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The Conservative Voice on Campus

“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

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INSIDE



ENGLAND, MY LIONHEART

overseas column **6**

STUDENT ASSEMBLY INTERVIEWS

BY MICHAEL ALAN AND ALFONSE MUGLIA

Fighting Industry with Bureaucracy

KATHLEEN McCAFFREY
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The arms race that characterized the Cold War of the 20th century seems like a mere vestige of history to those of us in the internet generation. In the post-Cold War world, news media tends to underplay the fact that the knowledge and ability to transport nuclear arms is still central to the political climate of many countries, as it was to the US and the USSR in the later half of the past century. Today, nuclear arms are a profitable business that requires the use of political maneuvers to circumvent regulations – which almost always fail to stop their proliferation.

At the second event of the Freedom and Free Societies spring se-

“UN sanctions and reports have only served as a minor inconvenience to the multi-billion dollar industry that services the agenda of authoritarian regimes trying to achieve relevance and power on the world stage using threats of violence.”

mester speaker series, Claudia Rossett came to Cornell to give one of the most sobering discussions of a topic we do not see in the news often enough. Rossett, a former *Wall Street Journal* staff writer and the current journalist-in-residence at the

Please turn to page 4



Meet La Presidenta

Incoming Student Assembly President Natalie Raps '12 sits down with the Review to discuss the election, her plans for the SA, and a possible career in political rapping.

Natalie Raps '12 isn't someone you'd expect to see at a Student Assembly meeting. In a body with only one other female member, she seems to be an unlikely leader. Yet Raps, the current Vice President for Communications, defeated Adam Nicoletti '12, the current Finance VP, by nearly 900 votes earlier this month in their hotly-contested race to replace Vincent Andrews '11 at the helm of the Cornell students' governing body. Following her election, Raps sat down with the *Review* to discuss everything from her support of controversial regulations for student organizations to her plans to expand late night transportation with student funding.

Cornell Review: Thanks for being with us, Natalie. First of all, congratulations on your victory! Any discussion of this election can't go without a mention of your spoof of Natalie Portman's *Saturday Night Live* rap video. It was blowing up newsfeeds all over campus and, in addition to the *Insider*, was even featured on *IvyGate* and the *Huffington Post*. Do you think your high profile campaign, which your competitor criticized as being “too flashy,” will get more people interested in the SA?

Please turn to page 7

The Notorious G.I.T.

Executive VP-elect Adam Gitlin '13 won by a landslide—hear his plans for next year

CR: First of all, we want to congratulate you on your election. You managed to pull off an overwhelming victory, winning by nearly 1400 votes. What about your platform and background do you think stood out in the voters' minds?

Adam: Everyone's platforms were overlapped a little bit, and I think it's the fact that I had some very detailed plans going forward for each component of my platform, specifically on mental health. I felt that the SA hadn't addressed the issue as well as it should have this past year and last year, and I have a very detailed plan for how to start working on initiatives to foster community on campus. Also, I think the fact that I have been on the executive board also helped.

CR: Given this platform, how do you think that your overwhelming victory is a mandate for change within the Student Assembly?

Adam: I think the message is that we need to follow through a lot more with our initiatives and expand them a lot more, because while we definitely voice concerns to the administration about mental health, about changes to the Greek system, about how many students feel that they weren't funded fairly with the recent SAFC appropriations, I don't think that we make enough of a statement with every issue. If we extend the time we give to each initiative, I think that would be very helpful. With the plans that I and Natalie Raps have, I think that we're going to approach issues very differently, to work on them for longer periods of time.

CR: Another big issue was the general feeling of apathy amongst the student body toward the SA. Everybody was talking about outreach at the debate, but how specifically do you plan on getting people more

Please turn to page 7

Page 2

Smartboards for all
Clearing the path for education reform



Page 3 – Editorial

State of the University
Our editors deliver a speech on past and present.

Page 4

An Iraqi perspective
Rare visit reveals U.S. mistakes; gratitude mixed with trepidation

Page 5

The People's Party
An increasingly desperate Chinese government gets creative with the law

Page 10 **Is it that time again?** 2012 is complex for Dems and Repubs



Schoolyard Bully? Former NYC schools chief says NJ Governor Chris Christie's fight against teacher tenure reflects "meanness."

Fixing America's Schools... Without Fixing the Unions?

Former New York Public Schools Chancellor Harold Levy has some great ideas, but they can't be enacted without facing opposition from the teachers' unions

MICHAEL ALAN
STAFF WRITER

Leading the public schools in New York City is no easy task, especially for someone with a background in litigation for investment banks. From 2000 to 2002, however, Harold Levy '74, JD '79 took on this very task. Noting that he is both a product of the NYC public schools and an expert in "errors and problems from the trading world," Levy told the audience assembled for the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs graduate colloquium on March 3rd about his transition into leading the largest school system in the United States and the lessons he took away from his two years as Chancellor.

Levy colorfully explained the task ahead of him in 2000, saying, "When I became Chancellor, I was suddenly in charge of the biggest f!*&? up there ever was!" According to Levy, one of the biggest problems he inherited was rampant truancy, explaining

that "30% of kids in America are absent a month from school each year." In order to catch students up from all the school they missed, he worked to create summer programs and extra classroom time for the bottom third of students and worked with the school board to make these programs mandatory for promotion, despite political opposition from as high up as the New York State Assembly.

Levy also lambasted the procurement process in place in many districts for the purchasing of supplies like textbooks and electronics as another problem holding back schools. Mentioning everything from pricey SmartBoards (the "fad du jour," according to Levy) to textbooks, he lamented the political nature of the process, saying, "decisions on supplies are largely a function of who's is the best salesman and closest to the school board."

Levy didn't ignore higher education, either, saying, "Fixing K-12 is

how we can fix higher education." While he largely acquitted colleges of guilt in the crisis in education, it should be noted that Levy himself is a founder of a for-profit online school of education at Kaplan University. This fact was especially evident when Levy called for "creative advertising minds" to promote the value of a college education, a tactic employed by many for-profit institutions like Kaplan and the University of Phoenix. Despite Levy's praise, for-profit colleges are not without their problems. According to Bloomberg News, a quarter of students at these institutions receiving federal loans default on them within three years and Kaplan, where Levy is a board member, got nearly 87.5% of its revenue last year from federal financial aid like grants and loans.

Finally, any discussion of public education in the United States can't go without a mention of the ongoing fights with teachers' unions across the country, especially in New

Jersey and Wisconsin. On this issue, Levy praised New York Governor Andrew Cuomo for working with union leaders like Randi Weingarten '80, calling him "profoundly astute" in his negotiations with labor. When the *Review* asked Levy to provide his view on the actions of officials like New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and former Washington, D.C. schools chief Michelle Rhee '92, both of whom didn't have the pleasure of negotiating with cooperative unions, to circumvent union leaders and enact reforms like the elimination of teacher tenure, he sang a different tune. "I don't believe in confrontation for confrontation's sake . . . [Christie and Rhee's] approach reflects a meanness to me." Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker also wasn't left unscathed. "Chris Christie isn't harnessing [Cuomo's] spirit of cooperation and God knows that guy in Wisconsin isn't," Levy explained.

What's unclear, though, is if Levy's reforms, especially programs like extra classroom time for students or summer school, which require teachers to put in more hours, could be replicated across the country outside of a charter school or other non-union setting. While some union leaders, like Weingarten, have shown themselves to be open to these types of changes, the scenes in New Jersey and Wisconsin suggest that this is not the norm for teachers' unions nationally. Still defending the teachers unions, Levy told the *Review* that he would support one of the biggest of the Rhee-proposed reforms that was defeated with union pressure—merit pay. "I come from the business world, the world of merit pay. I'd support it in schools because it brings in a different type of person to teach," he said of the idea, adding, however, that, "it would scare a lot of people who

"Chris Christie isn't harnessing [Cuomo's] spirit of cooperation and God knows that guy in Wisconsin isn't."

come into civil service for the job security."

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STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

We take this opportunity to inaugurate our new State of the University column. We reflect on the primary issues affecting Cornell undergraduates at a critical juncture in Cornell's recent history.

The Greek System

This is a time of great uncertainty for the defining institution of Cornell's undergraduate community. The administration initiated its "War Against the Greeks" at the beginning of the Fall semester with the announcement of new regulations for fraternity parties, recruitment, and pledging. *The Cornell Review* staunchly opposed these measures, arguing that misplaced regulation of undergraduate drinking would ultimately do more harm than good.

But the debate over the conduct of the Greek system and its role on campus has become much more pressing since the tragic death of George Desdunes '13. This past weekend's moratorium on registered fraternity social events demonstrated the seriousness with which the administration, the IFC, and the Board of Trustees are scrutinizing the behavior of undergraduate fraternity and sorority culture. The situation will become more complicated, if not more intense, when the investigation into Desdunes's death yields results. If SAE is determined to have behaved in a negligent manner, the permanent disbandment of one of Cornell's most well-known fraternities is likely, and the broader impact on the Greek system will be punitive and long-lasting.

Student Mental Health

In their campaigns for the SA presidency, both Natalie Raps '12 and Adam Nicoletti '12 stressed the importance of improving student mental health, explaining how the Student Assembly can play a pivotal role. Raps now says she's going to start pushing for a 'mental health day off' during the Spring semester (page 7). Judging by the administration's vocal willingness to adapt to student needs, the idea doesn't seem too implausible.

Last week, the Faculty Senate showed major support for reform, approving a resolution—albeit a unenforceable one—that asks professors to refrain from assigning homework over breaks. In November the Student Assembly passed Resolution 40, which encouraged professors to accommodate students who have three prelims in a two day period. Again, the resolution does not set any policy in stone, but it brings the issue of student stress to the forefront and rests the burden on the administration and faculty's shoulders.

As students, there is only so much we can do. Mental health groups such as Cornell Minds Matter have assumed a larger presence by hosting public events, and the SA has initiated occasional Caring Community celebrations. This month marks the one-year anniversary of the tragic deaths of William Sinclair and Matthew Zika. The importance of reaching out to fellow Cornellians is still on students' minds, but the administration must take the initiative to further reach out to individuals; this month's \$1 million increase in Gannett's mental health budget is money well spent.

Bridge Barriers

The \$1 million going toward Gannett

Health Service's mental health outreach pales in comparison to the 'investment' the University is making into the bridge barriers. Cornell's transition from chain-link to hand-crafted is proving to be an arduous and confusing one. Since architectural firm Office dA was hired by the University in August, the question of barrier efficacy has not clarified and the actual design process has been everything but smooth. December brought the massive upheaval of Office dA's corporate structure and the bridge's leading designer, Nader Tehrani, has since packed up and moved his business to a new company.

As much as Tehrani's business life has changed, the debate over barrier necessity has remained stagnant.

The two opposing forces of 'barriers deter suicides' and 'fences are a dark reminder' are still duking it out almost weekly in forums like the Daily Sun, Student Assembly, and even Ithaca 'Town Hall' meetings. The University has held firm in its opinion that a barrier's potential to save a life - even for a moment - necessitates their presence. If that presence constantly conjures memories of a classmate's lost life, however, many students want them taken down.

Architect Tehrani, on the other hand, wants more money

Suicide fences are on their way, no matter how slowly or how expensive they may prove to be. The nation's focus on Cornell's tragic Spring 2010 mandates that it be that way. When the University announced it would do all it could to prevent another preventable death, even if it meant hanging mesh fences under Thurston Ave., they took on a commitment to make visible changes. They can't back out now, even if the funds toward the project would be much more helpful if shifted to another Gannett stimulus.

Conservatism on Campus

As the minority of right-wingers on campus have long understood, the political mood on campus moves with the tide of national politics. We arrived on campus in 2008 at a bad point for conservatives. The ascent of Obama had just begun, the Democrats' landslide in November was a foregone conclusion, and even die hard conservatives were finding it difficult to stick up for the Republican Party in the dying months of the Bush administration. The Student Assembly's 2008 resolution to strike Cornell from the title of our paper marked a low point for Cornell conservatives

What a difference two years makes. The inertia of Obamamania has dissipated, and so has the knee jerk reaction of telling Republicans to get their heads examined. It's not all national politics, though. Cornell's internal politics are a microcosm of larger national political debates—Resolution 44, diversity on campus, free speech—and we believe that the *Cornell Review's* editorial pages have greatly contributed to a more balanced and well-represented debate on these issues. Membership in conservative groups on campus has continued to grow, and new groups like the SWIFT free trade group are emerging. Even the *Daily Sun's* editorial board took an unusually strong stance against the Africana Center's reaction to the program's restructuring—a significant blow to that community's ludicrous claims of racism and insidiousness.

The Cornell Review devotes many of its pages to discussing the tolerance afforded to conservative organizations and ideas on Cornell's campus. But this is not something that should be important to students on the right side of the political spectrum. The status of con-



DENNIS SHIRAEV
 EDITOR-AT-LARGE



OLIVER RENICK
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

servative ideas on a disproportionately liberal campus reflects on the general atmosphere of open-mindedness and intellectual tolerance that prevails on campus—and we can all agree that this is a vital part of an enriching undergraduate education. So far so good.

Academics

In the Spring of 2010 we predicted that the administration's Strategic Plan—which aims to transform Cornell into a top-ten research university in the US and the world—would drastically affect the composition of all seven undergraduate colleges. One year later, we see the effects. Many departments have faced steep budget cuts—Theatre, Film, and Dance, Swedish-Dutch, and even the prestigious Math Department—while others, like the Russian Department, faced the threat of elimination. The Department of Education got the ax altogether.

Not all of the changes have been for the worse. Over the summer AEM became the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, establishing its own identity in the university like other undergrad business programs such as McIntire (UVA), Mendoza (Notre Dame) and Wharton (Penn). Only time will tell whether Dyson will eventually move out of CALS and become the eighth undergraduate college.

All things considered, the state of Cornell undergraduate academics is strong. Certain groups of students have undoubtedly been negatively affected by the recent cuts and program eliminations, but we believe that these moves will eventually produce a stronger, more unified and viable architecture for Cornell's undergraduate colleges.

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Continued from the front page

Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, made her case clear: with the current status of nuclear proliferation amongst countries like Iran and North Korea, we are living in interesting times.

In 2002, President Bush first used his famous “Axis of Evil” image in

and Syria. Frankly, North Korea and Iran have aided each others’ efforts to satiate their respective totalitarian agendas since the 1980s. Iran has cash and North Korea’s biggest (only?) industry is missile technology and missiles.

Though the industry doesn’t exist just between these two regimes. It spreads further.

missile customer. While Libya and Pakistan seem to have dropped out of the equation, North Korea and Iran have performed nuclear tests and Syria has gotten money for a nuclear feasibility study from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). While the UN has imposed sanctions on Iran, they are not automatically enforced. In fact, they are left to individual countries to enforce and “reports” are rarely informative on the state of affairs in at-risk countries.

Before he was seized, Saddam Hussein was reported using Syria as an intermediary between Iraq and North Korea. As late as 2007, North Korea had been helping Syrians build a reactor on the banks of the Euphrates, for no apparent reason except to create plutonium where it was reported that Iranian officials were present. Rosett cited a Congressional Hearing in 2003 with North Korean defectors. North Koreans were using farmland for the production of drugs, and extensive testimony from the hearing described collaboration between North Korea and Iran. Currently, North Korea is expanding its industry to encompass both uranium and plutonium enrichment. After all, it is a business

and Iran’s nuclear program utilizes enriched uranium. As Kim Jong-Il has made clear, nuclear weapons are North Korea. They have no reason to stop their proliferation as long as it is the crux of their economy. As Rosett explained, “If you pursue nukes, you’ll adapt.”

People ridiculed then-President Bush for making the connection between North Korea and Iran as the nexus of potential nuclear warfare, but the connection is clearly there. UN sanctions and reports have only served as a minor inconvenience to the multi-billion dollar industry that services the agenda of authoritarian regimes trying to achieve relevance and power on the world stage using threats of violence. To make matters worse, the whole world seems to be relying on the US to do something about this. Yet while North Korea would like to control the peninsula, and Iran wants to control the world’s oil patch, our President has chosen to take action through the speed bump of bureaucratic ineptitude we call the United Nations.

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his State of the Union, citing North Korea, Iran, and Iraq as threats to world peace. Many wondered why these three were chosen as opposed to other countries like Libya, China,

In her talk, Rosett mentioned Pakistan as the former bazaar of nuclear technology, China as chief trading partner with Iran and North Korea, and Syria as a North Korean

An Iraqi on Iraq: Refugee Supports Continued U.S. Presence

NOAH KANTRO
STAFF WRITER

Mazin Kadhim never thought he would make it out of Iraq. The Baghdad native, a Shiite Muslim, lost two uncles, a brother, and eight friends to the decades of armed conflict that have become synonymous with the name of his country. He came very close to death himself, but managed to escape out of Iraq and came to America seven months ago.

Last week he visited Cornell to share his observations from inside a country plagued by violence, poverty, and Saddam Hussein. Kadhim traces all of Iraq’s present-day problems back to the misery under Saddam’s rule. The Iran-Iraq War, which went on for nearly a decade, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and slowed the Iraqi economy to a crawl. He noted that this war, along with the invasion of Kuwait and the resulting Persian Gulf War, were the personal conflicts of the dictator and were not widely supported.

Speaking through a translator, Kadhim said that Saddam’s invasion of Kuwait marked, “the beginning of the worst period in the Iraqi peoples’ lives: the sanctions.” Economic sanctions imposed by the UN completely eliminated foreign trade in Iraq for more than a decade after the attack on Kuwait, and were repealed only after the U.S. brought about the down-
fall of the Iraqi government

in 2003. Their effects, though, were not as intended. “[They] said these sanctions were on Saddam, but they were really on the Iraqi people,” he said, “Children would sit on floors because there were no desks...and president Saddam would build palaces costing millions of dollars.”

Kadhim reminded his audience about Saddam’s wars, tactics, the op-

and mighty happiness came...Iraqis gave flowers to American soldiers”, he said, “The people began to dream that they owned a civilized, modern, and educated country.”

This hope, though, proved to be short lived, due to a number of mistakes by the American forces and the new Iraqi leaders. One such mistake he noted was the dissolution of Iraq’s

“If nothing changes, there will be revolution like there are in other countries in the Middle East, or another dictator will come, stronger than Saddam.”

pression of his people, and the corruption of his bureaucracy, which sparked rebellion in the 1990s and was crushed by the government. “The government would force people in the street onto buses, then execute them in mass graves, whether they were revolutionaries or not,” he said, noting the brutality of the regime. “Iraqis hated Iraq because of Saddam.”

However, there is new hope in the country. Kadhim described it as, “The beginning of a new sunrise, and that is the war of 2003, [which is] according to the world the occupation and invasion of Iraq.” The American invasion liberated Iraqis from the tyranny of Saddam. “A big

ministry of defense and many of its public industries, which put over one million Iraqis out of work. He also discussed how America failed to secure the country’s borders, which according to him allowed Al-Qaeda, which he described as “the sectarian destroyer,” to infiltrate the country. He identified the terrorist group as not native to Iraq, rather coming from neighboring nations to fight the Americans. “Al-Qaeda acted [as if they were] liberating Iraq from oppressors,” he said. Neighboring countries and terrorists, “all wanted the failure of the American projects, but it cost...Iraqi blood.”

Kadhim also noted that, “In this time, the Americans transferred

power to tens of Iraqi politicians, which was another mistake.” He described how this small group of ruling politicians put into power as an interim government did almost nothing to improve the situation of the average citizen and failed to unite the country, resulting in only more violence. “The politicians are only successful in having differences among them (*sic*),” he said. He told that how once the country finally did have elections, it took more than nine months for a new government to be formed, and when it did, nothing changed. This caused the people to lose faith in elections, due to a lack of faith in the corrupt Iraqi politicians. “They don’t answer to the demands of the people,” he said.

Kadhim ended by speaking about the future of Iraq. He voiced his support for a continued American presence in the country, saying, “We want the Americans to be out of Iraq, but at the same time we need them in Iraq, because we do not trust the [Iraqi] politicians.” However, he believes that, “The important thing is for America to support the people of Iraq and not the government.” Speaking of his brief time in America so far, he noted how, “The people of America, they cooperate together and work together,” saying that this attitude would be of great benefit in his country. Still, “If nothing changes, there will be revolution like there are in other countries in the Middle East, or another dictator will come, stronger than Saddam,” he said, “In spite of all this, there is still a chance that we can be a democratic country, if not today, then tomorrow.”

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China and the Rule of Law

CHRISTOPHER SLIJK
STAFF WRITER

“China is now in a very dark period” is not something one would expect to hear about one of the world’s most rapidly industrializing nations. Yet that is precisely how lawyer and author Gordon Chang ’73, perceives the political and social situation in China today. In a country with a long history of rule of law, the Chinese Communist Party has taken to using the law as a means to strengthen and expand its own preeminence in Chinese society.

Modern China is a country wrought with change: With the mass migration of workers from the countryside to urban centers of manufacturing in the past few decades, the exploding econom-

“...as China has become more prosperous, it has become less stable.”

ic growth of the Chinese economy, and the growing influences of the western world in the everyday lives of the Chinese people, social dynamics that have persisted for centuries are being shaken to their foundations. Yet, for all this change, the heavy-handed autocracy of the Chinese government has continued to keep businesses tied up in bureaucratic red tape and citizens abiding by the party line.

On March 7th, Mr. Chang came to Cornell to speak on the growth of crackdowns by the Chinese government on dissenters through the use of the state legal apparatus, pointing out that today, “...laws in China are just another tool of a coercive state.” Chang presents the idea that the Chinese government is practicing “dejudicialization”: withdrawing from a strict reading of the law and allowing for a more open-ended interpretation. Using this process, the Chinese government can continue to present a façade of legality and justice while giving itself inordinate power over every facet of Chinese society. Chang highlighted this growing dissonance,

stating that “China has law, but it doesn’t have rule of law.”

Chang placed particular emphasis on the expansion and increased use of the Chinese state-secret laws, saying that “Beijing’s weapon of choice [has become] the state-secret law.” He gave the example of the imprisonment of four workers of the Rio Tinto mining company in 2009. Of particular interest was the jailing of Stern Hu, an ethnically Chinese naturalized Australian citizen, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for allegedly stealing commercial secrets from Chinese mining businesses and whose trial largely took place out of the view of the public. Chang sees this as just one instance in a trend of the Chinese government abusing its legislative powers to assert its control over citizens and foreign businessmen alike.

Yet, despite the incredibly tight grip the Chinese government has upon its people, Chang believes that the tide has begun to turn against the authoritarian state as its people start to see more and more of its injustices. He asserts that “...as China has become more prosperous, it has become less stable.” Central to Chang’s view is the idea of the development of “rights consciousness” amongst average Chinese citizens and the growing concept in their minds that they have intrinsic rights beyond the moral authority of their government to abridge. He points to the increasing use of the legal framework by not just the government but also by ordinary people as proof of this, saying that “Chinese society is becoming increasingly litigious.” It is his belief that the increasing number of appeals to the legal system show a more closely developing integration between the Chinese people and their legal system. Chang sums up this change by saying the Chinese people will “...sue at the drop of a hat, or the receipt of an unwanted text message,” referring to an actual incident wherein a man successfully sued a government-backed telecommunications company. Such actions may appear inconsequential, but they indicate a population that is taking increasing interest in the legal structure under which they live.

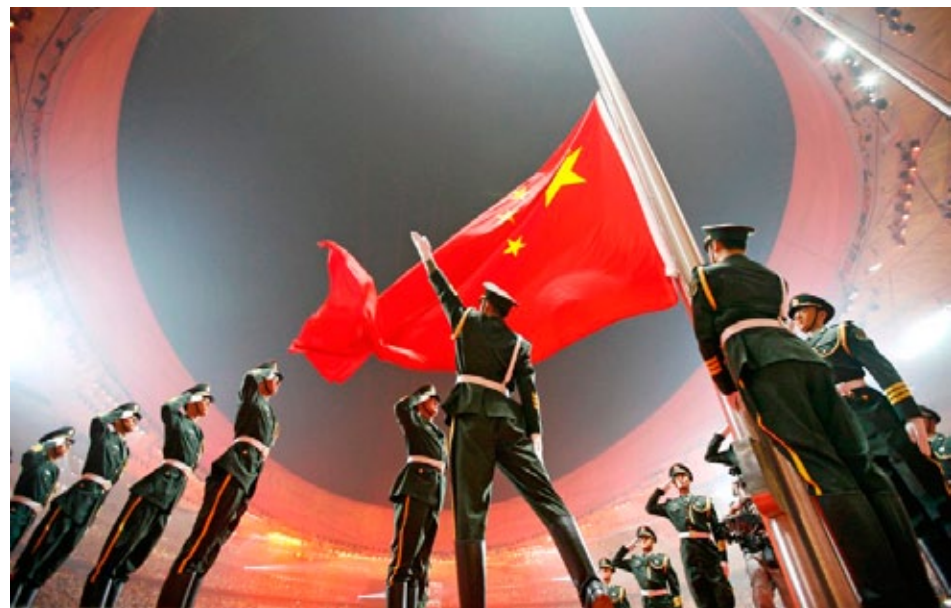
It is quite a leap to say that a simple increase in litigation will lead

to the downfall of such a powerful regime as the Chinese Communist Party. Chang believes, however, that the people’s growing experience with the system will bring with it growing discontent, which will in turn bring them together in massive protests that will mirror those which China experienced in 1989, and those currently occurring in the Middle East. This time, however, he believes that the result will be the crumbling of the single party

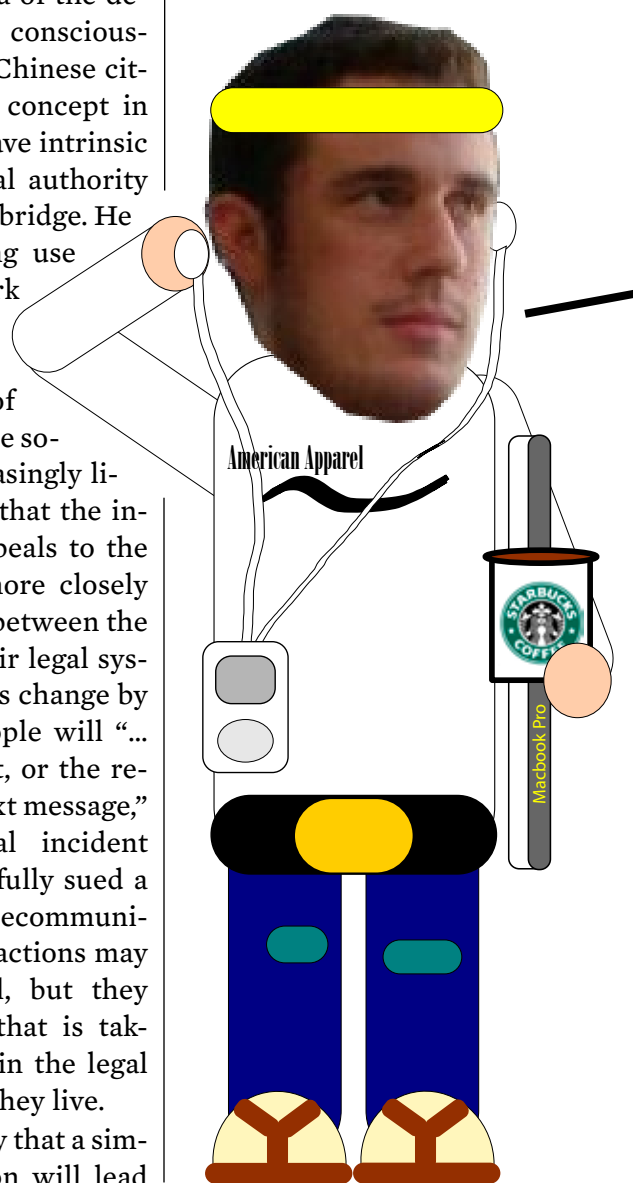
system that has dominated China for the past 60 years.

Only time will tell if the Chinese Communist Party can continue to maintain its position, or if its oppressive actions are only speeding up its own demise. Nonetheless, Mr. Chang sees signs that point to the ordinary Chinese citizen as the engine that will drive China’s transformation into a freer, more democratic society, and signs that the days of China’s current repressive government are numbered.

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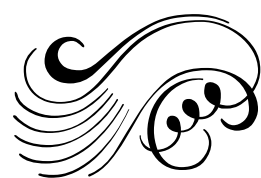


SPIEGEL



Don't play into the corporate game, brah.

The
Enlightened
Scholar
of 2011



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Living in the Shadows

England's Past Cries from the Depths

BRENDAN PATRICK DEVINE
OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

England should still be a great country, or one would think so from strolling through the shadows of High Street in Oxford, surrounded by the great tower of St. Mary the Virgin and All Souls College, by the imposing walls of Christ Church College, or by the bookshops and sweets-shops dating to medieval times. But what happened? Why do so many Britons stroll through these monuments to old England's great estimation without so much as lifting an eyelash beyond their cheap cigarettes and tea?

Last Sunday I had the opportunity to make a most edifying acquaintance after the 8AM Latin Mass at St. Aloysius, which John Betjeman describes in his autobiographical ditty: "St. Aloysius of the Church of Rome/ Its incense, reliquaries, brass and lights/ Made all seem plain and trivial back at school." Over a cup of tea and a chocolate pastry I met a man with a very personal view of England's "having gone to seed."

"We used to rule the world," he told me. Perhaps not the entire thing, but England held a quarter of the globe in its possession at the height of the Empire. The Navy was led by the admirable Lord Nelson, who captured the imagination of every young man in the Isle—inspiring them to serve with the same honor as the Admiral. On the throne sat George III, the bugaboo of Thomas Jefferson and the signers of the Declaration of Independence, but by all accounts

a stable man and the last potent king to preside over this country. England was a strong nation of strong, service-minded will. This attitude, indeed a belief, that England should be great remained a part of English culture for well over another century. The literature of Rudyard Kipling, Benjamin Disraeli, and even Walter Scott assumes the superiority of the English way of life and a moral idea, that England should be a great nation.

What went wrong? At the end of the Second World War this nation simply grew tired. "We lost the Empire," my friend told me, "and there's nothing we can compare that to." England did not merely "lose" the Empire, but England lost the will to keep its Empire. Winston Churchill, in his history *The Second World War*, firmly advocated that England stiffen her resolve and retain India, not out of malice for Indians or in order to maintain some financial advantage, but because the loss of India would be the beginning of the end of England's power.

Seven decades on, any popular sense of patriotism is scorned. All nationalistic, religious, or traditional sensibility is looked upon as a private lunacy that one might engage in rather than cocaine. Until relatively recently—the last few years—service men and women were discouraged, nigh forbidden, from wearing their uniforms in public, something we see so often in metropolitan areas and on campus at Cornell. Sacrifices made by servicemen have created some sentiment of acceptance toward these heroes, so they can

dress as what they are in the streets again; in the nation of Nelson and Churchill, it is now permissible to be in the military and let people see it! However, national pride is still rather dead. "To most Britons, this is just a place to live. They hear you talk of the 'nation' and ask 'are you daft?'" my acquaintance explicated. I took his words with a grain of salt, but then asked myself how many places I had seen a Union Jack flying about, and the answer was a downer: just one, the Randolph Hotel.

Even a great many of the conservative politicians in England are limited in what they say, either by their own beliefs or by the standard of what is acceptable. Prime Minister David Cameron would be considered a socialist in the United States, and it would be meet to think him so. Darren Hannan, a favorite of American conservatives for his criticism of the NHS (that's British Obamacare), can only speak of democratic reforms because they are sensible, and not because they are in line with the English tradition or because they are moral.

The best England has to offer still falls into the eternal trap of ideology, that absolute stupidity and bastardization of Aristotle's principle of syllogism, whereby every action must fit neatly and perfectly into some cold system of thought contrived by a long-dead and long-forgotten academic. Where would Common Law be with ideology? Common Law is a scattered pile of laws and judicial decisions agglomerated through nine centuries; it is a huge mess. And yet it is beautiful and it is powerful.

It has informed our own laws and continues to inform England's. The passage of time makes these things sacred. As Britons have discounted the importance of the past they have cast aside all standard which determines how one ought to live. Perhaps this might explain why so many British men wear women's jeans and fur hats, flitty and unsure as to which sex they actually belong.

England is marvelous and enjoyable, but to most it is nothing more than a pleasant setting in which to eat, sleep, fornicate, defecate, and die. In short, England is a libertarian paradise—if one does not mind the taxes. Perhaps the academic nature of my setting predetermines some biased sampling of the British populace, which is of course possible. Unlike in America, however, the morally lethargic, un-nationalistic crowd here demonstrates no sign of being out of sync with the general population.

Still there are some causes, perhaps grounded in emotion and instinct rather than reason, to expect some eventual change. The same person I was speaking of earlier, himself an Oxford man, once considered moving to the United States but has since decided to remain in his homeland out of love for it and join the Royal Marines. The golden cow known as the NHS has been bled dry under constant expansion of benefits since its inception in 1948 and will eventually have to die a long overdue death. Many here will quietly condemn the NHS but fear to ex-

"To most Britons, this is just a place to live. They hear you talk of the 'nation' and ask 'are you daft?'"

press their view publically. This underlying conservative vibe may find catharsis when England's spending is finally brought to bear.

More than anything, England's past is the cause for optimism. High Street itself is a monument to the debates Belloc, Chesterton, and Newman held against the commons of their times, and by doing so they resurrected beliefs long recusant in the Isle. In a nation that still has a monarchy, crippled but not extirpated, old ideas and ancient spirits are not easily suppressed. From the shadowy depths old England cries, "Hear my voice!" Will they listen?

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Raps

Continued from the front page

since freshman year, I saw a lot of women's issues put on the wayside. My freshman year, there wasn't really a seat for the women's issues committee and I took it on myself. This year, I took a lot more responsibility in the SA and I was one of two women, along with Jennifer Kay '14, in twenty three seats. There shouldn't be only two women in the room during a meeting of the students' governing body. I support this resolution because we are the contact point between the students and the administration and the new seat will be very helpful for the administration to better understand issues like safety on campus and any other women's issues that come up.

CR: Going off of campus safety, a big part of your platform was late night transportation. You mentioned using money from the Student Activity Fee, not necessarily raising the fee but reducing the funding of the other 29 byline funded organizations, which includes the Slope Day and Concert Commissions, to pay for an addition to the Blue Light system. Can you explain this in more detail for our readers?

NR: First of all, I never specifically mentioned the Slope Day and Concert Commissions and I've supported increasing their funding in the past. Whenever we look at byline funding, we evaluate the individual organization's allocation of funding and whether the appropriations committee (also known as the byline funding committee) should change what funding that organization gets. That being said, one of the big issues on campus is safety. Late night transportation is an issue that students have been dealing with for years and the administration doesn't deal with it because they don't have the resources. What I want to do and am currently working on is using student funding, though not necessarily taking it away from programs, to advocate for safety.

CR: A big criticism of this plan is not the idea of late night transportation, but rather the use of the activity fee to pay for something that isn't really a student activity. Don't you think something like this should be under the purview of the Cornell Police rather than the SA?

NR: I completely agree; it should be. I've been working with CUPD for the past three years. I'm close with Chief Zoner and am practically best friends with Deputy Chief Honan. But there is only so much you can get through all the "Big Red Tape" and safety really is an urgent problem. Everyone agrees it needs to be addressed, but no one has a solution. So while I understand the need for thorough discussions with the rest of the SA and the appropriations committee and maybe even

polling the student body to gauge support, it's a creative option that needs to be on the table. Otherwise, nothing is going to get done.

CR: Mental health was another high profile issue in this election, with you promising to work toward the creation of a "mental health day off" in the spring. Where does this now fall on your agenda and do you think it is something the SA can feasibly make happen?

NR: I just got appointed the student representative on the University's calendar committee and discussions are in the works with administration to better break up the second semester calendar. The administration is receptive to having more breaks, whether that means a "mental health day off" or something else. I'm a big advocate for at least one break for month, just like Harvard and MIT. It is feasible and I know that many of my proposals during the campaign didn't sound feasible, but everything I talked about was something I made sure I'd be able to work toward getting done. If something doesn't get done, it won't be for lack of effort on my part.

CR: Another hot button issue in this election, especially for *Review* readers, was the autonomy of student organizations. You supported both last spring's R.44, which had the well-intentioned goal of curbing discrimination on campus, but which even President Skorton agreed went too far in imposing SA authority on student organizations, and this fall's R.45, which, if passed, would have put in place a structure to dock funding from student organizations deemed noncompliant with sustainability regulations by the environmental committee. Can you defend your support of these measures and outline how the new President Raps is going balance goals like making Cornell more environmentally friendly or more open to diversity with maintaining the autonomy of student organizations?

NR: R.45 was criticized because it penalized student organizations, but we already have a structure in place with the organizational review committee that looks over student organizations for redundancies or inefficiencies and includes a penalization stipulation in cases of non-compliance. The chairman of the committee, however, has never used this power. The same thing was proposed for the environmental committee and, in fact, any penalization of an organization would have needed to be approved by the general body of the SA. The problem that we run into is student organizations ignoring their sustainability efforts because there's nothing in it for them. Why would you invest an hour of your time developing a sustainability plan if you knew you could get off scot free? But I certainly don't advocate cutting any student organization's funding at all. It was just some-

thing to get them to respond and you have to look at the realistic implementation of a plan. Would you want your Student Activity Fee going to students just because they filled out a form? I think that's a waste of money; there needs to be a monetary incentive for them to take action. I feel very strongly about not cutting an organization's funding, but I also feel very strongly about making Cornell a national competitor in sustainability efforts.

CR: Moving on to another hot button issue, as a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and incoming President, what do you think of the administration's effort to reform Greek life and how do you plan on approaching further discussions with the administration on this issue?

NR: I sat down today with Dean of Students Kent Hubbell '69 to discuss the feasibility of some of my plans and the discussion later turned to Greek life and the University's recognition policy. I'm a very strong advocate for maintaining the status quo with regard to how the social life is run at Cornell. That said, there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed by the student body. But as President of the SA, it isn't going to be my job to impose my beliefs or make the SA in charge of everyone else's charter or funding. The Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and Multicultural Greek Letter Council have amazing student leadership. They know what they are doing in dealing with administrators. If they need the SA to step in when dealing with administrators, of course we'll be there. If students feel they need a voice in this discussion, we'll be there; but, as President, I'd rather act as a liaison between the student body and administration. In fact, I'm going to blog about all of my meetings with administrators so that when something happens like changes to the Greek system, it goes straight to the students.

CR: Finally, on a lighter note, it's no secret that the type of person who runs for SA President may have political aspirations later in life. Do you plan on going into politics any further after graduation and who are your political heroes?

NR: I really don't want to go into politics after I graduate. I want to go to law school and maybe eventually become a judge, so I'd be using politics in a different way. Honestly, I don't think the world can handle another video of me rapping. As far as my political heroes, I have a couple but I think I'll keep them to myself for now. Maybe I'll reveal them later down the road.

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Gitlin

Continued from the front page

interested and involved in what the SA does?

Adam: At the end of the day, I think a lot of what we do should be about showcasing or reaching out to what students do on campus. The question is often framed as "Why aren't enough students coming to student assembly meetings?" But I think the question needs to be "Why aren't student assembly members going to other events on campus?" While we need to get people more interested in our initiatives, I think we really need to reach out to student organizations. Specifically, I want to restructure some of our SA committees to make them more outreach oriented, so that they actually interact with the student organizations that align with their missions, like how the environmental committee reaches out to the sustainability effort. Not necessarily adding red tape, but changing how the committees are structured so that they reach out more in a very active way.

CR: With regard to the presidential election, one of Natalie's proposals was the creation of a mental-health day off of school in the spring. What do you think of the proposal, and is it something that the SA can get done?

Adam: I think it's a great proposal. I think it's a very creative idea, and it works well at MIT, so it's not like it's just some crazy idea that someone came up with. It's proven that it helps. I personally haven't focused on that initiative, but I look forward to discussing it with administrators. I think it's going to require a lot of debate. It's very different than anything that has happened in the past, and Cornell University is often resistant to change, so I don't know how to answer the question without being vague because it would not be honest of me.

Continued on the next page



Climate Scientists Exonerated...Maybe

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

When controversy erupted on account of some suspicious emails circulated by the Climate Research Unit at England's University of East Anglia last year, questions were raised about the authenticity of the data scientists involved published in a report about global warming.

Some of these scientists were associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), so their alleged deceit had the potential to influence millions. However, they were recently exonerated and cleared of charges of data manipulation after an investigation lead by the Inspector General of the US Commerce Department.

Oklahoma Republican Senator James Inhofe called for the investigation in May, after alarming content in their emails, including a reference to the "trick of adding in the real temps to each series...to hide

Such misdeeds are difficult to write off as insignificant, particularly with respect to a complex scientific issue like global warming.

the decline [in temperature]" was exposed. Senator Inhofe was especially interested in the NOAA's internal correspondences regarding the emails in question.

As part of the investigation, the Commerce Department examined over 1,000 emails and interviewed NOAA staff. The investigation concluded with the finding that the scientists were in fact innocent of data misuse that would constitute scientific fraud, but found fault with other aspects of the NOAA's conduct. In particular, the Commerce Department criticized the organization for its treatment of some requests for information it received in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act in 2007.

Indeed, Phil Jones, head of the Climate Research Unit, expressed his extreme reluctance to make public information related to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report when he asserted, "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 encouraged a colleague to delete emails related to the report.

Senator Inhofe noted this transgression in his response to the Commerce Department's

report, saying, as quoted in The New York Times, "It...appears that one senior NOAA employee possibly thwarted the release of important federal scientific information for the public to assess and analyze."

The Commerce Department also admonished NOAA scientists for circulating a cartoon picturing Inhofe and other anthropogenic-global warming skeptics stranded on a melting iceberg.

It is worth noting that separate investigations completed by the British House of Commons, the Inter Academy Council, the National Research Council, and Pennsylvania State University all cleared the NOAA of misuse of scientific data. However, these reports were not strictly speaking evaluations of the data used in the relevant reports, but rather were a review of the practices employed in utilizing and presenting the data in published works.

Further, Senator Inhofe still holds that the NOAA is guilty of data manipulation, and claims that, in spite of claims made in the Commerce Department's summary of its investigation, the resulting report does in fact illustrate this guilt.

Continued from page 7

CR: Both you and Natalie supported the failed Resolution 45, which would have created sustainability regulations for student organizations and docked funding from organizations deemed noncompliant by the Environmental Committee. Can you defend this vote and tell our readers what kind of role the SA should have in regulating student organizations?

Adam: At the end of the day, the SA, for the most part, always sides with student organizations. During all the SAFC appeals in the past, I know I have voted in favor of funding student organizations because I wouldn't feel right cutting funding from an organization and seeing their activities die for a year. That's against what the SA stands for. I think the regulations were a good balance between trying to promote sustainability without getting to the point where the SA would dock from an organization for not being sustainable. The message is very important, but everything I ran for is on the side of student organizations.

CR: Resolution 44 from last spring is still fresh in a lot of people's minds. Can you defend your vote in favor of that resolution and describe how future nondiscriminatory actions will find a balance between discouraging offensive or discriminatory behavior and preventing the overreach of SA power with regard to student organizations?



The NOAA, however, maintains the innocence of its staff and responded positively to the report. According to the *New York Times*, NOAA deputy undersecretary for operations Mary Glackin asserted that "None of the investigations have found any evidence to question the ethics of our scientists or raise doubts about NOAA's understanding of climate change science."

Overall, while the Commerce Department's findings are at least presented as generally good for the fate and reputation of the NOAA, they still contain evidence of serious

transgressions with regard to NOAA scientists' duties to make information relevant to their research publicly available. Such misdeeds are difficult to write off as insignificant, particularly with respect to a complex scientific issue like global warming, which requires the impartial and open evaluation of data in order to be fully understood.

Lucia Rafanelli is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences. She can be reached at lmr93@cornell.edu.

Adam: It's a similar concept, where these are principles that the SA wants to promote: inclusivity, student involvement, and student engagement. In effect, by passing the Resolution, we're stating that this is what the SA stands for; but I think when it comes down to it, unless it was an extreme case would the SA ever cut funding or enact any punitive measures. Unless it was a very extreme case, I would never vote for doing that, and I think the majority of SA members would never vote for that. I think it's the principles that the SA wants to stand for as representatives of the entire student body.

CR: Switching gears a bit, you're a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. What do you personally think about the administration's efforts to reform Greek life; and, now, as a larger part of SA, what role to you envision yourself playing in future discussions between the administration and Greek system?

Adam: First of all, we have the IFC which is its own governing body and the SA recognizes that we don't want to step into their territory. At the same time, I think that the administration did not engage us in the conversation about those rules early enough in the process. So I think it's very important for us to engage everyone who the changes affect, find alternatives like the campus pub, and show the administration that they need to engage the student body in issues that affect the student body. Even if the

SA can't change the changes that have been put out there, we can help find a more creative solution to the problem that would not only achieve the same goal but would make students happier and feel like they had a fair say in the process.

CR: Speaking of the Campus Pub, this issue was in both yours and Natalie's platforms. Is this actually going to happen and what role is the SA playing with the administration?

Adam: From what I see right now, the Pub is moving forward. As for the SA's role, right now we're working with the byline funding organizations on campus to commit programming and time to the Campus Pub, and I think it's not only going to be a great place for undergraduates to hang out but also a place for organizations to showcase their work on a regular basis.

CR: Finally, we have to ask how you came up with your slogan "Git some."

Adam: Well it was during my freshman year campaign. I was chalking outside Appel, and a student I had never met before was walking by and he said, "Gitlin? You should use 'Git some.' That sounds good, right?" And I agreed. Turns out that student was John Mueller, who was just elected to the SA. We've been great friends ever since, and I'm very grateful to him.

CR: Thank you and best of luck.

Adam: Thank you.

TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BY HANNAH MACLEAN

HEARD

Muna Ndulo, professor of law and former U.N. legal advisor
February 28, 2011

On the legality and possible usefulness of international sanctions against Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi:

"The U.N. Security Council's arms embargo on Libya and the sanctions imposed on leaders of the Gadhafi regime are most welcome, appropriate and decisive. It is also welcome that the Security Council has referred the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court so it can bring charges of crimes against humanity against members of the Gadhafi regime. [...]The international community needs to do more to meet the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding in Libya and on the borders of Libya. The United States is making the right decisions by supporting the U.N. resolutions, but needs to continue to look at other ways to insure violence stops in Libya."



Aziz Rana, assistant professor of law:
February 28, 2011

On creating and enforcing a no-fly zone over Libya to prevent Gadhafi from using his force against his opponents:

"My view is that a no-fly zone probably would not improve the situation on the ground and might actually be counterproductive. The Libyan regime's capacity to wield violence against its citizens is not primarily through the air. In fact, anti- Gadhafi forces now appear to control most of the country outside of the capital. So while a no fly zone won't actually stop the violence on the ground, it may well close off a means of escape for civilians fleeing Libya or keep Libyan air force pilots from defecting."



Jeffery Hancock, associate professor of communication
March 1, 2011

On the psychological effect of Facebook:

"Unlike a mirror, which reminds us of who we really are and may have a negative effect on self-esteem if that image does match with our ideal, Facebook can show a positive version of ourselves. [...] For many people, there's an automatic assumption that the Internet is bad. This is one of the first studies to show that there's a psychological benefit of Facebook."



Tracy Mitrano, director of IT Policy and of Computer Policy and Law Programs
March 1, 2011

On the House's scheduled vote to rescind the FCC's "Net Neutrality" regulations:

"The resolution should be interpreted more as a Republican challenge to the FCC's authority than a well-reasoned response to the legal concept of network neutrality. [...]t is up to the public to respond in a way that is consistent with its interest in having an accessible and open Internet available to serve economic, political and cultural goals of the country. Although the terms are debatable, those goals by and large have been articulated in the 'net neutrality' movement."



Thomas Pepinsky, assistant professor of government
March 8, 2011

On his co-authored study showing that military aerial bombing may increase insurgency:

"No one's been able to show, with anything close to the level of detail, broad coverage and rich statistical evidence that we have, that this [bombardment] was uniformly counterproductive for the U.S. military's broader strategic goals [in Vietnam]. [...] To be effective in counterinsurgency warfare, you need to distinguish insurgents from neutrals or potential allies. Any technology that fails to do that is not only not going to work, it's probably going to work in the wrong direction."

GIVEN

February 27, 2011

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will be awarding a 5-year, \$40 million grant to the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat (DRRW) project at Cornell, which is working toward combating strains of a wheat pathogen, Ug99. Particularly deadly, the pathogen causes stem rust and can kill crops (up to 80% of yields) of wheat and is a threat to global health and food security.



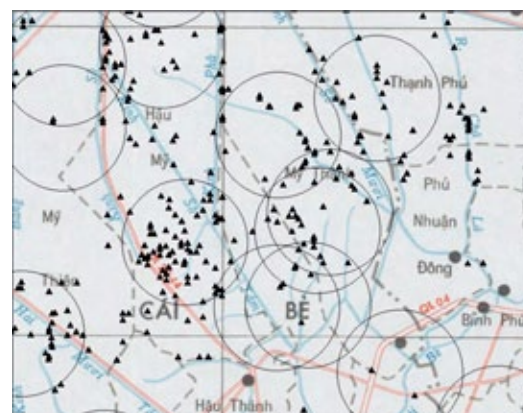
The grant will support Cornell's efforts to help identify, reproduce and distribute rust-resistant strains of wheat, thereby working to reduce global poverty and disease, especially in developed and otherwise impoverished countries.

PUBLISHED

Cornell University assistant professor of government Thomas Pepinsky co-authored a study last month called "Aerial Bombing and Counterinsurgency in the Vietnam War," which explores the productivity of U.S. aerial bombings of enemies. With the assistance of researchers Matthew Kocher and Stathis Kalyvas of Yale University, Pepinsky found that aerial bombing missions during the Vietnam war encouraged neutral civilians to take up arms with the enemy.

"This is a unique strategy to chart the co-evolution of bombing and insurgent control over time," Pepinsky said in a press release. The study examined whether South Vietnamese and American counterinsurgency operations benefitted from the massive bombing routines of the south. The main problem, he points out, is that such tactics fail to discriminate between insurgents and innocent civilians.

"We would suggest – although we don't do it in the paper – that this has implications for any effort to target insurgents," Pepinsky said. "To be effective in counterinsurgency warfare, you need to distinguish insurgents from neutrals or potential allies. Any technology that fails to do that is not only not going to work, it's probably going to work in the wrong direction."



Why 2012 May Be Tougher Than We Think

JOSEPH BONICA
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As the beginning of the presidential election season looms over the horizon, President Obama may seem very vulnerable to outsiders; his approval ratings have gone below 50% after brief boosts earlier in the year, and he is faced by the threats of rising energy prices, which has a history of turning popular opinion against leaders. This, combined with the unpopularity of his signature healthcare legislation, a still stagnant economy, and conflicts in the Middle East, would surely leave any politician vulnerable in a re-election battle. And the president certainly is in a troubled patch; however, it would be a serious mistake to completely count him out of the elections. Namely, Obama has two very distinct advantages at the moment: firstly, he is the incumbent president, and the incumbent is always favored at least slightly when election season rolls around. Secondly, and perhaps more disturbingly to Republicans, is that there

is absolutely no national consensus who the nominee should be. In fact, no one at this point can even be considered a serious frontrunner.

By convention, 2008's second place finisher Mitt Romney is considered to be the frontrunner looking forward to 2012. However, even this support is tepid, and most early polls show Mike Huckabee and Sarah Palin right behind him or even ahead in some cases. The list of possible contenders is not limited to these three, however. Ron Paul, who despite a very rabid following did not fare well in 2008 until the very end, is very competitive in a large number of polls, and has been declared the victor in several important straw polls, most notably the straw polls of CPAC 2010 and 2011. Additionally, focus has been put on Indiana governor Mitch Daniels, former Godfather's Pizza CEO Herman Cain, and numerous other candidates.

The main source for this fractionation is the rise of the Tea Party in national politics, whose desire to elect constitutional conservatives into office has led them to being very selective with their candidates. Often times, this has led to direct conflicts with the Republican establishment,

even going so far as pitching primaries against certain Republicans. These primary efforts were overall extremely successful; Tea Party-backed candidates took out incumbents and establishment favorites in Utah, Delaware, Kentucky, Florida and even New York. Unfortunately, this success did not always translate into the general election (although there are a solid number of examples in which it did). The Tea Party, correctly, holds very true to its principles and only selects candidates that either have a proven record of adhering to these principles or have a great potential to do so.

While strongly supporting a cer-

tain candidate has its obvious advantages, of course, it also can lead to serious fractionation, as seems to be happening in this case. Both establishment Republicans and Tea partiers are turned off by many of the candidates of the other side, even so far as outwardly refusing to support them. At the current moment, this is far from troubling; after all, very few candidates have directly announced their intentions to run. Additionally, it will be primary season for a long time, in which it is expected for

many in the party to support different candidates. The issue arises once a nominee is chosen; if it is someone unappetizing to the Tea Party, can the Republican Party be guaranteed their support? Perhaps those Tea Party voters will simply stay home and refuse to vote for that candidate. Or, even more drastically, perhaps they may vote third party en masse as a protest, which would effectively seal a second term for President Obama. If the eventual nominee is a Tea Party favorite, it may not be guaranteed that establishment Republicans respond in kind. However, there is one very important goal that each end of the Republican spectrum holds as their highest; namely, to de-

There is absolutely no national consensus on who the nominee should be.

tain candidate has its obvious advantages, of course, it also can lead to serious fractionation, as seems to be happening in this case. Both establishment Republicans and Tea partiers are turned off by many of the candidates of the other side, even so far as outwardly refusing to support them. At the current moment, this is far from troubling; after all, very few candidates have directly announced their intentions to run. Additionally, it will be primary season for a long time, in which it is expected for

feat the President in this upcoming election. If each side can come to an agreement on the importance of this goal and therefore be willing to support the eventual winner, then Obama may be in serious trouble; if not, he can delete the number for U-Haul from his Blackberry for now, because he will be assured a place of residence until 2016.

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In Defense of Gov. Walker

R. PATRICK McCAFFREY
STAFF WRITER

In 1959, Wisconsin was the first state to grant public unions the right to collectively bargain. Today, Governor Walker of Wisconsin and his fellow Republican legislators are looking to pass a bill that would strip the state's public employees of most of their collective bargaining rights. The Democrats' response to this legislation was to flee the statehouse, making it impossible for the legislature to reach the quorum necessary to start voting. The state is currently trying to close this fiscal year's \$137 million budget shortfall, and to plan ahead for the \$3.6 billion deficit in the two-year budget.

Let's be straight about a few

Big labor will send students like us to the chopping block first.

points. The Democrats fled the statehouse and hid for weeks to stall the democratic process in order to protect unions. But they didn't do this out of love for the common man. They did it more because unions are among the biggest contributors to Democratic politicians. And

public unions specifically rely entirely on tax revenue, so they have every reason to elect Democrats—the politicians most likely to support more government spending and higher taxes. Unions help elect the Democrats; Democrats protect the unions.

In 2008, unions spent over \$400 million to help elect President Obama, with public unions of the variety currently under pressure in Wisconsin among some of the largest contributors. So even though Gov. Walker made it clear that 11,500 state and local employees could be laid off if the savings from his proposed changes were not achieved, the Democrats did not budge for weeks. Neither did the unions. The unions would rather protect their

political advantages than the jobs of their members. This issue should strike particularly close to the hearts of college students: The union policy of LIFO (last in, first out) means that the youngest employees are going to be laid off first. And as students, we are the youngest employees.

Big labor will send students like us to the chopping block first. So the cycle we saw above is clear: Democrats protect their campaign-financers, and unions elect those who will enact the taxes necessary for public union survival.

But why should public unions lose their right to collectively bargain? This is because public unions, unlike private unions, necessarily have a monopoly over their market (it should be mentioned that private unions and their respective workers would in fact benefit from Walker's changes). Private unions realize that the corporations they associate with must turn a profit or they will shut down. So while private unions will fight to give a greater share of corporate profits to employees, they are constrained by the reality that their corporation must turn some profit or everyone will be out of a job. The public unions that represent government employees, on the other hand, are not bound by the same constraint. Schools will not be shut-down, but tax revenue will have to increase to fund the additional payouts. Private unions function to protect industrial workers from having their wages squeezed down so companies can turn greater profits. In the public sector, the need for this function is nonexistent.

Collective bargaining amongst public unions is inflating government worker wages well beyond their private sector counterparts. Andrew Biggs of the American Enterprise Institute and Jason Richwine of the Heritage Foundation have shown that in the state of California, where public unions are powerful, government workers are effectively paid about 30% more than equivalent private sector workers—the workers whose taxes are incidentally paying for the overcompensated government employees. Eliminating collective bargaining is a step toward reigning in the overcompensation of public union workers. Union shops use fees collected from non-union members to finance the campaigns of nearly exclusively Democratic politicians. The taxpayers are thus left at a disadvantage when the time comes to have their plights represented in government. Governor Walker has not launched an attack on middle-class America. He is representing the 85.8% of the state's workforce and taxpayers who are not unionized in the public sector, and setting the stage for a national pushback against public unions.

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CORNELLINSIDER.com

a blog by the writers of the Cornell Review

Keith Olbermann '79 to Rock Bailey Hall

Posted by MICHAEL ALAN

The Cornell University Program Board has announced that they will be bringing the Edward R. Murrow of Our Time, “internationally renowned journalist” (his words, not ours) Keith Olbermann '79, to Bailey Hall on Tuesday, March 29. The announcement reads:

CUPB is excited to present An Evening with Keith Olbermann '79 on March 29th at 6:00 PM in Bailey Hall! Olbermann needs no introduction, but in case you're unaware, he is a writer and political commentator who until recently hosted the nightly program Countdown with Keith Olbermann on MSNBC.

Oh, trust us, CUPB, we weren't “unaware.” We at the Insider are big fans of Keith's and we're just itching to see what hits he'll pull out of his catalog to play at Bailey. Whether it's “Bush Lied, People Died,” “John McSame. . .as Bush,” “Sarah Palin is a Stupid Liar. . .Just Like Bush,” or more recent cuts like “Bush Got My Show Canceled,” we're sure the new “Chief News Officer” at a channel you have to pay DirecTV \$1,000 a month to get won't disappoint.

Comments:

1.

Brendan Patrick Devine said

He'll get a larger crowd in Bailey than he ever got for his show.

2.

Oliver Renick said

'An evening with Keith Olbermann.' What a crock. How dare they use the same pseudo-sophisticated title they used for the Elie Wiesel event.

3.

lukepolICASTRO said

He's going to show us his baseball card collection

Part 2: Partisan Debate on The Diplomatist

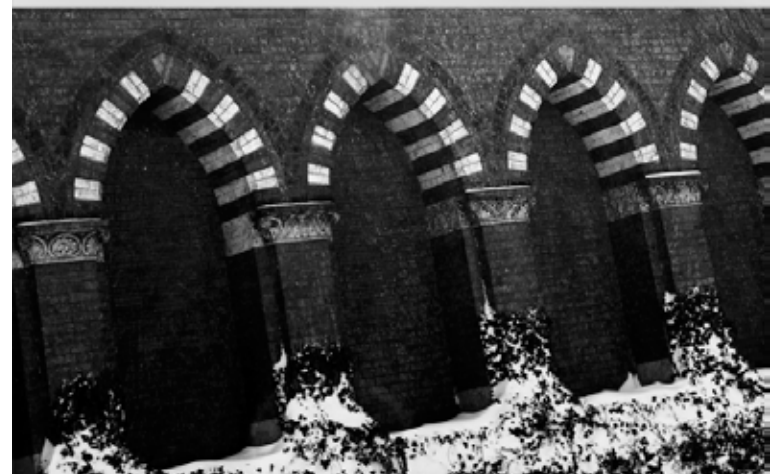
Posted by DENNIS SHIRAEV

Check out the second installment of the new Partisan Response feature on the Diplomatist- this week's article is titled “Why India May Hate Republicans.” Here's Review staff writer Michael Alan '14's response:

There's no question that weather conditions in individual regions are affecting rising food prices, however any connection between protests over food prices and government corruption in India and American efforts to curb its tremendous public debt (a tactic the Indian government is also employing in its ongoing war against inflation) is totally unfounded.

The idea that anthropogenic global warming (AGW) is causing these weather events or, for that matter, that AGW even exists to the extent purported by politicians and activists wishing to tax businesses based on carbon emissions is questionable to say the least. In fact, the November 2009 uncovering of a scheme by prominent climate change researchers to manipulate data on AGW to support political efforts calls into question the true motives behind the left's railing against the business community.

Furthermore, the notion that Republicans are against efforts to develop clean energy and that the rest of the world, including China and India, is “moving in the other direction” is simply wrong. Republicans are proposing deeper cuts to the EPA than President Obama as a part of a greater effort to reduce spending, but clean energy programs like the cost-effective nuclear power expansion remain in the proposal, which leaves behind the President's plan to grant the EPA the ability to enact economically debilitating emissions restrictions on businesses during an already difficult recession. Using such measures to address climate concerns puts us at a disadvantage in the global economy against rising economic superpowers like China and India, who would not answer with similar programs of their own and are bearing an even greater responsibility for rising carbon emissions every day as their economic growth continues to skyrocket.



CORNELLINSIDER

Wisemen & Fools

I love collective bargaining.

Let me at them.

Get me out of the cage and LET ME GO!

Chris Christie



They've compared me to Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte and all those great leaders of the past that I love.

Chris Christie

In politics, an absurdity is not an impediment.

Napoleon

Man up and say I'm fat.

Chris Christie



I'm not a bad person!

Snooki

Oh, here comes your Senator from New York! That's Snooki, Senator Schumer! Snooki! Senator Schumer! Snooki, can we get a picture with you and Senator Schumer?

Snooki, Senator Schumer's waiting for you! Snooki, did you know your Senator just passed by?

Frustrated Correspondent on line at the airport

I lack only one billion dollars to make the world a better world.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

I usually take a two hour nap from 1 to 4.

Yogi Berra

Like it or hate it, it is

really effective, because it is real news.

Hillary Clinton on Al Jazeera

I did not have sexual relations with that woman.

Bill Clinton

Name and town, name and town, name and town, if you wish to opine.

Bill O'Reilly

The Socialists ask what is our program? Our program is to smash the heads of the Socialists.

Benito Mussolini

Well, you know, I've been watching the Middle East self-destruct...and it's an amazing process.

Donald Trump

The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.

George Washinton July 9, 1776

Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all.

George Washinton July 29, 1759

Change change change change change change change change change change change change

Barack Obama

The Review remembers the students we lost one year ago.

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