

THE COOPER UNION ALUMNI PIONEER

Nicknames (rev 5)

by Barry Drogin, EE '83

While our favorite local paper, *The Villager*, is obsessed with puns and wordplay in its headlines (and is only encouraged by winning awards for them), even when the story is far too serious to be saddled with such nonsense, *The Alumni Pioneer* has a different sense of humor. We like to name things. It's already started, and we'll probably keep on going. Here are a few we already use, and some on the drawing boards.

The Alumni Pioneer – We don't even know why the student newspaper is called *The Cooper Pioneer* – it's not like Peter Cooper had some kind of Davey Crockett adventures. And as its masthead says simply, *The Pioneer*, we have to work extra hard to not cause confusion. All we know is that the original title of this virtual newspaper, *The Cooper Pioneer: Special Alumni Edition: Financial Crisis 2011* was not going to keep cutting it, so we cut it instead. Just as *The Cooper Pioneer* is a newspaper by and for the students of The Cooper Union, *The Alumni Pioneer* is a virtual newspaper written by and for the alumni of The Cooper Union.

The Halloween Massacre – We'll just never forgive whoever organized this for dragging us back and forth across the Halloween parade, plus everyone knows when it is, and it serves as a handy reminder of the timeline. Why massacre? Aside from the obvious connection to Halloween, and the allusion to the Valentine's Day Massacre, perhaps this was the night that the administration killed off several founding principles of The Cooper Union.

Blackout Wednesday – The day before Thanksgiving, when someone working late in the Office of Alumni Relations, perhaps under pressure from the VP for Development, the Office of Public Affairs, or the President himself, deleted an announcement of the Alumni Association Free Cooper Union community summit from an e-mail blast and refused to post it as an alumni event to the cualumni.com website. A Fall/Winter issue of *At Cooper Union* was rushed out and posted to the cooper.edu website with no news of the financial crisis or the tuition protests, either. Let the media blackout begin.

Board Junkies – These are members of the Board of Trustees, even alumni, who cannot resist sitting on the boards of several other not-for-profits, including other colleges. Certainly, in the rarefied world of the upper class, there is some status conveyed, or maybe it's just a variant on the old boy's network. We're concerned that it discourages out-of-the-box thinking, dilutes our uniqueness, and encourages the board to follow others right off the cliff of existence. And we're jealous of all the canapes they get to eat as they flit from function to function.

Spin Doctor Jamshed – At a recent visit to the campus, we learned that, as part of his transparency, no doubt, President Bharucha preferred to be referred to by his first name. How retro! College presidents were always White and Lacy and Iselin to us, but then we did live in the time of Jimmy the peanut farmer and Tricky Dick. It was the latter who inspired this too-clever-by-half moniker, which we haven't dared use in any context – yet.

The New Colossus – Although we never got around to using Spin Doctor Jamshed, something about Emma Lazarus's famous "Give me your tired, your poor" inspired a song lyric about President Bharucha's attempt to change the simple (if yet to be implemented) "full scholarship" to the cozy "access" in his "reinvention strategy." Don't know why that Springsteen lick from "Born to Run" was in our head at that moment. The

“yearning to be free” was an inspired unplanned gift too good to pass up. The original verses were much meaner.

The New Transparency – This is now definitely meant sarcastically. The New Transparency is to say you’re transparent, send out mass e-mails full of misinformation, lie to the press, institute Blackout Wednesday, snow activists with opaque consolidated financial statements, censor alumni communications, impose extreme confidentiality agreements on trustees, and refuse to answer any further questions once people start to catch up.

The Gang of Six – The six alumni organizers of FREE COOPER UNION: A Community Summit.

Rescue Heroes – The six alumni and faculty members who gave fantastic presentations at FREE COOPER UNION: A Community Summit.

The Cooper 11 – The eleven Cooper art students who barricaded themselves in the Peter Cooper Suite from December 3, 2012, until December 10, 2012, demanding free education, board transparency and representation, and the resignation of Spin Doctor Jamshed.

Self-Hating Alumnus/Alumna – Any alumni who cite low alumni giving rates as the cause of the Cooper Union financial crisis, or the primary path to its solution. Originally called the “Blame the Alumni” narrative, which will now be called an Anti-Alumnic narrative, or Anti-Alumnism.

Here, also, are a list of acronyms:

JB = Jamshed Bharucha (current president)

GC = George Campbell (former president)

FY = Fiscal Year (July 1 to June 30; FY 2000 ends in 2000, but uses a 1999 Form 990)

FOCU = Friends of Cooper Union

CU\$O\$ = Cooper Union Student Action to Save Our School

CUFCT = Cooper Union Federation of College Teachers (full-time)

CUOP = Cooper Union Organization of Part-Time Faculty (union)

U@CU = Union at Cooper Union (staff)

AP = Alumni Pioneer

RCM = Responsibility Centered Management

CUAA = Cooper Union Alumni Association

TC = Theresa C. Westcott (VP of Finance)

CASE = Council for Advancement and Support of Education

AAUP = American Association of University Professors

MSA = Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

ABET = Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

NASAD = National Association of Schools of Art and Design

NAAB = National Architectural Accrediting Board

NYSED = New York State Education Department

NYC Finance = New York City Department of Finance

AG = Attorney General

CPI = Consumer Price Index

HEPI = Higher Education Price Index

HECA = Higher Education Cost Adjustment

ULURP = Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

LPC = Landmarks Preservation Commission

ASSE = Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante (Association for Student Union Solidarity)

IE = Interdisciplinary Engineering

BSE = Bachelor of Science in Engineering
ChE = Chemical Engineering
EE = Electrical Engineering
ME = Mechanical Engineering
CE = Civil Engineering
A = Art
AR = Architecture

The current version of this document can be found at <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/nicknames.pdf>>. Corrections to this document are appreciated and, if based on substantiated facts from legitimate sources, will be implemented by the author. The original version was completed on November 24, 2011, with later versions completed on November 26, December 4 and 21, 2011, and January 29, 2012, with a list of acronyms added on June 1, 2013.

The Alumni Pioneer, <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/Cassandra/cooper.html>>, is a virtual newspaper with breaking news stories and links to analyses, sources and the media. It is written and formatted in an inverted-pyramid newspaper style to facilitate quick access to what is deemed the most important information.