

"We Do Not Apologize."

# The Cornell Review

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Limited Government. Traditional Values. America First.

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## DOWN WITH THE CONSTITUTION!!

Our Student Assembly wants to betray the wisdom of our founding fathers - where will you stand?



### Closing the Mind

An inquiry into the Cornell University Assembly's efforts to "Open Hearts" and Close Thought

PUBLIUS / DEFENDER OF THE 1ST

Cornell rests on the precipice of radicalism. On the table is an instrument of punishment for dissent, disagreement, and disapproval of anything that another person professes. The proposed revision to the Campus Code of Conduct, we are told, needs to be passed on the grounds of similar standards at the other elite universities. In essence, the Daily Sun requests that the Code of Conduct be amended for the same reason addicts begin drug use: everyone else is doing it.

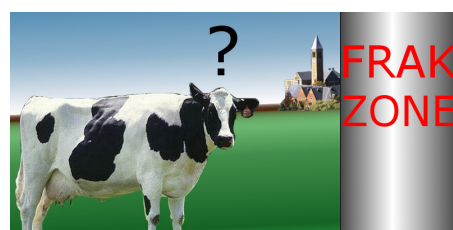
The University Assembly does not only think Cornell should do it, but that they should do it better than anyone else. The proposed emendation protects 22 classes of people, including, but not limited to, "gender," "gender identity," "religion," "religious practice," and working for the department of redundancy department. Other universities are setting restrictions, so why should Cornell not join in the pool?

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#### Catch up on campus events you missed:

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To frak or not to frak? Is that really even a question? Find out.

### Meet the New Boss...

U.A. and the 'Anti-Discrimination' clause: An amendment or two away from the same Old Boss

WILLIAM P. LANE / EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last semester we reported, with a communal sigh of relief, on the demise of a University Assembly anti-discrimination clause that too intangibly defined the barriers between free speech and harassment. In its place, the UA erected a new clause in theory designed to protect individual student freedoms while at the same time protecting against discrimination. However, what they have instead delivered is nearly a carbon copy of the old resolution, relying on a few weak improvements to act as a bulwark against its abuse.

The actual changes to the original version of the Code of Conduct amendment were small. The original text read that "to harass or discriminate against another person in a manner that would violate Cornell University Policy 6.4" would be considered an offense prosecutable by the Judicial Administrator. The revised version was somewhat less concise, expounding the exact types of harassment to be covered. The explicitly protected groups range from actual or perceived age to body type to color to race to creed to religion to

sexual preference and beyond.

Furthermore, it nominally did more to describe the precise extent of harassment that constitutes such a violation. The offense must "have the effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational experience, working conditions, or living conditions, by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment". Champions of the new clause point to this phrasing as the safeguard of other students' rights, as now the harassment has to be severe and not some simple offhand remark.

At first glance, it might seem that they have provided everything they need for a good harassment clause. They defined their protected groups, and identified what they consider to be a reasonable set of circumstances which define an offense. However, this resolution was not passed unanimously, and the three dissenters all identified the same problem with it—it does not set forth

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## BOSS

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objective tests for what constitutes “unreasonable interference”.

Like most “feel-good” legislation this resolution sets out with a stated aim and no idea of how to get there. Unlike a lot of that legislation, however, the amendments to the Campus Code of Conduct would actually do its intended job. The University Assembly’s efforts would place harassment within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Administrator, making it a more serious offense. However, it would also, as the three UA dissenters—Cetta ’10, Strong grad, and Laden ’10—pointed out, have the potential of overreaching and infringing upon perfectly lawful uses of free speech.

The Sun, in its wholesale endorsement of the UA’s move, acknowledged to a degree the absence of any objective measure in the resolution. Nevertheless it still advocated that Skorton give the amendment a swift approval, based upon the proposal of a “reasonableness test” to be implemented by the Judicial Administrator. This, of course, further overlooks that the

reasonableness test has not been laid out in any form yet. Essentially, the University Assembly and the Daily Sun would rather have a harassment clause that fails to properly set its own limits today than one properly formed several weeks down the road.

One can look to American history for myriad examples of how leaving laws open to the discretion of the executive leads to disaster. Take, for instance, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which essentially green-lighted Lyndon Johnson to lead the U.S. into the Vietnam War without congressional oversight. However, we can find a more recent and applicable precedent in the enactment of similar measures by other universities. One of the most famous was the “Water Buffalo” incident at the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. An irate Jewish student kept awake by a large group of loud sorority sisters howled down for them to be quiet, calling them “water buffalo”. Meant as a translation of a Jewish epithet meaning “loud nuisance”, the words were construed as a racial attack on the sisters below, who were mostly black. The Jewish student was brought up on charges of violating their harassment

codes and was only acquitted after several months of press pressure forced the University of Pennsylvania and the aggrieved plaintiffs to drop their suit.

The story ended well enough, but it shows how a simple misunderstanding could, without some properly documented test in place to look into the charges, result in a trial that leaves the accused in uncertainty for months and potentially jeopardizes their future by threatening a permanent stain on their record. Do we really want to follow this legacy?

According to the University Assembly resolution, absolutely. In fact, it is one of the primary reasons cited by Andrew Brokman ’11, the resolution’s sponsor. The text points out that “many other colleges and universities that are considered peer institutions have long maintained progressive non-discrimination clauses within their Campus Code [sic] of Conduct”. That, one might argue, is the worst reason for doing so. As we have seen, the progressive non-discrimination clauses of our “peer institutions” have often led to persecution of students for offenses that

would not typically be considered “harassment”. By trying to emulate the University of Pennsylvania and other schools like it in our Campus Code of Conduct, we necessarily court the scandals and bad press that come with its failed policies.

In short, free-speech advocates like those at The Cornell Review will always question any measure that arises to limit acts of speech. Yet we acknowledge that there can indeed be a use for some type of harassment policy to ensure that true harassment, as infrequent as it is, can be adequately punished; one in which an objective standard of what qualifies as harassment is established. Open-ended and ill-defined resolutions like the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct achieve that aim at the potential expense of students simply trying to exercise their rights of free expression. Thus, we exhort President Skorton not to grant approval to these changes and the University Assembly to set in stone a standard that alleviates our fears while achieving its aims.

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## MIND

...continued from front page

This update to the Code of Conduct, and the support earned from the Daily Sun, is born out of anathema for the First Amendment. The Sun states that while it acknowledges such a provision would curtail the power to exercise one’s own tongue in congruity with his discretion, “we deny that Cornell should provide such unrestrained First Amendment right to its students in the first place.”

Irony can be employed to amuse, but also to inflame the passions. Cornell—an institution of education as good and reputable as any—does not trust its students, in mind or conscience, to decide what is appropriate to say and what is not. Cornell must restrict the words that the mind can entertain; this in turn molds the mind within the bounds of what it is allowed to say and what it is not. One of the great benefits of the Greek academics in antiquity and the Ecclesiastical schools during the Middle Ages was their impartiality to the disposition of kings and their laws; essentially their lack of restriction on what one could speak or think fueled their successes.

The Daily Sun vehemently and maliciously denies the wisdom, and perhaps even the morality, of such a trusting approach: “A University like Cornell should not take this approach,” the approach

of acting as an “impartial umpire.” Anti-discrimination policies, we are told, should stem from the University’s very visible hand. Cornell should “intervene” in the student community in order to control exchanges between students of various histories, traditions, cultures, and lack thereof. Therein lies a most peculiar problem that the proposal, or even the omniscient editors at the Sun, fail to address: the means of application.

This “anti-discrimination” proposal replaces a previous attempt at a policy following the Chi Alpha controversy. Chi Alpha, a Christian fraternity, asked its president to resign after he was found to be a homosexual, a lifestyle choice that conflicts with Christian belief. There are likely more gays on campus than there are people attending Mass at Sage on Sunday, which demonstrates the most glaring problem of this proposal: it is pure populism. Following the Chi Alpha debacle, the school Assemblies keenly pursued a policy to keep their infuriated constituents satisfied. This proposal, as the Daily Sun editors admit, is nothing more than a tidied-up version of last year’s plan.

If this instrument of restriction is purely the progeny of populism, then how deadly are the consequences of its application? Standards of judgment vary subjectively with each generation.

These sort of regulations rarely go away and Cornell knows this. The application of this policy can only become more stringent and more exacting over time then. The output of these various inputs is a tighter space in which people can openly think. Suppose a person finds that funding the Africana Studies library to be superfluous when the Physical Sciences library was effectively disassembled and moved. Such an objection might merit consideration now, but in 20 years what reaction would greet such dissent?

The Undergraduate and Student Assemblies’ intention here is not to end discrimination, but to normalize radical precepts. If Cornell really intends to end discrimination, the University would defend Chi Alpha’s liberty to practice its principles without fear of popular retribution. Instead, the University seeks to turn this campus into a testing ground for a multi-cultural utopia, but there can be no utopia. Having multiple races inherently suggests multiple racists. Maintaining numerous cultures also maintains many bigots. The first men lived secluded in tribes, trusting their recognizable neighbors. Time deeply inscribed this instinct into people’s reactions. The Assemblies’ presumptuous pomposity in assuming that it can extirpate many millennia of experience only furthers the indictment of this policy.

Permitting students to engage

in open inquiry and discussion refines the quality of ideas, a sort of Natural Selection for thought. No more than a handful of students at Cornell would earnestly evoke discrimination. Cornell needs to trust in the discretion and the morality of its students. If Cornell students are tolerant, then they will develop their own silent code of conduct for dealing with discourse. Permitting a person to speak with complete liberty allows that person to gauge the reaction of another. This self-regulating system is the more proven one, the arrangement that truly engenders personal and intellectual growth.

The newest accretion in the Campus Code of Conduct unsettles the spirit when judged objectively; it unsettles the mind when judged within the larger—and in this case, more subjective—context of its justification. Cornell’s reputation rests on how well its students use their minds. Cornell betrays wisdom to put any manner of restriction on the words and deeds of its students.

A new decade is at hand, and with it will come new standards. The new decade will be led by men and women from institutions like Cornell and its kin. Will you then wish to see the new age be one of tighter standards on the tongue or freer ones?

## TheCornellReview

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## Class of 2010 to Set Sail on the Winds of Pelosi

LUCAS POLICASTRO  
 STAFF WRITER

Face the facts, conservatives: Nancy Pelosi is coming to Cornell, and she is going to annoy the hell out of a lot of people for 25 minutes, and then leave. Big deal. Face the facts, liberals: while you may relish those 25 minutes, you won't be forgetting that Pelosi is part of the reason the Democratic party is losing grip with voters. If you're unbothered by these facts, feel free to read something else. Otherwise, read on.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has given us few reasons to love her over the past three years. She is the national symbol of stubborn partisanship—at most recent check, her idea of "bipartisan" is a 12-member delegation to Haiti with one Republican and eleven Democrats. Even if Cornell were as liberal as California (which it is), polls show that Pelosi would still be viewed negatively by a majority of voters. We can only hope that she isn't pelted with Wegman's Italian heirloom tomatoes when she speaks at this year's Commencement, the Cornell graduation ceremony.

In the case said pelting does not occur, however, we should congratulate this year's Convocation Committee on

acquiring Madam Pelosi. Though this author feels sorry for the aloof Speaker and her painful career atop Capitol Hill, it is always good to see Cornell recognize and be recognized by our nation's leadership. The soon-to-be graduates of the Class of 2010 deserve this acknowledgment after collectively sweating out over 10,000 man-years (person-years?) of Ivy League effort.

Nonetheless, we wouldn't be The Cornell Review without asking why the Committee would shamelessly continue a trend of hosting liberal Convocation speakers. Chris Basil '10, Committee member, kindly provided the answer via email: that "the Committee's goal is to find the person who we think will best speak to our class" and "the political orientation of future speakers will depend on who future classes want to be their speaker." Fair enough—the Committee can take no blame for doing the will of the class. It would appear, then, that the Class of 2010 has some answering to do.

Asking Nancy Pelosi for heartening advice on life is like asking Sarah Palin how to run for Vice President—she did it, but got everyone to hate her in the process. One may detect a sliver of irony in someone like Pelosi attempting

to instruct a new generation on how to be successful. From one perspective, Pelosi certainly knew what she was doing; she's the nation's first female Speaker. From another, she is the national Czar of Stagnation, having perfected the art of disagreeing with everyone and not passing legislation. Could she deliver any meaningful message without it being poisoned by her bad karma? According to Basil, it was understood "as a committee before we voted on her to speak... that her message would not be political." Sounds good—in fact, we Americans know a thing or two about the real-life Nancy. She has a large net worth, enjoys plastic surgery, and consumes copious amounts of jet fuel. What a down-to-Earth chick.

Still, though, we learn from past mistakes. No, not Pelosi—I'm talking about the Class of 2010. Seeing Pelosi in person should give them a valuable lesson in what *not* to do. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.

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## Putting the Performing Arts into Perspective

IAN HARKINS  
 GUEST WRITER

I am a Junior Theatre Arts major who, like many, is concerned by the proposed budget cuts to the Theatre, Film, and Dance (TF&D) Department. After Dean LePage's Monday editorial, I realize that there is a fundamental misunderstanding of the department. As a result, cuts intended to maintain Cornell's academic excellence will instead destroy a department essential to liberal arts education.

In a February 1st meeting with the TF&D department, Dean LePage revealed that, by May 2011, he anticipates a permanent reduction to the A&S budget of \$6million. Additionally, he announced a permanent cut of \$1-2million to TF&D's annual budget (exceeding the \$500K cap discussed last semester), \$400K of which will cut by this May. This year, the department's expenditures are \$5.25million. The A&S College supplies \$3.9 million with the remainder coming from the department's own endowment. Protected tenured professor salaries are roughly \$2.2 million, while

staff and lecturers' earnings total \$2.3 million. Necessary managerial expenditures and graduate assistantships account for the rest. All performances are covered by ticket sales, thus making them self-sustaining and separate from the \$5.25 million figure. Therefore, the only possible way to accommodate these cuts is by severe reduction in lecturer and staff salaries.

Such a loss would absolutely compromise a department nationally recognized for performing arts teaching and research. TF&D studies - the book-learning side - are solely handled by tenured faculty. LePage has pledged to leave this area untouched. However, we are completely reliant on lecturers and staff for laboratory classes - acting, dancing, design, technology, and management—as well as production of all plays, shows, and films—everything you think of when you think of the performing arts. LePage fails to recognize how integral these aspects are to learning, and how they are inseparable from a comprehensive study of the

performing arts. These threatened classes and productions are our research; these teachers are our research assistants. To lose these subjects would be to critically and irrevocably affect the academic experience of TF&D students. Cornell would be effectively unable to teach practical, craft-specific material, thus undermining the mission of the department's creation, and truncating a multifaceted subject to only its social science division. With the reduction of lecturers and staff this cut demands, Cornell cannot offer performing arts.

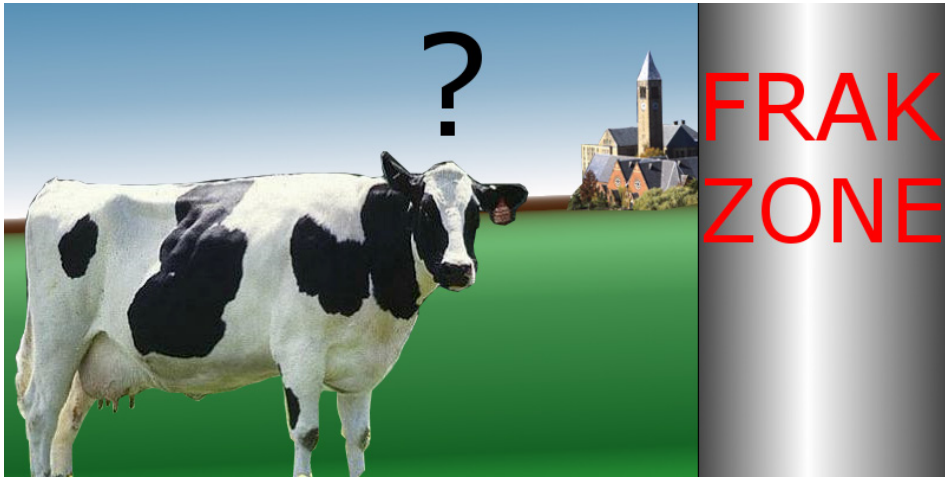
We urge Dean LePage to understand the impracticality in his charge to us "to re-imagine the department." The students rely on the expertise and instruction of the very people whom the budget reduction would eliminate. It is on their backs that we have become the nation's third leading undergraduate performance arts program according to Princeton Review's Gourman Report, and, as Dean LePage said,

# What the Frack?

WILLIAM WAGNER  
STAFF WRITER

Hydraulic fracturing, colloquially known as hydrofracking, has been the subject of vigorous debate of late. It involves drilling a mile or more into the ground and injecting a mixture of water and some chemicals into shale rock, thus fracturing it and releasing the precious natural gas therein contained. It would render accessible an enormous reservoir that experts say could yield some 400 trillion gallons. To put this figure in perspective, it would be 20 times

in connection to hydrofracking, further inquiry overwhelmingly revealed that this was not the case. In fact, there is virtually no potential for such contamination to occur. The fluids used in hydrofracking are comprised on average of 99.51% harmless water and sand. The remaining .49% includes benign chemicals such as sodium chloride (table salt), citric acid (found in lemon juice), and guar gum (a common ingredient in food products).



ANTHONY LONGO

the current national annual output.

In the past some have raised safety concerns; the effects of hydrofracking have since been subjected to rigorous investigation. In 2004, a study by the Environmental Protection Agency concluded there were no safety risks. Congress subsequently passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that specifically exempted hydrofracking from certain federal regulation.

Free of regulatory hinderances, natural-gas companies were able to expand operations, thus providing a much needed economic boon to communities across the country. Proponents of hydrofracking, such as Governor David Patterson, are keen to see these benefits extended to New York State. This sentiment is shared here locally, with 39% of land owners already having signed drilling leases. Not only would hydrofracking provide jobs to the region, the resultant tax revenues could serve to partially offset budget deficits.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, overblown environmental concerns stand in the way of progress. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, who spoke on the topic last Thursday, cites problems with ground water pollution as reason for depriving the community of this profitable venture. It is perhaps unsurprising that a former high school English teacher would so misunderstand the reality of the issue.

Whenever allegations of ground water contamination have arisen

Furthermore, the injection of these fluids occurs a mile or more underground, all but precluding the possibility of pollution entirely.

In spite of this, some wayward legislators persist in opposing the practice. Last year, bills were proposed in the House and Senate that subject hydrofracking operations to federal regulation and force companies to reveal the proprietary mixture of chemicals used, both measures that would seriously damage the economic viability of the drilling practice. Regulation would drastically increase the cost of operation, ultimately forcing the shutdown of many wells and curtailing further expansion. Disclosure of the precise chemical mix used, a closely held trade secret for companies involved, would eliminate any competitive advantage, potentially forcing them out of the industry or out of business entirely. The result would be the dramatic contraction the \$15 billion market, leaving countless people out of work and robbing small towns of a vital stream of revenue.

Unfounded and largely illusory environmental concerns cannot be let to stand in the way of progress and prosperity. Especially in the current economic climate, restricting hydrofracking would be as irresponsible as it is absurd.

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# Scientists Wrong... Again

*When it comes to the climate, they just can't get it right*

LUCIA RAFANELLI  
STAFF WRITER

According to a January 23 Associated Press article, Rajendra Pachauri, head of a United Nations panel of climate scientists, was put on the defensive after it was discovered that his panel's report contained a serious error regarding the state of Himalayan glaciers. The report predicted that the glaciers could be completely melted by 2035. However, the actual data suggests that they could possibly melt by 2350. Although a simple transposition of numbers, this error made the situation in the Himalayas appear much more grave and dramatic than science indicates. Further, the error likely allowed the total elimination of the Himalayan glaciers to seem like a much more definite outcome than it is. Indeed, the probability that humans could accurately predict the conditions 25 years in the future (although still dubious) is much higher than the probability that they would be able to predict these conditions 300 years in the future. Imagine what would have happened if scientists from the early 1700s had tried to predict the characteristics of today's society. They would have "foreseen" problems that are now of absolutely no relevance, and could not even have begun to understand some of the actual problems of today (such as nuclear proliferation). Even scientists from the 1970s were mistaken in their predictions that the world, which they claimed suffered from severe global cooling, would be plunged into an ice age. Thus, there is automatically—and justifiably—less doubt surrounding predictions of the near future than predictions regarding events that may happen centuries from now.

The debunked claim about the Himalayas appeared in an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which, incidentally, won a Nobel Prize. According to the AP, the paragraph containing this claim also contained several other errors. Scientists are currently investigating how the faulty data ended up in the report and insist that this and other mistakes were purely accidental. Pachauri said the report's authors would not be punished and he would not resign. Further, he claimed that the errors did not detract significantly from the implications of the report, but that such oversights must be avoided to produce the valid science climate change policy needs to succeed in the global political market. Ironically, Pachauri's call for

sound climate change science comes shortly after a wave of controversy surrounding several e-mails written by climate change (and man-made-global warming-touting) researchers. According to a Washington Times editorial, the e-mails, which were recovered from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at England's University of East Anglia, contained alarming comments about deliberately altering and concealing scientific data related to the climate change debate. For instance, in an e-mail to Pennsylvania State University professor Michael Mann, CRU head Phil Jones speaks of a "trick of adding in the real temps to each series...to hide the decline [in temperature]." Mann later told the New York Times that his use of the word "trick" was not meant to indicate anything secretive, but rather signified the use of a clever method to solve a scientific problem. However, this defense begs the question: What legitimate scientific problem—or, more appropriately, what legitimate scientific solution—would require the concealment of specific data trends? Mann's assertion that he and Mr. Jones did not intend to

Such clear violations of the transparency, accuracy, and thoroughness that are supposed to define the scientific method are alarming in any setting, particularly one that has the potential to define significant portions of future economic and environmental policy in this and other countries.

jeopardize the transparency of their research is even more improbable when considered with comments made in their other correspondences. Jones made several comments about trying to evade the UK's recently passed Freedom of Information Act that might force him to release files related to a recent IPCC report, at one point saying, "If they ever hear there is a Freedom of Information Act now in the UK, I think I'll delete the file rather than sending it to anyone," and urging his colleague Mann to delete e-mails he had related to the report. Another of Mann's colleagues, CRU professor Tim Osborn, wrote e-mails about truncating temperature data to

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# Panel Discusses Haiti Earthquake and Relief Efforts

ROMAN LESKO  
STAFF WRITER

To educate the Cornell community in the wake of the Haiti earthquake, the Africana Studies and Research Center held a panel discussion on Tuesday, January 26 consisting of graduate students and faculty members. The panel discussed several issues including the causes of the earthquake, Cornell's response to the disaster, and how the United States and the foreign community should continue in their humanitarian efforts and future aid to the nation.

The first panelist, Professor Barazangi of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences explained the causes behind the quake and why Haiti is vulnerable to another disaster in the near future. Due to its location near the fault line between the Caribbean and North American tectonic plates, Haiti lies in a zone of intense seismic activity. He further pointed out that high-magnitude earthquakes are not uncommon in the region, and several significant quakes have occurred in the past few centuries. He admonished that a leading factor in the immense destruction was that Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, was not constructed to withstand such a quake. With another event likely within "the next few

decades," the advised city must be rebuilt with a significant tremor in mind in order to avoid widespread death and destruction.

The third panelist, Natalie Palmer, a grad student, criticized the American media of being ignorant of Haitian history and culture. She also criticized Americans for stereotyping Haitians and treating them as if they were inferior. She then went on and pleaded for Americans to "wake up" and learn Haiti's history.

The final panelist, Crystal Felima, a native of Haiti, held a far less sensationalist view. She presented the audience with the goals of current humanitarian missions in Haiti as well as ways for the country to attain a sustainable model for rebuilding and growth. Apart from immediate humanitarian missions, she advised against giving excessive foreign aid to a corrupt government. Such "Band-Aid" missions, which may only temporarily patch up some problem within the nation, cannot possibly provide for long-term achievements. Rather, she advised that projects should be started within the local communities and focus on getting citizens involved in working and rebuilding their



Paradise lost: such an image of Haiti is now rarely the one scene. From [photoatlas.com](http://photoatlas.com)

neighborhoods for a brighter future.

There were very many constructive comments made during the panel discussion that, if heeded, would indeed help the Haitian people. Despite the anti-American tone taken by Ms. Palmer during her presentation, Americans have in fact been the most generous of all nations in contributing towards relief efforts in Haiti. President Obama pledged \$100 million towards relief efforts whereas many other prominent Western nations only contributed a fraction of that amount. Germany for example,

only pledged 7.5 million Euro, and the UK has to date sent \$10 million although they have pledged another \$22 million. Even more shocking, however, was the caustic tone taken by Professor Barazangi who criticized the Bush-Clinton fundraising efforts by complaining that Americans have left "corrupt politicians" to lead our fundraising efforts. By the figures given above and others compiled to keep track of donations, clearly the American government and people have been the among the most charitable

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## A New Way of Thinking About Development Economics

*Sir Partha Dasgupta cites trust, confidence as key methods to economic growth*

DENNIS SHIRAEV  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, February 1, Sir Partha Dasgupta delivered a talk titled "The Problem of Trust: Norms and Laws in Economic Life" to a full auditorium in Warren Hall. The lecture was organized by the Cornell International Affairs Review.

Dasgupta began his lecture by noting that there is an emerging sense of polarization in the world, a growing tendency to label countries as belonging to either the rich world or the developing world. The motivating question that drives development economics is why some countries have grown rich while other countries have remained poor.

Ask anyone, even those outside the field of economics, and they could give you plausible explanations for this development gap: rich countries have more manufactured capital goods, more human capital, more investment in science and technology, and better laws that protect all of these properties and investments. But these are descriptive explanations that don't provide any useful insights—one might

as well say that richer countries are richer because they have more money than poor countries.

More recently, economists like Dasgupta have posited that rich countries have been more successful in creating institutions that encourage investment in these various capital assets. Again, this explanation is not entirely satisfying. If all it took to make a country rich were good investment strategies and solid legal institutions, then why have rich countries been repeatedly unable to transfer the blueprints these institutions and practices into the developing world? There must be more about the societal fabric of poorer countries that has hindered economic development.

The keys to economic development, according to Dasgupta, are the methods by which people create trust among each other and confidence in their institutions. Trust can be created and sustained with mutual affection, pro-social dispositions,

mutual enforcement, reputation, and external enforcement by third parties. I'll pass on getting into the game theoretic explanations provided by Dasgupta, but his argument was essentially that the rich world developed strong social norms—"Nash equilibrium strategies"—that led to strong mechanisms for trust and mutual/external enforcement.

As a student of economics and someone interested in development policy, this theory is troubling for two reasons. First, it points to a rather anthropological mode of analysis for understanding why certain regions and people were able to develop propitious norms while others weren't. It also seems deterministic. After all, an infertile geographic region that forces people to constantly move around to locate food is much less likely to foster the development of trust between people than a region with fertile soil that allows people to easily develop agricultural industries. Does it follow from Dasgupta's analysis that certain areas of the world were

simply doomed to have unfavorable conditions for the development of trust? Second, if the key to economic development is trust, and trust is developed over centuries of social interaction, does that mean that the developing world is damned to many more centuries of poverty?

In the end, Dasgupta's lecture left me with more questions than answers about the best policies for economic development. But perhaps that's the entire point of his research. By thinking more about development in terms of the strategic interactions that build social norms and trust among people, we might be able to come up with newer and more innovative policies for fostering economic growth and development.

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# Cornellian Pioneers

Another Look at What You Think You Already Know

HANNAH MACLEAN  
STAFF WRITER

One would be hard pressed to find a student on campus who does not know what a chicken nugget is. But how many students know that Cornell produced the chicken nugget's inventor (Robert Baker, 1943)? And who would imagine that the engineer of modern air conditioning (Willis Carrier, 1901) would have hailed from Cornell, where the cold bites for months at a time? I think it worthwhile to learn some trivia about some of the lesser-known alumni of Cornell (if only just so you can impress your friends), as well as some perhaps more significant but lesser-known information regarding the more famous graduates. After all, Cornell is a diverse community; how can we be active members of the body if we are completely oblivious to our history?

Let's play a guessing game (don't worry—it isn't graded). I bet you can't guess what Henry Heimlich (B.A. 1941, M.D. 1943) is famous for (in case you're unsure, yes, it's the Heimlich Maneuver). The next one is a little bit harder: who is Abraham Maslow? He is known for creating the Hierarchy of Needs, which has been highly influential in Psychology circles. Perhaps most of the general public is familiar with the name Janet Reno (1960); what did she do? Although she graduated with a degree in Chemistry, she served as the Attorney General under President Bill Clinton. While I advise that you avoid Wikipedia for all academic research, I urge you to take a moment and look at the page listing Cornell University graduates; it is both humbling and empowering to view some of the accomplishments achieved by our elder Cornellians.

You're probably waiting for me to move away from the arguably less-famous graduates and get to the information about the most prominent Cornell graduates, right? Well, there are three that come to mind without thinking very hard. But what more is there to say about Keith Olbermann (1979), Ann Coulter (1984), or Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1954)? They don't need an introduction, but perhaps there is still room to learn about these figures about whom you've probably already heard so much.

Of the three, Ann Coulter, who started her career as a lawyer and eventually became the columnist, author and pundit she is today, is the only character to have been replicated in talking action figure

form (and that's the real measure of success, right?), and she's also the only character at which pie has been thrown, which indicates that she is doing her job—challenging public figures and actions to the point where she generates adverse reactions from those who refuse to acknowledge the legitimacy of her witty (and usually sarcastic) remarks. Instead of taking Coulter's remarks for what they are, i.e. fiery statements which are meant to draw attention to the issues at hand, people get angry and pitch fits instead of acknowledging the underlying seriousness of her arguments. The media should serve as a watchdog against government for the people; naturally, public figures and their following tend to throw pity parties (and apparently pies) when they become the target of public accountability.

Speaking of the media, that brings us to Keith Olbermann, who has stirred up a smaller but considerable amount of controversy and has therefore not achieved as much attention as Coulter, though he is on his way there (at least he can brag of a bobble-head doll). Olbermann started as a sportscaster and is now a political commentator and author. He hosts his own show on MSNBC and serves as a less controversial and more liberal watchdog. As I made clear in the previous paragraph, it is indeed a healthy part of democracy to have a media in which people intelligently challenge the policies and motives of public figures. However, Olbermann has added nothing of worth to today's political discourse. He repeats the same mantra constantly chanted by left without offering anything new or adding any insight. It's no wonder he hasn't made it past the bobble-head status.

Last but certainly not least, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second woman and first Jewish individual to become a Justice on the Supreme Court. Before working on the highest court in the land, she worked as a volunteer for the American Civil Liberties Union, a professor of law at Rutgers and then Columbia Universities, and a judge on a federal Court of Appeals. On the one hand, her legacy includes standing up for the rights of individuals with mental disabilities, writing the Court opinion for *Olmsted v. L.C.* (1999). This is the kind of ruling one should expect from someone who is concerned about the rights and well-being of

## KNOWLEDGE TEST:

Name that Cornellian image!  
(from top)

1) No, it's not a scene from your favorite Chi Alpha meeting - it's a much more healthy maneuver that has saved millions of lives! What is it and why is it on this list?

2) Yikes! The better to see you with, my dear. Which Cornell Alumna had the world's widest glasses and always made sure to tuck her napkin in her shirt before supper?

3) This image was before the days of elaborate sex toys; who's the creepy gentleman to the right displaying his titanium (hint:) *ice machine*?

4) This is your second semester of EAS 1310 and you *still* can't name that mineral? Oh right, that's because it's a chicken nugget! These keep getting weirder...

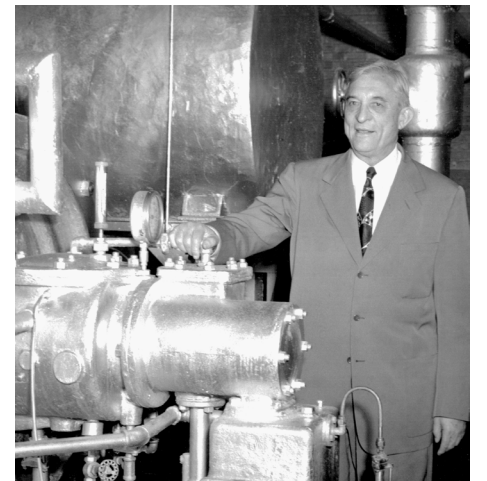
5) Just when you thought these couldn't get any stranger, you made eye contact with that...woman. Hint (kind of): you may look like this if you spend too much time in the Nevada heat! Bonus points: is this image even real?

*All the answers to these puzzling puzzles in the article below!*

people and society as a whole.

On the other hand, in her dissenting opinion for *Gonzales v. Carhart* (2007), she argued that it should be legal for a mother, under the extremely vague guise of the "woman's health" (which has historically included everything up to and including mental inability to deal with raising a child) to choose to abort a viable fetus. She made the argument that the individual rights of a baby—who has a heartbeat, a functioning brain, lungs, and who feels immense pain upon dying—should be subverted for the convenience of the mother. Wait a minute—the rights of the mentally disabled are important but the rights of small individuals who are too small to speak up for themselves are insignificant?

Cornell boasts some very well-accomplished graduates. Some are well known and do not deserve the adulation they



receive, while others, famous or not, are underappreciated; the measure of their success should not be evaluated by their renown or repute but by the measure of their positive effect on society.

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# A(n) (Almost) Sensible Michael Moore Film

PETER BOURIS  
STAFF WRITER

You would not expect anything produced by Michael Moore to obtain a positive reaction from *The Cornell Review*. This is not to say that you will receive one by reading the text below.

Regardless of the expected outcome, *The Review* decided it would be wise to take advantage of student admission prices at Willard Straight Theater to evaluate Michael Moore's latest film, *Capitalism: A Love Story*. Of course, the reduced cost came with a new price—most notably the endless previews of French indie films. Though, this may have been because Moore's film played at Cannes Film Festival this past year.

Anyway, the overall impression the author received from the film was not entirely negative—really. The film began with not so subtle images of common bank robberies, clearly trying to draw the parallels between petty looting and what the Wall Street Banksters did to the American populous. This display of grainy film was followed by more grainy film in an Encyclopedia Britannica documentary of how Rome's great wealth and imperial might masked underlying cracks as the empire began its descent.

The beginning explained above was particularly well done, as the author received the robbery message well. Also, the parallels between declining Rome and contemporary America were well taken (Bread and Circuses distracting the masses from problems, corrupt government serving the interests of puppet-masters, etc.).

Moore followed the beginning by showing law enforcement beating down the door of a foreclosed home in North Carolina. This was followed by heart-wrenching images of the slums of Detroit. The author is a native of another hollowed-out and frumpy industrial town along the Great Lakes, and therefore has a soft-spot for images of abandoned buildings and omnipotent despair. After a series of anecdotes about foreclosures and some interviews of Moore's friends (the author has yet to determine why their opinions were relevant), Moore invoked nostalgia for the glory and tranquility of the 1950s and 1960s by explaining how this was a glamorous time, when the rich paid a 90% tax rate on their incomes (the author was ready to leave at this point).

Oddly, however, after the bit about tax rates, Moore's analysis of how times have changed was quite strong. He took the form of neo-conservative and explained how great things were with a

single income family and a stay-at-home mom. He mentioned how his father's income from working on a GM assembly line was enough to pay for his family's house, their car, and enough to help him save so that he could provide post-secondary educational opportunities for his children. This was a norm, Moore explicated. But best of all, household debt for most families was a small fraction of their annual income. The fact that



Michael Moore: everything Chris Farley was careful *not* to be.

the two income family is partially a result of female integration into mainstream society is not lost on the author. However, the main impetus for women in the workplace was the stagflation period in the late 1970s, as many needed the extra income. It has been that way ever since (the federal government has messaged income and inflation data since then to mask the deficiencies of the US economy).

Moore further analyzes how much of the decline in real income for the working class since the days of his childhood has mainly been the result of lost manufacturing. Though making the claim that companies off-shored manufacturing to break unions and turn the working class into a coterie of peons is a bit outrageous, the negative impacts manufacturing loss has had upon the underlying strength of the nation are difficult to dispute (loss of economic opportunity for low-skilled workers and large structural problems in domestic labor markets), and were expounded in a simple way by Moore.

Connecting this to the issue of debt, Moore claimed that the main reason why household debt has ballooned since the 1980s is the decline in real wages on the lower-end of America's economic spectrum. Though he left out the role of extremely loose monetary policy in the 1990s and in the past decade, he was correct in explaining how the working class began to

and still continues to rely on debt simply to pay for basic necessities.

After explaining the deterioration of America's manufacturing base and consequent declining standards of living for its working class, Moore then entered the issue of how America has become an oligarchy, ran by banking elites. He depicted the revolving door between Wall Street, the Treasury Department, and the Federal Reserve. He mentioned how this has allowed

something like this: 1) America emerged as the global leader in pretty much everything after World War II. 2) This continued until stagflation. 3) Jimmy Carter's malaise speech proved him to be wise seer. 4) Big Business utilized the crisis of stagflation to elect the Evil Ronald Reagan as president and remake America in their image by deregulating and allowing capitalism to run wild. 5) This was when all the bad stuff Moore talked about happened. 5a) It was ALL because of Reagan. 5b) If you plotted the data, Reagan's organic mass would be the significant determinant of manufacturing fleeing abroad, real wages stagnating for the working class, and household debt skyrocketing. 6) This all continued through the first President Bush, Clinton (don't ask), and of course, Dubya. 7) From the ashes arose Abraham Delano Messiah Obama—the reincarnation of that patrician working class hero known as FDR. 8) The American people finally rose up to overthrow the elites' three decade long Reign of Terror by using their votes to elect the Great One.

Got that?

Moore fully exposed himself here as a DNC operative. He failed to mention Wall Street's preference for Carter in the 1976 election. And while he did mention Wall Street's contributions to Obama, he spun this as the banks trying to cajole Barack into thinking on their terms. It is worth noting at this point that the author has a flying turtle he feeds on a monthly basis.

Moore also left out how the deindustrialization of America and its consequences actually started in the early 1970s, well before Ronaldus Magnus rode into town (the author surmises that he rode to DC on horseback). Moore also neglected to discuss the increase in government protections and assistance for big business under the Gipper. Laissez-faire, while the rhetoric of the day, was not the zeitgeist of the time and was not subsequently after Reagan either. For example, financial 'deregulation' was merely removing obstacles from Wall Street risk taking. There is nothing inherently wrong with risk taking, but large financial institutions always have the implicit backing of the Fed and the Treasury (see: S and L Crisis). Therefore, 'deregulation' was mainly allowing Wall Street to gamble without any of the risk—definitely NOT capitalism.

At one point, Moore proceeded

Wall Street to orient regulatory laws so favorable toward it, that it now uses its uneven advantage to not only make very large profits, but also to generate unprecedented prestige for the participating firms. This has served to attract the world's best young minds into the financial sector, and has led to a brain drain in many other important fields such as medicine, government, science, and engineering (We go to a pretty damn good university, right? It's the type of place from which Wall Street seeks fresh blood. So, ask all the students you know what field they want to enter—the author estimates around half will say finance). Moore claims this is all the result of capitalism. However, the sophisticated spectator of the film likely realizes that this is all a result of corporatism, also known as crony-capitalism.

Of course, Moore expressed opposition to the bank bailout authorized under President Bush, which was kind of necessary considering where he was going with the film. He then subtly called for a proletariat revolt, which is the point at which the author grew unnerved. This call for Marxism was the final straw. Despite having many overlapping concerns about the current state of America and what its future will be, the author could not overcome his outrage of how Moore depicted the American timeline throughout the film. Moore's chronology goes

# Browning Out Healthcare

*The Anatomy of an Improbable Win*

JOSEPH BONICA  
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

For most of his political life, Senator Edward Kennedy fought in Congress for universal health coverage for all Americans, claiming that healthcare was a right afforded to all rather than a privilege. About 5 months after his death, it appeared his dream would posthumously come to pass, albeit in a severely reduced form. That was until January 19, when one of the greatest upsets in modern election history occurred in the state of Massachusetts. There, in a state that has not elected a Republican senator since 1972, Republican state senator Scott Brown beat out state attorney general Martha Coakley 52%-47%, for the right to serve in the seat once held by Senator Kennedy. This gave the Republicans in the Senate the key forty-first vote allowing a filibuster of the President's health care plan, which was already in trouble when both houses were at an impasse trying to reconcile their two bills.

Scott Brown's win is made even more remarkable when one considers the story of his election. When both candidates had declared and had gotten their respective party's nominations some time

ago, polls had Martha Coakley ahead by up to 30 points. In the state of Massachusetts, this is not at all unusual; having a "D" next to your name while running for office makes you pretty much a sure thing. Early on, however, Coakley made a key mistake: she depended on the "D" a bit too much and failed to do much campaigning. Brown, on the other hand, campaigned fervently, driving from event to event in his now famous pick up truck to listen to the opinions of the people of Massachusetts, and to offer his own insight to national politics. On these campaigns, Brown pledged that he would be the 41<sup>st</sup> vote against a Congressional health care bill. With his message firmly in hand and his promises known to those who attended his events, Scott Brown met Martha Coakley in debate, where he proclaimed the



COSMOPOLITAN

seat he was fighting for as not the seat of Ted Kennedy, or of the Democratic Party, but of the people of Massachusetts. This populist remark led to a huge bounce in Brown's poll number, but he was still in the double digits behind Coakley. Coakley,

however, helped out Scott Brown through her poor handling of an incident in which one of her aides physically assaulted a reporter, and by naively stating there were no terrorists in Afghanistan.

As election day closed in, a Rasmussen poll had Brown within single digits of Coakley, which was followed by massive contributions to his campaign. As Brown continued his hard work, the polls closed him within two points. At this point, the Democrats rolled out their heavy hitters; both former president Bill Clinton and current President Barack Obama went to Massachusetts to campaign for Martha Coakley, with the fate of the Democratic health care bill at stake. Even this was not enough, however, as Scott Brown was elected the newest senator in Congress.

After his election, any congressional negotiation over health care essentially stopped. The Democrats instead "turned their attention to jobs", an intricate way of admitting defeat for now on their bill. It was not prominently

...see **BROWN**, next page

## Terrorists, Okay... Grammar Schoolers, No.

ANTHONY LONGO  
STAFF WRITER

Security in the United States is a pressing issue, but with our current mode of thinking—in which schoolchildren are viewed as more dangerous than international terrorists—is putting lives at risk. Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, the Christmas bomber, was able to board a plane with a bomb stitched into his undergarments, but a nine-year-old from Long Island couldn't get through recess with a Lego toy. Clearly, we need to reallocate our security a bit, regardless if it is a national or states' rights issue. The incongruities, paranoia, and lack of sense in America's security policies are simply becoming overbearing.

Take for instance the story of 9-year-old Patrick Timoney of Staten Island, who on February the second decided to bring some of his favorite Legos to school to play with during break. Included with these toys was a two-inch-long

Lego gun, an accessory for a Lego police officer. When Patrick was spotted with this clearly dangerous toy, he was sent to the principal, threatened with suspension, escorted off the premises in tears, and placed in the national spotlight.

This harkens back to last month, in which a story broke of an eight-year-old boy living in the town next to mine supposedly being on the international terrorist watch list. His name corresponded with that of a man on the list, so of course the little boy—a threat to national security—was detained. In a later interview, the boy could barely even pronounce the word terrorist, but clearly we couldn't take a chance with this one. Luckily that issue has seemed to resolve itself at this point, but it highlights our country's weakness when it comes to common sense and strong security.

Meanwhile on the national level,

we have Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, who implanted a bomb in his own underwear and attempted to blow up a commercial flight back in December. As seemingly unrelated



ANTHONY LONGO

as this issue is, Abdul Mutallab was easily able to get through airline security and even onto a plane with a bomb. Thank God that there were good Samaritans on the plane who were able to stop him. Truly, though, it was due to a fault in the construction of the bomb that prevented a horrible disaster from occurring.

Sheer luck—instead of policy—saved countless American lives.

We should take this as an example, and enact more rigid security, such as the newly proposed full-body

scan. If full body-scans were in effect, which would have nabbed people like Abdulmutallab on the spot, what could be the problem? Why don't we enact such laws? Besides from the usual ultraliberal opposition to anything that protects the United States, special interest

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## HAITI

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if not the most charitable nation towards Haiti, and no political attacks can detract from that fact.

One of the most interesting and insightful points was given by Ms. Felima when she stated that we must stimulate the local population in Haiti to engage in projects for them to have a chance to prosper. This means that American foreign aid to the nation's government must be cut and private ventures should be undertaken to truly help the people. In essence, too much foreign aid is killing with kindness. Far too often this world has seen corrupt politicians and governments take advantage of the charity from other nations. In an extreme case, Robert Mugabe used food given as aid to

steer the electorate in the Zimbabwe presidential elections 2 years ago. Although not as likely to happen in Haiti, we should be skeptical in giving a government too much discretion in spending aid money, especially one that has performed as poorly and inefficiently as Haiti's. Clearly, market based solutions would help Haiti most, but what the world must realize first is that Haiti is indeed a nation in need of, and more importantly, worthy of foreign investment.

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## ARTS

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most importantly...touch the lives of thousands of undergraduates," as evidenced by the 1200 student course registrations the department attracts annually.

We are sympathetic to the need for budget cuts, and were willing to work with the original maximum reduction proposal of \$500K. What we oppose is destroying the department with this increased cut to solve a short-term crisis, while other schools such as Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, and UChicago have demonstrated commitments to build up their program. We hope Dean LePage, to remain competitive with other top research universities, will be willing to work with us to

find a resolution in talks with the department heads and in budgetary committees, where department needs and College policies can compromise. For, as a liberal arts school, we should remember that, "along with the sciences and the humanities, the arts—as they are both experienced and practiced—are irreplaceable instruments of knowledge" (Harvard Task Force on the Arts, December 2008).

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## SECURITY

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groups are worried that this machine somehow violates child pornography laws. (As if someone can make a pornographic film with an X-ray skeleton—does anyone honestly believe that?) How can we be so fixated on catching kids with toys, restraining others in airports, or keeping them being scanned, and yet we remain unable to stop a bomb from being smuggled onto a commercial flight?

While many conflicting entities are to blame, the Department of Homeland Security, The Department of Intelligence, state school boards, special interest groups, and others, it is clear that reform is needed. But how can this issue be fixed? Mr. Obama would have to go against his own philosophy and appoint people with actual experience to be department heads, and our

states must have more stringent requirements for leadership positions—such as principals and teachers. People in these leadership positions must be able to exercise judgment and should not have to follow idiotic rules. For example, a teacher or principal should be given the judgment to determine that a Lego toy is not a threat and that this second grader does not need to be led off the school grounds and treated as a criminal! In addition, we have to stop special interest groups of any kind from being able to interfere with proposals as serious as enhanced airline security. Whether it is a federal or states' rights issue, we must stop being made to look like fools.

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## BROWN

...continued from page 8

featured in the President's State of the Union address, despite its position as one of his four main ideas for the path of the country. However, this was all before Scott Brown was even officially seated. When Ted Kennedy was elected in the 1970s, he was seated within days of his election; Scott Brown took over two weeks. This double standard is to be expected, but is still irritating to anyone who wants to see the President's agenda stopped. Nevertheless, Scott Brown now sits comfortably in the people's seat.

There are a few things that can be learned from this election; number one, and perhaps most importantly, there exists currently a political environment where

just about anyone can win, but Republicans are probably favored. Second, it appears Obama is poison to everyone he campaigns for; thus far he is 0 for 3 in very important political offices. Last, but certainly not least, the American people refuse to be ignored. If a politician were to suggest a policy people do not like, and ignore their will, their careers will be just a little shorter.

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## MOORE

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to contradict himself. When discussing the revolving door between Wall Street and the federal government, he properly pointed out how Robert Rubin and Lawrence Summers (Clinton advisors) have significant Wall Street ties, and how they were key players in the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999 (allowing Wall Street to gamble without risk). Rubin was Co-Chairman of Goldman and Director of Citigroup before this! However, Moore conveniently left out how Obama has brought in these same two henchmen as his own advisors. Oh, and that bailout Moore expressed disdain for, the author seems to recall Senator Barack giving a

speech in favor of and voting for this very same bailout. But don't expect to hear that from Mike.

Just maybe Barack is not the new working class hero and that our society is still governed by the same banking elites via a different frontman. And just maybe, perhaps, Michael Moore is a goon for the Democratic Party. And perhaps many of America's problems are in fact NOT products of capitalism and are results stemming from a much more convoluted web of business and government collusion.

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## CLIMATE

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hide a cooling trend. Further, Mann instructed Osborn that his data supported critics of global warming, and therefore should be kept from the public.

Such clear violations of the transparency, accuracy, and thoroughness that are supposed to define the scientific method are alarming in any setting, particularly one that has the potential to define significant portions of future economic and environmental policy in this and other countries. Indeed, there are legitimate objections to theories of man-made global warming: the sun goes through natural cycles of increasing and decreasing radiation; other planets have also seen warming in recent years; and CO2 emissions and temperature readings have been fluctuating up and down together

for hundreds of years, long before the industrial revolution, to name a few. However, whether by accident or by design, these objections have stayed largely out of the mainstream media. Thus, Pachauri, Mann, Osborn, and Jones' conduct is especially concerning—the scientific community should be endeavoring to ensure all valid data is disseminated and acknowledged, not to hide scientific information simply because it happens to disagree with a popular ideological stance.

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## Grades Are In: Evaluating Obama's First Year Report Card

BRENDAN PATRICK DEVINE  
STAFF WRITER

*No fraternity rushing this semester: Barry's GPA falls below new 2.25 requirement!*

At the end of every term our professors ruminate over the quality of our work and see fit to assign us those letters which determine whether we go to Yale Law School or settle on a career trading derivatives and making witticisms. Not every class will determine one's posterity surely, but several of these evaluations remonstrated the depth of one's career. The same can be said of Presidents.

Presidents lose their campaign luster over the course of their inaugural years in office and spend much of their second years pursuing a fix. Rarely does it work: according to Rasmussen polling, Presidential approval ratings decrease 5% in the second year. It is then tempting to take advantage of President Obama's state of weakness when judging his performance. I dare say his approval rating among Cornell's faculty may even enter the double digits again.

Many previous Presidents sought to channel their energies on one "major" subject: President Bush hedged his legacy upon the outcome of the War on Terror; President Reagan ran on a tax-cutting economic strategy; President Clinton built his platform around curing budget deficits. Mr. Obama on the other hand is a British amateur compared to the others, choosing a diverse course of study befitting of a Renaissance man: bringing "real change to Washington," "fixing the broken health care system to do what's right for America," making America the "21<sup>st</sup> century clean energy leader," and depositing "necessary investments in our children's education." Since his thesis paper

seems to have been denied—owing to its vagueness (he never really gave us a definition for "hope" or "change")—I will have to judge the President off of these promises.

### ***Bringing Real Change to Washington (3 credits): A***

Your eyes do not deceive you. President Obama has brought "change" to Washington. Following \$787 billion in stimulus money, \$410 billion in "omnibus" spending, pursuit of a dyslexic neo-Keynesian economic policy, and attempts to end the Bush tax cuts, it seems to be certain all we will have left in this country is change. The larger currency is traveling overseas on the wings of the wind.

The public debt as a percentage of GDP has been predicted 67.1 this year, up from 59.9 last year. The student whom President Obama likes to pick on, Bush, never broke 40.8 in his worst year. GDP is up 5.7% and yet the stocks refuse to rally. In fact they have remained relatively flat since November. The government's excessive expenditure on programs that fail to generate sustainable returns does little to engender public confidence. Soon consumers will not be doling out greenbacks, only spare change.

### ***Fixing the Broken Health Care System (4 credits): F***

The right and left generally agree that health care reform stagnated after the House and Senate passed very different bills. Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts only makes the flowers less bright and the cookies less sweet for Obama, Reid, and Pelosi at the next White House garden party.

Professors sometimes attenuate deadlines for those of us who

are discouraged and meet great distress. So will President Obama's health care reform be delivered late or never? Assuming President Obama turns in his health care homework late, he will still be failed for neglecting the questions at hand: How does one extend coverage to a vulnerable few? The President's simple answer: create a new market equilibrium by overhauling the entire health insurance industry. Install a public program with an artificially low cost (paid for gracefully by you!) in hopes of dragging down the price until you realize you will have in turn also lowered supply. President Obama dropped the economics prerequisite for this class. Saul Alinsky's curriculum requires sentiment, emotion, instinct, and calumny rather than numerical answers.

### ***Do[ing] What's Right for America (4 credits): D***

In the State of the Union address the President promised to triple public financing for nuclear power. Provided his Soviet style instincts do not cause him to use cement with superfluous water and sparse gravel, the nation should avoid its own version of Chernobyl and America will finally begin to fuel its own consumption.

Avoiding disaster and doing what is expected is hardly worth an "A" though. It is "B" work at best. The President has left America in the cold to freeze while he combats global warming. All evidence against global warming seems to have been conspicuously shredded by the very scientists who have predicted a calescent apocalypse for 20 years. Deprived

of his textbooks by his own teachers, the President solely relies on their lectures for insight.

In recitation, President Obama attempted to capitulate the United States' economic interests in hopes of winning an emissions reduction agreement. First the President's Cap-and-Tax program fell dead in the Senate (Harry Reid insists on having a chance at reelection), then he could not complete what amounted to nothing more than a take-home assignment in Copenhagen. The President was unable to convince a room of Eurocentric idealists to constrict American interests.

The President continues to assure the public that he has their interests at heart though. The professor remains somewhat doubtful. Imagine taking a long-essay test that covered an entire discipline worth of material. You sit at the desk, test book in front of you. What do you do? Write one sentence and jump out of the room for break! The President also leaped from his seat for break after the "panty bomber's" failed act of terror. Michelle's gingerbread cookies and mulled wine were too alluring for President Obama to be bothered for more than 10 minutes of his Christmas. His one sentence for the exam: "The system works." No Barry! The passengers caught the man trying to ignite himself and spell out "Allahu akbar" in the sky before plunging into the ground. Terrorism remains a subject in which the President will require further tutoring.

...see *FAILING*, next page

## FAILING

...continued from previous

### **Making America the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Clean Energy Leader (1 credit, pass-fail): F**

People are not yet driving those hybrids GM was supposedly going to profit from. Perhaps it was not worth nationalizing two automotive conglomerates to put shoe-boxes on wheels. Recycling is a task more befitting of community organizers.

### **Making Necessary Investments in Our Children's Education (3 credits): D.**

"And let's tell another one million students that when they graduate,

they will be required to pay only ten percent of their income on student loans, and all of their debt will be forgiven after twenty years – and forgiven after ten years if they choose a career in public service." Does subsidizing a generation of Sociology majors to work at the Department of Housing and Urban Development break even, much less prove to be a worthy investment?

Students take many years to pay off their student loans. The process of doing so acts as a first lesson in personal finances. The college debt is an elephant in the room

whenever a young professional buys a car or makes a mortgage payment. Now this responsibility is transferred to a higher authority, the one in Washington. Financial problems notwithstanding, the President intends to relegate personal responsibility and substitute entitlement. At least Medicare and Social Security require the beneficiary to be 65 before being eligible for coddling.

### **Final GPA: 1.27.**

The more demanding subjects seem to have taken a toll on the

President. Therefore it does not seem advisable to suggest that he return for a second term. He should "take it easy" for the remainder of his term and then reconsider his course of study. The President seems destined for a new set of classmates this November. He had play nice or the rest of this term will see an even tougher grading curve.

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## They're Looking For Palin - And a Clean Pair of Shorts!

OLIVER RENICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

Yes, once again, I have referenced my favorite line (kinda) from Ace Ventura. But who's looking for Sarah Palin, and consequently, clean shorts, you may ask? The answer: the Left. The other answer: because she absolutely scares the daylights out of the people who hate her.

Day in and day out, you can find some frightened liberal ranting about how stupid she is, how subversively she acts, and how our nation's imminent doom comes hand in hand with her popularity. Let me set the record straight: I do not favor Sarah Palin as a politician or conservative leader. I think she is rather dull. I think she is under-qualified to be president. I think she is a good person, she's hot, and I'd love to hunt small (or large) animals with her. And every time

I hear her assailants launching into another spiteful, awful diatribe against her, I cringe in my seat. Yet I have to bear it, because the diatribes only contribute to the illegitimacy of the speaker – every hateful comment is a self-inflicted wound that drives them deeper into insignificance. But regrettably, this also drives more followers to the Palin political bandwagon.

If only they realized this. If the Left could only control their bitterness, just hide it for two more years. Yet they betray their own creed of being the most intellectually superior and better human beings by being blind to these repercussions. While they smash Palin for being "foolish" (Matt Rothschild, *The Progressive*), or "having nothing going on mentally" (Chris Matthews, *Hardball*), they are in

fact promoting her success, and consequently their own failure. But that doesn't surprise me, because Matthews is a moron. But our own too-cool-for-school *Daily Stun* writers fall in the same trap, calling Palin's success a "steaming pile of \*\*\*\*" and saying she "wages war on thoughtfulness."

*Stun* writer Cody Gault accuses "pseudo-anti-intellectuals like Harvard-educated Bill O'Reilly and Cornell-educated Ann Coulter" of promoting the "notion that being smart and sophisticated is un-American." As people like Cody jump at the opportunity to make their articles more venomous and their malevolence more obvious, the line at the *Going Rogue* book signing gets longer. Calling people simple and dull for liking someone doesn't bring them to

your side. When you insult Palin, you insult her followers, and you push them closer towards her. When has that ever been a strategy to bring people to your cause? Perhaps, gentleman, it's time to try a different approach to shutting down the Palin power machine?

But Matthews and Gault are too trigger-happy at the prospect of condescension. They are unwilling to exchange their contemptuousness – their scorn – for what they supposedly want: an insignificant and powerless Palin. Wise up, 'pseudo-anti-intellectuals,' stop being pinheads.

*Oliver Renick is a sophomore in the College of Engineering. He can be contacted at ojr5@cornell.edu*

## Horror Strikes: Pelosi Coming to Cornell

*This is a slightly altered / humorous / more reality-based version of the original Daily Sun article*

OLIVER RENICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

At 7 p.m. Monday evening, the University announced that Squeaker of the House Nancy 'the Bone Collector' Pelosi has been confirmed to squeak at Senior Conflagration during Cornell's 142nd Commencement Weekend this May.

According to Heather Levy '10, head of the 2010 Conflagration Committee, the Committee was fortunate to have the support of a few select University members as well as Squeaker Pelosi's staff in securing Squeaker Pelosi as convocation squeaker. Levy, along

with a small team of obviously enlightened individuals, believes that Pelosi fulfills the Committee's objective to find a speaker who represents the very isolated and divisive ideology of the farthest left of the liberal student body. The committee, composed of inebriated members of the senior class in charge of choosing a speaker interesting to the Clinical Psychology community is excited by the confirmation and by how early in the administration the Squeaker lost the last functional elements of her brain.

"The fact that we could get one of the most frightening women in Washington is an amazing accomplishment, regardless of your desire to find any common ground with anyone even remotely close to holding moderate beliefs." Levy believes that having the squeaker of the house come to campus to facilitate Cornell seniors' transition into the delusional and debt-ridden world will be an unforgettable opportunity. "Seniors will remember that the speaker of the house spoke at their graduation," Levy added, "especially those

who choose to engage in self-waterboarding during the speech."

This year's announcement of the Conflagration speaker is the most astonishing in recent years. Last year's speaker decision, President Obama's campaign manager David Plouffe, although dull and uninspiring, does not come close to matching the absurdity of this latest choice.

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The Review welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Please send questions, comments, and concerns to [thecornell.review@gmail.com](mailto:thecornell.review@gmail.com).

# Wisemen and Fools

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

**Marion Barry**

"In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock."

**Thomas Jefferson**

"I'm a metrosexual."

**Howard Dean**

"Will we be bold enough to love, daring enough to serve, humble enough to submit, and strong enough to acknowledge our limitations?"

**Tony Snow**

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to

our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

**Ronald Reagan**

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

**Abraham Lincoln**

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."

**Winston Churchill**

"Our liberty depends upon the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

**Thomas Jefferson**

"So much of left-wing thought is a kind of playing with fire by people who don't even know that fire is hot."

**George Orwell**

"I've abandoned free-market principles to save the free-market system."

**George Bush**

"I think that (the Iraqi insurgents are) patriots and that they don't like us because we've invaded their country

and occupied it."

**Ted Turner**

"It is a decision of the Supreme Court. So this is almost as if God has spoken."

**Nancy Pelosi**

"We know that no one person can succeed unless everybody else succeeds."

**Howard Dean**

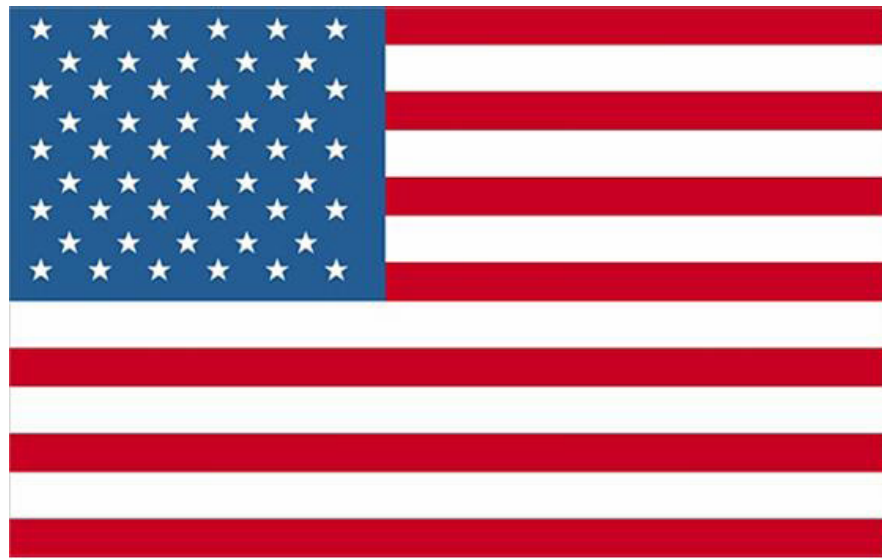
"Global warming... is an emergency. It'll make world war look like heaven."

**John Edwards**

"I don't care what people think. People are stupid."

**Charles Barkley**

## In your heart, you know we're right.



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