

Matt Yglesias

Apr 25th, 2010 at 3:58 pm

The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger

If you're a connoisseur of people pointing out that Jonah Goldberg isn't a very intelligent man while simultaneously being too polite to come out and say so directly, I'd highly recommend [this post from Conor Friedersdorf](#).

One thread of the argument I'm personally interested in, however, is Goldberg's apparent belief that it's somehow extremely difficult for a young conservative with orthodox views "to break-in at places like NR, the Weekly Standard, the Wall Street Journal, etc." One could be snide and observe that the very fact that Jonah Goldberg (!) was able to break into those venues is indication enough that it's in fact quite easy, but to be fair to other National Review writers when you're talking about a case that extreme you actually do need a boost from nepotism.

At any rate, it's a couple of years old but I think this [Julian Sanchez post](#) has the correct take on this issue. For those who don't know him, Julian's a libertarian who's worked at Reason and Cato but mostly focuses on liberal-friendly issues (surveillance, etc.) so he combines real familiarity with the right-of-center institutional nexus with substantial social and psychological distance from it. And as he wrote:

If you're willing to toe a straight party line, on the other hand, let's face it, you can be pretty damn mediocre and still carve out a nice little niche for yourself at any one of a welter of generously funded ideological publications and think tanks. Sure, it's a smaller pond, but you get to be a relatively big fish. You'll always have a book deal waiting at Regnery, a warm guest chair on Fox, editors at NR and the Weekly Standard eager to look at your pitches, handsome honoraria on your speaking tour of College Republican groups, and in your golden years, an undemanding sinecure as the Senior Olin Fellow at the Institute for Real 'Murriken Studies.

This is both a cost and a benefit of the fact that the conservative movement has built an enormous institutional apparatus. There's this nice, very cushy gravy train out there awaiting anyone who wants to be a loyal footsoldier and one consequence of that is that the standards in terms of the personnel are quite low.

- [Comments](#)
- [73](#)

73 Responses to "The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger"

1. *Comment* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:03 pm](#)

After years of pretending to be a Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

So squalid are the standards on the right – that a mediocre beneficiary of nepotism is regarded as an intellectual.

2. *MoeLarryAndJesus* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:11 pm](#)

And his mom is a douchebag.

3. *soullite* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:14 pm](#)

Doesn't this pretty much apply to all the elite?

Do very little, get into a good school based on legacy and what school district you went to. Get a cushy job based on mommy and daddy's connections or the connections to "earned" at that good school.

The elite never have to work, and rarely do anything worthwhile. Why should we really hold right-wingers any more to account for it?

4. *mlindroo* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:14 pm](#)

Well, Jonah Goldberg supposedly played a significant part when National Review Online was set up. But I agree with Matt that he (like Kathryn Jean Lopez and most other NRObots) is not a terribly original or talented AUTHOR.

There is certainly more competition for jobs on the progressive/liberal side of the aisle. The great irony is that conservative opinion journalism greatly resembles the Republican caricature of affirmative action for blacks, i.e. those who qualify are in many cases not good enough to compete outside their sheltered minority enclaves.

MARCU\$

5. *Aqua Regia* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:15 pm](#)

After years of pretending to be a Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

HA! Hilarious if true. The right's contempt for academia bites them in the ass yet again. Burke was actually a pretty smart guy when he wasn't busy being a paid shill. Unfortunately the modern right wing bears no material resemblance to the philosophy of Edmund Burke.

6. *urgs* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:21 pm](#)

A huge contrast to the neo-liberal-center-right-progressive that holds the line on school privatization, union busting, monetary policy, the wars and abolishing defined benefit retirement plans. No job financed by rich people would ever come his way.

7. *Matthew* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:32 pm](#)

Surely it really is

extremely difficult for a young conservative with orthodox views “to break-in at places like NR, the Weekly Standard, the Wall Street Journal, etc.”

All high profile jobs like that are hard to get, whether on the left or the right. My guess is that the hardest ones to get are actually the centrist/non-partisan ones, which rely on the ability to do real analysis and construct a nuanced argument based on a detailed understanding of the facts. Although looking at the mainstream news, I may be being a little naive here...

8. *abb1* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:37 pm](#)

I don't get it. Obviously there is a limited number of these positions, and if they are indeed as lucrative as you say, then there must be vigorous competition. And vigorous competition should produce high quality cadre of apparatchiks. And where are they? What's the explanation?

9. *Castorp* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:44 pm](#)

Do very little, get into a good school based on legacy and what school district you went to.

Actually, Jonah couldn't even manage that. He got into Goucher because he was a guy and it was the second year they were accepting men and very few applied.

10. *tomemos* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:45 pm](#)

“Obviously there is a limited number of these positions, and if they are indeed as lucrative as you say, then there must be vigorous competition. And vigorous competition should produce high quality cadre of apparatchiks.”

Only if quality is what's being selected for. But what's being selected for is faithful and strenuous repetition of dogma. At that, they are indeed “high quality.”

11. *Xavier* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:47 pm](#)

I'm not really sure finding a 'gravy train' as a political writer is that easy for anyone no matter their ideology. Getting a well-paying gig at a high profile national media outfit is akin to being drafted by a pro

sports team. In most cases it takes *talent* – something Goldberg seems to think is inconsequential.

Whether you have the ‘right’ ideas or not is entirely irrelevant to whether or not you can articulate yourself in a manner worthy of broad distribution.

12. [abb1](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 4:52 pm](#)

Only if quality is what's being selected for. But what's being selected for is faithful and strenuous repetition of dogma.

Well, I imagine the repetition of dogma is more like a job description. If you're paying a lot, you should be able to hire the most fucking brilliant dogma repeater out there.

13. [Sonic Charmer](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:01 pm](#)

Shorter: Matthew is very threatened by Jonah Goldberg for some reason, perhaps because he sees too many similarities to himself e.g. advantages-given vs intelligence/talent.

14. [Myles SG](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:06 pm](#)

After years of pretending to be a Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

Anglo-Irish, Ascendancy, Protestant. That's hardly what most Americans would understand as Irish.

15. [Myles SG](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:06 pm](#)

After years of pretending to be a Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

Anglo-Irish, Ascendancy, Protestant. That's hardly what most Americans would understand as Irish.

16. [Ed Marshall](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:07 pm](#)

If I remember right, Jonah called Yglesias an anti-semite.

The idea that anyone would feel threatened by Jonah Goldberg is amusing though. I'd have to think about it for awhile to imagine anyone who should secretly think they are less talented and stupider than Goldberg. Maybe some Z-listers on the Sadly No! radar.

17. [abb1](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:11 pm](#)

I think what might be going here, is that every boss on every level is selecting employees most helpful to his/her own advancement: either most loyal to him/her personally, or (as in the Goldberg's case) proteges of powerful people who are expected to somehow return the favor.

A talented individual is unlikely to be loyal, or desperate for employment.

18. *Ed Marshall* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:12 pm](#)

Maybe he called him Charles Lindberg, I think Jeffery Goldberg called Matt an anti-semiter, but there is really no way to keep track of who Jeff Goldberg accused of anti-semitism.

19. *fostert* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:22 pm](#)

“but there is really no way to keep track of who Jeff Goldberg accused of anti-semitism”

Sure there is, it’s just a really long list and he doesn’t explicitly name them all. But it’s simple in Jonah’s world. There are only two groups in the world. Likud supporters and anti-semites.

20. *Sonic Charmer* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:23 pm](#)

The idea that anyone would feel threatened by Jonah Goldberg is amusing though. I’d have to think about it for awhile to imagine anyone who should secretly think they are less talented and stupider than Goldberg.

I don’t know why Matthew would secretly fear he’s ‘less talented and stupider’ than Jonah Goldberg either. (As far as I can tell from their writings, and I’ve read tens of thousands of words written by both, there’s very little evidence to distinguish either as being somehow significantly more ‘intelligent’ than the other. And let me be clear: I think they’re both reasonably intelligent and sharp and talented.)

But you do have to admit that Matthew Yglesias does seem awfully concerned with how ‘intelligent’ others besides himself are. That is not a trait I often observe in people who are genuinely highly intelligent, but there can be exceptions I suppose.

21. *Midland* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:42 pm](#)

Doesn’t this pretty much apply to all the elite? . . . Do very little, get into a good school based on legacy and what school district you went to. Get a cushy job based on mommy and daddy’s connections or the connections to “earned” at that good school. . . . The elite never have to work, and rarely do anything worthwhile.

Okay, this fabulous generalization applies to Jonah Goldberg . . . George W. Bush . . . and who else are you talking about? What “elite” class you are referring to?

22. *Ed Marshall* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:43 pm](#)

The only people I can think of that Matt regularly categorizes as stupid are Goldberg and Mike Pence. Maybe it’s gossipy and catty and inside baseball, but the rumor has always been that his NRO colleagues think of Goldberg this way and that he knows it. I don’t remember the Mike Pence story, but it seemed

like something worth bringing up when evaluating any of his ideas.

23. *Jerry F.* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:49 pm](#)

At elite colleges, liberals are a dime a dozen. Conservatives thus revel in their “embattled” minority status and are rewarded for toeing the party line and standing up to godlessness/reason with cushy political gigs as soon as they graduate. There are so few conservatives who can do a decent job of appearing even a little intelligent that the rewards are big.

Cornell grad Michelle Malkin had a nationally syndicated column at age 28. I believe a form of affirmative action had something to do with that.

24. *matt w* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:53 pm](#)

I don't know why Matthew would secretly fear he's 'less talented and stupider' than Jonah Goldberg either. (As far as I can tell from their writings, and I've read tens of thousands of words written by both, there's very little evidence to distinguish either as being somehow significantly more 'intelligent' than the other. And let me be clear: I think they're both reasonably intelligent and sharp and talented.)

That's because, by the evidence of your own blog, you're an idiot.

25. *Bob Roddis* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:55 pm](#)

I've always considered Little Matty and Jonah to be Yin and Yang. They have both perfected similar informal chatty writing styles and both are big time whores for their respective cliques of the ruling class. I don't see evidence of one being brighter than the other.

Little Matty is a whore for the central bank, the financial elite and the nanny state and Jonah is a whore for the warmongering military-industrial-security state (which just happens to depend for its mother's milk on the central bank).

Little Matty and Jonah: Making it hip to be a conformist reactionary defender of the regime.

26. *zic* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 5:59 pm](#)

Funny experiment. Got to the Fox website, and do a search on 'epistemic closure.'

They completely ignore the discussion. Not one story; though lots returned with the search result 'closure.' And I thought closure was, I dunno, such a liberal-elite concept.

Epistemic closure of the entertainer class. Now here's the question: why do conservatives need to sort their media by the labels 'entertainer' and 'intellectual,' and do they have a third, 'politician,' the group MIA in this debate?

27. *fostert* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 6:07 pm](#)

“Cornell grad Michelle Malkin had a nationally syndicated column at age 28.”

Malkin went to Oberlin, not Cornell. Ann Coulter went to Cornell.

28. *Jeffrey Davis* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 6:46 pm](#)

Disagree with your host? Insult him.

Were you guys raised by skunks?

29. *penalcolony* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 6:55 pm](#)

The heavily subsidized Weekly Standard currently features “Public-Sector Employees: The New Fat Cats” by Fred Barnes, who in 67 years of life has never done a single useful or interesting thing.

30. *seospider* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 6:58 pm](#)

Malkin went to Oberlin?

That must have been an absolutely miserable four years for her. Anyone know the back story there?

As far truly highly intelligent people not being concerned with other people’s intelligence, comment #20, I would come to the exact opposite conclusion. From my experience, highly intelligent people are often insufferable because they don’t suffer fools lightly and will let everyone know it.

31. *Jerry F.* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 7:05 pm](#)

Oops. Having a Cornell-obsessed friend, I think I’m over-eager to dump on the place and give them all the idiot columnists. I feel the fact that Malkin went to Oberlin only helps my case though: “She went to college in Satan’s very groin and still emerged a conservative! She must be really tough! Plus, she can claim again and again that she looked into the heart of liberalism and rejected it!”

When in fact college Republicans like to stalk around campus in bad suits like they’re coats of armor protecting them from the threat of intelligence. And they respond to any arguments by reciting talking points like incantations. On the plus side, I found them to be a fertile source of 8×10 glossies of a cowboy-hatted Ronald Reagan nuzzling a horse. I had great fun putting those to irreverent uses.

32. *Ed Marshall* Says:[April 25th, 2010 at 7:07 pm](#)

But it’s simple in Jonah’s world. There are only two groups in the world. Likud supporters and anti-semites.

It was Jeffery Goldberg, not Jonah that I believe outright called Matthew an anti-semite. Jeffery Goldberg is a two-state labour zionist sort of guy and he's actually far more liberal in that sort of accusation than Jonah Goldberg.

I think the trick with him to avoid being a Jew hater is that you have to perceive the Israeli Jews as oppressed, powerless, people who need to be better than everyone else and fairer than everyone else and give up the West Bank and Gaza. That actually winds up making a way, way, longer list of people than Jonah's crude metric. It's not just a matter of policy, you have to practice an absurd amount of empathy for the Israeli position and eschew any humanization of the Palestinian.

33. *agorabum* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 7:09 pm](#)

I think that a huge factor has been ignored: audience.

Is Golberg shallow? Does he refuse to engage in substantive debate? Did he write a terrible book?

We all know the answers to these questions. But these very characteristics make him very popular among a segment of conservative consumers of invective.

He always blames liberals as being worse than conservatives, whatever the sin, and also wrote a book that liberals (who focus on creating/maintaining government based on equality, democratic inclusion, and technocratic expertise) are actually fascists.

He confirms the prejudices of many wingers on the right, and is so celebrated by them. If he actually offered a high-minded disquisition on burkean conservative principles instead of knee-jerk partisan jokes, he'd lose most of his audience. Just look at the type of arguments raised by trolls trying to defend Jonah's opus in any comment thread...

34. *fostert* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 7:11 pm](#)

"Oops. Having a Cornell-obsessed friend, I think I'm over-eager to dump on the place and give them all the idiot columnists."

Well, Ann Coulter should be enough shame Cornell forever. Keith Olberman and Bill Maher also went to Cornell, but graduated before Coulter arrived. They apparently did not know each other.

35. *Phil* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 7:15 pm](#)

I think it might be unfair to accuse NR of nepotism. Kathryn Jean Lopez is even dumber than Goldberg, and she doesn't have famous wingnut parents. Then again, she knows better than to attempt to write an ideological treatise..

36. *fostert* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 7:19 pm](#)

"Jeffery Goldberg is a two-state labour zionist sort of guy and he's actually far more liberal in that sort of accusation than Jonah Goldberg."

Jeffery is somewhat enigmatic for me. Sometimes he makes sense, and sometimes he just seems paranoid about anyone who would dare disagree with him. He is capable of being more insightful than Jonah, but

also more hateful and divisive. Kind of a crap-shoot with him. With Jonah, you know what to expect. To the point that most of us here can probably predict the entire column after two sentences.

37. *MQ* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 7:45 pm](#)

He confirms the prejudices of many wingers on the right, and is so celebrated by them. If he actually offered a high-minded disquisition on burkean conservative principles instead of knee-jerk partisan jokes, he'd lose most of his audience. Just look at the type of arguments raised by trolls trying to defend Jonah's opus in any comment thread

exactly, Jonah is very well adapted to his ideological niche. You have to look at what the conservative movement is really about and what they want their "intellectuals" to do. Jonah does those things well.

But it definitely is true that it's a lot easier for someone with marginal intellectual credentials to get a cushy role as a conservative ideologue. The academic connection gives the liberal movement a ton of intellectual depth.

38. *Undertoad* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:03 pm](#)

If you're a connoisseur of people pointing out that Jonah Goldberg isn't a very intelligent man while simultaneously being too polite to come out and say so directly,

You've just done that with that clause, haven't you?

Intelligent people avoid ad hominem not because it's impolite, but because it doesn't belong in rational debate.

Even if it's clever. Especially if it's clever.

39. *ed* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:33 pm](#)

After years of pretending to be a Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

Shoosh, that's nothing. After writing what Goldberg himself believed to be the ultimate word on fascism, which posited an argument "never before with such detail and care," he actually said,

Mussolini was born a socialist, he died a socialist, he never abandoned his love of socialism, he was one of the most important socialist intellectuals in Europe and was one of the most important socialist activists in Italy, and the only reason he got dubbed a fascist and therefore a right-winger is because he supported World War I.

Got that? The last word on Fascism says that Mussolini was only dubbed a fascist is because he supported The Great War. Not, you know, because he founded THE MOTHERFUCKING FASCIST PARTY. Jonah Goldberg should never be treated with any semblance of respect and should only be mocked. Repeatedly.

40. *Adirondacker12800* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:35 pm](#)

“Cornell grad Michelle Malkin had a nationally syndicated column at age 28.”

Malkin went to Oberlin, not Cornell. Ann Coulter went to Cornell.

I didn't realize wither offered a major in buffoonery.

41. *gregor* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:48 pm](#)

Jonah must always be referred to as Jonah Lucianne.

He would be peddling a website for which no one cares were it not for Lucianne's immense contributions to conservative causes.

42. *Hector* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:51 pm](#)

Myles SG,

Does that make Yeats, Parnell, and Emmet not genuinely Irish in your book?

Ultimately what makes a person Irish vs. British isn't his religion or ancestry, it's whether he chooses to place his ideological loyalties with Ireland or with England.

43. [Where can I buy this book? / New Twilight Book](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 8:54 pm](#)

[...] Matthew Yglesias » The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger [...]

44. [AZ Immigration Bill and Racial Profiling / Conservative Heritage Times](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 9:12 pm](#)

[...] bloggers have questioned whether Arizona Immigration Bill entails racial profiling, and many immigration restrictionists have bent over [...]

45. *Harold* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 9:39 pm](#)

Um, Myles, Burke's wife was lifelong Catholic, as were his mother and sister; and Burke certainly considered himself Irish and was a lifelong partisan of Irish rights. You might say that Johnathan Swift, W. B. Yeats, or Bishop Berkeley were not Irish. But if you did, you'd be an idiot.

According to Wikipedia:

Burke also supported Sir George Savile's attempts to repeal some of the penal laws against Catholics.[37]

This support for unpopular causes, notably free trade with Ireland and Catholic emancipation, led to Burke losing his seat in 1780. He also called capital punishment “the Butchery which we call justice” in 1776 and in 1780 Burke condemned the use of the pillory for two men convicted for attempting to practice sodomy.

46. *jl*r Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:00 pm](#)

There's this nice, very cushy gravy train out there awaiting anyone who wants to be a loyal footsoldier and one consequence of that is that the standards in terms of the personnel are quite low.

I'm Jennifer Palmeiri, and I approved this message.

47. *Gmorgmibgnikgnok* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:18 pm](#)

More than Jonah Goldberg, Kathryn Jean Lopez strikes me as the single most untalented individual at National Review. She has almost no original output, most of it being something like “and then [insert right-wing priest or pundit] said...”.

When you accuse someone of twisting facts, quoting out of context, etc, you at least have to credit them with trying to construct an argument. Realize how low the bar is when Ms. Lopez maintains a steady job despite not being able to do even that much.

48. [24AheadDotCom](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:28 pm](#)

“Libertarian” Julian Sanchez is a comment-deleting lil’ fascist. He deleted a couple comments with links to [this page](#); any intellectually honest guesses as to why? I believe he also deleted past comments I’d left at his site, including one that I’d linked from other sites. He’s a lightweight who only gets by because he isn’t challenged.

As for the post, a good example from across the aisle is [Rachel Maddow](#). It’s surprising that she can’t be more subtle with her lies, almost like it’s an illness.

49. [24AheadDotCom](#) Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:30 pm](#)

Forgot to add the necessary boilerplate:

P.S. Past comments at this site have unleashed a flurry of vile ad homs (**including ethnic slurs from pseudonymous in nc**), showing the intellectual and emotional level of many of MattY’s readers. The readers of a blog are generally reflective of the blogger: high-quality bloggers attract higher-quality readers and, in MattY’s case, his low-quality, hasty posts involving plenty of partisan red meat but little substance attract many readers of the ThinkProgress level. Hopefully any replies to this comment will be intelligent and logical, but I’m not expecting much. Watch and see what happens.

50. *dcDan* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:44 pm](#)

Goldberg is a legacy hire. Everyone knows that!

That's the right winger way, make room for mine.

Bush II was a legacy kid too, and we know how that usually works out. Who expected him to be smart?

51. [mikeellis.creativecashoutlets.com - Who Is the VIP Of Your Business Opportunity Network?](#) Says:
[April 25th, 2010 at 10:47 pm](#)

[...] Matthew Yglesias » The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger [...]

52. *burritoboy* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:47 pm](#)

"I don't get it. Obviously there is a limited number of these positions, and if they are indeed as lucrative as you say, then there must be vigorous competition. And vigorous competition should produce high quality cadre of apparatchiks. And where are they? What's the explanation?"

1. There actually aren't that limited a number of these positions. There are literally hundreds (yes, hundreds) of conservative think-tanks.
2. The competition isn't that vigorous. At the end of the day, big-money conservatives are elitists. They really do prefer high-end educational pedigrees. "Conservatives" (whatever the hell that means) who go to prestigious educational institutions almost universally aim for very high-paying professions. Writing for conservative magazines, while a fairly reasonable living compared to other writing opportunities, pays magnitudes less than their other options.

Quite literally, "conservative" "intellectuals" are actively scouted. I am ashamed to confess that I perhaps was such a "conservative" student in college – not only did I get to go to multiple summer institutes for free, was regularly approached by various organizations to do internships with them (unsolicited by me), studied with a guy who was a close friend of William Buckley (as well as being an editor of *National Review*) and on and on. This was for a non-stellar student who hadn't managed to ever register to vote and had no idea who my Congressman was!

Also, you shouldn't ignore that conservatives also have huge writing opportunities with the religious right (it doesn't matter whether you're Jewish, Protestant or Catholic, by the way – all three have religious rights). Take a peep at the horrors that pass for "Christian" fiction – LaHaye and Jenkins are damned close to being illiterate and they're perhaps the best selling writers of our time.

53. *Omega Centauri* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 10:56 pm](#)

Despite Burritoboy, I just gotta think that is these are cushy jobs -and the qualifications as far as we can determine aren't that high, that there must be a lot of applicants (who wouldn't play a free lottery ticket?). So it must be a pretty selective process. But, they aren't selecting for things we would value; probing intelligence, a dedication to finding the truth, no matter who it might offend, etc. They are looking for something else. And I suspect only someone with the same worldview would understand that metric well enough to judge who wins.

I gotta admit though as a grad student, and the antievolution “research institutes” were getting starting, thinking how easy it would be. Just make stuff up. Recieve praise and rewards. Who wouldn't like a gig like that?

54. *ydiot* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 11:05 pm](#)

I'm not sure how he's so dumb when you have a whole website dedicate to how stupid you are.

<http://www.ydiot.net/>

55. *Simon Simple* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 11:05 pm](#)

Partisanship when you're a political pundit, aka shill, is like having bad breath; when it's your own you can't smell it.

Question – is this a parody site? Because it seems like most of you were pretending to be intellectuals, you know, like the way a show like “Whose Line Is It Anyway” would be tasked with having a few improv comedians act like “smart people.”

If so, GOOD JOB! Pretty authentic.

56. *Comment* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 11:09 pm](#)

Jonah did not even know that that Burke was Irish – Also , he had never heard of Burke Cockran – Churchill's youthful inspiration. He never even heard of the prime person in Churchill's oratorical development.

That all would be fine – but as someone who pretends to be a Burkean and a Churchillian – there is no excuse.

It's like someone not knowing that MLK was black.

He is a phony.

57. *Comment* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 11:18 pm](#)

Myles – You are being silly:fter years of pretending to be a “Burkean – Jonah – as of a few years ago – did not even know that Burke was Irish.

Anglo-Irish, Ascendancy, Protestant. That's hardly what most Americans would understand as Irish.”

Jonah is not pretending to be the average Joe – Rather, he regarded himself as an expert of sorts on Burke.

58. *wtfci* Says:

[April 25th, 2010 at 11:36 pm](#)

Is Matty writing about himself again?

That leash isn't getting any longer friend.

59. *Comment* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 1:37 am](#)

Bourke Cockran – he (Jonah) never heard of Bourke Cockran – some conservative – Some expert.

60. *Myles SG* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 2:25 am](#)

As far truly highly intelligent people not being concerned with other people's intelligence, comment #20, I would come to the exact opposite conclusion. From my experience, highly intelligent people are often insufferable because they don't suffer fools lightly and will let everyone know it.

You haven't met me. I can tolerate fools somewhat if they are reasonably elegant.

61. [Survey: Do you think Time is different in the internet world? | Tanit Internet World](#) Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 2:25 am](#)

[...] Matthew Yglesias » The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger [...]

62. [Using a Colon Cleanse Formula | Colon Cleanse Ultra For Men](#) Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 3:44 am](#)

[...] Matthew Yglesias » The Cushy Life of the Rightwinger [...]

63. *cmholm* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 3:57 am](#)

Per burritoboy (#52): *“LaHaye and Jenkins are damned close to being illiterate and they're perhaps the best selling writers of our time.”*

I bought the first three or four episodes of “Left Behind” to see what “Chri-Sci-Fi” read like. Their character development was pulp-grade. Rather than show any imagination with story or setting, they stuck with a literal reading of KJB. The last straw was the realization that the authors were going to drag the series out with many more volumes. I bailed and picked up the synopsis from Wikipedia years later.

In retrospect, it seems that Frank Herbert managed to get a lot more bang for the buck with 3 volumes/600k words than LaHaye/Jenkins with 16 volumes/1300k words.

64. *Tom* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 5:01 am](#)

The media mercenaries have a few wealthy benefactors who individually profit greatly from the efforts of their loyal foot-soldiers. The immediate payoff is reduced taxes, de-regulation and of course, power. As Matt says, right-leaning mediocre thinkers, or even apolitical hacks, can make a decent living speaking for these wealthy few.

Mediocre, left-leaning writers have a harder time finding a few wealthy benefactors who gain instant reward for left policies. Have we ever seen legions of poor people hiring *their* foot-soldiers to bring a modest increase in their quality of life? Who has millions to pay prestigious writers who support public education, welfare, egalitarian policies? Where are the left-leaning hacks getting rich off strict adherence to the progressive party-line?

It's been through the ages. Kings and Bishops hire mercenaries; poor people get to *be* the mercenaries. That, or be trampled by the policies favoring Kings and Bishops.

65. [‘An Intellectual Grievance Culture’ : The Other McCain](#) Says:
[April 26th, 2010 at 5:13 am](#)

[...] to Goldberg with — what else? — a long cri de couer blog post, which is immediately seconded by Matthew Yglesias of Think Progress. (Yglesias mocks conservative journalism as a “nice, very cushy gravy train” [...])

66. [Tom](#) Says:
[April 26th, 2010 at 5:22 am](#)

Does it help on comment upon Jonah Goldberg? What if every sane blogger and journalist refused to mention Jonah's name?

Seem every Thursday he has something incredibly stupid to say. I'd link to his NRO Thursday column, but then, I'd be guilty of spreading his message.

We all know his newest column will be stupid. If nobody comments on it, then his only audience will be his group-think group. Jonah will retain his job another week and nothing in the world will change. With current-state conservatism failing so badly it would be nice if this becomes the steady-state.

67. [Sonic Charmer](#) Says:
[April 26th, 2010 at 6:50 am](#)

As far truly highly intelligent people not being concerned with other people's intelligence, comment #20, I would come to the exact opposite conclusion. From my experience, highly intelligent people are often insufferable because they don't suffer fools lightly and will let everyone know it.

In my experience this is more likely to be true of *moderately* intelligent people, not highly intelligent people.

The former are more likely to be insecure about their intelligence in a way that compels them to constantly be on the lookout for ways/reasons/excuses to call others 'stupid', it seems to me. Most people who are *truly* intelligent don't feel the need to do this. They are also more likely to be intelligent enough to realize that being 'intelligent' isn't the be-all and end-all, and that calling someone 'dumb' isn't actually a counterargument to someone.

68. [shoething](#) Says:
[April 26th, 2010 at 7:36 am](#)

it's obvious none of the bashers have ever read jonah's best seller liberal facsism, if they had they would

realize his brilliance.

69. *roac* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 10:02 am](#)

I would agree with Tom @ 66 that Jonah is best ignored, if it were not that the LA Times sees fit to give him a platform, and the question “Why?” has never been satisfactorily answered.

70. *burritoboy* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 10:30 am](#)

“Despite Burritoboy, I just gotta think that is these are cushy jobs -and the qualifications as far as we can determine aren’t that high, that there must be a lot of applicants (who wouldn’t play a free lottery ticket?). So it must be a pretty selective process.”

Since I’ve seen this from the inside: it’s not that selective. The talent pool is generally mediocre quality – the summer institutes, for example, often had 100+ students attendees, only a handful of which were from high quality schools. From the two people I’ve kept in touch with, one of those handful became a real estate developer and another became a lawyer. It’s competitive, to be sure, but the competitors are generally of relatively poor quality.

There are some areas where “conservative” “intellectuals” are of much higher quality – but these are generally centered in academia and even then they are considerably more heterodox than the folks operating in mass media.

71. *jdc* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 10:39 am](#)

Lets review. Never held a real job, is worth millions. Went to the best schools in the country but no one has ever seen the transcripts, nor do his teachers recall him ever being in thier classrooms. Jonah? I dont think so.

“Cornell grad Michelle Malkin had a nationally syndicated column at age 28. I believe a form of affirmative action had something to do with that.”

she went to Oberlin in Ohio not Cornell. And best to not bring up affirmative action beneficiaries without mentioning Obama and his wife.

72. *Morgan Warstler* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 11:23 am](#)

[The cushy life of Public Employees.](#)

73. *Anthony* Says:

[April 26th, 2010 at 12:03 pm](#)

jdc, do guys like you really believe your own horseshit? If so, I feel pretty bad for you. You’ve been duped...

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