

Friday, August 24, 2012, 3:18 am ET

*(Originally released on November 1, 2006, now re-released with a short addendum on August 24, 2012. An additional commentary, which was included in the original press release, can be viewed [HERE](#).)*

## Press Release

The following pseudo-editorial was published in the Washington Post yesterday, October 31, 2006. It was probably written by King Jordan or Paul Kelly at Gallaudet. It contains deliberate misinformation (Please see editorial response comments by Gallyprotest that are inserted throughout and are set off with brackets):

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/30/AR2006103000977.html>

Addendum (August 24, 2012):

The faux-editorial may have been written by [Beverly R. Silverberg](#).

## Gallaudet's Loss

The ouster of the university's incoming president defeats her vision of a more diverse institution.

Washington Post, Tuesday, October 31, 2006; Page A20

THE BOARD OF trustees at Gallaudet University certainly showed who was in charge when it voted to terminate Jane K. Fernandes's contract as president. **[Gallyprotest editorial response (in red): Yes, the American people are in charge, because they pay for Gallaudet and oversee it. The protesters acted on behalf of the American people.]** Sadly, it wasn't the members of the board, who are supposed to serve the interests of the university **[Response: --but who obviously fell down on the job]**. Nor, for that matter, were reason or right in evidence Sunday as the trustees ousted a woman they had recently judged to be the best person to lead the renowned school for the deaf **[Response: No, they were tricked into selecting her by the manipulations and lies of I. King Jordan.]** Instead, what triumphed was lawlessness and the principle that a university president should be chosen on the basis of popularity **[Response: No, what triumphed was reason and civility. The students were very correct to perform noble acts of civil disobedience in order to save the school from being closed down by Congress,**

which is what would have happened if Fernandes would have taken the helm. Congress would have said that Gallaudet wasn't doing anything that wasn't already available at any mainstream university.]

If this were just the story of another university administration crumbling under pressure, it might be of interest to the larger public only to the extent that Congress is Gallaudet's chief funder. But more was at stake: Alternative visions of Gallaudet were at war during the past months. Ms. Fernandes promoted a school that would welcome all sorts of deaf and hard-of-hearing people [Response: This is false propaganda. Those types of deaf people are *already* welcome at Gallaudet and they have been welcome for years and years. If this were not true, Deaf culture would have fizzled years ago. Those types of deaf people are the people who make up the bulk of the culture! They come to Gallaudet and become enculturated]; that would accommodate itself to improving technologies, which in coming years will allow more and more deaf people to function in the hearing world; and that would emphasize tolerance of diversity. The protesters were promoting a university that celebrates what they call Deaf (with a capital D) culture, prescribes American Sign Language as the only acceptable medium of communication and relates with suspicion to deaf people who choose to function in the hearing world [Response: That's an absurd claim, which was probably written by I. King Jordan himself. There is absolutely no evidence to back up this claim.] To the extent the latter vision won out, it does not bode well for Gallaudet's future.

When students launched their protest against president-designate Fernandes in the spring, many of them stated the objection that she was "not deaf enough." [Response: This sound byte was a PR ruse that was devised by Jordan. He took it from the 1995 book: "Deaf President Now" by Christiansen and Barnartt. Derrill Holly from AP gave the sound byte to his editors, because there was a mole in FSSA who supported Jordan. This mole declined to provide a counterargument to Derrill Holly when Holly approached him on May 8, 2006] Though deaf, she grew up speaking and lip-reading; she did not learn sign language until she was a young adult. That protest theme didn't play well beyond Gallaudet, and it was dropped from public discourse; students and faculty soon were reacting angrily if it was ascribed to them. But the protest movement never came up with a convincing alternative explanation for their anti-Fernandes passion [Response: Another absurd claim and piece of deliberate misinformation that flies in the face of all the evidence. The protesters were clearly fighting against the audism and oppression that existed on the Gallaudet campus, as manifested in the flawed selection process]. All that was left was a series of relatively petty complaints about her executive style as provost. [Response: "Petty"? This is propaganda that Josef Goebbels would have been proud to write. Shame on [Donald E. Graham](#) for selling the newspaper industry down the river with this tripe.]

In a way it's too bad that the underlying debate couldn't have been played out more openly. The protesters' fealty to and pride in their language and culture are admirable and understandable. Not very long ago, deaf people were often regarded as substandard and were treated accordingly. Amazingly, Gallaudet's current president, I. King Jordan, is the school's first deaf leader, and it took a round of protests to persuade the board to name him in 1988. That technology and genetic science might provide more alternatives to deafness just as deaf pride has achieved a breakthrough is an understandable source of anxiety. [Response: What needs to be made clear is the fact that putting cochlear implants on children who are born deaf is extremely harmful to their psychology and should be made against the law. The technology is nowhere near advanced enough to help children who are born deaf.]

Neither nostalgia nor pride, however, are sufficient bases for educational policy [Response: Jordan was violating federal law by not following the provisions of the Education of the Deaf Act. This is the main issue that Congress must now investigate.] We have no doubt that Ms. Fernandes, a tough and qualified educator, will find other ways to contribute; her behavior throughout this painful time was exemplary. More consequential to the university is how long it takes for her inclusive and progressive vision to be accepted. [Response: The word "inclusion" is being used as a cover-term to cover up the nature of her actual policy, which would have been to continue with the audism and oppression that existed on the campus.]

[End re-release]

See also:

[http://gallyprotest.org/Donald E Graham and GATT 1994.pdf](http://gallyprotest.org/Donald_E_Graham_and_GATT_1994.pdf)