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CORPORATE UNIVERSITIES
Henry A. Giroux, Truthout: "Memories of the university as a citadel of democratic learning have been replaced by a university eager to define itself largely in economic terms. As the center of gravity shifts away from the humanities and the notion of the university as a public good, university presidents ignore public values while refusing to address major social issues and problems. Instead, such administrators now display corporate affiliations like a badge of honor, sit on corporate boards and pull in huge salaries.” “If the commercialization, commodification and militarization of the university continues unabated, higher education will become yet another one of a number of institutions incapable of fostering critical inquiry, public debate, human acts of justice and common deliberation.” Read the Article http://www.truth-out.org/beyond-swindle-corporate-university-higher-education-service-democracy66945

SCIENCE IN CORPORATIZED US UNIVERSITIES

RESPONSES TO THE FILM “WAITING FOR ‘SUPERMAN.’”
…..Waiting for “Superman” and the other films appeal to a broad apprehension that the nation is falling behind in global competition. If the economy is a shambles, if poverty persists for significant segments of the population, if American kids are not as serious about their studies as their peers in other nations, the schools must be to blame. At last we have the culprit on which we can pin our anger, our palpable sense that something is very wrong with our
society, that we are on the wrong track, and that America is losing the race for global dominance. It is not globalization or deindustrialization or poverty or our coarse popular culture or predatory financial practices that bear responsibility: it’s the public schools, their teachers, and their unions.

Here is the report of "...Superman" on DemNow.

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/10/1/waiting_for_superman_critics_say_much

(from Carl B)

“Waiting for Substance” By LynNell Hancock

A high-profile documentary shortchanges the education debate.

http://ca.aft.org/novatonft/index.cfm?action=article&amp;articleID=eb045f2f-d94f-4485-a591-6dff1ea424d0

The Real Facts About Waiting for Superman

A Massachusetts group has compiled some facts in response to the melodramatic documentary, "Waiting for Superman," that has become the billionaires' favorite marketing tool. It joins a long list of work debunking some of the fictionalized portrayals in the movie.

>From The New York Times article

While "Waiting for Superman" lionizes urban reformers who embrace standardized testing as a necessary yardstick to hold schools and teachers accountable, [filmmaker Vicki] Ms. Abeles believes that the testing movement is what has caused education to go off the tracks.

She talks to students, teachers and experts who say that teaching to tests, including the Advanced Placement tests, narrows education and diminishes creativity and independent thinking. Employers complain that college graduates these days lack initiative. An educator, Denise Pope, a lecturer at Stanford, says that the University of California requires remedial courses of half its students, even though their high school grades were stellar.

“They're spitting back but not retaining the information,” Dr. Pope said.

PEACE EDUCATION K-12

This is a very comprehensive curriculum. Ian

From: LINDEN NELSON <linnel@sbcglobal.net>

Date: November 1, 2010 1:50:56 PM CDT

Subject: Peace Education Course for K-12 teachers

Teachers Without Borders has created a new course on peace education for teachers that may be read or downloaded without cost at http://www.scribd.com/document_collections/2700158. The 302 page document includes many lesson plans and much relevant information for K-12 teachers interested in developing peace education competencies. Although the authors have made little use of the peace psychology literature relevant to peace education, the course seems to offer a good basic introduction to
peace education and many useful resources. Unit 1 covers history, definitions, key thinkers, and core concepts. This is followed by a compilation of lesson plans from the Hague Appeal for Peace. Unit 2 is on various approaches to peace education including critical peace education, disarmament education, human rights education, global citizenship, multicultural education, gender issues, environmental issues, conflict resolution education, and futures education. Unit 3 covers pedagogy and classroom practice, and the appendices include a variety of resources.


“*We’re All Conservatives Now*” By STANLEY FISH


[Here is Fish’s concluding paragraph.] …There are some things to fear, but their names are not West or Chomsky or Horowitz. The forces — call them neoliberal, call them corporate capitalism, call them political indoctrination — that have in different ways turned the university away from the emancipatory project Kant called us to (and every one of these authors celebrates) are enemy enough. We don’t have to demonize each other.

[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/20/were-all-conservatives-now/?ref=global-home](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/20/were-all-conservatives-now/?ref=global-home)

END NEWSLETTER #1 ON US EDUCATION