



Michael Rechtenwald <mr185@nyu.edu>

Re: Congrats to M. Rechtenwald on his 75K advance from St. Martin's Press!

Jacqueline Bishop <jaj204@nyu.edu>

Fri, May 12, 2017 at 5:51 AM

To: Terri Senft <tms2080@nyu.edu>

Cc: Amber A Frost <amber.frost@nyu.edu>, Carley E Moore <carley.moore@nyu.edu>, Suzanne Menghraj <smm274@nyu.edu>, Fred Schwarzbach <fss3@nyu.edu>, GLS Faculty <gls-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Cultural Foundations Faculty <ls-cultural-foundations-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Economics Faculty <ls-economics-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Global Cultures Faculty <ls-global-cultures-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Science Faculty <ls-science-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Social Foundations Faculty <ls-social-foundations-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, LS Writing Faculty <ls-writing-faculty-group@nyu.edu>, Michael Isaacson <mi930@nyu.edu>, Patricio D Navia <patricio.navia@nyu.edu>, Robert Squillace <robert.squillace@nyu.edu>

Lord, I cannot help but laugh about this.
I know this is serious stuff but it is soooo pathetic I have to laugh.

Now at least, we know who the mysterious Lori on email communications is.
I wonder if she is the "writer" behind Michael's pseudonyms?

Oh God, why am I laughing so hard?

What Terri's email does is confirm for us what we all already know
and thank you Terri for doing this work.

It is a pattern people and Michael Rechtenwald is nothing but a
COWARD and a BULLY and a total punk-ass.

Imagine what place you must be in to have your publicist place a story
on "Anti-PC Professor in High Demand."

And this is what I mean that whether we speak up or not,
Michael Rechtenwald will run to the press.

Whether the University takes action or not,
Michael Rechtenwald will run to the press.

This sad little man has nothing better to do in his life, with his life,
than run to the press with faux causes because he is in desperate need of ATTENTION.

Note: the 75K advance and the name of the publisher has suddenly disappeared
from his social media posts.

The man cannot tell the truth of one thing from the lie of another in his rush to self aggrandizement.

What I find so amazing though, speaking as a writer here, is that aspects of Michael's recent escapades
would make a fascinating book and gain him the notoriety he so clearly NEEDS.

All he needs to do, for example, is write up the story of himself and the 21 year old twins.
Now, that is a story our good friend Lori could definitely sell! eh Michael!

People, there is NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF.

Instead of thinking of Michael Rechtenwald as a wolf in sheep's clothing, as I know some of you think of him, think instead of a sad pathetic 61 year old desperate for relevance and notoriety, pulling at whatever he can pull at to make a name for himself:

All smoke and mirrors, people.

A total punk-ass.

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On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 10:23 PM, Terri Senft <tms2080@nyu.edu> wrote:

Colleagues,

I attach Michael's public Facebook post from this evening, Thursday, May 11, 2017. It's a longish conversation, so I have screen shot the salient bits in which **he offers to mail a publicist the private contents of the conversation that's been transpiring over our university listserv.**

As you can see, the publicist has offered to engage in an "attack and defense" in order to "destroy [Michael's] enemies."

I share this information not because I don't think Michael should talk with the press (that is his right, as it is all of ours) but because this exact dynamic has transpired before at Liberal Studies. The short version goes like this:

1. Michael hears information he doesn't like, discussed within the confines of our community.

This could be an internal discussion about issuing trigger warnings on syllabi (never happened); a discussion about possible promotion delays as faculty question the process (never happened); or a discussion about differences of opinion regarding hiring practices.

2. Michael takes his case to the press, portraying himself as a free thinker victimized by political correctness, regardless of the facts of the matter.

Example: the paid medical leave which Fox News and other portrayed as an attempt at censorship, but was in fact requested by Michael himself, as per the Dean's letter to the Washington Square News. Each time someone internally objects to his characterization of the events, Michael responds with, "Reporters don't always get the story right; this cannot be my responsibility."

Interestingly, even now speaks about the leave in our forum using scare quotes, leading one to believe he still thinks

it wasn't his request to begin with.

3. Michael profits both professionally and financially from activities that are necessarily connected to academia, but have nothing to do with his field of academic expertise

I'm not opposed to making money. I'm opposed to profiteering. Of course you are entitled to see the situation differently. Again, this is my opinion.

4. Michael returns to the community, wondering why distrust and rancor follows his presence.

To this point, I've expressed my opinions of Michael in our private community forum. I have the right to my views about the the ethics of working with someone who courts alt right media, mocks feminism and critical race studies, and associates with blogs that run pseudonymous stories where our living breathing colleagues are implicated and threatened.

Michael, of course, has the right to counter those views here, in conversation. Or to say he won't engage with the views.

Instead, his response has been to threaten lawsuits, to cc our private conversation to his romantic partner Lori, and to offer this material to a publicist promising to "destroy" me, and others, in public forums.

If you can't see the difference between these tactics, then I think it's time we all re-read Foucault.

I'd like to end by saying something that should be obvious to the tech savvy: Reading someone's public social media feed isn't private stalking, especially when someone markets themselves as a political pundit and public figure. Conversely, addressing a community on a group listserv does not constitute private communication; nor is it harassment.

Everyone on this list has the right to read and write about what has been publicly shared elsewhere. My issue is with taking private communications to public media (while everyone else refrains), and then making bank off the political fallout.

If that's how the university does business now, I'd like to know.

Best,
Terri

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 12:52 PM, Jacqueline Bishop <jaj204@nyu.edu> wrote:
Amber Frost,

I find your email astonishing. I can understand you well speaking for yourself, but a statement such as this boggles the imagination: "The truth is he's not trolling around NYU these days ... he can't hurt me or anyone else."

How do you propose to know Ms. Frost who he can and cannot hurt outside of yourself?

To continue your dismissal you write: " And if I concerned myself with every right-wing misogynist who developed an obsession with me, I'd never get anything done."

Astonishing indeed. Ms. Frost, can you allow those of us who have long wanted to tell our stories of abuse and harassment the wherewithal to do us without dismissing our concerns as trivial?

Jacqueline Bishop

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On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 12:01 PM, Amber A Frost <amber.frost@nyu.edu> wrote:

I also work with Michael. He has been harassing me for over two years in both my professional and *personal* life. So if you're directing the whole "privileged calls to civility" thing at me, please knock it off. No one has ever accused me of being civil, and I hardly have the credentials or job security that insulate me from his insanity. I'm the adjunct with the BA he began to hate so intensely after I rebuked his overtures to "friendship" after I received word he was telling friends and fellow activists I got my job through sexual favors.

I believe his words for me were "pseudo-intellectual little tart." Sort of cute, really. I've never been called a tart before. (It's almost quaint compared to the shit I get from neo-Nazis.)

The truth is he's not trolling around NYU these days, so even though he still writes about me, he can't hurt me or anyone else. And if I concerned myself with every right-wing misogynist who developed an obsession with me, I'd never get anything done. I've been on the internet a long time and Michael's little persecution complex publicity stunt is neither the biggest nor the longest campaign against me. He's kid stuff.

Everyone is welcome to fight with Michael all they want, but you won't get what you want out of it. TL;dr: I recommend you don't touch it, you'll just get it on you.

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 11:36 AM, Carley E Moore <carley.moore@nyu.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

I write in support of Jacqueline, Suzanne, Kaia, Terri, and anyone else who has found themselves on the receiving end of Michael Rectenwald's abuse and harassment. Last semester, during a departmental-wide email exchange about promotions, titles, and salaries, Michael wrote me several private emails about my lack of qualifications for full professor (even though I have published two books, a chapbook, several articles, essays, and poems, taught in the program for 15 years with high evaluations, and since been awarded the full title). While the emails were not on the scale of abuse that the women of color in our program have endured, the tone was hostile and abusive and part of Michael's ongoing campaign to silence and harass anyone who seeks to challenge his delusional, narcissistic, and drug-fueled narrative. In this narrative, which he has pedaled to his alt-right followers to unfortunate success, Michael is the victim an oppressive university system that seeks to limit his academic freedom. Never mind that Michael has been silencing his colleagues for years with aggressive outbursts in meetings, hostile private email exchanges, and stare downs in the hallways. At writing meetings (which he thankfully no longer attends), it was common practice for Michael to aggressively assert to his colleagues that he is the only one who knows how to teach writing and that the rest of us are unqualified and unskilled in teaching our students to be critical thinkers. Never mind, that students in LS and GLS emerge from our program with some of the strongest writing skills in the university and are recognized internally and externally for their efforts.

The truth is, it doesn't matter what I write here. Michael cannot hear any of it. We know from an email

exchange leaked by our own dean, that Michael took a medical leave. He was and continues to be unwell. The fact that he cannot admit this and/or take responsibility for any of the damage his illness has caused this program, his students, and his colleagues is deeply troubling. Why doesn't he seek help when he is clearly in so much pain? Only Michael can answer that.

Some of you on this thread have called for silence and civility. I understand the desire to smooth things out, but it's problematic to ask those who have long endured attacks in silence and solitude to return to silence. Working with Michael has been brutal, and the writing faculty have endured the bulk of this brutality. It has caused me deep anxiety and stress, but I know it's only a fraction of what many of my colleagues and good friends have endured. For those of you who have been lucky enough to avoid conflict with Michael, please keep in mind that you are privileged and that at the rate he's going, it's only a matter of time before you're next.

As soon as I press send on this email, I know Michael will respond with threats to sue me and claim that I am harassing him by merely telling my own story of abuse and standing in solidarity with my colleagues. So be it. I am not afraid. I don't care. I have endured some serious shit in my life and this will not break me. And like all of us, I need to finish my grading, get back to working on my book, and take care of my friends and family.

As for Michael's book deal, eh, so be it. Lots of people get book deals. I don't envy the editor who has to work with him on this project. If his behavior in this program is any indication of his work outside of the university, he or she is in for a long haul.

In solidarity,

Carley

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 7:04 AM, Suzanne Menghraj <smm274@nyu.edu> wrote:

Excuse my error regarding your title, Michael. The error is corrected directly below. It was a product of my utter exhaustion, not an incompetence carried by the color of my skin. Everything I state in the email below is true and the email's last paragraph is in force.

Suzanne Maria Menghraj

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On May 11, 2017, at 1:17 AM, Suzanne Menghraj <smm274@nyu.edu> wrote:

Michael, you have presented here as elsewhere misleading characterizations of the LS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group.

First, the DEI Working Group is a working group. It neither has nor wants the power to make decisions about the leaves or employment status of any faculty member, including you. I

must note as well that it is you who introduced the language of guilt in your interview with *Washington Square News*: since it is the language you chose to use, I—a Clinical Assistant Professor to your now Clinical Full Assistant Professor—decided to speak it. It was my choice. I claim it. If you are so offended by the letter's use of your language, blame me, a Clinical Assistant Professor.

Second, twelve individuals who belonged last Fall to the fourteen-member-group—not the group as a body, as you have repeatedly stated—co-signed the letter to which you refer. We had every right to publicly dispute what we determined to be false and misleading characterizations and illogical ideas, and that is what we did. We might use them differently, but we have the same rights to free speech that you enjoy.

Unfortunately for your arguments, we did no harm to academic freedom when we questioned the thinking and civility of a colleague who suggested on social media that "liberal totalitarians" offended by Trump jump out of their dorm windows and warned the following in a tweet (I quote from your tweet of September 26, 2016): "Coming: EXPLOSIVE proof of uni admins' malfeasance hiring, promoting & protecting #frauds solely bc of identity & that's 1/2 of it! #idpol."

Third, you note that we call ourselves the "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group," as if we are a roving gang that spontaneously decided to form. The group was already named when we were appointed to it. I cannot presume to speak for group members, but I do not think any of us would change the group's name had we the chance. To remind you, we were appointed to do the following:

- Facilitate the sharing of information across and among the different areas of LS.
- Identify diversity, equity, and inclusion issues and concerns of interest and importance to the LS community.
- Make recommendations to the dean on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Report periodically to the LS community.

That's it. Discussion hosting is the only other task the LS DEI Working Group has undertaken.

The DEI Working Group would undoubtedly be happy to engage in debate about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives university-wide and within Liberal Studies: we have had such debates internally. We have held several events this year—two teach-ins and an open meeting—to which you received invitations. You did not attend. These would have been excellent opportunities for you to share your views about diversity, equity, and inclusion with the DEI Working Group and with the LS community.

Your persistent and misleading efforts to claim that your free speech is at risk in Liberal Studies when it so clearly is not have made working in Liberal Studies—a place that can otherwise be so enriching—a nightmare for me and I know several other of our colleagues this year. I have a job to do—to teach, to study, to create, to collaborate with my colleagues, and to exchange ideas, cultures, and methodologies with people who thrive on such exchange—and that work, which includes my work on the LS DEI Working Group, has nothing to do with you personally and nothing to do with your leave of absence. If you suggest otherwise on this thread or elsewhere, you will not be telling the truth.

I disagree with many of your ideas. I would be happy to debate with you if I thought you could exchange ideas without maligning me on the basis of my identity or on the basis of my role as co-chair of the DEI Working Group. Because I do not see evidence that such exchange is a possibility for you, I must state very clearly the following: Do not email me privately or publicly. Do not directly or indirectly address me on this thread: I will consider any contact whatsoever from you harassment and will report to Human Resources and to the Office of Equal Opportunity that you have incited harassment if I see any further evidence

whatsoever that you have done so. Do not stand in front of the elevator as its doors close and attempt to stare me down: I have the inner strength of a fucking massif and you will never succeed in intimidating me. Do not harass me. Do not incite people to whom you are connected through social media or otherwise to harass me.

Suzanne

Suzanne Maria Menghraj

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On May 10, 2017, at 6:28 PM, Michael Rectenwald <michael.rectenwald@nyu.edu> wrote:

This is yet another email that represents libel, defamation of character, harassment, and abuse.

I never sent any abusive email to Jacqueline Bishop after asking to use her computer for my son. I challenge her to prove it by providing said email as a screen shot so as to prove its veracity.

Secondly, I may have asked for her support for various positions. So what? There is nothing nefarious about that, at all. I needed service work. I have had many other colleagues solicit my support in votes for positions.

Third, I am the only one here being libeled, abused, and subject to defamation of character, yet I have not said one negative word about anyone in this faculty by name, either in my interviews, in public writing, or in these emails..

From the outset, all I did was to critique an ideology and its attendant institutional mechanisms. This set a committee in motion to attack me within two days, initiated the dean to call an HR person and invite me to a meeting on the same day that the condemnation was published by a committee calling itself the "Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group (an Orwellian misnomer if there ever was one), and a "voluntary" leave of absence being strongly encouraged by the dean and a heretofore unannounced HR person.

The press found out about the story, including the timing of the "voluntary" leave, coinciding as it did with the "guilty" verdict issued by the forenamed committee. The press considered the timing quite suspect and the whole ordeal quite interesting. To all observers outside the LS echo chamber the story was indicative of jus how "Liberal Studies" deals with dissenting opinion regarding "social justice" ideology, PC authoritarianism, or whatever you want to call it.

Then, after I recently publish a personal essay, a pseudonymous one written about a fictionally named school is ascribed to me. Instead of ignoring it, the people who see themselves in the story out themselves in a hilarious move of self-implication. If the stories are lies, why are they able to see themselves the narrative in question? That article was not penned by me, although I do know how the author is.

Then a round of email attacks is initiated against me, in a apparently coordinated (although poorly considered) campaign, in which "colleagues" attack me personally, libel and defame my character to an entire list serv, and abuse me verbally. This campaign even includes an (unknown to me) faculty member calling me an "asshole " four times in one email on a public list serv. Meanwhile, the LS administration is utterly silent and thus complicit in allowing this sordid attack.

Meanwhile, I had not written a word to the faculty at all about any of this all semester. Nor had I ever mentioned a single person by name in any public writing or interview.

As for the story of the interview, the account for the wronged party will be forthcoming shortly. And I am not the only one on the committee who was attacked verbally by the person in question claiming the opposite. Hopefully this other person on the committee will also come forward to say just how they were treated by the person in question. That committee was not returned to "peace" after I stepped down, but was rife with acrimony to the very end, as any honest interlocutor involved can testify.

Now, notice I have not libeled, defamed, sworn at, or abused anyone here. But I have had all of this done to me.

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On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 2:41 PM, Jacqueline Bishop <jaj204@nyu.edu> wrote:

Amber,

It is precisely leaving that intellectual tumbleweed "alone" that has gotten us in this situation.

For close to two years now since that search committee I have said nothing. When this sad pathetic soul who sends to the faculty a list of his interviews with, among other peer reviewed publications, Breitbart News, sent me an email years ago asking me for the password to my computer, when I was away on a Fulbright award, so his son could use my computer when I was gone, and I told him no, and he sent me back a nasty abusive email in response, I said nothing.

When he sent me email after email, all of which I found this morning, imploring me to nominate him for this or that position in Liberal Studies, I

said nothing.

Saying NOTHING emboldens bullies and cowards.

Saying NOTHING Amber is precisely what got us in this position.

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On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 1:49 PM, Michael Rectenwald

<michael.rectenwald@nyu.edu> wrote:

I don't care what your B.A. was in, Amber, nor have I said anything about it. Further, I am hardly in misery. I have transcended all of this garbage, and am enjoying writing about the insidious ideology that has overtaken the university system, nationwide and beyond, while being handsomely rewarded for it.

Adios, and please leave me alone. All of the abusive, libelous and defamatory emails have been entered into evidence.

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On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 1:45 PM, Amber A Frost

<amber.frost@nyu.edu> wrote:

Might I suggest we simply move on and allow Michael to wallow in his rage and misery? He's an intellectually impotent man (despite the libidinous bitterness).

(For the future though Michael, my BA was in English, not sociology.)

Enjoy the life you've made for yourself.

To everyone else, I wish you all a lovely summer!

AAF

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 11:57 AM Jacqueline Bishop

<jaj204@nyu.edu> wrote:

As well you should know all about operating in a pack and attack mobs Michael Rectenwald.
Chickens have a way of coming home to roost.

I welcome talking to your lawyer or whomever else you might send my way you coward now running for cover.

I have kept quiet about this long enough.

Now that the semester is over and I now have the time I welcome sharing my side of things with the media.
I welcome telling them how you came to our meetings high and incoherent with your tongue constantly sticking out the side of your mouth.

There were four of us in those meetings you remember, I was not alone.

You held the other three members hostage as chair, unless your friend got to the second round of interviewing. Not one of the other three of us wanted that loser.
You said it was your prerogative as chair and you might have been too adderall-filled to recall that you told us you promised the job to your friend.

Need I go on? Need I say all the awful things that you went on with? How you danced and hollered and almost jumped on a chair, while stomping forcefully on a table that your friend "Nailed it! He nailed it!" after a disastrous interview performance. How you said there was nothing wrong with sharing the interview questions with your friends.

I was not on that committee alone you idiot.

You have a story to share with the media you racist, sexist, misogynist Michael Rectenwald:
Well so do !!

As my grandmother used to say: You are the short pants boy they call the devil.

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On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 11:32 AM, Michael Rechtenwald
<michael.rechtenwald@nyu.edu> wrote:

SJWs operate in pack and attack mobs. If you seek asylum from their baseless slander, libel, and defamation of character, they call you a "snowflake," imagining that they proffer a clever reversal. The problem is, and I've said this many times, SJWs create a need for that which they demand by virtue of their culture of grievance and dog-piling. Eventually, they almost all become victims of their own tactics, as SJW ideology is a self-immolating creed of one-downsmanship, a competition for who's the ultimate victim. Victimology produces real victims.

Now, do not contact me again, Michael Isaacson, as I will deem it harassment and act accordingly.

Michael Rechtenwald

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On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 10:47 AM, Michael Isaacson
<mi930@nyu.edu> wrote:

Sounds like you need a safe space, snowflake.

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 10:37 AM, Michael Rechtenwald
<michael.rechtenwald@nyu.edu> wrote:

This email represents defamation of character. I have never expressed racist, sexist or misogynist views. But, you are

attempting to employ an "Orwellian" tactic -- that of accusing me of unfalsifiable thought crimes. Denials on my part will only be used as evidence of guilt. Likewise, I will not play along. However, I will refer to the proper channels for adjudicating the explicit defamation of character.

Finally, I consider any further contact from Jacqueline Bishop as harassment. No contact is acceptable.

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On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 5:07 PM, Jacqueline Bishop
<jaj204@nyu.edu> wrote:

Patricio,

I am glad you have not had to deal with the active threats and aggression that many of us have had to deal with from Michael Rechtenwald hence your email about fights staying in the twitter sphere.

I am speaking here as a woman of color who had that coward lean across the table and point his finger in her face to try and silence her when it became clear that he had fed his friend the questions we had devised on a hiring committee. When I stood up and shouted at the coward to back off --- paraphrasing the "anonymous" piece from that "anonymous writer" in that useless publication that anonymous writer ran to the dean to seek protection from "me" after he was the one who physically attacked me.

My colleagues, by Michael Rechtenwald's own words we are dealing with a racist, sexist, misogynistic, adderal-filled bully. Take that to whom-ever you want to take that to you coward Michael Rechtenwald.

My colleagues if he tries to step to any one of you, all you need to do is step right back at him.
DO NOT BE AFRAID. HE IS A COWARD AND A BULLY
NOTHING MORE.

SHOW HIM UP FROM THE FRAGILE WHITE MALE THAT HE IS.

He comes after women of color and people he thinks has no power.
NOT THIS TIME SATAN.

My Colleagues, what Michael Rectenwald wants more than anything else is ATTENTION.
Some of you I know are afraid to take him on because you think he will run to the first news outlet because we all see that every time a story is dying down he does something to invent another story to get himself on FOX news.

So what is the use of staying quiet?
He is CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET ATTENTION.

And oh yeah, congratulations on the \$75,000 advance from St. Martin that you announced yesterday.
I laughed when I saw it circulating on social media. I wondered about the veracity of it.

JACQUELINE BISHOP

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On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 4:20 PM, Patricio D Navia
<patricio.navia@nyu.edu> wrote:

As a very active twitter user—with a few more followers than anybody else in LS J—I would humbly suggest that twitter fights should stay in the twitter-sphere.

Anyone is free to do as they please, but I suspect that bringing the twitter aggressive behavior into our regularly polite and friendly LS environment will take us down a route of hostility and confrontation that nobody wants.

I don't mean to silence anyone. I just politely suggest that it might not be a good idea to transform the LS environment into a twitter-like war zone.

Sincerely yours,

Patricio Navia

From: Terri Senft [mailto:tms2080@nyu.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Fredric S Schwarzbach <fss3@nyu.edu>; Robert Squillace <robert.squillace@nyu.edu>
Cc: LS Cultural Foundations Faculty <ls-cultural-foundations-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; LS Social Foundations Faculty <ls-social-foundations-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; LS Writing Faculty <ls-writing-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; LS Economics Faculty <ls-economics-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; LS Science Faculty <ls-science-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; GLS Faculty <gls-faculty-group@nyu.edu>; LS Global Cultures Faculty <ls-global-cultures-faculty-group@nyu.edu>
Subject: Congrats to M. Rechtenwald on his 75K advance from St. Martin's Press!

Hi Everyone,

I'm sure you'll want to join me in congratulating our colleague Michael Rechtenwald, who announced last night via Twitter that he recently sold a book to St. Martin's Press with a 75K advance.

As our newly hired colleagues know, an advance that size is 10K more than they'll make this year! More importantly, this marks a turning point for the St. Martin's catalogue. I personally find it very exciting to see a commercial publishing compensating Michael's academic expertise in 19th century secularism so well.

Of course, there is the off-chance the book

won't focus on Michael's academic specialties, but on his recently acquired notoriety as a pundit. I'm thinking here of his recent appearances on Fox News, Breitbart and other venues, where Michael has been arguing that his career has been stalled at Liberal Studies because he is a white male, and that his merit has been sidelined by less deserving women and minority groups.

I'll confess, I've never been clear on the grounds for this argument, given Michael's recent paid leave from NYU, and his obtaining the title of Full Clinical (that word omitted from Twitter bio?) Professor last year. That said, I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. If St. Martin's is publishing his work, perhaps they understand something I don't.

Generally, the publication of a high profile book like this spins someone into "major figure" status. With this in mind, and given the fact that we are fortunate to have him as a colleague, I plan to start assigning his work to students immediately.

I am going to begin with his recent memoir piece in a blog called Quillette. The blog, where Michael notes (per his Twitter account) that he is a frequent contributor, prides itself on alternative viewpoints. In the essay I'll be assigning, the alternative viewpoint of interest to Michael is anti-feminism.

In this essay, Michael shows us how feminism is a damaging ideology that has taken its toll on him personally, professionally, and sexually.

As writing teachers, we know it can be useful to assign students essays that speak to them personally. For this reason, I really appreciate the way Michael began this essay: by decoding a Facebook post he recently stumbled (?) across, written by a young (his words) woman about the sort of behavior she does and doesn't want to receive from men interested in dating her.

As Michael reads the young woman's words (presumably intended for the eyes of others in her age range) he indeed voices an "alternative viewpoint," which is this: by mentioning she doesn't want unasked for physical contact in a prospective date, the young woman goes beyond being naive and delusional. Indeed, her very mention of sexual contact (even in the negative) causes the reader (that would be sixty year old him) to imagine her as a sexual creature who secretly desires exploitation. He says it so much better than I do, so I'll quote him here:

One cannot but imagine sputum (or something) dripping from this obsequious supplicant's lips, while he, she, ze, they, or whatever, confesses fealty to a leftist doctrine and begs admission to the cult of the goddess.

There are other fascinating moments in the essay, which provides a great deal of helpful backstory for colleagues who work with Michael, but I think for students, the above section does a fair amount of the heavy ideological lifting. Plus it's short!

For those interesting in exploring Quillette further, I'd recommend another article written under a pseudonym, about the "General Studies" department of a pseudonymous Liberal Arts college.

In this piece, the writer alleges (based on his presence at internal hiring committee meetings) that a program not unlike NYU Liberal Studies denied a talented white male applicant, and hired a sub-standard Black female for no other reason that because she is a minority.

It is note-worthy that although pseudonyms were used Quillette readers (presumably interested in justice) took it upon themselves to follow up the clues in the article. When they unearthed the contact information of our Liberal Studies colleague and brand new hire Dr. Kaia Shivers, the writer of the Quillette piece neither confirmed nor denied that this was the individual in question. This was an interesting silence on the part of the author, who had been monitoring the conversation earlier.

As her colleagues, we might find it noteworthy that within a day of the article, Dr. Shivers (a Black woman, for those who have not met her) began to receive racist hate mail from people claiming they had proof her professional reputation has no merit. Thus far, the Administration's response to those of us asking what we can do to re-secure Kaia's sense of security and her professional reputation has been that she can contact Campus Security if she fears for her safety.

Apologies for what was meant to be a short note of congratulations to Michael. I know, because you've said as much in the press, that you have suffered for your beliefs. I know \$75, 000 will go a long way toward your healing.

And I definitely speak for many of us on the faculty when I say we look forward to sharing your published work and social media updates with all the young students and prospective teaching applicants-- especially women and people of color--who thinking about teaching or learning in Liberal Studies.

Best,
Terri Senft

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