



AI-Gerbera: (satire)

"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross."
(Sinclair Lewis)

"We have seen the enemy and it is us". (Pogo)

While ignorance in America is definitely on the rise, it was recently documented as high as 33,000 feet, as we learn that an internationally distinguished professor was removed from an American Airlines flight because a fellow passenger reported suspicious activity. His seat mate, described as a shabbily dressed woman in flip-flop sandals, became suspicious and then increasingly alarmed as her fellow passenger repeatedly ignored her attempts to engage him in small talk. In the true spirit of our post 9-11, " If you see something, say something "surveillance-culture, she passed a note to a flight attendant, expressing her concern that he was a terrorist because he was writing strange things on a piece of paper; and even worse, she couldn't recognize his foreign script. Soon thereafter, their plane (which was ready for take off), was returned to the gate and their pilot appeared to advise the gentleman in question that he was about to be immediately escorted from the aircraft. Two hours later, he was permitted to re-board his now delayed flight, after being questioned by unnamed officials who found the woman's allegations to be non-credible. Here, I would suggest that a measure of compassion is needed for this poor misguided soul,

who was likely a recent graduate of Trump University where she learned that "all educated people are dangerous".

As it turned out, Ivy League Economics Professor Guido Menzio, an Italian with olive skin and dark curly hair, had been traveling from Philadelphia to Syracuse on his way to Ontario, Canada where he had been invited to deliver a lecture; while also focusing on a difficult mathematical equation. To be fair, it seems clear that this calculating individual was seriously engaged in cyphering something that had to do with Al-Gebra, involving Arab numerals and some really scary Greek letters, and could even have been using sine language on graph paper to plot an x-axis of terrorism. And, as we learn from our uber-patriotic, daily propaganda channels, anything having remotely to do with Arabs should be an immediate cause for concern, including the practice of **algebra** which dates as far back as ancient Babylon.

This mathematical term derives from the Arabic "al-jabr" which translates as "completion" or "re-union of broken parts" and refers to a branch of mathematics; together with number-theory, geometry and analysis. In a general sense, algebra is the study of mathematical symbols, and the rules for manipulating these symbols. Algebra is considered essential for the sciences, engineering, medicine, and economics, as well as what you really need to know in order to fly airplanes. (I.N. Herstein, Topics in Algebra, 1964). If something about this story still doesn't add up, you might consider the following piece by White Wolf posted by Zen Gardner in support of the fact that mathematicians are indeed a danger to national security, (and probably should all be deported).

Terrorist Plot Foiled:

Shortly before midnight, a public school teacher was arrested at JFK International Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, protractor, compass, slide rule, log tables and calculator. (Once these objects are totally banned, only criminals will have them). At a press conference .. Attorney General Eric Holder said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. Although he did not identify the suspect, Holder confirmed that the man has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of mass instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us, the Attorney General said: They derive solutions by means of means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of

absolute values. They use secret code names like X and Y and refer to themselves as "unknowns" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle". The Attorney General went on to say, "Teaching our children sentient thought processes while equipping them to solve problems is dangerous and puts our government at risk". When asked to comment on this arrest, President Obama said: " If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes". (August 2014).

While somewhat amusing, this is obviously a disinformation piece, clearly not credible, since despite the Attorney General's position on the Trilateral Commission there is no way that Eric Holder could have known that a triangle has three sides. As former President George W. Bush made clear, immediately after 9/11, there are only two sides to everything "for us or against us". Moreover, despite these triangulations, our government has failed to get to the root of the problem of students who solve problems with radicals. Perhaps a common denominator can be found in congress?

As discouraging as all this lack of progress may seem in light of our increasingly farcical "War on Terror", the incident with the Economics professor and his flip-flop accuser serves to highlight the fact that our "powers that be" are clearly winning the war on public education.