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**Gordon Wayne Watts** 1 hr · 🌐

**\*\* FEEDBACK SOUGHT\*\*** I guess everybody remembers how I raked my friend, Congressman Dennis Ross, over the coals, in my recent scorched-earth column: <http://www.TheLedger.com/.../COLUMNISTS03/160809884/1382/edit...> And, not before my infamous "Heavy Hand" letter really embarrassing him & his office for cyber-bullying: <http://www.TheLedger.com/artic.../20130124/News/608070720/LL> (The fact he still talks to me & isn't mad speaks volumes to his good character!) Anyhow, before I turn up the temperature to max heat for my next scorched-earth column, I'm tagging a few friends because I'm about to contemplate "Part 2," & wanted your feedback -because I admit that I don't know it all:

My next victim... uh, I mean, subject... is Sec of Ed, Betsy DeVos. While I agree with her conclusion on Public Ed vouchers, I'm adamantly opposed to the lame defense (or lack thereof is more accurate), & wanted to chide & "educate" the Sec. of "Education," ironically. I also have concerns with how African Americans are getting the short end of the stick, as TIME magazine documents: "Four years after graduating college, black students owe nearly twice as much student debt as their white peers do and are three times more likely to default on those loans, according to a new paper by the Brookings Institution." Source: "Black College Grads Have Twice as Much Student Debt as Whites," by Kerri Anne Renzulli, TIME, Oct 21, 2016: <http://Time.com/money/4540266/student-debt-racial-gap/> While I'm bothering to write a follow-up, I think I'll hold DeVos' feet to the fire on the same 2 points where I felt Congressman Ross failed: Failing to grasp the 'Bennett Hypothesis,' which states costs increase when you subsidizes, and, of course, the issue of bankruptcy for college loans, the lack of which is wrong for numerous reasons: Not trying to get a free handout, but I despise being called a 'Liberal Snowflake' seeking a 'Free Handout' College: WAS free back on their day, so those old-timers making fun of me are the ones who were getting a free handout -- PROOF: "Was college once free in United States, as Bernie Sanders says?," PolitiFact, RATED "Mostly True" - By Amy Sherman on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. <http://www.PolitiFact.com/.../was-college-once-free-united-st...>

Anyhow, here's a few excerpts from my rough draft - please tell me what you think, even if you disagree with me: All voices are important, and we only get stronger if we listen to all voices - and not just those which we agree. The DOE was kind enough to both visit my website (which I documented) and also respond to me, acknowledging me emails:

\* [http://gordonwatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email\\_PDF.pdf](http://gordonwatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email_PDF.pdf)  
 \* [http://gordonwaynewatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email\\_HTML....](http://gordonwaynewatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email_HTML....)

The following is an excerpt from my recent Press Inquiry to the U.S. Dept. of

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**Mary Waltz** likes Hollie Angeli's post.

**Kathi Swann** commented on her own photo.

**Kevin Chesser** replied to Debbie Stoer's comment.

**Sheryl Preston Tumey** likes Linda Stevens's post in Lake Helen Sell and Trade.

**J Robert Ungy** shared We the People's photo.

**Martha Moore Carter** likes Harvard F Miller II's post.

**Toni Mencias Colon** likes Robert Roy Rackelman's photo.

**Dena R Stewart-Gore** shared Governor Matt Bevin's video.

**Sharon Crosby Ferris** commented on her own post.

**Alicia Hamilton Shepard** replied to Krista Joyce Holloway's comment.

**Cliff Halford** likes Les chats dormant n'importe où's post.

**Dave Koenig** "The Insanity continues!!!"

**Ilya Galak** replied to his own comment.

**Joel Luther** 3h

GROUP CONVERSATIONS

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Education, where I reminded them I'm capable of embarrassing press if they give me some flack:

\* [http://gordonwatts.com/Fri10Mar2017\\_Press-Inquiry-AOL-to-Do...](http://gordonwatts.com/Fri10Mar2017_Press-Inquiry-AOL-to-Do...)

\* [http://gordonwatts.com/Press-Inquiry\\_FollowUp\\_HTML.html](http://gordonwatts.com/Press-Inquiry_FollowUp_HTML.html)

ROUGH DRAFT: [""Why is there a deafening silence from the Dept of Ed and the Trump administration when there is a good comparison, with the Federal Pell Grant, which they might use to defend the use of vouchers? I'm VERY disappointed, but, unlike others, I won't merely complain, but rather try to help them effect a solution - in this case, to their problem of deafening silence & mute inability to defend their voucher plan: Here's my take:

Proponents of Public Ed vouchers, chiefly Conservatives, Republicans, & right-wingers, argue that vouchers would help Public Education because they promote free market competition between private & public schools by affording "school choice" to parents & students. Proof of that is seen because this model has worked in Higher Ed, with publicly funded colleges & universities directly competing with private universities for tuition money provided by the Government, such as the G.I. Bill & the Pell Grant.

Since liberal college students have no compunctions or qualms taking their Federal Pell Grants, and running to any school of their choice (even private or religious colleges), this is proof that this model works, but are Pells and Vouchers comparable?

Based on numerous phone conversations with U.S. Department of Education policy experts, the DOE Press Officers, and my own research from their official website, I conclude that the answer is 'yes': The Pell Grant, a need-based aid, like the Voucher, can only be used for authorized school expenses at qualified schools, and, like the Pell, the money follows the student, for use against those authorized expenses (not all expenses are covered): Sources: "Federal Pell Grants are usually awarded only to undergraduate students.". Retrieved March 10, 2017:

<https://StudentAid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell> and:

"Wondering how the amount of your federal student aid is determined?".

Retrieved March 10, 2017: <https://StudentAid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated> Lastly, DeVos, Trump, and others have found many people who have testified publicly that they were helped when vouchers made up a financial shortfall to compensate for their attempts to get out of a poor-performing public school.

Conclusion: Since even Liberals take their PELL grants and gladly use them at private colleges, and the "public" state colleges aren't harmed or hurt (even tho said public colleges have \*less\* public funding than public education schools, which are 100%-funded), then there should be even \*less\* problem with vouchers than with PELL grants, so DeVos and her supporters would be wise to use this analogy as an affirmative defense & argument in whereof we support vouchers.""]

OK, that's my proposed defense. When Liberals read this, there will be a temptation to continue to support vouchers (and if I'm wrong, let me have

it). But, if I'm right, then my guess & hope is that most liberals (who gladly take Federal Pell Grants, similar in function) should admit they're wrong. (And, if DeVos & her Press Officers are honest, they'll \*also\* admit that they were also wrong to not use this common-sense defense.)

What do you think of my proposed defense of the voucher plan. (And, if you have time, what about my recent column about Congressman Ross or the other points I raised in my letter to the DOE?) Thanks,

Gordon W. Watts in Lakeland///

PS: I don't tag people often, but if you wanna avoid me tagging you in the future, just say so - no problemo. 😊

Gordon Wayne Watts Doris Moore Bailey Ricky Shirah Robert More Jason Mattair Brett Uphagrove Brian Dockery Elliott Dorsch Justin Troller Lisa Miller Randy Wilkinson Randy Wilkinson Paula Davis Hacker April Mathis Rebekah E Ricks David Pippin Nancy Shaar Joel Luther Sheree Guastella Anthony Brian Logan Dan Burress Dena Stebbins DeCamp Jake Walsh Barb Stotler Jerry Legister Duwayne A Peart Patricia Killough Jennifer Gilford Anderson Carole Hawver MacKay Shawn Gilliam James Neighbors Anthony Stevens Dallas Thurman Earl Shay Beckye Rayburn Raquel Okyay MariLeigh Rayburn Dwight Young Calvin Marion Edward Caldwell Ron Hornback Shandale Terrell Erika Grey Brian Duggan Jeff Cox Natalie Wright



### A Polk Perspective: Fix our bankrupt policy on student debt

In May 2014 U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross told those listening to a "teletown" hall meeting that if college students can't repay their loans from a

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**T** Robert More After having read your proposed defense, Mr. Watts, I challenge anyone who would disagree with its logic. In other words, great job. Now, the question is whether pride will be a deterrent to those parties who either disagree (so-called liberals) or supposedly agree but were not clever enough to use your proposed defense (the dept of ed and Ms. Betsy DeVos).

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 1 hr

Gordon Wayne Watts Thank you for your feedback, Robert More -and

for your support.

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 1 hr



Write a reply...



**David Cohn** It is irrelevant whether it was once free. Base cost of tuition was immensely less at the time for anyone not applicable for reduced rates (to the point of being free). Administrative costs were a fraction of what they are today. The number of students were a fraction of what they are today. The last thing we should be considering is an immense Bernie style financial transaction tax to make it cost significantly less or "free". Such a tax would make buying and selling 100 shares of Priceline cost almost \$2,000. That is reprehensible. The cost would be huge to people saving for a home and retirement. Pensions would get hit really hard. Find a way to reduce the cost without income / financial tax based wealth redistribution.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 52 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** It is not pleasant, but i must agree with you on these points - moreover, even if it \*were\* totally free 100%, it'd still be morally wrong to try & get it free now - 2 wrongs don't make right -- some costs must be carried by students, just not like it is today.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 51 mins · Edited



**David Cohn** One should note that even in socialist Europe, most countries require payment of a few thousand each semester or year for tuition. If anything, this places a little personal responsibility on the student and makes them less likely to quit or party.

Unlike · Reply ·  3 · 49 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** David Cohn I agree with all that.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 47 mins



Write a reply...



**David Cohn** Pell grants should be restricted to public colleges and universities. That would help.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 51 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** I don't think anyone's suggested using a Federal Pell Grant for public education, but the voucher operate in much the same way. Since colleges are funded even less than high schools & other public ed (colleges get only some tax dollars, whereas public ed is 100% supported), and they're not harmed by use of pells, then I don't see any problems with public ed being hurt by vouchers.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 49 mins



Write a reply...



**David Cohn** In terms of K to 12, all the voucher programs I have read about in America were immense failures, especially in New Jersey where a competing liberal approach was used that succeeded.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 50 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** I agree that vouchers are not a cure-all, but likewise, students might take a pell grant and be lazy, or have other problems like, say, drugs, living in a high crime area, or any random thing - but anyhow, thx 4 weighing in.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 48 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** What liberal method were used there?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 48 mins



**David Cohn** I am unsure, as I read about this some time ago. I am okay with some variant of vouchers, as they work very well in parts of Europe. However, the attempted methods here have been failures.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 46 mins



**David Cohn** American students are likely the laziest in the first world and certainly most prone to party heavily and quit. What can we do about it? Making college "free" seems to be exactly the wrong answer. Any assistance should be predicated on finishing a degree, short of a medical issue with the individual or a close family member.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 40 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** **David Cohn** I agree that making it harder to enroll might be a good thing, but having easy-loans-monies is not the way to do it. And, while I'm poor, I have paid back around several thousand dollars (don't recall exactly), but I paid as much as I could -- and agree that students should carry some of the weight. Just not 10,000 tons of weight.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 38 mins



**David Cohn** I would like to find a way to fund better Pell Grants. Some options include: charging an extra fee on skilled guest worker permits (h1b and h2b, but not agriculture and such), placing a tax on meat and dairy and dividing the funds between food aid for the poor and money for tuition, introducing more programs where a percent of future income may be paid in lieu of tuition (proven to work in select cities), limiting grants to practical degrees and the top performers for the arts, requiring payback for assistance for students not finishing except for medical issues, entertainment industry taxes, and getting rid of the rising of the basis to current stock price upon death for investment taxes. All of these eliminate the need for blanket transaction, income, or VAT taxes, while still immensely helping tuition funding. Of course, better help than any of these would be simply reducing the base cost of tuition to reasonable levels, like those in other first world countries.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 31 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** **David Cohn** colleges have too many lavish expenses (yhuuuge salaries and fancy buildings - plus some occasional stupid research projects too).. -- This happened when they saw endless loan monies guaranteed by taxpayers. Colleges need to be like they were in the past - colleges, not play grounds.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 29 mins




**Mary Waltz** <http://www.dailywire.com/.../generation-idiot-college...>




**GENERATION IDIOT: College Students Using Student Loans For Spring Break...**

DAILYWIRE.COM


Unlike · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · 42 mins

 **Gordon Wayne Watts** Yep -good point... that's another reason why I support the Bennett Hypothesis (which would imply we need to stop using tax dollars to make or guarantee ANY student loans.) 😊




Unlike · Reply · 2 · 41 mins

 **David Cohn** I am certainly open to trying with only the private sector for a few years to compare the results. The liberals would like the idea of bankruptcies eliminating bad student debt.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 25 mins

 **Gordon Wayne Watts** **David Cohn** bankruptcy options in the hand of a student with college loans are like a big-fat gun in the hands of a victim: Would be painful & scary for a short bit, but scare off evil predatory lenders and reduce crime in the end.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 mins

 Write a reply...  



**James Neighbors** I think another reform that should be done, is when the govt makes fields obsolete, student loans should be forgiven. I went to Radio Broadcasting School, and thanks to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, I have never been able to get a job in that field. 10's of thousands of people lost their jobs, and it brought about the fake news media we have today. As well, some degrees simply need to be eliminated and reduced to optional courses at most if they have no viable place in the workforce. Last I heard, there were no Gender Studies factories, and that is just one example of many garbage degrees being pumped out by our so-called higher education system.


Colleges should be geared toward productivity in society, and if you wish to take things that are not, you should be paying for that entirely on your own dime.

Philosophy is great, but good luck finding a job with a degree in it. There are many such things like this in universities today. Fields of study that have absolutely no bearing toward a person being able to feed themselves.


As for the people who owe more than others and they happen to be black, what courses of study are they taking? Are they things that do not apply in the real world that can attain a paying job? Or are they taking things useless in a job market?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 36 mins · Edited


^ Hide 28 Replies

 **Gordon Wayne Watts** Yep - good points, **James Neighbors** -- and, I let'em have it in my email to the DOE. -- I only regret I forgot to mention my embarrassing "Heavy Hand" letter to the editor, linked above: Congressman Ross has 'Heavy Hand' online (in cyber-bullying) -- - It was a staff member, not him - and they fired the guy.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 35 mins

 **James Neighbors** The sad fact is, most universities are nothing more than brainwashing centers and diploma mills, with no thought of the actual usefulness of the degree. As long as you leave politically correct, they have achieved their goal.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 33 mins

 **James Neighbors** There's going to have to be a purge of so-called Professors and their graduate assistants in the higher-education



system across this nation. Replace them with people who have worked in the field of study. Kinda like how Universities once were. People who had experience in a viable field, teaching others how to be useful in society. Before universities existed, they were called apprenticeships.

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 31 mins



**David Cohn** My university was about half and half and it worked out quite well. Pretty much everyone had worked in the private sector at one time that was teaching classes for my major.

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 29 mins · Edited



**James Neighbors** [David Cohn](#) Having seen what's going on in Universities across the nation with Black Lives Terrorists and the Antifa idiots taking over entire campuses, you came out lucky.

Unlike · Reply ·  3 · 29 mins



**Patricia Killough** [James Neighbors](#), I agree with you 199% about the brainwashing. I feel that more parents (who are STILL bearing a LOT of the cost of college/university education) should be at the various places of higher education INSPECTING what they EXPECT to be taught! We have, in part, allowed this to happen and even subsidized it. It is happening in our public schools as well. If we parents and grandparents do not stay involved after our children graduate from high school, we lose great amounts of continuity and practicality in our education system.

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 29 mins



**David Cohn** Education from K to the end of college was entirely different and better when I was in school. A teacher in K to 12 could use entirely their own books and methods and they did. It worked immensely better than today's rigid teach to the test system. We also valued and required physical education and the arts.

Unlike · Reply ·  3 · 27 mins



**James Neighbors** [Patricia Killough](#) Parents should be the only people teaching children values. Education centers should only be about raw education, and nothing else.

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 27 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** [David Cohn](#) yeah - but currently, colleges are money-mills - to make \$\$ off of students, requiring them to buy expensive books (when online books or cheaper print copies would work just fine).

Unlike · Reply ·  4 · 27 mins



**David Cohn** We could legislate that PDF copies must be offered at \$50 or less a book. That would reduce costs. We also should mandate limits on revisions. Those cost an unnecessary fortune. Volume 1, 2, 10, 50, ... They still make new versions of some of my books each year. Calculus has not changed that much in twenty years!

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 23 mins · Edited



**Patricia Killough** [James Neighbors](#), unfortunately, we are faced with parents who both work and come home "too tired" to care about interacting in meaningful ways with their children (amazes me that they never realized it was a 24 hour job!). Then, values are left to teachers...not all of whom really should be teaching. Some, bless their hearts, really try to pass on solid values and dependable skills

and knowledge, but they are too few and far between.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** Patricia Killough yep - parents, however, could work less if college debt problems were made to disappear. 😊

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 22 mins



**Patricia Killough** Gordon Wayne Watts, honestly hadn't even occurred to me. \*grins\*

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 21 mins



**David Cohn** I hate seeing parents take money out of their 401-k's to fund the education of their children. That should not even be an option.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 21 mins



**James Neighbors** Patricia Killough That delves off into an entirely different area... WHY do people have to work so much? In a word, taxes, taxes, taxes... Everything under the sun is taxed, and it seems like a hobby of our so-called representatives to find a new way to tax us. For every penny taken out of a dollar you make, you are 1% more a slave to the system, and have to work that much more in a vain attempt to compensate for the loss.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 20 mins



**Patricia Killough** James Neighbors, truth there. Totally agree.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 20 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** James Neighbors tuition IS a form of tax -- it's \$\$ going to an arm of the government - Colleges ARE state government - or even private colleges are \*regulated\* by the state & feds.. Things that make u go: hmn.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 19 mins



**David Cohn** Consider this, James. A single healthy thirty year old software engineer in San Jose earns \$250,000 before taxes -- relatively common. In California, that person must pay about \$100,000 in taxes if on w2 -- a fair amount more if on 1099. If single payer passes at the state or federal level (it is already being heavily considered right now in California, complete with a bill), that person will likely pay \$137,500 to 150,000 in taxes. That excludes any local, sales, or property taxes. Single payer would likely cost that earner \$37,500 to \$50,000 in additional taxes, although the employer would pay a portion. That employee is basically left with a little over \$100,000. Something is wrong with that picture.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 14 mins · Edited



**Gordon Wayne Watts** David Cohn Hell YEAH, big Dawg, Cat, and even Mouse!!

>^..^= Colonel Meow and Friends! -- 100% totally agree - and bears repeating -- so I will:

Re: [""David Cohn {{said}} Consider this, James. A single healthy thirty year old software engineer in San Jose earns \$250,000 before taxes -- relatively common. In California, that person must pay about \$100,000 in taxes if on w2 -- a fair amount more if on 1099. If single payer passes at the state or federal level (it is already being heavily considered right now in California, complete with a bill), that person will likely pay \$150,000 in taxes. That excludes any local, sales, or property taxes. Single payer would likely cost that earner \$37,500 to



\$50,000 in additional taxes, although the employer would pay a portion. That employee is basically left with a little over \$100,000. Something is wrong with that picture.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Just now""]]

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 14 mins



**Patricia Killough** David Cohn AMEN! Lots wrong with that picture.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 13 mins



**David Cohn** I am guessing that single payer in California would cost twenty percent of gross payroll because 15% is a more often used figure, but it would include over a million low income illegal immigrants in the coverage.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 12 mins



**James Neighbors** And it will end up collapsing just like Ocommicare as people move out of California. More are already leaving than are moving in.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 12 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** David Cohn I stand by my suggestion to use POLK county health care (funded by a one-half cent sale tax) as a model for the ACA replacement -- not as strong as ACA, but then again, not as unaffordable either -- good plan - i have it. Anyone who makes <990 dollars / month qualifies. Good.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 11 mins



**David Cohn** Even as things stand today, \$150,000 goes much further in Atlanta than \$250,000 in California, partly because of the taxes. We should not be shocked when they pay \$200,000 to \$250,000 to paramedics and \$300,000 to \$400,000 to lifeguards on a regular basis.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 10 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** David Cohn James Neighbors & Edward Caldwell and Patricia Killough -- & all my other friends -- Glad to have so many great friends -- I think I'll take a break - - Y'all have a good afternoon & good weekend, what's left of it.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 9 mins



**David Cohn** Have a great week!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 8 mins



**Ron Hornback** Don't worry about it. You always have your 2000.00 that the government will give you after you wait up to a year to get your tax credit

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 8 mins



**Patricia Killough** Ron Hornback, Would be nice to get that \$2,000 return each year. Unfortunately, I don't/won't ever be in that group again. I have to keep my expenses at less than \$1,500/mo. and pay for my granddaughter's expenses as well (no parents to help), so, some don't see that little return at all. (How are ya, Ron? Well, I hope.)

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 2 mins · Edited



Write a reply...



**Gordon Wayne Watts** Wow! Lots of comments - and real fast! --\*\*FATIGUE\*\* I'm getting tired from too many hours online, but I appreciate \*all\* the

feedback - good, bad, or ugly - as [Clint Eastwood](#) might say -- If I log-off of Facebook and disappear (which I think I'll do shortly), & can't reply, it's no insult to anyone: I appreciate (and read) all replies here -- and even get email notification just to make sure I don't miss anything.

Unlike · Reply ·  4 · 28 mins



**Edward Caldwell** Universities are state institutions and you have to establish residency to get the lower fees so why should there be a federal gravy train to support the system?

The whole system should be sent to the states, where states win or lose on the money they spend and state legislatures can manage salaries and make universities tow the line.

Unlike · Reply ·  3 · 24 mins



**Patricia Killough** Edward Caldwell, I am in favor of states being in charge of higher learning costs and concerns. Too much power in the hands of the 'federalies' and they have become so self-concerned with their next profit to be made, I have lost complete confidence in every one of them. It is as if we are these days making unwilling contributions to retirement funds for those people who don't even pay lip service to our concerns any more.

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 15 mins



**Gordon Wayne Watts** Patricia Killough Edward Caldwell is a long-time Facebook friend who knows about the bad college lending system -- if I log off, soon, you all have fun. 😊

Unlike · Reply ·  2 · 13 mins



**Patricia Killough** Gordon Wayne Watts, go. It CAN get to be too much. Gotta go see my Mom, anyhow. 😊

Unlike · Reply ·  1 · 11 mins



Write a reply...



Write a comment...

