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# REFLECTIONS OF AN OBSERVER



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**NEW SERIES**

## — Been Thinking About Grandiosity —

Can a person be over-educated? Not absolutely certain, but I have encountered quite a number of folk whose rhetoric suggests to me that their cognitive competence lags far behind their formal education. Bet you've met some of them, too.

Among the most intelligent people I've met are folk without a full measure of formal education. I'm frequently reminded, too, that "No amount of learning can cure stupidity and higher education positively fortifies it." Stephen Vizinczey said that. That phenomenon is perhaps most easily observed on our publically funded university campuses. Liberal innovators once flourished in those environments. Alternative – and typically conflicting – conclusions on a variety of topics were intelligently debated. Such was the very essence of the learning and personal growth of the participants. My colleague, TC Newsome, benefitted from some of those experiences. He wrote this: "From those who are inclined to always agree with me, I learn not much. From those who rationally explain why they disagree, I learn volumes."

Intelligent liberal thinking, today, is near extinction—especially among tenured "educators." Their students are also demonstrably inclined to exude that "we're smarter than all the rest of y'all" attitude. Neo-liberalism has become the compulsive academic fashion. Sensible debate is no longer tolerated by those who continue to insist that they're "more tolerant and more compassionate than thou"—especially if *thou* art a U.S. Constitutional Conservative or even an *old fashioned* Liberal. Theirs is a delusional disorder of the grandiose type. "Higher" education, for them, came to a screeching halt on the day that they were stricken with it.

Roughly a year ago, a mutual friend asked TC Newsome for some assistance. He wanted to develop a good strategy for responding intelligently to some of those "stricken" ones who were toying with him on Facebook. TC's answer fell short of what our mutual friend had anticipated but he took it to heart, nonetheless, and it worked. Maybe it'll work for you, too—

Those whose mindsets are dominated by a propensity to rationalize don't pursue rational conclusions. They toy with rational folk and entertain themselves extensively via their rationalizing. It's a game of narcissistic folly that I, too, used to play. Goes something like this:

Person A— "The sky is blue."

Person B— "Define blue."

Person A— offers a rational definition of the color blue

Person B— "But there are different shades of blue. And, besides, the sky is sometimes red!"

Person A— "Oh?"

Person B— "'Red sky at morning, sailor take warning.' Remember?"

Person A— finally perceiving that it's a game: "And different hues of red. Got it!"

End of Game— both missions fully accomplished

"...so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith...their folly will be manifest to all..." 2 Timothy 3:8,9

Here's a worthy *last word* from Dr. Thomas Sowell: "Too much of what is called 'education' is little more than an expensive isolation from reality."

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