

## Some Other Inconvenient Facts about Academia

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\*\*\*Warning: Contains Documentation of Sexual Abuse and Harassment\*\*\*

**Robert E. Anderson** (1928-2008), MD, worked at the University of Michigan (“Arts, Knowledge, Truth”) in various positions, including Director of University Health Services and as an athletic department physician for the football team under head coaches Bo Schembechler (1929-2006) and Lloyd Carr (b. 1945), from the late 1960s to the early 2000s. About 1,050 people have accused Anderson of sexual abuse under the guise of medical care, according to a UM campus safety report in the fall 2021. This allegedly involved subjecting them to unnecessary hernia and prostate exams that included genital fondling during routine physicals. On January 19, 2022, the University of Michigan announced that it reached a \$490 million settlement agreement with attorneys representing more than 1,000 survivors.

**Hélène Cixous** (b. 1937), Algerian-born French Jewish feminist literary critic and poet-philosopher, wrote “Le Rire de la Méduse” (The Laugh of the Medusa; 1975), in which she imagined (manifested) female embodiment beyond patriarchy and systems of oppression, including received institutions. Laughter as resistance, shattering domination and suppression. Advocated for *Écriture féminine* (“women’s writing”), joining forces with Luce Irigaray (b. 1930) and Julia Kristeva (b. 1941), among others. In turn became one of the mothers of poststructuralist feminist theory. Life-long friends with Jacques Derrida.

**Bill Cosby** (b. 1937), former “America’s Dad” and serial rapist, earned his Doctor of Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (“By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty”) in 1984. His dissertation focused on the use of *Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids* as a teaching tool in elementary schools. Temple University (“Perseverance Conquers”) subsequently granted him his bachelor’s degree on the basis of “life experience,” including his involvement as a member of their board of directors as well as a coveted and favored donor. In addition to his storied career as a comedian and faux moralist, Cosby apparently began his career as a rapist in the mid-1960s. In 1986, wrote *Fatherhood*. In 1988, donated 20 million dollars to Spelman College (“Our Whole School for Christ”), an HBCU in Atlanta, Georgia. In honor of this gift, still the largest single donation to any HBCU, the school constructed the Cosby Academic Center. In 1997, his only son Ennis, who was the inspiration for Theo Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, was murdered while changing a flat tire on the side of Interstate 405 in Los Angeles. In 2004, Cosby gave his infamous Pound Cake speech (more privileged white conservative victim-blaming). As of 2021, 60+ women have accused Cosby of sexual assault and rape, specifically through various date-rape drugs, including Methaqualone/Quaaludes. “I don’t talk about it,” except under oath and in a now-unsealed deposition in the case *Andrea Constand v. William H. Cosby Jr.* (2005). Not surprisingly, friend of Hugh Hefner (1926-2017) and used as a defense by the convicted sex offender Ghislaine Maxwell (b. 1961), former assistant to, enabler of, and possible co-conspirator with Jeffrey Epstein (1953-2019). Cosby also received numerous awards and honors, including a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1977), Kennedy Center Honor (1998), Presidential Medal of Freedom (2002), and Bob Hope Humanitarian Award (2003), many of which have since been

rescinded (in order to maintain and reproduce said status-systems). In the words of Eddie Murphy, “Have a coke and a smile, and shut the fuck up.”

**Ioan Culianu** (1950-1991), Romanian historian of religion and chosen successor of Mircea Eliade (1907-1986) in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago (“Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched”), was murdered in the bathroom of Swift Hall. The case remains unsolved. Given his earlier political resistance, it has been conjectured that he was assassinated by agents of the Romanian Securitate. However, as he was only months away from receiving a permanent position at the University of Chicago, it may have been an inside job.

**Angela Davis** (b. 1944), American radical leftist political activist, black feminist-Marxist theorist, and liberationist scholar, was born in the “Dynamite Hill” neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama, which was marked in the 1950s by the bombings of houses in an attempt to intimidate and drive out middle-class black people who had moved there. Studied French at Brandeis University (“Truth even unto its innermost parts”) and philosophy at the University of Frankfurt (Goethe University Frankfurt), in then-West Germany. Earned her MA in Philosophy from the University of California, San Diego (“Let there be light”) and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Humboldt University (“Entity of Sciences”), through which she developed a close association with Herbert Marcuse (1898-1979) and the Frankfurt School by extension. “Herbert Marcuse taught me that it was possible to be an academic, an activist, a scholar, and a revolutionary.” In 1969, Davis was appointed as an acting assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy of the University of California, Los Angeles (“Let there be light”). At that time, she was known as a radical feminist-activist, a member of the Communist Party USA, and an affiliate of the Los Angeles chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP). UCLA’s governing Board of Regents soon fired her due to her Communist Party membership; after a court ruled this illegal, the university fired her again, this time for her use of inflammatory language. In 1970, guns belonging to Davis were used in an armed takeover of a courtroom in Marin County, California, in which four people were killed. Prosecuted for three capital felonies, including conspiracy to murder, she was held in jail for over a year before being acquitted of all charges in 1972. Also loosely connected to the People’s Temple (1954-1978). In 1991, Davis helped establish the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS), an American democratic socialist group. “You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.” That same year she was appointed as a professor in the History of Consciousness and the Feminist Studies departments at the University of California, Santa Cruz (“Let there be light”), where she worked until her academic retirement in 2008. Much of her work focused on the abolition of prisons, and in 1997, she co-founded Critical Resistance, an organization working to abolish the prison-industrial complex and challenging the systemic racism and structural injustice of the criminal legal system. “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” Became a symbol of the black liberation movement, including as depicted in the “Power & Equality/Power to the People” poster (1971).

**Jacques Derrida** (1930-2004), Algerian-born French Jewish philosopher, never had a tenured academic position or an endowed Chair. Later in life wrote “*L’Animal que donc je suis (à suivre)*” (“The Animal That Therefore I Am”), which presages the end of Western philosophy, and perhaps Western academia and society more generally. Life-long friends with H el ene Cixous.

**Micrea Eliade** (1907-1986), Romanian historian of religion and key founding-figure of Religious Studies in general and the “Chicago school” in particular, early on was a disciple of the Romanian far-right philosopher and journalist Nae Ionescu (1890-1940). Several times during the late 1930s, Eliade publicly expressed his support for the Romanian Iron Guard, a fascist and antisemitic political organization. Also participated in Eranos. Subsequently memorialized with/as the Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions, which is currently held by Wendy Doniger, who has, in turn, been targeted by representatives of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism).

**Robert K.C. Forman** (b. 1946), former professor of religion at Hunter College (“The care of the future is mine”) and influential American theorist of mysticism, left academia early. In addition to being a life-long practitioner of Transcendental Meditation (TM™), Forman established The Forge Institute, through which he offers spiritual counseling. Also wrote *Enlightenment Ain’t What It’s Cracked Up to Be* (2011).

**Paulo Freire** (1921-1997), Brazilian educator, philosopher, and leading advocate of critical pedagogy, wrote *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1968). Attacked what he called the “banking model” of education, in which students are viewed as empty accounts to be filled by teachers. Also emphasized how unequal social relations create a “culture of silence” that instills a negative, passive and suppressed self-image onto the oppressed, and learners must then develop a critical consciousness in order to recognize that this culture of silence is created to oppress. According to Donald Macedo (b. 1950), former Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Education at University of Massachusetts, Boston, “Whereas students in the Third World and other nations struggling with totalitarian regimes would risk their freedom, if not their lives, to read Paulo Freire, in our so-called open societies this work suffers from a more sophisticated form of censorship: omission. This ‘academic selective selection’ of bodies of knowledge, which borders on censorship of critical educators, is partly to blame for the lack of knowledge of Paulo Freire’s significant contributions to the field of education.”

**Rahuldeep Singh Gill** (1979-2021), former Associate Professor of South Asian religions in the Department of Religion of California Lutheran University (“Love of Christ, Truth and Freedom”) and its Campus Interfaith Strategist, had his campus office vandalized by one or more unidentified racists (“Harvinder Gill”) in February of 2019. “I want to tell my story so people are held accountable and this doesn’t happen again...I don’t think it occurs to those high up [in administration] how this affects particularly vulnerable faculty, staff and students” (*The Echo* 3/23/20). Gill committed suicide on December 31, 2021. According to Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, a member of Gill’s dissertation committee at the University of California, Santa Barbara (“Let there be light”), “The death of Rahuldeep Singh Gill on New Year’s Eve is a tragic end to a promising career, and the field of Sikh studies suffers from his passing.” Gill’s treatment in academia and ultimate end perhaps demand further investigations into Cal Lutheran.

**Ernesto “Che” Guevara** (1928-1967), Argentine Marxist revolutionary, physician, guerilla leader, military theorist, and key figure in the Cuban Revolution, hated capitalists. He probably would have killed those who use his stylized visage as a (pseudo) countercultural symbol of rebellion and global pop-culture insignia. At the very least, he would have dismissed their conformity and complicity and despised their domestication and neutralization of revolutionary activity in the world. *¡Viva la revolución!*

**Martin Heidegger** (1889-1976), German philosopher, was a member and supporter of the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers' Party [Nazi Party]), with his early philosophy possibly having some connections with Nazi ideology (e.g., Dasein/Volk). His later reflections on "the question concerning technology" point towards the Nazi death-camps as directly connected to dehumanization via industrial (non-human-scale [NHS]) technology.

**bell hooks** (Gloria Jean Watkins; 1952-2021), American black feminist author, educator, and social activist, was born in Hopkinsville, a small, segregated town in rural Kentucky, to a working-class African-American family. Adopted the pen-name "bell hooks" to honor and invoke her maternal great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hook. Taught for most of her academic career at The City College of New York ("The education of free people is the hope of Mankind"), and finally at Berea College ("God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth"), where she established the bell hooks Institute (bhl). Explored the intersectionality of race, capitalism, and gender, and their intimate relationship to systems of oppression and class domination. Her work addresses love, art, class, feminism, gender, history, mass media, race, and sexuality. Wrote *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom* (1994), wherein she imagined (worked to enact) teaching and learning as liberation, perhaps presaging the impending (continuing) collapse of American so-called "higher" education. A life-long practitioner of Buddhist meditation and a Buddhist sympathizer, also contributed to *Uncut Funk: A Contemplative Dialogue*, a conversation with Stuart Hall (1932-2014), the founder of the *New Left Review*.

**Theodore ("Ted") Kaczynski** (b. 1942), a.k.a. "The Unabomber" (UNiversity and Airline Bomber), was a former American mathematics professor and domestic terrorist. Born in Chicago, Illinois to Polish-American working-class parents, with his father being a sausage-maker. Had severe hives as a baby, which resulted in forced hospital isolation with limited contact with others, after which he "showed little emotions for months." His mother recalled him recoiling from a picture of himself as an infant being held down by physicians examining his hives. She said he showed sympathy for animals who were in cages or otherwise helpless, which she speculated stemmed from his experience in hospital isolation. Later, after earning an IQ test score of 167, he skipped sixth grade. According to Kaczynski, this was a pivotal event: previously he had socialized with his peers and was even a leader, but after skipping ahead he felt he did not fit in with the older children, who bullied him. He subsequently earned a scholarship to Harvard University ("Truth") at the age of 16. There he was marginalized by other students on classist grounds, and in his second year ended up in an involuntary psychological experiment (torture) by Dr. Henry Murray (1893-1988), Director of the Harvard Psychological Clinic in the School of Arts and Sciences, possibly under the auspices of Project MKUltra, the CIA's illegal human experimentation program on mind-control. Subsequently earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Michigan ("Arts, Knowledge, Truth") in 1967. His dissertation "Boundary Functions" won the Sumner B. Myers Prize for Michigan's best mathematics dissertation of the year, Allen Shields, his doctoral advisor, called it "the best I have ever directed," and Maxwell Reade, a member of the dissertation committee, said, "I would guess that maybe 10 or 12 men in the country understood or appreciated it." By September of 1968, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley ("Let there be light"), a sign that he was on track for tenure. Apparently, he did not fit in with the Hippie counter-cultural *zeitgeist* of the times and was not well-liked by the Berkeley undergraduate students. He subsequently resigned and moved to a remote, off-grid cabin in Lincoln, Montana. Encountering the ever-present reality of modern technology (e.g., airplanes) even in remote wilderness, he began building bombs, became the Unabomber, and wrote



“Industrial Society and Its Future” (a.k.a. “Unabomber Manifesto”; 1995). On January 22, 1998, pleaded guilty to all charges, partially to avoid an insanity defense and the death penalty. As #04475-046, began serving eight life-sentences without the possibility of parole at ADX Florence, a supermax prison in Florence, Colorado. In 2021, he was moved to the Federal Medical Center, Butner, North Carolina (FMC Butner), for health reasons.

**Jeffrey Kripal** (b. 1962), American theorist of religion, J. Newton Rayzor Chair in Philosophy and Religious Thought at Rice University (“Unconventional wisdom”), as well as former department Chair and more recently associate dean, was the target of an early career assassination attempt (CAA) via devotees of Ramakrishna (1836-1886) and representatives of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism). Kripal in turn shifted to researching comic book heroes and the paranormal, sometimes problematically identifying and identified as a superhero (Spiderman) himself. Now also director of the Center for Theory & Research and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Esalen Institute, one of the centers of cultural appropriation, spiritual colonialism, and spiritual capitalism (“counter-culture”) in America.

**Gerard Mannion** (1970-2019), Irish Catholic theologian, founding Co-chair of the Ecclesiology Program Unit of the American Academy of Religion, as well as former director of the Center for Thought and Culture at the University of San Diego (“Send Forth Thy Spirit”) and later Joseph and Winifred Amatore Chair in Catholic Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of Georgetown University (“Both into One”), was one of the central figures in the “Tina Beattie affair” at the former, which was preceded by the “Rosemary Radford Ruether affair.” Critic of both “Catholic academia,” especially its lack of commitment to authentic academic freedom, and of the authoritarian tendencies of the Roman Catholic ecclesia. Mannion dropped dead of a heart-attack while jogging in Washington, D.C. on September 21, 2019. Possibly the academic-twin of Louis Komjathy (The Underground University), his colleague, friend, and former brother-in-arms.

**Herbert Marcuse** (1898-1979), German-American philosopher, sociologist, and political theorist, criticized capitalism, technology, and entertainment culture, arguing that they represent new forms of social control. Key representative of the New Left. Wrote *One-Dimensional Man* (1964), *Counterrevolution and Revolt* (1972), *The Aesthetic Dimension* (1978), etc. After Brandeis University denied the renewal of his teaching contract in 1965, Marcuse taught at the University of California, San Diego (“Let there be light”). In 1968, former Hollywood actor, FBI informant, California Governor and future President (CIA puppet) Ronald Reagan (1911-2004) and other conservatives objected to his reappointment (“just say no”), but the university decided to let his contract run until 1970. Following his departure from mainstream academia, Marcuse devoted the rest of his life to teaching, writing and giving lectures around the world. While the mainstream media claimed that he openly advocated violence, Marcuse emphasized that only “violence of defense” could be appropriate, not “violence of aggression.” Watch *Herbert’s Hippopotamus*.

**Larry Nassar**, MD, now former American Osteopathic physician and convicted rapist, worked at Michigan State University (“Advancing knowledge; transforming lives”) from 1997 to 2016, including as an assistant professor in MSU’s Department of Family and Community Medicine in the College of Human Medicine. At least as early as 1998, he was accused of sexual abuse, eventually amounting to twenty-four reports, all of which were documented by the MSU police department (MSUPD). Nassar eventually became the central figure, as the national medical coordinator, in the USA Gymnastics sex abuse scandal (1990s-2010s), which indicated that Nassar

repeatedly sexually assaulted at least 265 young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment. His victims included numerous Olympic and United States women's national gymnastics team gymnasts. Nassar pleaded guilty to multiple related charges in 2017 and was sentenced to *de facto* life without the possibility of parole. Currently incarcerated in United States Penitentiary, Coleman I and II (USP Coleman I and II), located in Florida. Michigan State University reached a \$500 million agreement in 2018 with 332 claimants alleging sexual abuse under Nassar in his role as university doctor.

**Robert Cummings Neville** (b. 1939), American philosopher and theologian, Boston Confucian-Methodist, and former dean of the School of Theology at Boston University (“Learning, Virtue, Piety”), was forced out of the later through a bait-and-switch appointment as Chaplain (2005-2009) of the Marsh Chapel orchestrated by then-BU President Emeritus John Silber (1912-2012).

**N.W.A. (Niggaz Wit Attitudes)**, American hip hop group among the earliest in the gangsta rap subgenre, sang “Appetite for Destruction,” “Fuck the Police,” and “Straight Outta Compton.” The rich white kids playing N.W.A. music while driving their convertible BMWs (or taking their Classics courses at elitist universities) wouldn’t venture into, let alone survive, Compton, Watts, or any other inner-city. Straight Outta Linda Vista.

**Robert Pirsig** (1928-2017), American writer and creative writing teacher, taught at Montana State University (MSU) (“Mountains and minds”) for two years (1958-1960). Also supported himself as a writer of computer manuals. Suffered a mental breakdown and spent time in and out of psychiatric hospitals between 1961 and 1963. Was diagnosed with schizophrenia and treated with electroconvulsive therapy on numerous occasions. Eventually wrote *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* (ZAMM; 1974) (“It’s not very factual on motorcycles, either”), which is a fictionalized autobiography of a 17-day journey that Pirsig made on a motorcycle from Minnesota to Northern California with his son Chris. The book was rejected by 121 publishers. Following publication, Pirsig received a Guggenheim Fellowship. Also served as vice-president of the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center from 1973 to 1975 and on its board of directors. In 1979, his son Chris, then 23 years old, was fatally stabbed in a mugging near the San Francisco Zen Center. On December 15, 2012, MSU granted an honorary doctorate in Philosophy (of course) to Robert Pirsig. He did not attend, ostensibly due to frail health, but possibly because of his earlier negative experiences at the institution. ZAMM may, in turn, be read on a meta-reflection on academia and corporate “culture” more generally, including the accompanying toxic ambition, careerism, and success-constructs. Cf. *Easy Rider* (1969).

**Jerry Sandusky** (b. 1944), former American college football coach and convicted sex offender, worked as an assistant coach under Joe Paterno (1926-2012) at Pennsylvania State University (“Making life better”) from 1969 to 1999. In 1977, founded The Second Mile (TSM), a non-profit charity serving Pennsylvania’s underprivileged and at-risk youth. Received “Assistant Coach of the Year” awards in 1986 and 1999. In 2011, following a two-year grand jury investigation, Sandusky was arrested and charged with 52 counts of sexual abuse of young boys, whom he met and targeted through TSM, over a 15-year period from 1994 to 2009. On June 22, 2012, Sandusky was found guilty on 45 charges and sentenced on October 9, 2012 to 30-60 years in prison. Now incarcerated in Pennsylvania’s State Correctional Institution—Greene (SCI Greene) “supermax” prison. In 2017, Penn State’s final settlement with an undisclosed number of Sandusky’s victims reached \$109 million.

**Michael Saso** (b. 1930), leading American scholar of Daoism and professor emeritus of the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii, Manoa (“Above all nations is humanity”), was the target of a careerist assassination campaign (CAC) in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (1980) by the American Francophile scholar-politician Michel Strickmann (Michael Strickman; 1942-1994), who was subsequently dismissed with cause (sexual misconduct; Incident #7666) from the University of California, Berkeley. Saso also is an ordained Jesuit Catholic priest and a Zhèngyī 正一 (Orthodox Unity) Daoist priest. Watch “Daoist Master Zhuang” and read *Lǎozǐ* 67.

**Jonathan Z. Smith** (a.k.a. J. Z. Smith; 1938-2017), leading American theorist of religion and Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at the University of Chicago (“Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched”), primarily taught in the Humanities program, rather than the Divinity School. Originally wanted to be an agrostologist (grass researcher). Never used a computer, instead handwriting or typing his work, despised the telephone, and thought the cellphone was “an absolute abomination.” In an interview with *The Chicago Maroon* (6/2/08), the U Chicago student newspaper, Smith commented on the entitlement of undergraduates, specifically their inability to understand true sacrifice, and pointed to a colleague who slaughtered a lamb for Easter as the type of dangerous activities that scholars would not undertake out of fear of administrators, parents, and students themselves. Died of lung cancer.

**Richard Strauss** (1938-2005), MD, worked as a physician in the Athletics Department and in the Student Health Center at the Ohio State University (OSU) (“Education for citizenship”) from 1978-1998. He also worked as an assistant professor in the OSU College of Medicine, apparently granted tenure at some point. Continued as a tenured faculty member in the School of Public Health until his voluntary retirement on March 1, 1998, upon which he gained emeritus status. Committed suicide in 2005. A report, based on an independent investigation of the law firm Perkins Coie and released in 2019, concluded that Strauss abused at least 177 male student-patients and that OSU was aware of the abuse as early as 1979. The abuse apparently was not widely known outside of Athletics or Student Health until 1996, when Strauss was suspended from his duties. He continued to abuse OSU students at an off-campus clinic until his retirement from the university in 1998. Ohio State University was faulted in the report for failing to report Strauss’s conduct to law enforcement. In 2019, OSU published its annual campus safety report, which reflected that Strauss committed 1,430 instances of fondling and 47 rapes during his tenure. In 2020, the university agreed to a \$46.7 million settlement with 185 survivors. Jim Jordan, former OSU assistant coach (1987-1994) and now Trumplican (RINO) member of the U.S. House of Representatives, may have known about the abuse.

**Paul Tillich** (1886-1965) was a German-American Christian existentialist philosopher and Lutheran Protestant theologian who taught at the Union Theological Seminary (“Union, Truth, Love”), Harvard Divinity School (“Truth”), and the University of Chicago (“Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched”). Read *From Time to Time* (1973) by Hannah Tillich.

**George Tyndall** (d.u.), MD, former gynecologist, practiced medicine at the University of Southern California (“Let whoever earns the palm bear it”) University Park Health Center and later the USC Engemann Student Health Center. He worked at the university from August 14, 1989 to June 21,

2016. For the majority of this time, he was the only full-time gynecologist. On May 16, 2018, the *Los Angeles Times* published an article investigating allegations of sexual abuse. Since the publication, hundreds of women have come forward accusing Tyndall of sexual abuse and racial discrimination. On June 26, 2019, Tyndall was arrested by the Los Angeles Police Department and charged with 29 felonies related to allegations by 16 women for incidents taking place from 2009 to 2016. In June of 2019, USC agreed to a \$215 million class-action settlement for tens of thousands of women treated by Tyndall while employed by the university. On March 25, 2021, USC and a group of 710 women suing the school announced that they had reached an \$852 million settlement. This brought the total amount of the settlements to nearly \$1.1 billion. Tyndall's preliminary criminal hearing occurred on November 30, 2021 at the Clara Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Los Angeles.

**B. Alan Wallace** (b. 1950), American Tibetan Buddhist scholar-practitioner and early key figure in the Mind & Life Institute, taught for four years in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Helped to raise endowment money for the Dalai Lama Professor of Tibetan Buddhism and Cultural Studies, for which it was assumed that he was the "inside candidate." Instead, José Cabezón received the inaugural appointment. Wallace subsequently established the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies in 2003 and collaborated with the neuroscientist Clifford Saron (University of California, Davis) on The Shamatha Project, and in turn advanced the emerging "contemplative science" movement. In 2021, established the Center for Contemplative Research in Crestone, Colorado.

**Cornel West** (b. 1953), African American philosopher, political activist, social critic, actor, and public intellectual, left his position of Professor of Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard University ("Truth"), with a joint appointment in the Harvard Divinity School and Department of African and African-American Studies, when he was denied consideration for tenure. "I can only take so much hypocrisy. I can only take so much dishonesty. I can only take so much pettiness in terms of ways in which I thought I was disrespected and devalued" (*The Boycott Times*, 3/8/21). West now teaches at the Union Theological Seminary ("Preparing effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace") in New York City. Jazz thinking.

**Malcolm X** (a.k.a. el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz; 1925-1965), black American Muslim minister and civil rights activist, was murdered by three Nation of Islam (NOI) members, possibly with the assistance (at the insistence of?) the CIA/FBI. Former criminal, black nationalist and black separatist, and NOI minister. Owned an M1 carbine for self-defense. Transformed his views towards "white people (devils)" following his participation in the Hajj in 1964, shifting towards shared humanity with retained concern for black empowerment (rooted in Islam). Assassinated a year later through a black/white (not black-and-white) conspiracy. "By any means necessary."