



and offer you a super low rate. (2.28% APR)

HOME MAIL NEWS FINANCE SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE MORE

Download the Yahoo News app →

yahoo!news



Sign in



Jill Biden's Garbage Dissertation, Explained



Kyle Smith

December 17, 2020



To call Jill Biden's dissertation thin gruel is an insult to gruel. Whatever meager substance puddled in Bob Cratchit's miserable bowl at mealtime was a bountiful feast compared with this paper. I wrote yesterday about the problems with this capstone project, the foundation of her Ed.D. degree and of the insistence of so many in recent

TRENDING

Judge throws out Gohmert suit aimed at empowering Pence to overturn 2020 election results

Politico · 5 min read

Why Emptier Streets Meant an Especially Deadly Year for Traffic Deaths

The New York Times · 6 min read

Pompeo accused of using official State Department Twitter account to 'soft-launch' presidential campaign

The Independent · 3 min read

Newest amenity at hotels? Covid-19 test at check-in or before your flight

NBC News · 3 min read

'Soho Karen' who attacked Black teenager identified

The Independent · 3 min read

days that we must call her “Dr.”

Mrs. Biden’s only original research consists of interviews with two — that’s right, two — ex-students and a few colleagues at Delaware Technical Community College, where she used to teach, plus the results of a vacuous questionnaire she wrote that was returned by about 150 people who worked or studied there. Oh, and she also called two nearby community colleges seeking interviews about their retention rates. One of them wouldn’t answer the question; the other wouldn’t assign anyone to speak to her at all. Telling us about this misadventure serves no academic purpose, though it does fill up four pages of her generously spaced paper. The transcripts of her group chats with campus figures and colleagues take up nearly 30 pages out of 129. The questionnaires eat up another 18 pages.

The dissertation, *Student Retention at the Community College: Meeting Students’ Needs*, shimmers with the wan, term-papery feel of middle school, although in defense of today’s middle schoolers, they at least know how to use spell-checking software, unlike Mrs. Biden. Her 2006 paper notes that at Delaware Tech, her then-employer, a third of students dissolve into the ether every year, and in order to pad out her micron-thin proposals, none of which have anything to support them except her beliefs and anecdotal evidence (she suggests building a student center and beefing up the “Wellness Center” while increasing counseling and mentoring services), she shovels in piles of drivel. Opinions will differ on which of her efforts is of least value, but a strong contender presents itself at the moment when she reaches over for the course catalog on her desk and quotes at length from page two of its boilerplate introduction (“The College respects and cares for students as individuals and maintains a friendly an open institution which welcomes all students and supports their aspirations for a better life”). She follows up on this meaningless prattle by reiterating it in her own insipid words: “Responding to the current social and economic morés of the new millennium, Delaware Tech’s mission has



If You Have Sliding Doors in Your Home This Is a Must Read

Ad by Graber Blinds

POPULAR



Joe and Jill Biden talk COVID-19 heroes, vaccines in odd, Jumbotron 'New Year's Rockin' Eve' interview

USA TODAY Entertainment



Millis, Massachusetts: Say Bye To Expensive Solar Panels

Ad • EnergyBillCruncher



'It's put Delaware on the map': Biden's win drags state from the shadows

The Guardian

adapted to meet the needs and goals of today's students."

Biden's landfill of a paper contains potted histories of things everybody already knows, awkwardly phrased banalities ("Community colleges offer a myriad of support," "As a community college, Delaware Tech mirrors the national profile of a community college," "the unique nature of the classroom allows for a complexity of problems as well"), and childlike repetition ("This reason is one of many reasons that support the need for a campus psychologist.")

Biden's style is atrocious, her research is comical, her reasoning is muddled, and as one finishes the final vacuous line of this student-newspaper-style exercise ("A student retention plan requires diligence and effort — but most of all, leadership"), it is impossible not to be reminded that the University of Delaware, which granted Mrs. Biden an Ed.D. in 2007, is deeply connected to her husband. A more exacting, or even minimally self-respecting, university would have directed Mrs. Biden's paper to the nearest trash receptacle. Jill Biden looks like yet another member of the Biden family who successfully leveraged the family name to obtain things of value that otherwise would have lain far beyond the reach of someone of such meager talents.

The typos and other miscues begin in the second sentence of Mrs. Biden's introduction ("The needs of the student population are often undeserved [sic], resulting in a student drop-out rate of almost one third") unless you count the table of contents, in which Biden misspells the word questionnaire. Easing into her subject, she churns through the reader's time with undisguised filler such as block quotations of her then-employer's mission statement, press-release blather ("Today, the community college not only answers the needs of transfer students but has also emerged to address the needs of career education, vocational and technical education, contract training, and community services") and cutaways to comparable low-impact thoughts on community colleges taken from the very small stack of books she skimmed:



House Republicans planning to challenge Biden's Electoral College victory

FOX News Videos



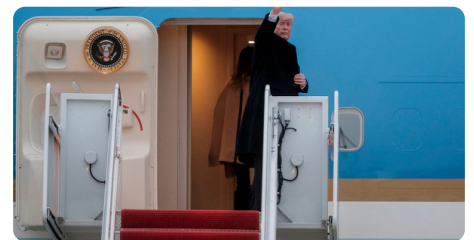
Republican plan to challenge election signals 'cult of Trump' will live on in Biden era

The Guardian



Improve Mental Wellness

Ad • Walmart



Donald Trump skips lavish NYE party to focus on overturning Biden victory in Congress

The Telegraph



Biden's pick to lead Treasury made over \$7M in speaking fees

Associated Press

“B.S. Hollinshead, president of a junior college in Pennsylvania, wrote that the junior college should be ‘a community college meeting community needs.’ (Cohen & Brawer, 2003, p. 20).” You don’t say. “Dr. George F. Zook, president of the American Council on Education in 1946, echoed Hollinshead’s sentiments . . .” and so on.

I say “skimmed,” but perhaps I’m being unfair. Let’s just observe that as a scholar, Biden certainly is *fortunate*: Again and again, the books she cites turn out to contain a huge proportion of the material relevant to her discussion in their first 20 pages. For instance, a book she leans on heavily to bulk up her word count, A. M. Cohen, F. B. Brawer, and C. B. Kisker’s *The American Community College*, contains material on pages 1, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 20 that she deemed worthy of quotation. (There is also strong evidence that she read pages 202–207). By an astonishing coincidence, seven of her 15 quotations from a book about community colleges by A. A. Witt et al. (and published by something called “The Community College Press”) come from the first 15 pages of the book, but we can be sure she also read pages 96–97 because four of the remainder come from those pages.

Biden is a writing teacher in dire need of a writing tutor: “In an effort to obtain upward mobility, returning GIs, [sic] took the opportunity to enroll in college” is a not-untypical sentence. She can barely get through a banality without an unnecessary comma or a spelling mistake and she says “skyrocket” when she means “plummet”: “Stress, anxiety, and depression set in when the student succumbs to feeling overwhelmed. The first sacrifice has to be school; hence, student retention rates skyrocket if there are no safeguards in place to help students cope with all they are trying to handle.”

Biden’s original research of distributing questionnaires and chatting with a few people on campus is not rigorous work that demonstrates mastery. It’s more like half a week of basic reporting. Indeed, given that questionnaires could be distributed by email, one could conceivably accomplish more or less everything Biden considers to be her original



Janet Yellen, Biden’s pick to lead Treasury, made over \$7m in speaking fees in two years

The Independent



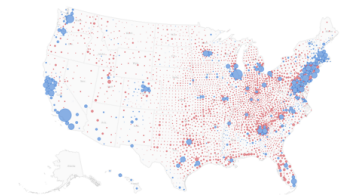
The Cost Of A New Hyundai Palisade Is Shocking

Ad • searchlime



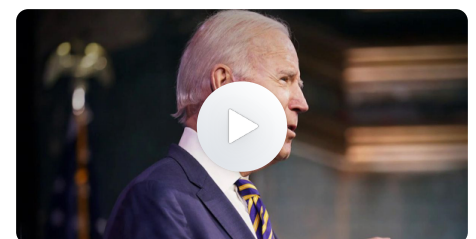
House Republicans have virtually no chance of flipping the election results for Trump, but 140 of them still plan to vote against...

Business Insider



Fact check: These 5 election statistics do not discredit Joe Biden’s victory

USA TODAY



Senator says he will challenge Biden election

research *in a single day*. The 37 questions (most of them yes/no) contained in her student survey solicit such rudimentary information (“In your opinion, would a campus psychologist be helpful to students?” And “Have you ever used the writing center?” And “Has Delaware Tech provided you the support you need to thrive socially?”) that they seem more characteristic of the inquiries of a marketing department than an academic exploration. Given that actual community-college marketing departments have presumably done many larger and more detailed surveys in the past, Biden’s work looks entirely superfluous. (Biden’s sample size was 159 students, and she gives no indication that this group was anything other than a self-selecting cadre of those who sent back answers. She also sent out surveys to 100 faculty members, 69 of whom responded, and seven guidance counselors, of whom six responded. Is a survey of six people of any academic value whatsoever? As for her interviews of dropouts, I remind you that there were exactly two of them.)

All of Biden’s nominal research, her bromides and tautologies and unsupported assertions, are all wasted anyway. The entire paper may be rotten fruit, but it fell off a poisoned tree, which is Biden’s conceptual confusion. A professor who expected any rigor whatsoever from Biden would have drawn a red line through the entire paper and told her to start over. I’ll explain why in my next column.

More from National Review

- [The Fate of Giulio Regeni](#)
- [Wounded Warriors Ceremony](#)
- [Holiday Revisions](#)

Our goal is to create a safe and engaging place for users to connect over interests and passions. In order to improve our community experience, we are temporarily suspending article commenting.

certification

NBCU



2.18% FIXED Mortgage Refi, No Hidden Fees/Points

Ad • LendGo



If You Have Sliding Doors in Your Home This Is a Must Read

Ad by Graber Blinds

yahoo!mobile
Unlimited for just \$39⁹⁹/mo.
On Verizon's 4G LTE Network
[Save now](#)
*Terms apply



If You Have Sliding Doors in Your Home This Is a Must Read

Ad by Graber Blinds

See More

LATEST STORIES



Reuters

Romney urges sweeping vaccine plan as U.S. surpasses 20 million COVID-19 cases

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -U.S. Senator Mitt Romney on Friday urged the U.S. government to immediately enlist veterinarians, combat medics and others in an all-out...
17h ago



BBC

Lisa Montgomery: Only woman on US federal death row to face execution

A court has ruled that Lisa Montgomery can be executed on 12 January, despite appeals from lawyers.

3h ago

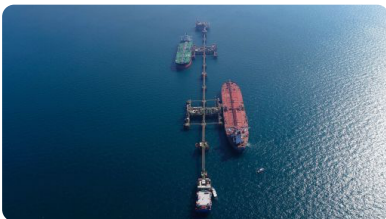


Ad • EnergyBillCruncher

...

Millis, Massachusetts: Say Bye To Expensive Solar Panels

Do this instead of buying expensive solar panels. It's absolutely genius. This program has power companies furious.



Associated Press

Iraq explosives experts working to defuse mine on oil tanker

Iraqi explosives experts were working to defuse a large mine discovered on an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf and evacuate its crew, authorities said Friday. The Iraqi statement said th...
23h ago



The Telegraph

Indian Muslims flee their homes after Love Jihad laws leave them in fear of Hindu neighbours

Nearly 40 Muslim families in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh are planning to flee their village after saying they had been subjected to a campaign of harassment by a Hind...
20h ago



National Review

The Bill Is Coming Due for China's 'Capitalist' Experiment

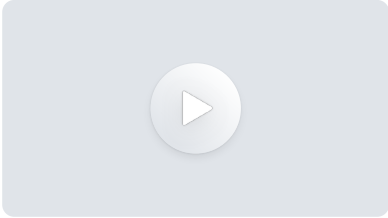
The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has re-awoken to a profound truth: Rich, secure capitalists are the natural enemies of authoritarian regimes. In a hybrid autocratic-...
1d ago

Ad • searchlime

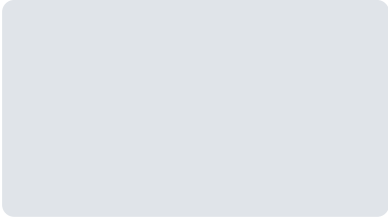
...

Here's What Full Mouth Dental Implants Should Cost

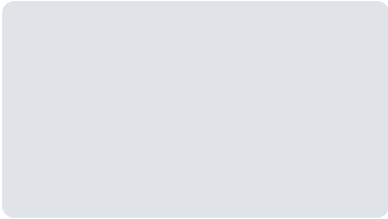
The Price Of Dental Implants May Actually Surprise You. Research Dental Implants For Seniors



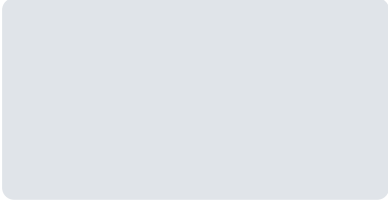
Yahoo News Video
**Report:
Trooper under**
A Louisiana State
Police trooper
died Wednesda...
2d ago



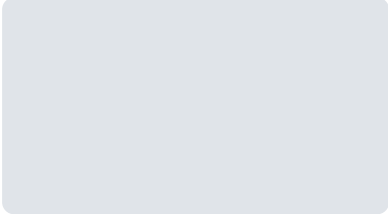
The Week
GOP Sen. Ben Sasse says he hasn't heard 'a single congressional Republican' dispute the election in
Republican House members and at least one senator are lining up to oppose President-elect Joe Biden's 2020 win. But Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) says that's not what's happening...
2d ago



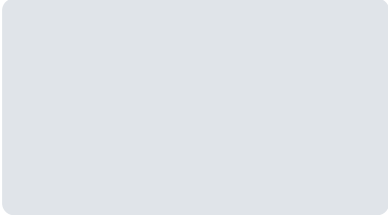
Miami Herald
Florida Supreme Court delivers the 'Holy Grail of lawsuit reform' in Thursday ruling
The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday revamped a key legal standard as its conservative majority continued to show a willingness to undo previous decisions that have...
2d ago



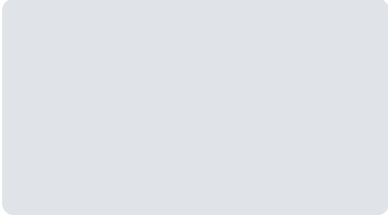
Ad • System1 | Search Ads
Multiple Myeloma Symptoms You May Regret Missing
Multiple Myeloma indicators may be more subtle than you think. Look for multiple myeloma warning signs and symptoms.



Reuters
Philippines to ban U.S. travellers from Sunday
The Philippines will prohibit the entry of foreign travellers from the United States from Sunday after the more infectious new variant of the coronavirus was detected in...
23h ago

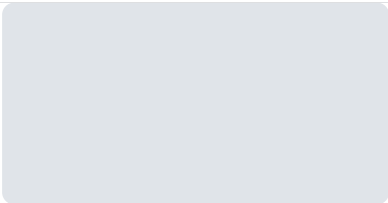


The Telegraph
US admits vaccination rollout is slower than hoped - and 'normality' may not return until autumn
The US government has admitted its coronavirus vaccine rollout is going too slowly, as the country's top infectious disease expert warned the nation may not reach "some...
2d ago

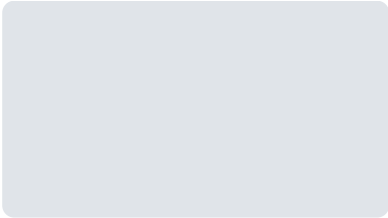


Associated Press
Trump returns to White House early, offers year-end message
President Donald Trump delivered a year-end video message Thursday after returning early from vacation, highlighting his administration's work to rapidly develop a vaccine against...
2d ago

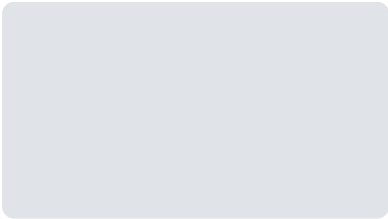
Ad • HistoryA2Z
Trail Cam Pics Will Make You Fidget In Your Seat
These cams are consistently on the clock, waiting for the



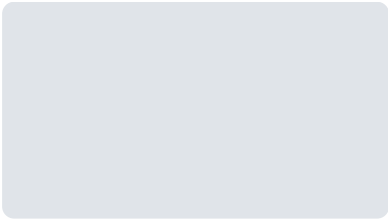
perfect shot of trail cam photos, especially during hunting season



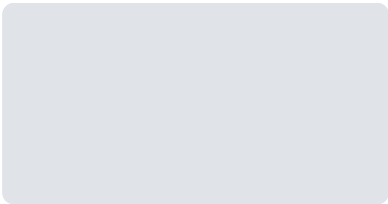
NBC News
New York restaurant
Video captured dancing, mask-less Republicans...
2d ago



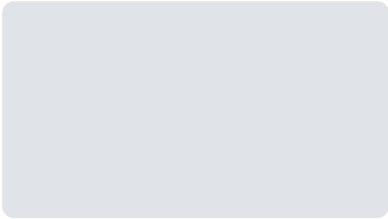
Reuters
'Cheap trick': China rebuffs latest Taiwan offer of talks
China has rebuffed the latest offer of talks from Taiwan, saying the government was engaging in a "cheap trick" and provocation by seeking confrontation with China at every...
11h ago



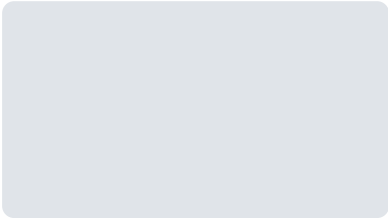
The Telegraph
Teachers demand that all schools stay closed
Teaching unions have demanded the closure of every school in the country after Gavin Williamson caved in to pressure to shut all primaries in London. The Education Secretary was...
17h ago



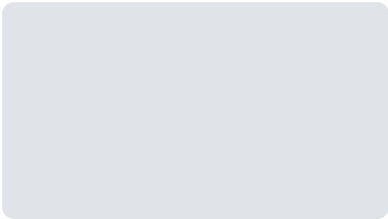
Ad • Sogoodly ...
Start Putting Dishwasher Tablets In Your Shower
If you aren't putting dishwasher tablets in your shower already, you should start...



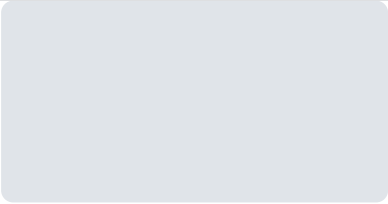
Associated Press
Iran general warns US: Military ready to respond to pressure
The top commander of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said Friday that his country was fully prepared to respond to any U.S. military pressure as tensions between...
23h ago



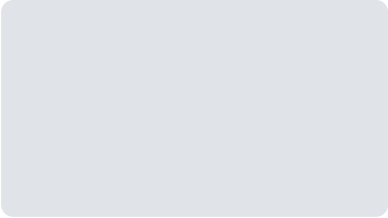
Military.com
1st Female Green Beret Faces 'Minor Misdemeanor' Charge for Accidentally Firing Gun, Police Say
The soldier graduated from the Special Forces Q Course, becoming the first woman to earn the Special Forces tab.
2d ago



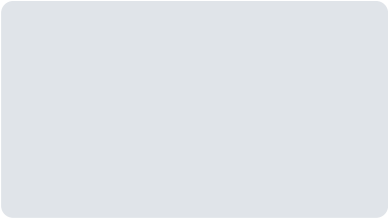
NBC News
Los Angeles County prosecutors file lawsuit against new district attorney over justice reform efforts
"The directives violate California law," the union representing deputy district attorneys said about an order to abandon many sentencing enhancements.
8h ago



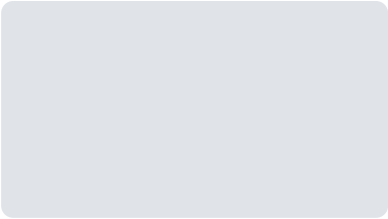
Top Doctor: "This Fruit Is A Weight Loss Wonder"
America's Top Dietician, Dr. KellyAnn, explains the connection between this one fruit and your battle against weight gain



Reuters
AstraZeneca expects to supply two million doses of COVID-19 vaccine every week in UK -The Times
AstraZeneca expects to supply two million doses of the vaccine in total by next week, the newspaper reported, citing an unnamed member of the Oxford-AstraZeneca team. The...
13h ago



The Telegraph
Emmanuel Macron uses new year's message to say Brexit was born of 'many lies and false promises'
Emmanuel Macron used his new year's message to accuse Brexit of having been born of a European malaise and "many lies and false promises". In the French president's annual...
19h ago



Politico
Pence may choose 2020 election winner 'as he sees fit,' Gohmert says in court filing
Gohmert's new brief contends that the Constitution effectively makes Pence the sole arbiter of which electoral votes to count during the Jan. 6 session of Congress to...
19h ago

