks no further than the alphabet for inspiration. All that remains of campus imagery is the heavy and clumsy LSU font—an accurate image of the attempt to create a "oneLSU" that lacks diversity or any other identifying characteristics.



What is left of the LSU Logo?

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## Science Serves Seafood Platter

Anyone who visited a restaurant in eastern Europe before perestroika remembers the artful incompetence with which socialist restaurateurs balanced dining pleasures against materialist metrics. Not uncommon was a menu item that announced that a main course offered 220 grams of meat or that a dessert was topped with 18% milk-fat cream. In its obsession with metrics and assessment, Louisiana higher education has exerted the same deadening effect on learning, all while expressing confusion as to why youngsters avoid careers in which the most common experience is that of assessment. Undoing this longstanding trend toward strangulation by tape measure is LSU's Office of Research and Development, which has announced a new "Science Café" that will pop up on a monthly basis at the popular Baton Rouge bistro Chelsea's, a favorite haunt of professors who want to be seen as singer-songwriters. Opening the series as this issue goes to press is a presentation on January 29th by LSU Museum of Natural Science Curator of Fishes Prosanta Chakrabarty, who, according to the Café prospectus, "will share stories of cave diving in Madagascar, combing fish markets in Taiwan, and discovering new species all around the world." Applause is due to LSU's Office of Research and Economic Development for demonstrating that Louisiana higher education has a lot of intellectual fish to fry but also that those fish can be made both palatable, nay, tasty!



Science Café

## Cope Addresses BR Press Club

As conditions in Louisiana universities deteriorate, the public that patronizes those institutions pays more attention to the expert cadres that attempt to maintain the quality of Louisiana campuses even during the worst of times. An index of public concern over the fate of Louisiana campuses is the recent invitation of LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors Chair Kevin L. Cope to address the Press Club of Baton Rouge, where Cope encountered a full house of reporters and interested persons seeking insight into the on-the-ground situation in higher education. Discussion covered a wide range of issues, but the press picked up on two: the lack of [diversity](#) on any kind of Louisiana [management boards](#) and the irregularities both in intellectual property policy and in the maintenance of academic missions amidst pressure to increase the [commercial productivity of universities](#).

## Jindal Lowers the Ante on Regents Appointments

As has been lately noted by Advocate columnist Mark Ballard, Governor Bobby Jindal has succeeded in remaking the five higher education management boards, filling seat after seat and eliminating any kind of variation, whether economic, vocational, ideological, racial, gender, or religious. Jindal's latest effort at homogenizing the boards has continued the sad tradition of declining qualifications for the important post of education policymaker. Joining the Regents, for example, are Mark Abraham of Lake Charles, who has climbed the heights of the intellect by operating a shrimp factory and a rent-to-own lower-end furniture center, and arms merchant Richard Lipsey, a member of the Board of that renowned haunt of learned men, the National Sports Shooting Foundation, and the "Ducks Unlimited Man of the Year," an organization that celebrates the blasting of defenseless waterfowl out of the air in the name of "sport." The late judge Robert Bork was infamous for having regarded cases that bear on people's lives as interesting intellectual exercises, and so it seems that, under the influence of Governor Jindal, the Regents will have a chance to debate the intellectual merits of huntin' and fishin' with the boys. No women were appointed in the latest round of Jindal appointments—not even on the Southern University Board, where Jindal added the Director of the "Center for Cultural Heritage" but forgot the 53% of the population that comprise the majority of that heritage.

## Faculty Raises not as Rare as Louisiana Administrators Claim

In an attempt to mollify faculty chagrined at years without raises, Louisiana administrators have been advancing the theory that financial times are hard everywhere and that few institutions have offered raises in recent years. Thanks to faculty activist Stuart Irvine, the Newsletter can move this would-be sedative statement into the category of urban myth or even outright falsehood. A review of salary policy at a baker's dozen of well-known universities—schools that also happen to be official LSU peers—show that raises are routine. A summary of these raises can be viewed [online](#).

## December Alexandria Summit Sweeps the State

Faculty members from across the state and from every System—LSU, University of Louisiana, Southern, and LCTCS—converged on Alexandria on December 1st for the second anniversary meeting of the Alexandria Summit meetings. The Alexandria Summit meetings, which are open to all faculty and staff members, aim to create a cadre of professionals who have a sturdy understanding of academic policy and institutional management and who are willing to contribute to the guidance and improvement of Louisiana's higher education institutions. Participants heard from Paul Sylvester, of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, who evaluated the adverse effects of the funding formula on diverse campuses; from Istvan Berkeley, of the AAUP and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who reviewed cases of capricious hiring, firing, and re-hiring on Louisiana campuses; from Chad Gothreaux and Lynn Livingston, who spoke about the experience of staff statewide; from renowned blogger and commentator Dayne Sherman, who provided an after-lunch entertainment with his satirical musical compositions; from Lewis Deaton, of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who regaled listeners with tales of a Provost search that never ends; from Richmond Eustis, of Nicholls State University, who evaluated the situation of the humanities during a period of pressure for workforce development; and from Joe Mirando, of Southeastern Louisiana University, who analyzed the situation of Louisiana higher education after a series of AAUP censures. Even better, colleagues from every walk of academic life exchanged their candid views of Louisiana higher education. Kudos go to Elisabeth Elder, local arrangements coordinator in Alexandria, for providing access to facilities that have made the Alexandria Summits a huge success.

## Tip of the Month: The Entropy Machine



Model Stirling motor

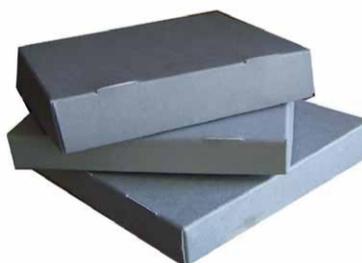
Looking for a novelty that will transform a grim prospect into an amusing allegory? Manufactum, the German top-end online merchant that combines the old-fashioned charm of The Vermont Country Store with the with-it high-tech allure of Daimler and BMW, has developed a new toy machine, the purpose of which is the enjoyment of entropy. The model low-energy Stirling motor, which barely fills the palm of the hand, is designed to rest atop a coffee cup. There, it gathers energy from the warm air rising from the boiled water, which, subsequently, it redirects to the driving of a fan. Finally, the spinning fan that blows the java-generated energy into thin air, charming the viewer with a miniature rendering of the vanity of human wishes. Available from [Manufactum](#), the model Stirling motor makes an ideal gift for those who want to create parables about the work and wind of Louisiana higher education policymaking.

## Statewide Collaborative Issues Umbrella Academic Freedom Policy

The Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative ("LSCC") and the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates ("ALFS"), which co-sponsor the "Alexandria Summit Meetings," have created a committee to produce umbrella policies to serve as templates for institutions that may be in the process of updating their regulations or that may lack suitable policies in important areas. Under the guidance of Southeastern Louisiana University professor Stephen Rushing, the ALFS/LSCC-chartered committee has completed its first labor, an umbrella, template policy on academic freedom and tenure, which combines best practices such as those articulated by the AAUP with the legacy policies of several Louisiana institutions and with an awareness of special conditions on Louisiana campuses. The policy may be viewed [online](#).

## Christmas Decorator of the Year.

Every year, academic office managers and unit leaders offer up at least a little bit of Christmas cheer in the form of office ornamentation. The best display this year is undoubtedly the slightly ironic, abundantly witty display created by LSU in Shreveport Archivist Laura McLemore, whose third-floor reading room featured a Christmas tree surrounded by packages not of a different color, but of a different pH: chilly grey, acid-free library storage boxes bedecked with cheerful red ribbons. Congratulations, Laura, on achieving the most postmodern Christmas of all by deploying boxes meant to preserve not the recent, but the antique!



Acid-free archive storage boxes

## Commissioner's Tough Talk Gaining Allies

Despite the emphasis on clarity ingrained in all college students who have passed through a course in basic writing, higher education management remains a world of shadowy discourse, vague allusion, and telling gesture. Speaking in straightforward, simple, indicative sentences usually indicates the imminence of a resignation. Although it may not agree with every opinion disseminated from the sixth floor of the Claiborne Building, the *Newsletter* has heard considerable praise for Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell's new habit of taking bold yet commonsensical positions, whether regarding differential tuition (for curricula that incur higher operating costs) or per-credit-hour charging for overloads or whether or not a baccalaureate degree suits most job seekers (which may be a covert suggestion that the obsession of LAGRAD Act enthusiasts with the production of baccalaureate degrees leads to credential inflation). Whether we agree or not, we welcome the new show of down-home pluck in the Commissioner's office.

## Southern University Share of Online Spinoff Revenue Shrinking

One of the urban myths of contemporary higher education is the neo-Malthusian belief that ever more clients will subscribe to ever more online courses. The corollary is that the biggest milking of the cash cow will occur when students yearn to move from the online environment to live instruction on a campus. Although unsupported by any evidence, this article of faith has drawn commitments from more than a few executive greybeards. Desperate not to be left behind once again, the managers of Southern University have inked a contract with online service provider Education Onlines Services (nicknamed EOServices). The contract leads its reader on from hope to hope and from sum to sum until arrival at the big warning sign on page sixteen, which allocates a whopping 40% of revenue from students who enroll in a Southern University classroom-based course. Online education, already notorious for poor pay, will thus likely impact classroom instructors, who, teaching at institutions that receive only 60% of official tuition, will find their work devalued in a "market" that is, in fact, skewed by irresponsible contracts.

## LSUnited Seeks Dues Hiatus

Well-known in academic labor circles is the difficulty in starting a collective bargaining union when there is a high entry price in the form of union dues. Recognizing this challenge, LSUnited has petitioned the Louisiana Association of Educators, with which it is affiliated, for a suspension of dues collection until such a time as the budding union attracts 300 members. This ultimate discount, LSUnited leaders hope, will jumpstart a membership drive.

# JOIN LSUNITED TODAY

### WHO WE ARE:

LSUnited is the higher education organizing committee of the Louisiana State University faculty and is affiliated with the Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE), the largest and most influential association of professional educators in the state, with more than 20,000 members.

### OUR GOALS:

The Louisiana higher education community is at a crossroads, and LSUnited is organizing to become a powerful voice for educators at Louisiana State University. We strive for a shared vision and collaborative governance for all faculty members.

- **JOB SECURITY** – Address concerns and issues with the administration and oversight boards
- **FAIR PAY** – Develop a clear means of negotiating pay systems that are equitable, justly applied, and transparent
- **BENEFIT PROTECTIONS** – Protect and improve benefits in health insurance, retirement, employer contribution rates, and faculty options
- **A VOICE ON THE JOB** – Establish policies, procedures, and protocols for better decision making in the work environment
- **SHARED GOVERNANCE** – Engage in collective advocacy and exercise our historical right of self-determination

**LSUnited**  
A Vital LSU! A Vital Community!

Need more info? Contact us at  
**LSUNITED@LIVE.COM**  
OR VISIT **LAE.ORG**

NEALBURY

## Lifestyle Feature: The Carwashes Of Baton Rouge—And Lake Charles

With the passing of the great rains of early January, motorists statewide will find their chariots bedaubed with mud, tar, and whatever grit the roadways may proffer. With months remaining until summer rains and with time for personal auto hygiene in short supply, drivers will comb the streets in search of either quality or inexpensive carwash services. Louisiana's capitol city offers a surprisingly diverse array of approaches to what seems a simple task. Although every city has its car cleaners, the selection found in Baton Rouge defines the various sub-genre of the art of carwashing. Readers in other cities should be able to extrapolate from these observations to select analogous vendors in their home state. To that end, we offer one "lagniappe" example of a carwash in southwestern Louisiana.

The stars in the constellation of carwashes are certainly the full-service facilities. "Full-service" might be a bit of a misleading description insofar as all carwashes today involve a high degree of automation, at least for the initial cleaning pass. Full-service facilities, however, offer manual, "live" pre-wash vacuuming and post-wash detailing at various levels of sophistication and price. The two full-service venues in Baton Rouge, Benny's and Hammond-Aire Auto Spa, evidence an array of surprising cultural differences given the apparent uniformity of the basic carwash procedure. Benny's, with its multiple locations, gasoline stations, and "B-Quick" markets, attempts to induce a limited shopping mall feel—or, perhaps, to produce the sense that one is in an upscale truck stop that has been upgraded by a modern mall designer. Most Benny's locations feature a walk-through window arcade that allows the viewer to watch the sprinkling of the car while also strolling along assorted retail options, from the perversely old-time (the shoe-shine stand) to the perversely nutritive (vending machines with an astounding array of unhealthful would-be treats) to the useful (helpful automotive products) to the sentimental (greetings cards and gifts). This reciprocal panorama—alternative the view between the fascinating automated carwash and the products of mercantilism—not only makes the experience go by quickly but is surely profitable. Benny's also offers the human touch, presenting family visitors with such recreational diversions as model train displays and old-fashioned popcorn trolleys. The family atmosphere, of course, cleverly conceals the intensely enforced and largely ethnically distributed social hierarchy



Benny's Car Wash & Oil Change



Benny's Car Wash

in place at every step of the ambulatory, from the oil change and vacuum platforms to the wiping and drying pavilion. Benny's also offers deluxe detailing and waxing services that can run the cleaning bill well over \$100.00; caution is advised.

Hammond-Aire Auto Spa, meanwhile, takes an old-money approach to the cleaning process. Although it lacks the deluxe features and the ambulatory of a typical Benny's, its placement in the declining but once trendy Hammond-Aire shopping center allows it to take on some of the airs of Bocage and Goodwood, communities that established their putative greatness a good while ago and that likewise combine the upscale with the degenerative. Hammond-Aire

looks like a carwash, which allows one to fee a little more nostalgic than when strolling through the streamlined Benny's.

A longstanding feature of the carwash landscape has been the automated cleaning systems found at many larger gas stations. Typically, one either purchases a ticket with an encoded access number while filling the tank with gas or drives directly to a computerized podium, where assorted levels of wash can be requested. Most of these on-the-spot carwashes work by oscillation rather than progress. The car advances to a fixed point while a set of three brushes—one on each side and one above—moves back and forth alongside the vehicle. The first challenge with such a wash is getting past the intolerably enthusiastic automated voice at the check-in podium, which regales the visitor with endless tales of the immense joy that will result from washes of ever-greater sophistication. The truth: The major difference between the species of wash is the number of passes and the frequency of soap distribution. The great advantage of the automated carwash is that one may, indeed must remain in the car during the wash cycle, allowing one the humorous thrill of seeming to be under attack by gigantic spindly creatures (the brushes). Selection of an automated carwash requires a degree of care and experience. The automated wash at the Exxon station at the corner of Siegen and Perkins, for example, is fresh, modern, well-maintained, and efficient; a very similar automated was at the Shell station near Bluebonnet and Perkins, only a mile away, is somewhat dilapidated. The primary appeal of the automated carwash, in addition to the thrill ride implicit in the trip through the machine, is its speed and economy, with no human contact being required and no queue ever forming. The disadvantage is the lack of detailing and what aviators call wake turbulence. Owing to the ferocity of the whirling brushes, a vortex is propagated behind the car which sometimes leaves the back end slightly under-washed.

In recent years, a hybrid variety of carwash has appeared: the automated but complex and upscale carwash that is a freestanding operation without the benefit of an adjacent gas station but with a wide array of treatments that approaches the service menus at full-service carwashes. A superior example is the H2O Auto Spa on Jefferson Highway, just south of the intersection of Bluebonnet with that thoroughfare. (continued on page 8)



## Presidential Search Seeks Captain Kirk

After soliciting and then abandoning a "leadership profile" from faculty governance officials, the LSU Supervisors turned to boutique search firm czar Bill Funk to develop an advertisement that explains the qualifications for the position of the commander of the LSU whatever-it-is (campus, System, or menage-à-dix-campuses). Showing his seniority, the perennially raven-haired Funk turned to the popular science fiction of his youth and penned an advertisement (largely recycled from other Funk compositions) seeking a leader not for the university, but for the "enterprise" that is Spaceship LSU. Filled with mixed metaphors (such as "strategic vision") and faulty enumerations ("centralized legal services, academic oversight, and administers facilities..."), the conceptually challenged announcement carefully avoids any reference to academic qualifications. Especially revealing is the call for "unquestioned integrity," which veers from the mission of a great university by suggesting a desire to eliminate questioning.



Star Trek Federation Badge

## AAUP Reorganizes, Creates Collective Bargaining Branch

The American Association of University Professors ("AAUP"), hammered by charges of inefficacy when it comes to negotiation on behalf of faculty, has spun itself out into three entities: the traditional AAUP, now styled a "professional organization"; the AAUP Foundation, a fund-raising and support unit; and the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress, a labor union charged not only with improving compensation and benefits but with promoting shared governance and academic freedom. Seasoned AAUP observers regard this move as an attempt to take a more forceful position vis-a-vis collective bargaining and to shake off criticism that the AAUP had become a greying organization more inclined to the writing of position papers than to front-line advocacy. Reports indicate that Louisiana's fledgling faculty labor union, LSUnited, may be in talks with the new and more forceful AAUP.

## LSU Faculty Handbook Enters Information Age

After fifteen years of mixed dormancy and validity, the LSU Faculty Handbook has undergone a revamp. Under the direction of Library Science graduate students Lindsey Harmon and Candace Brown, the old handbook has been updated and migrated into a web environment. Formerly a conventional text document that was converted to PDF format for online viewing, the new Faculty Handbook is purpose-built for internet viewing. It features abundant illustrations, intuitive layouts, and links to documents supporting policies. Faculty handbooks throughout Louisiana need both brushing up and increased online accessibility; it is hoped that the reconfiguration of the Faculty Handbook by the LSU faculty governance team will inspire other campuses to upgrade their handbook offerings.

## LIFESTYLE (continued)

Ambitious and with a bit of a boutique air, this brilliantly illuminated wash, which looks like a cross between the Georgia Aquarium and the newly color-illuminated Tiger Stadium, offers a full spectrum of services denominated by levels of luster. The visiting driver may purchase the Radiance Wash, the Brilliance Wash, the Vivid Wash, or, if slumming, the Essential Wash. An ingenious new system fervently sprays an assortment of solvents and rinse waters during repeated passes of complex machinery and wiggly chamois wiping devices. The pricing is high for an automat, topping out at \$15.00, but the experience comes close to the full-service wash that runs around \$21.00. Less successful is the Perkins Road Auto Express, on Perkins Road between Siegen and Pecue, which also features brilliant polychrome illumination but which, starting out as a brushless service and being somewhat vague on operating instructions, got off to a bad start and produced some bad washes. Driving by this facility at night leaves one wondering at the magnificent contempt for astronomy, what with ferocious colored lights streaming into the would-be dark skies.

Now, the lagniappe: If heading westward, do visit Don's Car Wash on Ryan Street in Lake Charles. It offers nearly all the services of a Benny's or a Hammond-Aire but at a 30% lower price. And it evidences that near-Texas openness, being the most outdoorsy of the full-service providers.

Happy driving—and washing!



## A G Answers

**"A G Answers" is your newest source of human resources management advice. LSU HRM Chief A. G. Monaco addresses Newsletter readers' questions about HRM and "employees' lives" in general. Have a pressing HRM issue for A G to address? Please send your queries to [encope@LSU.edu](mailto:encope@LSU.edu).**

This month's query comes from Monica, a reader in central Louisiana, who asks:

*"Dear A G,*

*I'm a new faculty member here in the center of the state. I may be centrally located, but feel isolated and disenfranchised. The reason: After accepting my job, I was asked, as a condition of employment, to sign a "loyalty oath" affirming my readiness to uphold the constitution and laws of my new state. Trouble is, I have scruples about many of those laws—for example, law allowing the teaching of creationism in public schools or the laws preventing same-sex marriages. Do I have to sign the loyalty oath to work here? Does signing the oath prevent me from fighting for causes in which I believe? Would there be bad consequences for me if I signed the oath and then criticized Louisiana laws? Can the oath be enforced? What about my free-speech rights? -- Monica"*



A G Monaco

Dear Monica,

Your question about the oath is an interesting one and the subject is steeped in past controversy. Public employees have long been asked or required to sign "loyalty oaths" and for American classroom instructors the requirement is as old as the country itself. The first employee loyalty oath was created for New Jersey teachers in 1776. Though a very formal document, most people pay little attention to either the oath or the obligation presented by the oath when starting a new job in the public sector. Perhaps they are in a daze due to the pressures of that first day on a new job or more likely simply find no point for concern with the wording. Most new employees simply choose to sign the oath without any question. Despite the fact that I have worked at numerous entities that required the signing of a loyalty oath, this is only the third time in more than three decades that the question has come up and it is the first time that it was raised for non-religious reasons. For most people it would seem that loyalty oaths do not pose an ethical dilemma, but I believe credit should be given to individuals who are concerned with their ability to fulfill any oath they sign. So, Monica, though rare, the question you raise is a good one.

Loyalty oaths are a common requirement of public employment throughout the majority of states and municipalities in the United States as well as being generally required for Federal employment. In the late 1940s, a number of states and municipalities began asking employees to swear to oaths that expressed prohibitions against joining the Communist Party or associating with members of the Communist Party. Since the early 1960s, federal courts have consistently found oaths restricting membership in organizations or requiring vague conditions of patriotism to interfere with constitutional rights protected under the 1st and 14th Amendments. Those prohibited oaths include language that is not found within the oath required by the state of Louisiana. The language contained in Louisiana's oath is virtually identical to the language presently used in most states and has been molded overtime through numerous legal challenges and federal court cases.

Interestingly, faculty at private non-profit colleges and universities in New York State are also required to take the same oath as public employees in order for their institutions to maintain their non-profit status and licensing by the state. New York State's law was challenged by a group of twenty seven faculty members from Adelphi University (a private independent university on Long Island) in 1966. (continued on page 9)

## Chick-Fil-A Bowl: The Forgotten Questions

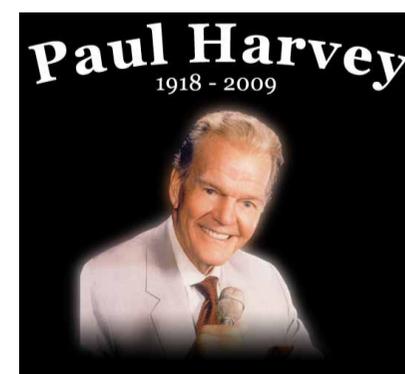
In its holiday 2012 issue, the Newsletter reported on the poor nutritional quality of the fast food, Cane's Chicken, that is endorsed by LSU football Coach Les Miles and that thereby acquires the implicit endorsement of Louisiana's biggest if seldom brightest university. The "nutrition bowl" took an unexpected turn with LSU's participation in the Chick-fil-A bowl, that strange mixture of sports, junk-food promotion, and evangelicalism (Chick-fil-A priding itself on its conservative religious posture, including its opposition to same-sex coupling and its reluctance regarding full-spectrum medical insurance). The result was a veritable psychomachia as LSU and its coach seemed to endorse simultaneously two rival chicken coops. This bizarre incident raises questions concerning university endorsement, under the veneer of the quest for sports excellence, of food products that damage health. A single serving of Chick-fil-A nuggets, for example, supplies a whopping 23% of maximum recommended daily fat intake, 28% of maximum recommended cholesterol, and 52% of recommended sodium.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 330g	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 400	Calories from Fat 160
% Daily Value *	
Total Fat 15g	23%
Saturated Fat 3g	15%
Trans Fat	
Cholesterol 85mg	28%
Sodium 1,240mg	52%
Total Carbohydrate 14g	5%
Dietary Fiber 1g	4%
Sugars 2g	
Protein 35g	70%

Chick-Fil-A Nutrition Data

## Full House Exposes Shreveport Discontent

Startled by the haste with which restructuring proposals are moving along, Bob Leitz, Curator of the Noel Collection in Shreveport, invited LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope to the LSUS campus for an educational presentation on what feature journalist Paul Harvey liked to call "the rest of the story." Although slated for the very brink of the holiday season (December 20), the presentation drew a crowd of thirty, indicating that the level of discomfort with restructuring actions is at least high enough to displace the anticipation of the arrival of Père Noel.



Journalist Paul Harvey

## ASK A G (continued)

The faculty members contended that the oath constrained free speech and was unfair because it selectively applied to faculty members but not staff. The controversy started when an employee of the New York State Education Department in 1966 discovered that although the New York State requirement had become law in 1934, Adelphi University had not complied with the law for decades. On January 22, 1968, after moving through the judicial system, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed an earlier District Court decision upholding the constitutionality of New York State's law requiring the oath. This was the first occasion on which the Supreme Court evaluated the constitutionality of oaths of the type that only required support of the U.S. and state constitutions. Oaths that require that you swear (or affirm if your religion forbids swearing) to "support the Constitution or Laws of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of this State" have, since 1968, consistently been ruled constitutional in state and federal courts. Exemptions exist for foreign nationals who are not required to indicate support for the U.S. Constitution.

The last major loyalty oath case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court was decided in 1972, when it upheld a requirement that State of Massachusetts employees swear to uphold and defend the Constitution and to "oppose the overthrow of the [government] by force, violence, or by any illegal or unconstitutional method".

The Louisiana oath is contained within and the obligation to sign the oath is created through Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:52 and 42:53.

### §52. Oath or affirmation; form

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, no person owing allegiance to the United States shall be employed by the state or any political subdivision thereof unless and until he files the following written statement with the appropriate appointing authority:

**"I (A.B.) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this State; and I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as \_\_\_\_\_, and according to the best of my ability and understanding. So help me God."**

B. A person may be temporarily employed for fifteen days, and if the above statement is not filed by the fifteenth day, he shall be discharged.

Acts 1950, No. 284, §2. Amended by Acts 1952, No. 504, §1; Acts 1982, No. 48, §1.

### §53. Oath or affirmation; prospective employees

Before any contract of employment between any person and a state department, board, commission, or agency of the State of Louisiana, or of any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the State of Louisiana, is made or renewed after July 26, 1950, the oath or affirmation prescribed in R.S. 42:52 hereof shall be taken and filed by the prospective employee.

Acts 1950, No. 284, §3.

As to your questions:

### *Do I have to sign the oath to work here?*

Unless you are a foreign national holding citizenship and permanent residency outside the United States the answer is yes, you have to sign the oath to work here. If your religion or personal beliefs forbids swearing to an oath (Quakers are one example), you may affirm rather than swear.

### *Does signing the oath prevent me from fighting for causes in which I believe? Would there be bad consequences for me if I signed the oath and then criticized Louisiana laws?*

If you need a legal opinion regarding your obligations and rights under the state's laws you may wish to speak to an attorney but my modest research has helped me to draw a conclusion. If by "fighting" you mean that you will operate within the law and engage in non-violent opposition to laws you find inappropriate or offensive than the answer to your question is **No. You are not prevented from "fighting for causes in which you believe." Your employment at LSU does not force you to give up your constitutional right to criticize or advocate for the change to Louisiana or federal laws.**

There are numerous court decisions that uphold the right of signatories of such oaths to criticize the government in the absence of any incitement toward violence. The most often cited case is *Hosack v. Smiley* in which courts found constitutional the oath used by the state of Colorado. Colorado's oath is virtually identical to the one required by Louisiana. That decision passed "constitutional muster" and was upheld by a summary affirmance of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1968. According to sources "summary affirmances by the United States Supreme Court are recognized as precedential on the merits. See *Mandel v. Bradley*, 432 U.S. 173, 176, 97 S.Ct. 2238, 2240, 53 L.Ed.2d 199, 204 (1977); *Hicks v. Miranda*, 422 U.S. 332, 344, 95 S.Ct. 2281, 2289, 45 L.Ed.2d 223, 236 (1975) (lower courts are bound by summary affirmances until the Supreme Court informs them they are not)."

In *Hosack v. Smiley* the court's decision specifically spoke to the right of oath takers to criticize the government and their right to work toward changing state or federal laws that they were found themselves opposed to.

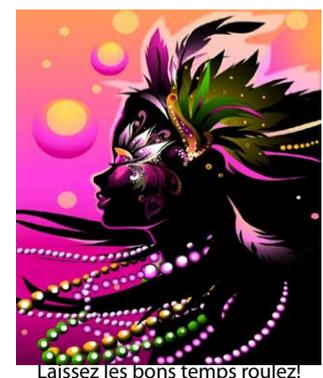
The oath as presented is "plain, straight-forward and unequivocal." *Hosack*, supra, 276 F. Supp. at 878, "A person is not left in doubt as to his undertaking." *Ibid.* The affiant simply "recognizes that ours is a government of laws and not of men." *Ibid.* We also agree with *Hosack* that recognition of and respect for law in no way prevents the right to dissent and question repugnant laws. (continued on page 10)

## Athletic Contract Spree Continues in University of Louisiana Campus

The latest spark in the Athletics compensation fire comes from University of Louisiana at Monroe President Nick Bruno, who, at the January University of Louisiana System Board meeting, petitioned the University of Louisiana System for a juicy new contract for ULM football coach Todd Berry, who will henceforth receive base compensation of \$200,000.00 per year, presumably in the hope that, if LSU continues to stumble over the chicken nuggets that fund its bowl games, Monroe might make a charge into the big leagues. In addition to the usual concessions such as the right to sponsor football camps for youngsters, eligibility for a variety of post-season incentives, and a cut of the season-ticket sales, Todd will receive no less than \$7,000.00 to \$10,000 per year in an annuity deposit (this, despite the fact that Louisiana higher education makes only minimal effort to deal with the scandal of faculty and staff retirement plan shortfalls), a cell phone allowance, a housing allowance of \$40,000.00 per year, and, most shockingly, a bonus based on the academic performance of students—a reward for others' work.

## Moody's Lowers Bond Rating of Higher Education on Governance Concerns

For decades, the bonded indebtedness of universities has been the safest of all investments. Buoyed up by high reputations, seemingly inexhaustible supplies of tuition-paying students, and generous donors, higher education institutions never left their enviable position at the top of the list of safe bond issuers. Anyone with even a tiny bit of financial savvy assumed that, in the worst case scenario, a booster-regent-sugar-daddy would always bail out an institution that tumbled too far into the red ink. In a surprise move, however, Moody's Investors Service, a renowned rater of debt risk, has issued a warning concerning the credit worthiness of higher education. Although Moody's cites the expected factors, from the decline in student population to the cost of the regulatory burden, it devotes much of the report to inadequacies in administration, and, in particular, to the accreditation troubles that result from improper respect for faculty governance. Threats to accreditation constitute threats to the stream of federal dollars; reductions in federally originated revenues could diminish the ability to service debt. Institutions without proper faculty governance institutions are thus increasing the cost of financing the full range of campus projects.



Laissez les bons temps roulez!

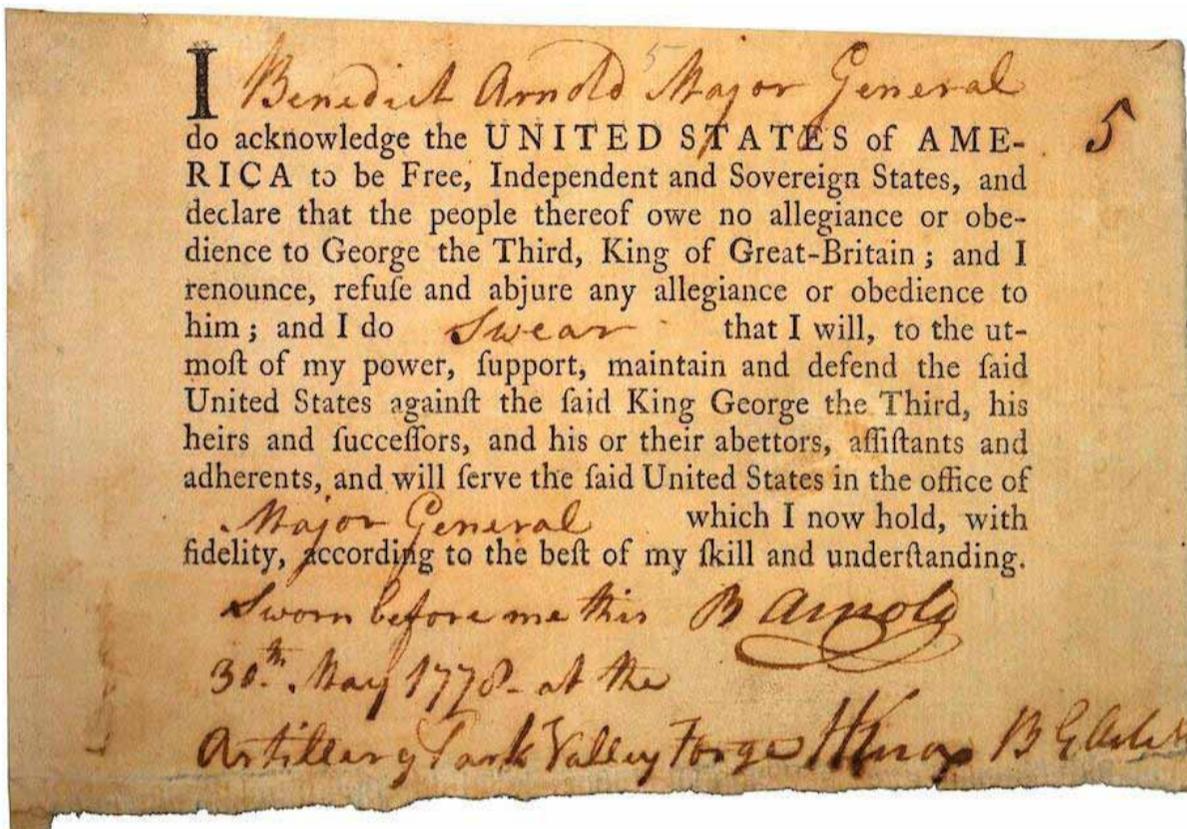
## ASK A G (continued)

Nor does it limit the right to seek through lawful means the repeal or amendment of state or federal laws with which the oath taker is in disagreement. Support for the constitutions and laws of the nation and state does not call for blind subservience. Such an extreme concept is not now nor has it ever been accepted.

(Hosack v. Smiley, supra, 276 F. Supp at 879)

Not everyone is as concerned about adherence to oaths as our colleague Monica might be. Benedict Arnold, America's most famous traitor, is among that group.

Benedict Arnold signed a loyalty oath far more demanding than the one we are asked to sign (printed below) and less than two years later tried to trade the fortifications at West Point, New York to the British for a herd of sheep and a cottage in Cornwall. Good thing he failed. Had we lost that region to the British many generations of children from the Bronx would never have learned to ice skate at Bear Mountain State Park and thousands of New Yorkers would have had to drive through Connecticut to get up to the Catskills in the summer.



Loyalty oath signed by Benedict Arnold

To balance the story of General Arnold's behavior I close with the more inspiring story of Father John Cummings, the Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Louisiana, Missouri. In 1865, Father Cummings was imprisoned when for religious reasons he refused to sign a loyalty oath. The oath was made law in Missouri during the early days of reconstruction and it required that all clergy in that state who wished to preach the gospel must profess their loyalty to the Union "before and after the war." Cummings who had been a critic of slavery and the Confederacy refused to sign the oath since he and his bishop felt it was an illegal interference of their right to practice their faith. Cummings was arrested and was forced to spend two years in jail when he refused to pay a fine and refused to agree to stop preaching. He was eventually released when the Supreme Court ruled the oath unconstitutional.

According to accounts published in St. Louis in 1865, when the priest was entering his cell a boisterous inmate called out to Father Cummings – "What put you in here for?" "For preaching the Gospel," the priest responded.

"Good!" said the felon. "I am in here for stealing horses."

Despite my initial reaction to that story I could find no proof that Professor Cope's family has ever actively traded horses in the "Show me" state.

—A G

## AAUP Probes Restructuring-

Louisiana Boards continue to have trouble understanding that, when a university reaches world-class status, the entire world is watching. Despite continuing attempts to present a smooth, even glitzy picture of its top-down restructuring efforts, the LSU System Board of Supervisors received a loud wake-up call when, on January 29th, the AAUP delivered a vigorously phrased letter reporting that it had been tracking reorganization efforts and that it had found reason for grave concern. Noting that LSU was already under censure, the letter detailed the history of the reorganization process, strongly criticized the secretive nature of the project, and offered to parlay with System officials in an effort to find ways to move LSU away from its censurable habits. The resolution also observes that faculty at two major campus, LSU A&M and LSUHSC-NO, have passed resolutions calling for an immediate suspension of the restructuring process and of the consolidation of the leadership positions at the A&M campus and at the System bureau. At press time, the LSU System had not responded to the AAUP.

## AAUP Blasts Confidential Searches

One of the most preposterous recent inventions of executive search firms is the notion that executive searches must be conducted in secret lest the tender reputations or on-campus standing of exquisitely talented candidates be impaired. This notion is daily overturned by the many candidates who, once outed as job-seekers, routinely receive retention incentives and pay increases. The supposed danger to the sought-after Wunderkind justifies the placing of faculty participants under strict confidentiality oaths that prevent the sharing of information with colleagues and that lead to one-candidate search-revelations such as are common in Louisiana. By way of potential remedy, the AAUP has released a new statement of principles calling for the free flow of information, the end of confidentiality oaths, and the opportunity to consider the full range of candidates. The AAUP also addresses the dilemmas created by confidentiality expectations in other areas of governance, where faculty must choose between participation, which requires confidentiality, or exclusion and accusations of non-collegiality. The new statement has been posted online.

## Mason to Put Brick in Walk of Fame

Charismatic but cautious Southern University System President Ronald Mason may be auditioning for a tile in Hollywood's walk of fame. Mason, the most media-aware of the System presidents, has launched a new "V-Chat" feature: an online video "conversation," the first installment of which occurs on January 31st and participation in which requires a [free online registration](#). No details are given but the advertising copy shows a vigorously smiling Mason, perhaps a harbinger of pleasant news.