



## Obama calling scandals 'phony' creates political firestorm



By Jim Kouri, July 26, 2013, examiner.com

President Barack Obama stated during his hour-long speech on Wednesday that the GOP is attempting to evade Americans' concerns over economic issues by hyping "phony scandals," according to Fox News Channel and other news outlets.

That same accusation regarding fake or phony scandals is being used as a talking point by members of Obama's administration including White House press secretary Jay Carney.

"With an endless parade of distractions, political posturing and phony scandals, Washington has taken its eye off the ball," Obama said during his economic speech given on Wednesday at Knox College in his home state, Illinois.

Obama's statement echoes a line repeatedly used by Carney to describe the IRS targeting scandal and other Obama administration headaches, including the Benghazi terrorist attack.

"It was a slap in the face to all military families, especially those who lost love ones in Benghazi. Where is the news media's outrage? When will these so-called news outlets report the facts and not the White House spin?" asked a retired police lieutenant from New Jersey, Jack Mallory.

Many Americans, especially those serving in the military and law enforcement, were angered by the statements of the verbose President Obama.

Photo credit: NewswithViews



Meanwhile, more than 700 retired U.S. military special forces veterans, who served their country by participating in dangerous operations, such as the killing of terrorist-icon Osama bin Laden and rescuing American hostages from the likes of al-Qaeda ally Al-Shabaab in Somalia, were all but ignored this week by the news media when they held a press conference and delivered their Benghazi petition.

"The goal of the press conference on Tuesday was to urge Democrat and Republican members of the US House of Representatives to support "House Resolution 36," which would create a House Select Committee to thoroughly and completely probe the terrorist attack in Benghazi that left four Americans dead," said former U.S. Marine and NYPD detective Michael Snopes..

"With this nation's Commander in Chief calling Benghazi, the IRS anti-conservative activities, Operation Fast and Furious and other shameful incidents 'phony and fake scandals,' it's time for the U.S. Congress to demand a full, unvarnished investigation into the events of September 11, 2012," Snopes said.

The group delivering the petition to the congressmen -- Special Operations Speaks (SOS) -- said that the American public must be fully informed regarding the terrorist attack on U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities in Libya.

"We owe that truth to the American people and the families of the fallen," said officials with SOS.

According to the SOS statement, "It appears that many of the facts and details surrounding the terrorist attack which resulted in four American deaths and an undetermined number of American casualties have not yet been ascertained by previous hearings and inquiries."

"Among the list of questions SOS formulated for U.S. Representatives to use in their probe, they wish to finally be told who gave the "stand-down order" that left Americans to fend for themselves against savage attacks by Islamic terrorists?" SOS officials stated.

For many Americans, the gnawing question in the Benghazi scandal is: why did the Commander-in Chief and Secretary of State never once check in during the night to find out the status of the crisis situation in Benghazi?

President Obama may believe Benghazi is a phony scandal and his water-carriers in the news media may agree with him, but Americans are slowly discovering that it's becoming more and more likely that in the midst of a terrorist attack on a U.S. consulate, Obama simply went to bed, as alleged by former Justice Department Chief of Staff, now a top radio talk show host, Mark Levin.

"Our Ambassador, Americans, our consulate – under attack, fighting for their lives! And the President of the United States apparently went to sleep. Or maybe to a concert. Or maybe planning his next golf game. I don't know. But he was AWOL," said Levin on his radio show.

The petition delivered to the steps of the U.S. Congress states:

*"A longstanding American ethos was breached during the terrorist attack in Benghazi. America failed to provide adequate security to personnel deployed into harm's way and then failed to respond when they were viciously attacked. Clearly, this is unacceptable and requires accountability. America has always held to the notion that no American will be left behind and that every effort will be made to respond when US personnel are threatened.*

*"Given our backgrounds, we are concerned that this sends a very negative message to future military and diplomatic personnel who may be deployed into dangerous environments. That message is that they will be left to their own devices when attacked. That is an unacceptable message."*

## Glenn Greenwald Testifies — And the NSA's House of Cards Begins to Collapse



Glenn Greenwald Testifies — And the NSA's House of Cards Begins to Collapse

By Robert Taylor, July 31, 2013, policymic.com

In the midst of an administration waging a war on whistleblowers and legislation that permits the indefinite detention of American citizens without trial, the political process provides very few silver linings. But thanks to the brave voices of those willing to speak out against these abuses despite the odds and consequences, the status quo that defines and dominates debate in this country may be quickly changing.

Last week, [an amendment](#) sponsored by Congressman Justin Amash (R-Mich.) that would have stopped all funding for the NSA's warrantless wiretapping and spying program was narrowly defeated in the House by just 12 votes. The NSA will unfortunately still be running a program that would make East Germany's secret police jealous, but as [Julie Borowski points out](#) in *The Daily Caller*, "There is absolutely no way that the amendment would have received that many votes just a few short years ago. Most likely, the amendment would never have even made it to the House floor."

The bipartisan authoritarians in Washington sense [this lack](#) of unconditional subservience from Americans that they have grown used to. This is why President Obama [issued](#) an emergency statement against Amash's amendment, Republicans were being strong-armed into opposing it, and NSA chief Keith Alexander lobbied on Capitol Hill pleading with Congress to ignore the Fourth Amendment. Even New Jersey Governor Chris Christie [joined the chorus](#), warning of "dangerous" libertarians, and invoking — what else? — 9/11.

And yet even with these desperate measures, Amash's amendment nearly passed. This is why Borowski called the vote, despite its failure to pass, a "victory" for civil liberties. But how can one possibly call a failed bill a victory?

This is because effective, principled movements are not won through political deals and congressional votes. They are fought by tireless minorities that shout from whatever rooftop or soapbox they have to create a paradigm shift in how we view an issue — in this case, what the proper role of government is in a free society and why civil liberties must be protected at all costs.

There is even more evidence that this strategy of social network and grassroots activism is working. After Edward Snowden's revelations went public, the pro-NSA [talking points](#) were quickly dispatched around Washington and the Beltway media. National security! Terrorism! And did you know Snowden didn't graduate high school?

Yet despite the overwhelming power that this government-media-complex wields in reinforcing the status quo and rationalizing unconstitutional and illegal activity, the pushback was stronger than they expected. So much so [that on Wednesday](#), for the first time critics of the NSA program, most notably *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald, will be [invited](#) to testify in front of Congress.

Sponsored by Congressman [Alan Grayson \(D-Fla.\)](#), along with Amash, one of the few good representatives we have, the testimony is meant to counter the "constant misleading information" Grayson says is strangling public debate. "We have put together an ad hoc, bipartisan hearing on domestic surveillance," Grayson continued. "We plan to have critics of the program come in and give their view — from the left and the right."

How else could an event like this possibly take place without grassroots activism and the bravery of those like Greenwald, Snowden, and other whistleblowers and the rare public official?

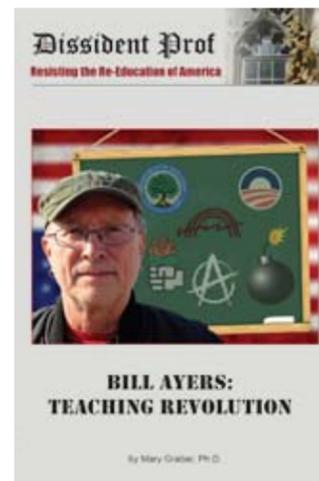
The bravery of this activism should not be understated. Just ask [Bradley Manning](#). While thankfully he was found [not guilty](#) of "aiding the enemy," his cruel and inhumane treatment for nearly three years, and the [multiple decades in prison](#) he still faces, is undoubtedly meant to be an example for future whistleblowers.

But against the odds, perhaps the times are indeed changing in our favor. I have little to no faith in the political process to achieve a freer society and constitutional government — after all, is it any coincidence that those who voted in favor of the NSA received [twice as much money](#) from the defense-surveillance lobby than those who voted against it?

No, the battle against the NSA and for civil liberties is one that will be waged with ideas, in the trenches of the grassroots and with the courage to speak out even when the odds seem grim. The state rules from the top down, and we rule from the bottom-up. An intellectual revolution is how we change the debate in our favor, preserve the Bill of Rights, a free economy, and establish real limits on state power.

And just like the Grayson-Greenwald hearings Wednesday, the principled and frustrated left and right need to see that neither of their interests are served by the national-security state.

## Bill Ayers: Teaching Revolution



By Mary Grabar, [dissidentprof.com](#)

In Bill Ayers: Teaching Revolution, Mary Grabar draws on her twenty-year career in education to describe the ways Ayers's ideas are revolutionizing and transforming colleges

of education and K-

12 schools. She reveals the breadth of his influence—and offers constructive ways to challenge his grip.

Some ways Bill Ayers's radical ideology is influencing education today:

- Presenting the U.S. and the West as oppressors and promoting “global citizenship.”
- Continuing the communist project of presenting capitalism as the basis of racism.
- Rejecting order, testing, standards, and independent thought in school and replacing them with constant questioning of values and “collaboration.”
- Open revolutionary goals, and encouragement of “anarchist calisthenics,” when administrators are not looking, to find an institution’s “cracks.”
- Self-interest and self-promotion, with the teacher as hero, and replacement of the parent by the teacher and government surrogate.

## NC Expands Gun Carry Rights To Colleges, Bars & Playgrounds



By Tim Brown, July 27, 2013, [freedomoutpost.com](http://freedomoutpost.com)

This is one of those movements that are in the right direction, though one does wonder how those who have met the requirements to carry

concealed were not allowed to carry their weapons in bars and colleges in the first place. However, a new law went into effect on Friday in North Carolina which allows residents in the state with a carry permit to take their firearms into restaurants that serve alcohol, bars, playgrounds and even colleges! You know the gun grabbers are going to be beside themselves on this one, but keep an eye on statistics. I'm sure they will prove this is a step in the right direction.

Amazing enough, the new law (HB937) takes 17 pages to explain! The bill passed earlier in the week and Republican Governor Pat McCrory (Don't think for a moment that this guy isn't a RINO, because he is) signed the bill into law. To prove my case about McCrory, listen to how he defended his decision with typical liberal talk about “the children.”

“I just want to make sure that kids are safe,” McCrory said in December, according to WRAL. “The long-term solution I think is not changing any current laws — we've got a lot of laws on the books — but taking care of those people who have some serious, serious problems in their minds. I think that's where a lot of the concentration needs to be. Because if you look at all these incidents throughout the nation, it's been these loners that have some serious, serious issues. I think that's the thing we've got to concentrate on.”

Then Mr. McCrory, stop infringing on their parents' rights and abilities to defend them! While I agree that the shootings we have seen, at least in how they are reported have been from loners, but that doesn't mean you treat every citizen as if they fall into that category.

Before passing the final law, the state legislature dismissed a controversial provision which aimed to repeal a law requiring a permit and background check from a county sheriff in order to purchase a handgun. As I said parts of the law are a step in the right direction and others, not so much.

So what all does the new law allow for my neighbors to the north? When you go out to a bar or a restaurant serving alcohol, you no longer have to go in defenseless, unless the owner specifically prohibits it. In that case, you can do like I do and take it in anyway and then if they discover you have a firearm, they will merely ask you to leave, which

you should do so and never darken the doors of their establishment again.

The problem with entering establishments serving alcohol is that you cannot consume any! Really, it's utterly ridiculous to have such a law as this, as it does nothing but restrict your freedom to eat and drink as you please. After all, you are a law abiding citizen. Do lawmakers seriously think you are going to take your wife out for a nice meal and get hammered in the process and shoot the place up? If they do, perhaps they don't need to be making decisions.

You can also take your weapons to public recreation areas, parade grounds and funeral processions. I'm not sure why they would have been off limits to law abiding citizens in the first place.

Gun owners will now also be allowed to store their guns in a locked vehicle on public-school or university campuses or any other state-government parking lot. OK, at least the gun made it onto the campus grounds, but it's not doing very much good sitting in your car when a shooter enters your classroom is it? Exactly, another bad part of the law here.

I would say the University of North Carolina Police chiefs at least made a good point in their opposition to this part of the law, citing the potential increase of car break-ins on campus. However, I don't think that their claim of it leading to increased gun violence holds water. That is already in effect with them not allowing people to actually carry on campus to defend themselves.

Oh, and about the liberal gun grabbers being beside themselves? One MSNBC reporter actually said, “Really wish you could take a gun with you on your next visit to the public playground with your kids? Then you might want to consider a move to North Carolina.”

Ah yes, make it look like law abiding citizens want to murder innocent young children on a playground. Obviously parents want to carry their firearms in such places to defend their children against anyone that would seek to do them harm.

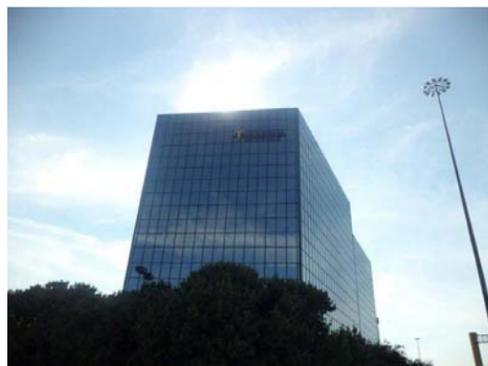
Finally, understanding that North Carolina's constitution doesn't have what several states have and that is a similar wording of not infringing on the right to bear arms, this is would account for the state infringing on your rights, abilities, even duties to bear arms to defend yourself. For the NC constitution reads:

That the people have a right to bear arms, for the defence of the State; and, as standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

In other words you have a right to bear arms to defend the State, but that doesn't mean the State can't infringe upon those rights.

As I said, some measures in the new law are good and some not so good, but it seems that there were at least some positive steps in the right direction.

## Worse than Watergate? Cameras Catch Break-In at Law Firm Representing Whistleblower in Explosive State Department Sex, Molestation, Drug Scandal



By John Hudson, July 7, 2013, [thecable.foreignpolicy.com](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com)

### Cameras Catch Mystery Break-In at Whistleblower's Law Firm

The offices of a Dallas law firm representing a high-profile State Department whistleblower were broken into last

weekend. Burglars stole three computers and broke into the firm's file cabinets. But silver bars, video equipment and other valuables were left untouched, according to local Fox affiliate KDFW, which aired security camera footage of the suspected burglars entering and leaving the offices around the time of the incident.

The firm Schulman & Mathias represents Aurelia Fedenisn, a former investigator at the State Department's Office of the Inspector General. In recent weeks, she raised a slew of explosive allegations against the department and its contractors ranging from illicit drug use, soliciting sexual favors from minors and prostitutes and sexual harassment.

"It's a crazy, strange and suspicious situation," attorney Cary Schulman told The Cable. "It's clear to me that it was somebody looking for information and not money. My most high-profile case right now is the Aurelia Fedenisn case, and I can't think of any other case where someone would go to these great lengths to get our information."

According to the KDFW report, the firm was the only suite burglarized in the high-rise office building and an unlocked office adjacent was left untouched.

The State Department, which has repeatedly disputed Fedenisn's allegations, denied any involvement in the incident. "Any allegation that the Department of State authorized someone to break into Mr. Schulman's law firm is false and baseless," spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

After assessing the surveillance footage, Schulman said he believed the motivations were likely political, but did not suspect department involvement. "It wasn't professional enough," he said. "It is possible that an Obama or Hillary supporter feels that I am unfairly going after them. And the timing of this is right after several weeks of very public media attention so it seems to me most likely that the information sought is related to that case. I don't know for sure and I want the police to do their work."

Fedenisn's case, in particular, has gained attention not just because of the substance of the allegations, but for her insistence that internal investigations into misconduct were "influenced, manipulated or simply called off" by senior State Department officials. The suppression of investigations was noted in an early draft of an Inspector General report she gave to CBS News, but softened in the final version.

Last month, her lawyers told The Cable that the department tried to intimidate her into silence. "They had law enforcement officers camp out in front of her house, harass her children and attempt to incriminate herself," claimed Schulman.

Schulman said the purpose of the visit was to get Fedenisn to sign documents admitting that she stole State Department documents -- a charge Fedenisn denies.

Schulman & Mathias represent a range of clients on matters from fraud to wrongful death to bad faith insurance practices to medical malpractice. Any number of those cases could've exposed the firm to such a break in, but Schulman said he was skeptical. "I'm involved in other cases locally, but those cases are rather stale."



By APN Staff, July 31, 2013

## US CONGRESSMEN FROM FLORIDA WHO STOOD FOR LIBERTY ON NSA VOTE APPLAUDED BY REPUBLICAN LIBERTY CAUCUS OF TAMPA BAY



Tampa, FL, July 26, 2013, rlcctb.org

The Republican Liberty Caucus of Tampa Bay is proud and appreciative of those 12 Florida Congressmen who voted to stop the unwarranted and unnecessary spying and surveillance of millions of Floridians and United States citizens by the National Security Agency.

US Representatives Vern Buchanan, Alan Grayson, Alcee Hastings, Bill Posey, Trey Radel, Dennis Ross, Ron DeSantis, Ted Deutch, John Mica, Rich Nugent, Steve Southerland, and Ted Yoho supported US Congressman Justin Amash's Amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2014 which would have limited the warrantless domestic surveillance program run by the National Security Agency. These Congressmen voted to strike a reasonable balance between unlimited warrantless surveillance and the need for national security.

The Amendment failed by seven votes, with 15 Florida Congressional Representatives voting against it. Florida Representatives alone could have reversed the outcome of this important vote by adhering to their Oath of Office to defend the US Constitution. Instead, the majority sided with the Obama Administration, denying Floridians their fundamental right to privacy.

US Representatives Gus Bilirakis, Corrine Brown, Kathy Castor, Ander Crenshaw, Daniel Webster, Tom Rooney, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mario Diaz-Balart, Lois Frankel, Joe Garcia, Jeff Miller, Patrick Murphy, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Frederica Wilson, and Bill Young need to explain to their Florida and Tampa Bay constituents why they chose to continue spying on Floridians and American citizens without requisite probable cause. This vote may well be critical to their reelection, as they face citizens from across the political spectrum who are increasingly demanding representation that defends and upholds their rights under the Constitution.

## Dream Defenders Occupy Florida Capitol



At this time there is a group of people that call themselves the Dream Defenders that are using the death of Trayvon Martin that was shot and killed by George Zimmerman in what all the evidence available indicates he did so in self defense to keep Trayvon Martin from murdering him. Because Trayvon Martin was black and George Zimmerman was light skinned and the news media labeled him as a white hispanic, the people that want to incite race division have taken up the banner that George Zimmerman had to be guilty because he shot Trayvon Martin instead of letting Trayvon Martin beat him to a pulp and probably would have killed him.

The group is affiliated with Workers World Party, a communist group, and Flaming Sword of Justice with Ben Winkler, another communist group affiliated with moveon.org. The stated objective of the Workers Party is :

*Workers World Party fights for a socialist society—where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. That's also what workers around the world, from Cuba to China, have been struggling for. The U.S. rulers have spent trillions of our tax dollars trying to stop them in a global class struggle. WWP promotes international working-class solidarity, the right of every nation to sovereignty and self-determination, and militant resistance at home to imperialist interventions and wars.*

In reviewing their website, it is obvious that this group is advocating Rousseau Socialisms tenants in totality. Rousseau Socialism is precursor to Communism. These groups are fighting to destroy the family, religion, capitalism, and America.

As of Monday the FDLE indicated they had expended around an additional \$150,000 in additional security so this anti-American group can occupy the hallway in our capital building outside of Governors Scott's office. These protestors that have invaded our capitol building have been brought in from all over the country to participate in this protest. From the Workers World Party website they state :

*They came from all over: Florida, California, New Orleans, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., the Bronx, N.Y., and elsewhere. People of color as young as 8 years old came to support the call put out by the Dream Defenders to rally and sit-in.*

The leader of the Dream Defenders in our capitol is Phillip Agnew. Phillip Agnew is a native of Chicago, IL, and a 2008 graduate of Florida A&M University's and Industry. While there he served as Student Body President, a member of the University Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate.

His life was changed when he became an organizer with the Student Coalition for Justice: a cadre of students from Florida A&M University, <http://podcast.flamingswordofjustice.com/people/phillip-agnew>, and <http://podcast.flamingswordofjustice.com/people/phillip-agnew> angered at the murder of Martin Lee Anderson in a Florida Youth Boot Camp. After four years away he has returned to Florida to work as Executive Director with the Dream Defenders.

This whole activity is a complete sham attempting to force Governor Scott to recall the Florida legislators to a special session to repeal the Stand Your Ground law. If they can accomplish this, they will use this technique to impose communism across the country in states that are not already accepting communism.



## Black America's True Nemesis: Liberals, Not Zimmerman

In the midst of all the racial hullabaloo stirred up by so-called advocates for black

By Lloyd Marcus, July 27, 2013, lloydmarcus.com

empowerment after the Zimmerman trial, guess who is really being harmed? Answer: black America.

All of you black pastors, black politicians, and black celebs who have joined Sharpton and the MSM's lynch mob to "get Zimmerman" should be ashamed of yourselves. You are doing a huge disservice to the very people you claim to champion by chasing a straw man while ignoring the real issues that are devastating black America.

Everyone knows that the black community is a mess. White folks ain't killin' us. We are killin' each other. Over 70 and increasing percent of black kids grow up in fatherless homes. Researchers warn that we blacks are aborting ourselves into extinction. Black school dropout rates are at epidemic levels. Fatherless households and school dropouts fuel through the roof high black unemployment, gangs, and incarcerations.

And yet, all of you so-called defenders of black America are hell-bent on destroying the life of one Hispanic for defending himself. Displaying remarkable evil intent, the MSM launched a false narrative filled with lies about the incident, not giving a darn about the consequences, like loss of property and lives.

To strengthen their "America is racist" storyline the MSM creatively called Zimmerman a "white Hispanic." The MSM edited Zimmerman's 911 call to make him sound racist. To gin up black rage, the MSM promoted a photo of Martin as an innocent 12-year-old rather than the 17-year-old 6'2"-160-lb. thug he was at the time of the incident. Yes, Martin's history documents that he was a thug.

By the way, black activists saying that the jury declaring Zimmerman not guilty means that it is open season on young black men is pure evil race-baiting crap. Statistically, blacks are 50 times more likely to assault whites than vice-versa.

You black avengers should be totally outraged that CNN's white liberal host Piers Morgan presented Rachel Jeantel's ignorant ghetto language as representative of how we speak in the black community. Morgan called Jeantel "one smart cookie," and you knuckleheads probably consider Morgan and his condescending fellow white liberals our friends.

Please forgive my use of "knuckleheads." I just find it extremely frustrating that liberals continue to urinate on blacks and tell us it is the Republicans' fault...and we fall for it. Liberal pandering has destroyed the black family and continues to wreak havoc in the black community -- and my fellow blacks cannot see it. They continue to kiss white liberals' derrieres. Yes, I am frustrated.

In the eyes of a relative of mine, her son could do no wrong. She created a spoiled brat who grew up to be a jerk -- no self-discipline or respect for authority. His personal relationships were disasters. He could not keep a job. He died young. While I believe that everyone is ultimately responsible for his own behavior, this boy's mom's lack of parenting contributed to his demise.

Folks, this is exactly what liberal black leaders and liberal whites having been doing to blacks: refusing to hold us accountable for destructive behavior and making excuses for us.

Real compassion is honestly dealing with the issues plaguing the black community rather than so-called

advocates (Democrats and the MSM) using our dysfunction for their political and financial gain.

All of you black celebs and black politicians demanding Zimmerman's head on a platter make mega-millions of dollars a year. With blacks being only 12% of the population, you would not be who you are without white support. Thus, your accusation that America is hostile towards black males is absurd, racist, and worst of all, discouraging to young blacks.

America is the greatest land of opportunity on the planet for all who choose to go for it. Period! End of subject!

Black advocates indulging blacks in irresponsible self-destructive behavior serve only to undermine black progress, creating spoiled, entitlement-minded, undisciplined, hopeless, and angry black youths. Do you guys not see the disservice you are doing to your own people? It is the same as bad parenting.

But here is what is truly sad and frustrating: every word in this article is true, and yet, liberals, black and white, will read it and seek to silence, punish, and destroy me. They'll call me a traitorous sellout, an Uncle Tom, and a self-loathing stupid N-word.

Meanwhile, liberals' exploitation will further the decline and suffering of black America. Race-hustling ambulance-chasers like Sharpton will continue seeking opportunities to extort a buck and increase their political power. Liberals will continue treating us blacks like inferior idiots, demanding lowered standards and expectations. Lord, help us.

Black males will continue killing each other over the slightest dis. That 70% rate of black out-of-wed births and fatherless homes will continue rising, along with school dropouts, abortions, unemployment, and incarcerations. And blacks will continue rewarding liberal Democrats with almost 100% of their vote.

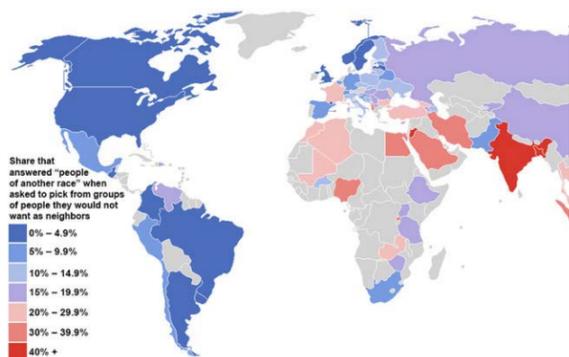
In keeping with liberals' lowering the bar for blacks, Rachel Jeantel will probably get her own reality TV show. Millions of black youths will be able to learn "new school," as Rachel described it, black language -- "creepy ass cracka" and "nigga." I wonder what her TV show will be titled. "Rachel Jeantel: She Be All Dat"?

Go ahead and accuse me of not being down with authentic blackness or of being a traitor to my race if you want to, but I will not be tuning into Rachel's show.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., [who inspired black excellence](#), must be turning over in his grave.

Lloyd Marcus, Proud Unhyphenated America

## Where Does the U.S. Rank Among the World's Most Racist Countries?



By Juliana Hein, 2 months ago, [polycymic.com](#)

A [recent study](#) by two Swedish economists has shed light on the world's most and least racially tolerant countries, and the results might surprise you. While the United States is ranked among the most tolerant on the globe (some may find this predictable, others may not), Europe presents a greater range of tolerance levels, with several countries in the second and third least tolerant ranges.

The study was aimed at discerning a correlation between a country's level of economic freedom and its racial tolerance. The latter was defined by one simple question, as asked in the World Values Survey: Whom

would you not want as a neighbor? Those who selected "people of other races" were categorized as intolerant for the purposes of this investigation. Countries were then ranked by percentage of responses: the fewer "intolerant" respondents, the more tolerant the country. While the Swedish researches found no conclusive results regarding any strong correlation between economic development and tolerance, a recent [Washington Post article](#) went back to the original survey source and compiled a greater sample of data for the purposes of determining other potential relationships between a country and its perceived level of tolerance.

According to [this infographic](#), the U.S. falls into the most tolerant category, with only 0-4.9% of those surveyed responding that they would not want to live near people of other races. Our neighbor to the north responded in kind, while Mexico ranked in the second-tier of tolerance, making the totality of North America look like a big amalgamation of racial harmony. While this may or may not actually be the case (people lie on surveys, the [Washington Post](#) authors note) it certainly provides a compelling lens for analyzing the less concordant results of Europe.

Albania appears to be the least tolerant on the European continent in the second lowest 30-39.9% range. While potential explanations for such a severe distinction from its neighboring states abound, arriving at a concrete conclusion for intolerance is likely a futile pursuit. Croatia, for example, ranks in the 5-9.9% category (the same as Mexico), achieving the most tolerant in the Balkan region. Both ethnic Croats and Albanians were involved in the conflicts that embroiled the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, and such ethnic strife undoubtedly contributes to a heightened sensitivity to ethnic and racial relations. However, given its distinctly intolerant stance, Albania, for reasons not easily explained by its history of conflict, seems to have lagged behind in recovering from regional tensions. While Albania's ranking may be difficult to explain, it is not the sole European state at the intolerant end of the spectrum. France ranked just above, in the 20-29.9% range. In contrast, adjacent Germany and Spain, fell into the same tier as Mexico and Croatia.

Rounding out the bottom of the list are India, Jordan, Bangladesh, and Hong Kong in the 40%+ range. A potential explanation for this, is that the less heterogeneous the society, the less tolerant. While this logic might follow for Albania, what is France's excuse? On the flipside, one might argue that changes in patterns to immigration or perceived and unwanted changes to a social fabric might play a role. Remember when France decided to ban religious garments in public? That was probably a good indication of where France was at on the tolerance spectrum, no survey needed.

Ultimately, the survey presents an intriguing model for analyzing tolerance between countries. But with the above in mind, it is only a small piece of the larger picture. Wherever states are suppressing civil liberties in broad and unapologetic ways, intolerance is likely lurking not too far below.

## Common Core Guru Bennett Gets Caught Cheating... Twice!



Press Release August, 2013, [flstopcccoalition.org](#)

The resignation of Florida Education Commissioner Tony Bennett sadly confirms the grave concerns of The Florida Stop Common Core Coalition about the workability of the Common Core system. We highlighted these concerns in our statements this week both about the data manipulation in Indiana and Florida and the false information from the DOE.

Dr. Karen Effrem, president of Education Liberty Watch and co-founder of the Florida Stop Common Core Coalition gave the following statement:

*"This is what happens when the federal government and unaccountable private groups and foundations try to impose completely untested national standards on the*

*children and families of Florida and the country and then try to control the lives and funding of those children, teachers and local districts via yet completed high stakes tests. If one of the nation's leading proponents and experts on Common Core has to 'cook the books' in two states in order to make this completely irresponsible system look valid, Common Core cannot survive. Our children are not allowed to cheat on their schoolwork and tests. Why should the adults that we entrust with the education of those precious children be allowed to manipulate the numbers for their own benefit?"*

We call upon Governor Rick Scott to both withdraw from the Common Core standards, tests and data collection system, as well as to appoint a new commissioner that will promote locally controlled academic education for all of the Florida's public school children. Pam Stewart, given her support of and close work with implementing Florida's federal Race to the Top grant that requires the Common Core national standards, aligned national tests, and the data mining data mining of our children, is not the person that the children and citizens of Florida need at this critical time."

## Pam Stewart Named Interim Education Commissioner



By APN Staff, August 1, 2013

The Florida Board of Education has chosen Pam Stewart for interim Education Commissioner following the resignation of Tony Bennett on August 31<sup>st</sup> amid scandal. Mr. Bennett

was facing pressure from many groups because of his involvement with PAARC, the Common Core Standards and changing grades for a friend's charter school.

Prior to Ms. Stewart's appointment she was public schools chancellor, Florida Department of Education. In a guest column she wrote for [StAugustine.com](#) on March 18, 2013 she stated her support for the controversial Common Core Standards.



