

Boycott Harvard

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By Rob Natelson

America recently heard MIT economics professor Jonathan Gruber (Harvard College, Class of '92) justify the deceit behind Obamacare, **based in part on the claimed “stupidity” of American voter**. The Obama administration paid Gruber **a ton of taxpayer money, and he also has been shoveling it in from state governments seeking advice on health care “reform.”**

This former professor wonders when he finds time to teach classes.

The Gruber disclosure came on the heels of news that the President (Harvard Law, '91) **nominated as his new Attorney General Loretta Lynch** (Harvard College '81, Harvard Law, '84). If confirmed, she'd be the seventh Harvard grad in the 15-member cabinet.

Congress passed the Obama-Gruber unholy mess through the efforts of people like Senator **Charles Schumer (Harvard College, '71; Harvard Law, '74)**, after years of agitation for a federal health care takeover on the part of Sen. Ted Kennedy. You may recall Kennedy as a guy Harvard preferred to graduate (Harvard College '56) rather than expel after he was **caught cheating on an exam**. Or maybe you remember him as someone who **dodged a manslaughter rap**. Perhaps it was in recognition of such achievements that Harvard awarded Kennedy **an honorary degree in 2008**.

But the Obama/Gruber individual insurance mandate **survived constitutional scrutiny** only because of legal gyrations by a majority of the Supreme Court.

So, who processed the Court?

Well, here's a clue: The official Supreme Court biography page—a brief synopsis of the lives of the nine justices and three retirees—contains **14 separate references to Harvard**.

Of the sitting justices, six studied at Harvard Law School and five received their law degrees there. Two of the five justices who voted to uphold the insurance mandate are former Harvard

Law School professors, one of whom had been dean. **(The other was a featured speaker at the Ted Kennedy honorary degree ceremony.)**

The pivotal opinion was written by Chief Justice Roberts (Harvard College, '76, Harvard Law '79).

Does anyone outside Cambridge, Massachusetts see a problem here?

Granted: Clever people get into Harvard; and for muscling your way into positions of power, cleverness helps to a considerable extent. But to paraphrase Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pinafore*, cleverness does not help **“as much as that.”**

In fact, given the political atmosphere of the place, a Harvard degree should be considered a *disadvantage* for public service—something to overcome, like an old misdemeanor conviction for **flashing**.

Yet in almost every political nook and cranny these days, someone with a Harvard degree is gumming things up. As the count in the cabinet and Supreme Court demonstrates, it is especially noticeable at the top. Only one of the last five Presidents was not pre-processed by Harvard, Yale, or both: Ronald Reagan attended Eureka College. He was also the best of the bunch.

Indeed, America's slide into fiscal insolvency, Eurosclerosis, and (to offer a salute to one of Harvard's best) **ever-downward definitions of deviancy**, does not speak well of the Harvard crowd that has enjoyed an out-sized say in running things.

That crowd can do more than positive damage. They can also obstruct progress. I've seen this in my own field of constitutional scholarship. When I began **to research the Constitution's original meaning** I marveled that my discoveries hadn't been made long before. Some of those discoveries were found in books newly available over the Internet—bearing the imprint of a Harvard University library. In other words, Harvard professors had been sitting on material in their own magnificent libraries, **preferring instead to bless us with the products of their personal intuitions and those of their friends**.

Some bemoan the fact that for centuries, two universities—Oxford and Cambridge—molded the English ruling classes. This stifling duopoly was self-perpetuating, because the “Oxbridge” connections facilitated one's move into the governing aristocracy. But **our Constitution forbids**

titles of nobility: We are not supposed to have an aristocracy. How did it happen that our governing elite has been shaped so heavily by a single institution?

Perhaps I'll address the reasons in a later posting. But no reasons can justify this situation. Enough is enough. America has thousands of colleges, and they produce millions of capable, patriotic graduates who could do stellar work in public service, if they were not being crowded out by the products of a single institution.

Harvard **prominently purveys the "multicultural diversity" drivetl**, so maybe Crimsonians (or whatever) will not be too offended by a suggestion offered in the interest of REAL diversity: Let's give other folks a chance to catch up and repair some of the damage Harvard has done to our political and health care systems.

Let's slap a five year moratorium on filling ANY government job with anyone who has attended or taught at Harvard.

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