

Dear John,

Hello. This is Michael Gottlieb, Editor of *The Feynman Lectures on Physics New Millennium Edition*, and publisher of the online version of same. I am surprised and dismayed to read a comment from a prominent physicist such as yourself, about the claims made in Angela Collier's video, which is full of distortions, unfounded insinuations, and outright falsehoods. I can't imagine why one would take such a mountain of venomous gossip at face value and *repeat* it without doing some fact-checking first. For one thing I can tell you that Angela's video includes a great deal of false 'information' about *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*, a work with which I am very familiar. For example she claims that "there were a lot of guest lectures" in Feynman's course. If Angela had done only a small amount of research she would have found there were, in fact, no guest lectures. Of the 115 chapters in the book, all but two of are based on lectures given by Richard Feynman, and those two (chapters 5 and 6 in Volume I) were given by Matthew Sands, a coauthor of the book, and one of the instructors in the course. There is a lot of other incorrect information too. For example, about who wrote *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*. Angela mentions one coauthor, Robert Leighton, who worked on Volume I, but not Matthew Sands, who worked on Volumes II and III. It's true that Feynman did not put pen to paper, but the text and illustrations in *The Feynman Lectures on Physics* and those in *Feynman's Tips on Physics* very closely follow Feynman's lectures and his blackboards, being based on recordings and photographs of them, as Angela could have easily determined if she had bothered to listen to the lecture recordings, and/or look at the lecture photographs, which are available online (for free). She also makes false statements about the Feynman Lectures Exercises, which were recently republished, claiming they could not have anything to do with Feynman because he was dead when this new edition of them was published. If she had bothered to open the book up and read the front matter she would have found that the exercises were originally published in the 1960s, by Feynman and his coauthors. There is misinformation about the book *Feynman's Tips on Physics* - about who wrote it, and about the 4 central chapters which, like the chapters of *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*, closely follow the lectures Feynman gave, being edited only for readability as a written text. She gives false and misleading information about other books too, claiming, for example, that all the stories in Feynman's autographical books are lies, without giving any basis for that claim, other than her speculations. Good academics do research before they make claims. But either Angela did not research her claims, or she is deliberately lying as part of a smear campaign. She says some terrible, and completely unfounded, things about Feynman's friend and coauthor Ralph Leighton, suggesting that Ralph's admiration for Feynman was a deliberately cruel attempt to humiliate and belittle his father, Robert Leighton (an outrageous lie)! Some people, who perhaps feel inferior, perhaps because they don't have much of anything positive to contribute, draw attention to themselves by dissing famous people, and Feynman is a popular target in this respect. In closing I will mention that Angela is making money from publishing this poisonous trash. So before repeating what she says in her video, I strongly suggest you do a bit of fact-checking first.

Best regards,

Michael A. Gottlieb

Editor, *The Feynman Lectures on Physics New Millennium Edition*

www.feynmanlectures.caltech.edu