

*No Lad Left Behind:
“The End of History” Claims Great Britain*



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**Prepared by the Republican House Policy Committee
United States Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter, Chair
110th Congress**

Anthem for Doomed Youth

We can but read and weep over the UK's *Telegraph* newspaper's headline – "Winston Churchill didn't really exist, say teens."

Yes, in a February 4, 2008 article by Aislinn Simpson, a survey of 3,000 British teenagers uncovered their dismaying inability to discern history from fantasy. Of those teens canvassed, the following historical figures were felt to be fictional: Winston Churchill (by 20% of British teens); Florence Nightengale (by 27%); and Richard the Lionheart (by 47%). Some of the fictional characters British teens believed to be historical figures were King Arthur (by 65%); Sherlock Holmes (by 58%); Robin Hood (by 51%); and Eleanor Rigby (by 47%).



In due course, the article blames the victims:

"The study also shows a marked change in how people [the teens] acquire their historical knowledge these days. More than three-quarters of those polled (77%) admitted they did not read history books, and 61% said that they changed channels rather than watch historical programmes on television."

School was not deemed an option for learning. Accordingly, the article never wastes time faulting Britain's teachers or the teens' parents for this wanton historical ignorance. Instead, an explanation, if not an excuse, of sorts is proffered on the youths' behalf:

"Paul Moreton, the channel head of UKTV Gold, which commissioned the poll, said that while there was no excuse for demoting real historical figures such as Churchill, the elevation of mythical figures to real life showed the impact good films could have in shaping the public consciousness. 'Stories like Robin Hood are so inspiring that it's not surprising people like to believe these characters truly existed,' he said."

Unfortunately, Mr. Moreton did not opine on the impact bad films have on warping the public consciousness; nor did he quantify how much inspiration – *to do what?* – could transform a titillating tale of criminality or other societal deviancy into a "good film" that makes historical reality unnecessary, if not irrelevant. Evidently, "we'll know them when we see them." Regardless, at least the article doesn't measure how the British students' "public consciousness" falsely inflates their self esteem.

Extrapolating from the survey's data, we can cobble together a future list of ten historical figures British teens will eventually and erroneously deem fictional characters from sundry works:

1. **Teachers** – the mean people in *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*
2. **William Wordsworth** – Shakespeare's pen name
3. **David Lloyd George** – the "Welsh Wizard" in *Harry Potter*
4. **The Kaiser** – a boisterous German baker with eponymous buns
5. **Jane Austen** – a corset model for *Queen Victoria's Secret*
6. **St. George** – slayer of "Nessie"
7. **Oscar Wilde** – the tart tongued side-kick of *The Man with the Golden Gun*
8. **Parents** – *Brave New World's* ATMs
9. **The Irish** – the intemperate mythical race who trashed *The Hobbit*
10. **God** – the intemperate mythical deity who trashed Soho and Gomorrah



Conversely, we can also glean a future list of ten fictional characters British teens will mistakenly consider historical figures and for what deeds:

1. **James Bond** – inventor of epoxy
2. **Sergeant Pepper** – leader of the British Expeditionary Force that liberated North America from the fascist hordes of *Der Fabian*
3. **John Bull** – BBC News Anchor
4. **Monty Python** – the Raj's first Brit to "go native" and open an exotic dance emporium
5. **Mr. Bean** – vegan promoter of organic foods and co-ed scrums
6. **La Belle Dame sans Merci** – Cromwell's dominatrix
7. **The Scarlet Pimpernel** – Tony Blair's "glam" band
8. **Jane Eyre** – green house gas advocate of euthanizing the House of Lords to curb wasteful CO2 emissions
9. **Ziggy Stardust** – first English astronaut to orbit Uranus
10. **Dr. Rowan Williams** – an Archbishop of Canterbury



Yet, we Americans should seek no solace in lampooning the educational nadir within Late Britain during its epic slide from imperial super-power to EU office space. Given how our nation has so often emulated the History of the King's English Speaking Peoples, we should fret our teens could be left behind an opaque veil of historical amnesia.

Indeed, we may not be far from the day our youths confuse these ten American historical figures with fictional characters:

1. **Teachers** – the invisible voices in Charlie Brown's head
2. **William Howard Taft** – the pink Tele-tubby
3. **Abigail Adams** – Gomez's wife
4. **Bono** – the simian co-star of Reagan's "chimp flick"
5. **Sacco and Vanzetti** – Laverne and Shirley's nerdy neighbors

6. **Huey Long** – the bed-wetter in Dr. Seuss’ *A Long Day’s Journey into Night-Night*
7. **Nathan Hale** – The “not hot” Weather Channel anchor
8. **Carrie Nation** – the maiden name of Lady Liberty before she was repatriated to us by the Turks after we lost the War Between the Sexes
9. **Parents** – a liberal blogger’s landlords
10. **God** – the ill-fated protagonist of *God and Man at Yale*



And how long will it be until our students feel these American fictional characters are historical figures:

1. **Dirty Harry** – the President who resigned after his Watergate flooded New Orleans
2. **Conan the Barbarian** – Block Captain of the Main Street Partnership
3. **Uncle Sam** – former World Wrestling Champion
4. **Super Mario Brothers** – the Free Cuban Air Force pilots who shot Donkey Kong off the Umpire State Building for flouting the City of New Jersey’s “Curb Your Pet” ordinance
5. **Little Orphan Annie** – a victim of Reaganomics
6. **Arthur Fonzarelli** – *Il Duce* of Milwaukee
7. **The Sasquatch** – a Native American tribe butchered by genocidal Europeans
8. **Bonzo** – U2’s lead singer who became Reagan’s Vice President
9. **Dougie Howser, M.D.** – inventor of E.D.
10. **Milburn Drysdale** – the Free Mason and global financier who built the NAFTA super-highway



Given this depraved prospect, is it too late to web search “Roman + Stoics” – or is it “Greek + Sophists”? – for Seneca’s warning: “Life is short and anxious for those who forget the past, neglect the present and fear the future.”

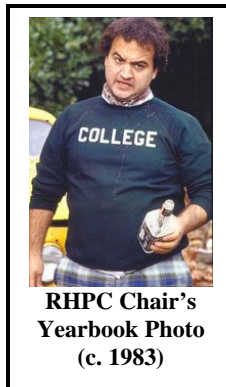
Yea, such ominous ruminations upon the future of our free republic’s young weigh heavily upon the modernist mind. But the hour draws nigh and the blackberry writhes with a reminder of promises yet kept. Time to slam a Slim-Fast and jog off to one’s “EST” class reunion –

Bad things come to those who’re late!



Sketch artist's rendering of
the imaginary Churchill

Contributing Republican House Policy Committee Members



RHPC Chair's
Yearbook Photo
(c. 1983)

Hon. Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI)