

Sunday, December 17, 2006

PRESS RELEASE

Jane Fernandes' hometown paper spreads demonstrably false news

Commentary:

An article appears today in the hometown newspaper of Jane Fernandes in Worcester, Massachusetts which spreads false news, implying that there were hostile visitors to her childhood home at 5 Greenleaf Terrace and that the current resident of that home sent them away. The reporter did not contact the current resident to verify the story, which is false.

Also, it was actually Jane Fernandes' *father* who was the hostile party when he was visited last summer at his home on Cape Cod. Fernandes' mother was not present. The reporter made no attempt to contact the people involved to verify the story. See <http://gallyprotest.org/father.pdf> for an account of the incident.

The reporter, Ms. Geyer, acted irresponsibly and allowed herself to be used as a vehicle for spreading false news. She either allowed herself to be manipulated or she purposely participated in the creation of false news and, like Neal Conan of National Public Radio, has violated the ethics of her profession.

This shows how the Jordan-Fernandes team operates, and continues to operate, manufacturing false stories that are spoon fed to certain gullible or cooperative members of the press, oftentimes carefully selecting the press person that they intend on manipulating or enlisting in their propaganda campaign.

Also, last Friday Mercy Coogan dodged phone calls made to her office, failing to respond to a TV news reporter's inquires. The reporter, Roz Plater from Fox 5 News, finally was able to find Coogan's home number and call her at home during the evening. Coogan told bald-faced lies to the reporter, saying that she "could not verify" that student-employees have already been fired from their jobs in retaliation for their participation in the protest. (See the transcript for the TV news segment on the release from yesterday below.)

If Coogan was also the person that fed the false information to Katherin Geyer (in the article below), then that would be clear grounds for terminating her employment without granting severance pay. Coogan should have never been offered a severance package in the first place. She also has dishonestly pretended to be a deaf person in an ongoing anonymously authored column in a Gallaudet University publication.

Amazingly, Fernandes attempts to continue the propaganda campaign in this current article, saying that she is "happy to be deaf," when no one made accusations against her in that way. One of the issues of the protest was the oppression she imposed, along with Irving Jordan, against culturally deaf people. There are many reasons why a person could be "happy to be deaf" and yet still oppress culturally deaf people.

Fernandes is obfuscating, as usual. She is now attempting to cover up the nature of her prior plans to reverse Gallaudet's historic mission as being an ASL university--plans which would have threatened Gallaudet's existence, because without that unique mission, Gallaudet would have evolved (under Jane's direction) into an institution that didn't have much more to offer than what can be obtained at any mainstream university. Members of Congress would eventually have closed Gallaudet down.

Now Fernandes is whitewashing the subject and is saying that she had merely intended on trying to find ways to help non-ASL users succeed in an ASL environment. This is a lie. That was not her intent. Her intent which was made clear when she raised the issue: "Who does Gallaudet belong to?" in an interview on National Public Radio last May:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5389972>

To-date not a single piece of evidence has ever been presented to show that either Fernandes or Celia Mae Baldwin received "threats." In fact, Patricia Kunkle reported to the Fairfax police that Celia Mae Baldwin herself did *not* receive threats, but that a family member of hers had. Yet, last May the Gallaudet PR machine announced the false news to the world that Celia Mae Baldwin had been the victim of receiving "aggressive threats."

Here is today's pseudo-journalistic story on Fernandes:

LINK:

<http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061217/NEWS/612170508/1116>

RE-RELEASE FROM GALLYPROTEST.ORG:

Saturday, December 16, 2006

BREAKING NEWS

Gallaudet student protesters issue ultimatum to Board via Washington Post article

Gallaudet protest leader LaToya Plummer issued an ultimatum to the Gallaudet Board of Trustees in an interview that was reported on today in the Washington Post. In the interview, Ms. Plummer was quoted as saying that if the reprisals against student protesters are not lifted, then: "drastic actions will be taken."

Here is the entire article from today's Washington Post:

Washington Post
Saturday, December 16, 2006
By Susan Kinzie

DISTRICT BRIEFING

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Protesters Likely to Face Campus Hearings

Protesters who were arrested at Gallaudet University will face consequences, according to the board of trustees -- and some student leaders reacted angrily to that yesterday.

For months, protesters demanded a new search for the president of the school for the deaf, with demonstrations that disrupted and, for several days, shut down, the university in Northeast Washington. More than 130 people were arrested after demonstrators blocked entrances to campus. In late October, the trustees voted to terminate the appointment of incoming president Jane K. Fernandes, and this week, deaf leader Robert Davila was named interim president.

But this week, the board also announced that the administration would enforce the student code of conduct for those who were arrested; they are expected to face campus judicial hearings.

It is unfair to punish only the students who were arrested, said student leader LaToya Plummer, when thousands of people contributed to peaceful demonstrations for positive

change at the school. "In order to heal, we must have the reprisals removed. If they aren't, drastic actions will be taken."

Pamela Holmes, the board chairwoman, said, "I believe the dean of students will make every effort to allow students who came forward and have taken responsibility to quickly address their cases, allowing the students to put this behind them."

-- Susan Kinzie

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/15/AR2006121501777.html>

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From earlier today:

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Contents:

- 1) Transcript of Fox 5 News segment on the Board of Trustees imposing draconian reprisals against protesters
- 2) Re-release of yesterday's commentary on Jordan's manipulations, the Board and reprisals
- 3) Yesterday's Associated Press article on reprisals (with commentary)
- 4) Today's New York Times article on the Board imposing draconian reprisals

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- 1) Transcript of Fox 5 News segment on the Board of Trustees imposing draconian reprisals against protesters

WTTG-TV (Fox 5, Washington, DC area)
Friday, December 15, 2006, segment started at 11:03 p.m. Eastern Time and was replayed at 1:03 a.m

SHAWN YANCY (anchor): The student protesters shut down Gallaudet University demanding change at the top, but now *they* may have to pay for their role in ousting

the incoming president. Today the Board of Trustees gave approval for the school to punish those protesters. Fox 5's Roz Plater live at Gallaudet tonight with the latest. Roz?

ROZ PLATER (live): Well, Shawn just a few days ago there was just peace and harmony on this campus with the announcement of a new interim president. Tonight this news is sending shock waves through Gallaudet's community. It seems the student protesters may have won the war, but lost a major battle.

ROZ PLATER (pre-recorded): The protests lasted for weeks--dozens of students arrested. Their goal? The ouster of Gallaudet's then-incoming president, Jane Fernandes. By late October, the Board of Trustees handed the students a major victory: Fernandes was out, but they would not sign off on no reprisals for protesters. Now Fox 5 has obtained a copy of an internal e-mail from the Board of Trustees, saying in part: "the judicial process should move forward."

Without the benefit of an interpreter, we sat down with David Simmons, one of the protest leaders who went on a hunger strike for 14 days. His reaction? He writes from his laptop:

DAVID SIMMONS [Roz Plater reading David's words on the laptop:] "[I am] disgusted! Many fellow students got administrative leave which means loss of jobs and pay to the [protesters]. [Words on screen:] Contrasting that with the Department [of Public Safety...]"

PLATER: [Boo's and jeers heard in background of tape played showing arrests on Black Friday] In fact, the students say the reprisals have already started. As many as a dozen have lost their jobs. A spokeswoman for the university tonight [Mercy Coogan] could not confirm that. She said the students *would* face a review board, but she could *not* outline a range of possible punishments. The announcement comes on the last day of final exams for the semester, and Simmons writes:

DAVID SIMMONS: [Words on screen:] [The] cop who killed the student [Carl DuPree] got promoted to a 6-digit salaried position. [Words voiced by Roz Plater:] Their [the Jordan administration's] timing is cunning. They announced [it] at the very last minute possible without giving us the opportunity to appeal or defend [...] It's going to be President I. King Jordan's last laugh on us.

PLATER (live): Now you may remember that I. King Jordan is the outgoing president. Now the university spokeswoman says none of this may take place until next semester. In the meantime now, students here are getting some legal advice and weighing their options. As many as 135 of them could face disciplinary action. Shawn?

YANCY: Roz Plater, live at Gallaudet tonight. Thank you.

VIDEO:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=1790922&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=1.1.1>

Editorial Response:

Mercy Coogan is lying. She knows that students have already been fired from their jobs in retaliation for participating in the protest. It's a fact, and it's common knowledge. She should have her severance package revoked for *knowingly* issuing such false statements to the news media.

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2) Re-release of yesterday's commentary on Jordan's manipulations, the Board and reprisals

Reprisals against protesters are extremely unacceptable. The protesters already submitted themselves for arrest on Black Friday, October 13, 2006. They were arrested and processed. No further action against them is required. They *already* faced the consequences of their acts of civil disobedience.

What more does Jordan want? Does he want to try to sue them in civil court and empty their bank accounts? Does he want to take away their first-born children?

The protesters were brave heroes who put their lives in extreme danger when they took over the Hall Memorial Building. They risked getting killed by the DPS campus police, just as what happened to Carl DuPree when he was killed by Gallaudet campus police officers 16 years ago under the Jordan administration.

Jordan's campus police officers *killed* Carl DuPree. Then later, when Congress allocated \$4 million dollars to hire new campus police officers and offer training in sign language, Jordan misappropriated the money and the new officers were not hired--this, in spite of the fact that new officers were lined up and waiting to be taken on board.

History will show that the Gallaudet protesters *saved* Gallaudet and they did the exact right thing. Sometimes in rare and extraordinary circumstances, morality *demand*s that the law be broken. That's what President Lincoln did when he denied people the writ of habeas corpus, and we properly hail Lincoln as a hero.

If the Gallaudet protesters were wrong to break the law, then Lincoln was wrong to break the law also and we should shut down the Lincoln Memorial.

Enough is enough! No disciplinary actions against the students are required--neither by

morality, nor by law. The Board is allowing themselves to be bamboozled by Jordan. The Board could stop the reprisals right now and be lauded as heroes also, along with the protesters, but they cower in fear of Jordan and his fancy rhetorical footwork and lies.

On top of that, Jordan is the world's biggest hypocrite, because he accepted the benefits of the results of the Deaf President Now protest of 1988. When that happened, the Board granted ALL FOUR demands of the protesters, including the demand for no reprisals.

Jordan continues to extend his middle finger to the world in contemptuous and despicable acts of cowardice. Carl Pramuk and Hillel Goldberg are his evil accomplices.

We must not allow kangaroo courts overseen by Jordan to harm the protesters.

THIS WILL NOT STAND.

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3) Yesterday's Associated Press article on reprisals (with commentary)

Commentary:

Notice that this AP article says that the Board's decision: "was met with outrage." The Associated Press is accurately reporting on the facts. The Board's behavior *is* outrageous. When they voted to terminate Fernandes, the Board was *admitting* that they (the Board) were wrong and the protesters were right.

The Board is acting in an outrageous manner now by authorizing draconian reprisals against the protesters. If the protesters deserve to have their student-employee jobs taken away, as the Board is saying, then the members of the Board deserve to have their jobs taken away, too. In fact, when Congress begins investigating and determines that the Board members are in breach of the fiduciary duties, then it could actually happen that Board members get removed from the Board and fired from their jobs (fired from their law firms, public accountancy firms, school districts where they work, etc.)

The Associated Press
Dec 15, 2006 3:59 PM
By SARAH KARUSH

Gallaudet protesters could face disciplinary action

WASHINGTON - Gallaudet University will proceed with disciplinary actions against students who led protests that at times shut down the nation's top school for the deaf,

officials said Friday.

Gallaudet's board of trustees has decided to let the administration deal with the protesters "as they would any other breach of the code of conduct," university spokeswoman Mercy Coogan said.

The decision, announced in a memo to students and faculty Thursday night, was met with outrage by those involved in the fall demonstrations over an incoming president whose appointment was later revoked.

"I don't think it ends at this," said Diane Morton, a faculty member who joined the protests. "This is unacceptable."

In November, the university trustees put a freeze on disciplinary action while they gathered more information. This week's decision lifts that freeze.

Morton said that prior to the freeze, students who thought they would face only minimal punishment were stripped of university jobs or suspended from athletic teams. She cited one student who was a resident adviser, a position that comes with free housing. After the student was fired from that job because of her role in the protests, she was required pay back the housing costs and won't be allowed to register for the next semester until she does, Morton said.

Coogan said each student would be individually adjudicated before any punishment is handed out. "It's based on evidence, and they're innocent until proven otherwise," she said.

Students and faculty members protested for weeks over the appointment of former provost Jane Fernandes to the president's post, saying she lacked the necessary leadership skills. The board revoked her contract in October, following the demonstrations and hunger strikes.

Sunday, the board named Robert R. Davila, a former assistant secretary of education who previously taught at the university, to serve as interim president for up to two years.

Morton said she was hopeful Davila would decide not to punish the students.

http://www.examiner.com/a-458557~Gallaudet_protesters_could_face_disciplinary_action.html

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4) Today's New York Times article on the Board imposing draconian reprisals

The New York Times
(Bloomberg News)

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Gallaudet Will Proceed With Action Against Protesters

Gallaudet University will proceed with disciplinary action against student demonstrators who forced the ouster of the university's president, trustees said. The trustees' decision, made after a one-month suspension to review amnesty pleas, may mean academic penalties for 125 students who helped shut down the campus in October to prevent the appointment of Jane K. Fernandes as president. The decision threatens renewed turmoil on campus in Washington, D.C., less than a week after the university named Robert R. Davila, a former Education Department official, as its interim president.

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/16/education/16brfs-GALLAUDET.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

[End of New York Times article]

Note: Here is the full report that was distributed by Bloomberg yesterday:

Gallaudet Approves Penalizing Protesters Against President 2006-12-15 11:01 (New York)

By Paul Basken

Dec. 15 (Bloomberg) -- Gallaudet University, the nation's only university for the deaf, will proceed with disciplinary action against student demonstrators who forced the ouster of the school's chosen president, trustees said.

The Gallaudet trustees' decision, made after a one-month suspension to review amnesty pleas, might mean academic penalties for 125 students who helped shut down the Washington, D.C., campus in October to prevent the school's appointment of Jane Fernandes as president.

"The board concluded that the judicial process has been conducted according to university policies, that these matters are appropriately under the jurisdiction of the student judicial system and that the judicial process should move forward," the trustees said in a written statement distributed today.

The decision threatens renewed turmoil on campus less than a week after Gallaudet named Robert Davila, a former U.S. Education Department official, as its interim president to replace Fernandes. A parent coalition, Parents United for Gallaudet, wrote yesterday to Carl Pramuk, the university's dean of students, appealing for amnesty for "our deaf warriors" who opposed Fernandes "so that the Gallaudet community shall heal."

Fernandes, who had been due to take office next month, was opposed by both students and faculty who complained she wasn't sufficiently supportive of sign language and the associated "deaf culture." Fernandes, who is deaf, didn't learn sign language until her 20s, relying instead on lip-reading.

The 125 students facing the school's judicial process include 13 who have lost jobs or internships since the protests, said Brian Riley, a Gallaudet alumnus who helped organize the demonstrations.

While other schools or colleges have deaf students, Gallaudet is the only university where all programs and services are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students, according to the school's Web site.

--Editor: Gienger