Bet You Missed It-What do old books and tv writers have in common?

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FOR PROFITS IN THE CROSSHAIRS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The Department of Ed is not pleased with the low rate of loan repayment by college students and has focused in particular on for-profit colleges of Strayer, U of Phoenix and that ilk. A proposed rule would strip the schools of federal funding if the debt repayment rate does not exceed 45%.

The money-losing Washington Post owns the money-making Kaplan, which is not just the familiar test prep courses but an online university like Phoenix. Its repayment rate is 28%. The Post’s stock has dropped 31% over the past year, and this will not be helpful for them.

And what will DC bureaucrats read if the Post goes?

WHAT? THE LIBRARY DOESN’T WANT THOSE OLD BOOKS IN YOUR OFFICE
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

To discard books or not? Sir John Squire’s 1919 essay “On Destroying Books” notes that “books may not have as many lives as a cat, but they certainly die hard, and it is sometimes difficult to find a scaffold for them.” The author threw a sack of inferior poetry books off Chelsea Bridge into the Thames.

Others think no book should be destroyed. Future scholars may wish to study the inferior works of the past.

When the library turns down your gift, there’s always Books for Africa and Books for Soldiers.

WHEN EVEN THE FRENCH SPEAK ENGLISH
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Americans have always been lambasted for not knowing other languages than English. And the failing is getting worse, mainly because beginning the study of a language in the 9th or 10th grade pretty much guarantees you will never master it.

On the other hand, English has won. Ben Wildavsky’s The Great Brain Race describes English as the language of international exchange in commerce and intellectual and scientific matters. The Chinese and the Indians are obsessed with learning English.

And then there’s the prediction that adequate machine translations “will almost certainly be available as phone apps within a decade.” You’ll walk down a street in Cairo talking English into the phone and have it come out Egyptian.


Rumors
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(p.20), Paul Needham and Peter Shepherd (p.26), and Henk Moed (p.34), contribute papers on the issue of statistics.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

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