

# The Cornell Review

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION

The Conservative Voice on Campus

“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

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The time to unify the party was three months ago. Since the beginning of the 2012 election campaign, there has always been one clear candidate that would eventually emerge as a victor, and he is Mitt Romney.

After winning Florida and Nevada by a large margin, Romney is on his way to easily capturing the nomination. He has, from the beginning, kept his focus not on his marginal opponents, but on President Obama and his failed policies.

I, like many Romney supporters, have sat around waiting for the rest of the party to realize the obvious; if the Republicans want to win back the White House, Mitt Romney is the only candidate that can do it. For many, this fact is not enough. Where I see a Republican that can win the White House, they see a “fake”

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## Mitt Romney Isn't Barack Obama, But He Might As Well Be

ZACH DELLÉ  
STAFF WRITER

No candidate in the Republican party more identically matches President Obama in both record and rhetoric than Mitt Romney. These facts have been cleverly distorted and hidden by our Republican establishment, which seems to genuinely believe Obama cracked some kind of secret left-centrist policy prescription that represents the perfect candidate to win America's heart. We cannot allow this to happen. The Republican

party should be advocating the exact opposite of everything Dictator Obama has implemented, not blatantly attempting to mimic his failed job-destroying policies.

It is important for conservatives to remember that it is Congress that currently has a sub-10% approval rating, not Obama. We could very well be giving away the House and Senate to the popular anti-corporatist sentiment that even Newt Gingrich has been able to tap into. Electing Romney to lead the conservative charge for Congress

in 2012 is about as sensible as asking Rick Santorum to organize a gay pride parade. It will never happen, and even if it did, everyone involved is going to hate it.

So the Republicans plan to win in 2012 is effectively to out-Obama Obama. Romney will try to be tougher on terrorists than the man that killed Osama Bin Laden? Romney will promise better corporatist government expansion than Obama? More efficient nation-building? More foreign aid to

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## Liberal Logic, Sanctuary School

NOAH KANTRO  
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Last semester, one of the great topics being discussed on campus was the proposal to change the Campus Code of Conduct policy on sexual assault. This debate came about from the University Assembly's decision to quickly pass a temporary amendment to the Code at the end of the Spring 2011 semester in response to a Department of Education directive. The directive, it was argued, required immediate action by the school to remain in compliance with Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally-funded schools.

The effects of the amendment were to lower the standard of proof for conviction from, “clear and convincing

evidence,” to merely the, “preponderance of the evidence,” and to give the accuser the right to appeal a not-guilty verdict.

This is what the Department of Education considers “fairness”—and what they are requiring the school to do in order to avoid being sanctioned: potentially put students in double jeopardy, and base verdicts for an infraction that carries penalties as serious as expulsion on the question of, “Is he more likely than not to have done it?” Anything less would be, of course, sexual discrimination. While the Department of Education's directive is detestable, nothing less is to be expected from the post-Constitutional Obama administration.

The really interesting issue here is how the University acted in pushing

this amendment through the University Assembly. Ordinarily, matters concerning changing the Campus Code are referred to the Codes and Judicial Committee (CJC), which makes a recommendation for the UA to vote on. In this case, the UA was pushed to act first by passing the temporary amendment and left it to the CJC to work out the details later.

Professor Kevin Clermont, law, a member of the CJC, said to the *Daily Sun*, “There was, in fact, no rush whatsoever. It's unprecedented, as far as I know, this kind of stepping in and circumventing [the CJC].”

The *Sun* reports, “[The amendment] was hurried through the voting process by administrators who argued that Cornell could not wait for the CJC

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# Mooning the Sun

## Patricide in the First Degree

NOAH KANTRO  
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

A column in last week's *Daily Sun* introduced us to the concept of the "matriot." The author defines matriotism as his version of love for his country. In his article he relates how, while traveling abroad, he was asked by chance what his favorite country was. To his surprise, he replied, "America." He then goes on to relate all the things he despises in America; every non-politically correct emotion and action throughout our history, from the victory celebrated in our National Anthem to our joy last spring at the death of Osama bin Laden.

To him, a "matriot" is one who can still manage to love America despite believing in one nation under political correctness rather than G-d. There is not room in this, nor a dozen columns to fully reply to all the liberal misinterpretations of history he presents in support of his opinion, so I shall only briefly cover a few.

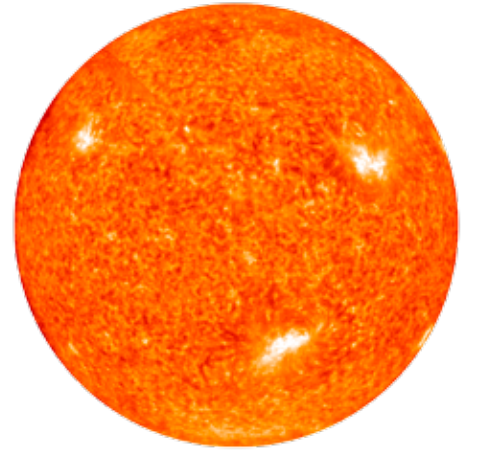
He sums up his views by writing, "As far as I was concerned, the 'greatness' of this supposedly Christian America was built on Native American blood, Chinese sweatshop labor and Iraqi oil." To the author and most liberals, American Indians are the victims of American society. I (And I believe most conservatives) view Indians with a great respect. They fought valiantly for their way of life against overwhelming odds and superior technology, and were by far America's fiercest opponent. To some extent they succeeded, for the treaties they earned have allowed them to retain their independence and national identities. That is why today the image of the Indian warrior is proudly associated with strength. To call this offensive or think of Indians as victims is to denigrate the cultures and memories their warriors fought so hard to

preserve, cultures that surely would have been exterminated had they been fighting any people other than, "Christian America."

The author, though, claims to be a pacifist, and honoring warriors is anathema to him. He writes, "The matriot will gladly go to his death to make the Mother Country as bountiful and nurturing as possible, but he cannot possibly do so with a gun in his hand or anger in his heart." The Indian braves were decidedly unmatriotic, and the author chooses to see them as victims rather than recognize what they accomplished through strength.

Speaking of self-defense, he claims to detest that America accounts for 40% of the world's military spending. I take pride in our ability to defend ourselves. He seems to believe that all defense is vengeance. He calls the Bush administration and Republicans, "an angry tribe of obese bigots, only too willing to drop bombs on the other side of the world in the name of God, oil, or revenge." He clearly does not understand the gravity of the decision to go to war, or its motives. Americans do not take war lightly, despite what the media chooses to display. All it takes is a precursory reading of our history to know with what reluctance we were dragged into the World Wars. We still know, though, that war is sometimes necessary. Defending against further attacks after 9/11 was not revenge, but defense – a display of strength necessary to put down the threat against America.

So, if the author can find nothing of merit in our history, what is his reason for loving America? He cites the opening lines of America the Beautiful: "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain..." He loves America because it is...pretty. He sees America as a motherland, with fertile soil



and beautiful scenery, where he has thus far led a good life. This is the only positive spirit he sees in America – a nurturing, pacifistic, liberal, bountiful, embracing, loving mother (Although I know more than a few feminists who would take him to task for using the metaphor of something as heinous and illiberal as – gasp! – traditional gender roles). Everything else about the country he would seek to, "fundamentally transform," as our President is fond of saying.

The truth is, however, that America is neither a motherland nor a fatherland – it is both. America has a father spirit as well as a mother. The father symbolizes our strength, responsibility, and presence abroad. It is he who is responsible for defending his American family from threats, interacting with the rest of the world, and instilling the self-reliance and discipline that led to this country's prosperity. However, he can do none of these things without the mother. She represents the compassion of a country that cares for its people, but knows that they must grow up and take responsibility for being men and women. But our mother is not a radical feminist. The American father and mother spirits operate like a traditional nuclear family. One cannot exist without the other.

The mother spirit that the author presents in his article is antithetical to the true mother spirit of America. His supports open borders, and end to all wars, violence, and insult, and a suicidal nonchalance about the country's place in the world. His mother spirit seeks to do away with the father, who he sees as evil. The real Mother America would never do this. The mother

cares for and nurtures the father. She feeds him and makes his bed, if he should come home drunk, get in a fight, or lose his job. The father, in turn, provides for and protects the mother and her children, the American people. In this relationship it is the mother who must forgive the father for his transgressions, and love him for what he brings to the table, and the father who must not blame the mother for problems, but protect her always. Each must rise to the occasion when needed.

Problems arise, though, when the children take sides. What the author detests and seeks to "fundamentally transform" is the country's father spirit and those in which it resides. He wants to do away with the nation's strength and masculinity in order to seek the embrace of his ideal, "Mother America," atheistic liberalism. It is a social Oedipus complex; rage and jealousy towards the father, who requires work, strength, and self-reliance to earn his approval, and a deep lust for the care-giving mother. Not only that, but in his vision he has replaced our traditional Mother America with one he thinks can survive on her own. He seeks to blur the distinction between the two, but when at the end of his article he speaks of Mother America being sick and in need of assistance, he speaks only of his version. Our version is doing just fine, thank you very much. She is happily married.

We must hope that, as children do, liberals can grow out of their Oedipus complex and realize the child's true and valuable relationship with both parents, that they can shed the

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# The East Asian Equilibrium

CHRISTOPHER SLIJK  
MANAGING EDITOR

One can scarcely follow the news today without some mention of China and its continual economic growth clashing with US political and military supremacy in world affairs. With nations around the world reorienting their economies toward bilateral Chinese trade, China's rise comes as a major shift of power not just in East Asia but the world at large.

Nevertheless, there are those who believe that the perception of Chinese expansionism is a mere phantom. In a lecture entitled "The

Impact of China's Rise on International Relations and Regional Stability," David Kang,

Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, came to Cornell to make the controversial claim that China's rise as a major power on the world stage could, if implemented properly, work to greatly stabilize the region.

Kang began by analyzing two forces in international relations that are often invoked when looking at China.

"[The] two human motivations we take for granted: wealth and power," he stated. Specifically, he referred to economic interdependence and balance of power – concepts which he felt were often incorrectly applied to the China case. Many political scientists point to the importance of the US, Japan, and other regional powers in the Pacific maintaining a

counterweight to growing Chinese economic and military influence.

Meanwhile, many economists point to China's massive export and import sectors as signs of tight

integration with the world economy, a force which would keep Chinese expansionism in check and continue to stabilize the region. Yet, Kang does not believe either one of these to be the impetus that is the key to a stable Asia for the simple reason that

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## The Cornell Review

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# When an Elephant Makes an Ass of Himself

LUCAS POLICASTRO  
CHIEF EDITOR

Students are going to vote Republican in the 2012 election for the same reason they voted for Obama in 2008. They want change badly; more now than they did the last time. College is a natural incubator of dissatisfaction—you can't learn much by agreeing—but the situation we face is more than an academic exercise. Young people been personally offended by Obama's inaction on the economy, his deliberate shoveling of the national debt onto our generation, and his uncanny blend of lackadaisical radicalism. Brains became unwashed as Obama retracted from the public eye. Former Obama devotees know exactly what sort of change they need, and they know it comes in the form of a Republican who has a genuine interest in our nation's prosperity.

College students are increasingly open to conservative ideas. This is partly explained by experiencing college during a recession, but it has more to do with the libertarian awakening that we've all become so familiar with thanks to the hijinks of Ron Paul. College students have realized—not for the first time—that attending university is less an insulated trial period and more a genuine personal challenge. Students are embittered that some face an immensely difficult time reaching graduation while others seem to coast through both mentally and financially. Although millions of hours and dollars have been spent trying to make universities more equitable, diverse, and straightforward, college is conditioning us to hate the seemingly artificial systems that constrain our pursuit of happiness. The “fairness” ideal which once cranked the political correctness engine has now been remodeled into the “freedom” ideal of libertarianism, and students love it even more. Major ideological divisions aside, the new generation

of libertarians should be welcomed into the Republican Party (as we've seen from the primary race, the GOP isn't exactly ideologically cohesive to begin with).

Thus the real reason for this editorial. The current presidential primary candidates have collectively failed to capitalize on their opportunity to capture the youth vote (and the entire vote, for that matter). We've seen a bevy of excellent, even revolutionary ideas from certain candidates, but these men have denigrated themselves with a sickening amount of bickering and pointless contention. As a result, there is mass confusion in the Republican Party over who actually represents conservative ideals and who will be seen as Obama's worthy opponent. Moreover, despite Paul's success, the other candidates have largely made no attempt to capture his libertarian voter segment. What has gone wrong?

**It's all so clear to me.** Everyone seems to know with the clarity of a prophet that Romney is the inevitable nominee. This is an unconventional election season, but not unconventional enough to conduct a junta-style election. Every single instance of candidate momentum in this election has turned out to be wrong except for Paul's steady rise.

**How could you trust that guy?** Both Mitt and Newt fans are guilty of this. Neither of them is fundamentally trustworthy. But before accusing Romney of being a closet liberal, consider whether he would actually run for President on a platform of lies. Likewise, before accusing Gingrich of poor character, consider his recent religious conversion and his seemingly genuine confession that he has settled matters with God. Ultimately, no doubts can be settled, but they are not serious enough to rule out either candidate entirely. Americans take big chances when we must.

**Insiders and outsiders.** Candidates like to pit themselves against the disconnected Washington elite. We hear it so much that it's impossible to know who's being genuine. We have a clear definition of ‘elite’: people who lose touch with their constituents because they are too weak to maintain their moral and philosophical fiber after spending time in Washington. That's a determination for the voters to make, not for candidates to talk about.

**We need to talk about wealth.** No, we don't. A rich candidate is hardly different from a poor candidate if both are interested in America's prosperity. Law-abiding members of the upper, middle, and lower classes are not fundamentally different. Attacking Romney's activities as an investor or Gingrich's consulting business only serves to fuel Obama's class warfare game. It is incomprehensible why a conservative would attack someone for doing services and generating income.

**Ron Paul is nuts.** But he can't help it. The man is a patriot with a handicap, and the gist of his ideas must be harnessed to secure a Republican victory in November. Ignoring him only boosts his poll numbers and pits libertarians against the rest of the Republican establishment. Why isn't Paul speaking at CPAC this week alongside the other candidates?

For some, a satisfying education is barely worth the troubles it can come with. But this year, our nation faces a challenge above and beyond the problems we face at this early stage of our lives. The *Review* calls on all students who have devoted their time to a campus issue to also consider making a far greater contribution by supporting a Republican primary candidate based on conviction, not politics.

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nevinam / flickr

# CUPD Underage Violations Increase

## As Greeks Continue to Comply, Freshmen Find Other Means

ALFONSE MUGLIA &  
LAUREL CONRAD

New statistics from the Cornell Police continue to uncover an evolving drinking culture on Cornell's campus. According to the Cornell Police Daily Crime Log, more students were found underage drinking in north campus dormitories during this rush week than any year since 2007. Three students were referred to the Judicial Administrator from Tuesday, January 17 to Sunday, January 22 – the official days of fraternity and sorority rush – on reports of unlawful possession of alcohol. This year marked the first year of completely “dry rush” in the fraternity rush process, as imposed by the University through the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSA). An alcohol-free rush week is only one part of the University's new fraternity recognition policy, as established by the OFSA with the support of the Board of Trustees.

Travis Apgar, Assistant Dean of Students, commended the student leaders for rising to the occasion and meeting the University's challenge.

“I give a lot of credit to the student leaders of the organizations,” remarked Apgar, in a recent interview with *The Cornell Review*, “because they responded well to the challenges of a new system and new policies.”

The major change that Apgar spoke of was the move by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) to hold alcohol-free events in the evenings. In the past, these “smokers” were held in the mornings and afternoons. Holding registered events later in the day helped shorten the possibility of organizations holding events with alcohol.

“There were no real, negative incidents, and there were very positive activities that we saw,” he continued. “Fraternities held a lot of late night, dry events at their houses in order to eliminate places where alcohol might creep in.”

With the fraternity innovators doing their part by keeping rush events dry, the stage was set to see how the University imposed policies would affect the overall social culture at Cornell.

Considering these changes in University policies, however, Greek leaders knew that they could only do so much. Many speculated that the new rules would compel freshmen to “pregame” in different

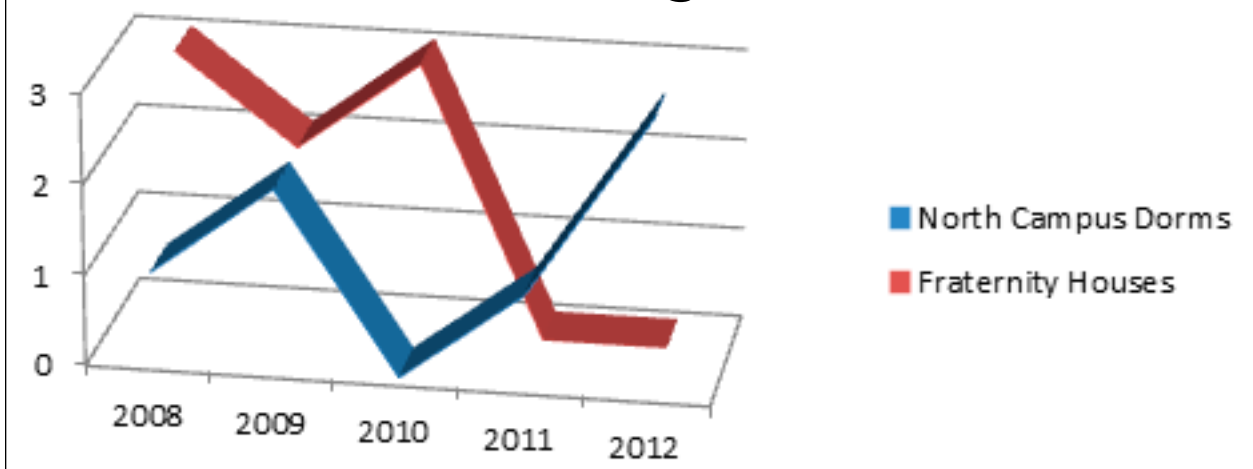
environments, including dormitories and Collegetown annexes.

The latter of these has received much attention in the past year, as the University has not tried to deny its presence. Collegetown landlords are beginning efforts to combat excessive drinking.

“We know that there was some alcohol used off campus in Collegetown,” remarked Apgar, who as head of the OFSA has recently grouped “independent living”

freshmen to drink in their dorm rooms before embarking on nightly events. Official stats from the Cornell Police apparently support this claim, as the number of issued underages has remained relatively steady across Ithaca, but instead has shifted from fraternity houses to dormitories. From Tuesday, January 17 to Sunday, January 22, there were a reported three incidences of unlawful possession of alcohol, according to the Cornell Police Daily Crime

### Unlawful Possession of Alcohol Violations During Rush Week



under his ever-extending jurisdiction. Consequently, Collegetown drinking has evolved into another boiling point for the University.

Fraternity men, as early as a Greek-wide forum held in September 2010, also predicted that the change in policies would force

Log. Each incident was reported in a north campus dormitory – two in Clara Dickson Hall and one in the Townhouses.

For the second year in a row, there were no such violations in

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## North Campus Devoid of Study Areas

ROSHNI MEHTA  
STAFF WRITER

It is 8 pm in the evening, I have showered, eaten dinner and procrastinated enough for the day; it is now time to work. There is just one problem...there is no place to study. Unfortunately, the majority of North Campus residents experience this obstacle every day of the week.

North Campus, which was formally developed in the 1970s with the prime motive of fostering a culture of unity among freshmen, is a residential complex for first year students at Cornell. Although North Campus does succeed in developing strong bonds among first year students, it has one glaring inconvenience—its distance from Central Campus, home to all the libraries on campus.

North Campus has no library, which is a major obstacle for students who want to study late in the evening. And, since this is Cornell University, most students do intend

to study late in the evenings up to and after midnight.

Although there is a population of students that enjoy single rooms and quiet study rooms built in their (new) dorms, most students on North Campus do not have such privacy. What is the alternative? Our beloved Robert Purcell Community Center, home to ‘Nasties,’ our mailboxes and three study rooms. Yes, only three. Naturally, these rooms are chock-full during the critical study hours that take place before and after dinner. And, if one is lucky to find space in one of the rooms, they are constantly at the risk of being evicted out of their study space because, seemingly inevitably, a club will have the rooms booked for their weekly meeting.

Beyond that, RPCC is a relatively loud place. The natural noise that accompanies large groups of students is often exacerbated by the events that are hosted on the ground floor, such as ‘Karaoke Nights,’ which in the words of Eric ’15, “are extremely

enjoyable and lively, but not fun when I have to write a paper.”

Of course, one could argue that students could commute to and from the libraries on central. However, many students don't feel safe walking such a long distance late at night.

“Walking anywhere at 2 am is calling for trouble,” expressed Alex ’15. There are no buses on campus in the early hours either, which makes the whole process not only inconvenient, but also extremely cold at this time of the year.

This is Cornell University, an institution of motivated and hard-working students who are bound to pull late-nighters on many of their Cornell nights. And when an area is inhabited with more than two thousand Cornellians, the presence of a library seems like a modest proposal.

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## Mooning the Sun

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white guilt and embrace the father as well, before it is too late. Let them imagine this: strength as a positive, national masculinity as a positive, and pride in accomplishments outweighing guilt over failings

America does not need bellicose hot-headed war-mongers any more than it needs “matriots.” It needs good old-fashioned patriots, who know that America is, can remain, and should remain the greatest nation on the planet because of all the good we have done for the world. I like to call these patriots simply proud Americans. We have and will continue to remedy our wrongdoings, but self-flagellation is not the way to heal any nation. Strength, and peace through strength, are the only way forward.

If the author is going to quote America the Beautiful, he would do well to remember its ending: “O beautiful for patriot dream, that sees beyond the years; thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears. America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!”

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# A World Without Europe

ANDRE GARDINER  
STAFF WRITER

Recent actual and proposed cuts to US military spending and a strategic shift in focus to East Asia has placed a greater burden on the already stressed militaries of Europe.

For over a decade now, Europe has largely relied on the US to meet NATO and general security commitments. Between 2000 and 2010, Western Europe increased military spending 4.1%, a total growth much lower than the rate of inflation. As a result, military spending in largest European economies has shrunk as a percentage of GDP over the last

Even if one accepts the statement that large-scale ground warfare is a thing of the past, Europe is not even prepared to initiate or sustain small-scale conflicts with far inferior enemies.

decade.

In the U.K., a country that has a long history of foreign engagement, the recent financial crisis has forced large cuts to an already stagnant

military budget. Cuts implemented by Prime Minister David Cameron will reduce military spending as a percentage of GDP from 2.7% to 2.0% by 2015. That amounts to an 11% cut by 2015. This, tied in with cuts over the past decade, has greatly restricted the ability of the U.K. to exert force abroad. The once proud Royal Navy will be without an aircraft carrier until 2012 and the army has been forced to cut 40% of its tanks.

The second largest military spender in Europe, France, is in a similar circumstance as the U.K. President Sarkozy has proposed billions in cuts to an already outdated military. The French Navy is down to one aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, and it is in dire need of maintenance. While current cuts to the military between 2010 and 2015 are currently estimated at 2%, this will undoubtedly grow as France is forced to meet the economic realities of the sovereign debt crisis.

Germany, which has the largest air force, army and tank force in

Europe, is making even more significant cuts than the U.K. and France. Between 2010 and 2015 Germany is expected to cut its military by 21%. This includes drastic cuts in personnel, procurement, and R&D.

Even if one accepts the statement that large-scale ground warfare is a thing of the past, Europe is not even prepared to initiate or sustain small-scale conflicts with far inferior enemies.

The recent 2011 intervention in Libya confirmed the decline in European military might over the last decade. Throughout the conflict, European nations faced numerous supply and logistical problems. The U.K., which has the most experienced military in Europe due to engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, faced a dangerous shortage in Royal Air Force (RAF) pilots throughout the conflict. The shortage was so chronic that the RAF would likely have had to pull pilots from the Home Quick Reaction Alert Air Defense had Muammar Gaddafi been able to mount any serious opposition. The French air force was in a similar situation to the RAF during the conflict. Their numbers were so stretched that they had to stop training new pilots in order to enforce the Libya no fly zone.

Europe was also heavily reliant on the US during the early stages of the conflict. Not only did the US military provide much of the command and control support for the

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conservative whose ambition to become President has determined his conservative views.

Critics point to his flip-flopping on abortion and other issues, in addition to his health care policy that President Obama points to as a source for his policy. Romney has, time after time, debunked these arguments in debates and speeches alike.

To those who are not sold on Romney, I ask: would you rather have four more years of failed, big-government policies, or would you rather have four years of pro-business, job producing, and debt limiting policies? I see Mitt Romney for more than just the winnable candidate. Even if you don't, he is your only alternative to another four years of Obama.

Santorum, Paul, and Gingrich all have a right to stay in the race as long as they want. Unfortunately, this hard-hitting Republican primary has done purposeless tearing within the party. The outcome is obvious; Mitt Romney will stand in Tampa in August and accept the Republican nomination for the Presidency of the United States of America.

President Obama will be a difficult opponent going into November. The longer the Republicans wait to unite, the harder it will be to restore a promising future for the country.

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# Consumer-Based Education Reform

KATHLEEN McCAFFREY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

In a traditional marketplace, producers keep their buyers in mind. This yields perks like product innovation and a competitive pricing system which reflects the values and priorities of consumers.

A major problem with the public school system is that consumer choice is limited by geography and, sometimes, a bureaucracy that has little incentive to tailor their product.

Worse yet, there aren't many ways to reform a school system from the consumer-side, though Florida Gov. Rick Scott has proposed a method. His 'parent-trigger bill' would allow parents to close struggling schools and replace them with a charter school. If 51 percent of parents in a persistently failing school sign a petition, they can form a parents union to implement change, either in the staff or the organizational structure. Similar legislation

has been proposed in nearly a dozen states and was passed in California, Texas, Ohio and Connecticut.

Unfortunately, I think the success of this bill is vulnerable to self-selection. That is, those who are most active in their children's education trend toward taking measures like sacrificing some comforts to live in better school districts and finding private options. That is, those who have already taken measures to move their children out of certain districts or schools may have been the ones most willing to organize a parents union.

However, I have hope that this measure will incentivize more parents to become active in reforming failing schools. I grow particularly optimistic when I see how flustered this proposal makes people like Donna Mutzenard, the executive director of the Florida Education Association's Island Coast chapter.

"Parents need to be involved in their children's education but giving them power to change traditional

public schools to charter campuses is going too far.... I don't think parents know how to run a school," Mutzenard said. "That's why our administrators have to have master's degrees and (school boards) prefer superintendents to have doctorates."

In certain areas of the country, some parents have filled the gaps that public education and that administrators like Ms. Mutzenard have been unable to fill.

Camden, New Jersey boasts one of the most unsuccessful urban districts in the nation with only 21% of students at Camden High graduating by passing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level state assessment test. Parents and volunteers began the private Community Educational Resource Network (CERN) run on a modest budget and a volunteer staff. Unlike Camden High, many graduates of CERN go onto community colleges or vocational schools.

But this isn't just a socioeconomic problem. This year in New York City there were 28,817 applicants for

19,834 slots in the city's public pre-K programs. As a result, illegal underground preschools have been organized by teams of parents who rotate responsibilities. Though many of them do not have fancy Masters Degrees in Education, they are capable of gauging results. Similarly, I am not capable of making a car, but I know lemons from good cars. Public education seems to have been absent of consumer-input and, judging by Ms. Mutzenard's reaction, questioning its value. Where it has failed the most blatantly, alternatives have had to take their place with fewer resources and illegal means.

It's time that the consumers of public education be given a method of signaling their sentiment other than paying for alternatives or moving. The "trigger bill" gives them an incentive to organize with their tax dollars, whereas it was futile to speak out before.

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obama wants to raise taxes  
obama wants to raise taxes  
obama wants to tax the rich  
obama wants to destroy america  
obama wants to bypass congress





**CORNELL CORNELL** DESCENDS THE STAIRS OF THE CORNELLCAVE. HEARING A CREAKING NOISE BEHIND HIM, HE TURNS TO JUST NARROWLY AVOID THE BAYONET OF ARCH RIVAL PRIVATEER PRINCETON AND DEFLECT IT WITH A QUICK THRUST OF THE SABER.

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** I SEE YOUR REACTION TIME HAS NOT FADED, MY DEAR COLONEL.

**COLONEL CORNELL:** WHAT HAVE YE DONE TO MY CAVE?! DOST YE HAVE NO MERCY?!

THE COLONEL IS SHOCKED TO SEE HIS ONCE DARK, IMPOSING MANCAVE COVERED WITH FRILLY LACE AND CHE POSTERS.

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** I'VE BEEN CONDUCTING SOME...BUSINESS HERE. MAINLY CANNABIS AND ADDERAL DEALING, BUT MY MAIN PROJECT HAS BEEN MY DIVERSITY MACHINE.

**COLONEL CORNELL:** DIVERSITY MACHINE? WHAT JEST IS THIS?

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** OH YES. YOU SEE ME AND THE BOYS GOT TOGETHER IN THE '70S. YOU KNOW - BRIGADIER BROWN AND COMMANDER COLUMBIA - AND WE DECIDED TO ENACT SOME...SOCIAL JUSTICE.

**COLONEL CORNELL:** NOT THAT...ANYTHING BUT THAT! PRIVATEER, I IMPLORE YE-

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** SAVE IT. YOU SEE, WITH THIS MACHINE WE CAN CREATE AN ENTIRELY NEW FORM OF DIVERSITY: ARTIFICIAL DIVERSITY. INSTEAD OF TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO ACT AND ASSOCIATE WITH UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS, WE CAN NOW FORCE THEM TO! [THIS DANGLING PREPOSITION WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.]

**COLONEL CORNELL:** AND WHAT DOST YE HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS CONTRAPTION OF SIN?

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** SELF SATISFACTION OF COURSE. BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE, BECAUSE YOU - MY DEAR OLD FRIEND - ARE FINISHED FINITO!

PRIVATEER PRINCETON HITS A BUTTON, WHICH CAUSES HIDDEN ROPES TO CONSTRICT AROUND THE COLONEL. THEY BIND HIM, AND A CRANE ON THE CEILING PICKS HIM UP TO DANGLE HIM OVER A POOL OF SHARKS WITH LASER BEAMS ATTACHED TO THEIR FOREHEADS.

**PRIVATEER PRINCETON:** AND COLONEL, I'VE SEEN THE AUSTIN POWERS MOVIE, SO I KNEW BETTER THAN TO ATTACH LASER BEAMS TO THOSE SHARKS. IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, THOSE ARE ACTUALLY NEUTRINO BEAMS, WHICH JUST RECENTLY WERE PROVEN TO TRAVEL FASTER THAN LIGHT. MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MERE LASER BEAMS. GOODBYE, COLONEL. [PRIVATEER EXITS.]

COLONEL CORNELL, DEJECTED, RESIGNS HIMSELF TO HIS FATE: DEATH BY NEUTRINO BOMBARDMENT. THEN HE REALIZES THAT NEUTRINOS HAVE NO MASS AND CANNOT CAUSE ANY DAMAGE, AND THAT THE PRIVATEER PRINCETON WAS A PHYSICS MAJOR AT PRINCETON - A SCHOOL WHICH ATTEMPTS TO USE ITS FAME IN THE HUMANITIES TO COVER UP ITS SUBPAR SCIENCE PROGRAM.

**JUST THEN, A LOUD NOISE IS HEARD FROM THE ROOF OF THE CORNELL CAVE DROP DOWN ZAMBONI DAVE, SEGWAY KID, ANDY WHITE, MARK TWAIN, AND THE MYSTIC ORIENT.**

**COLONEL CORNELL:** WHO ARE YOU COSTUMED CRUSADERS?!

**ZAMBONI DAVE:** WE ARE THE SUPERHERO SOCIETY THAT HAS PROTECTED CORNELL IN YOUR STEAD, O GREAT LEADER. WE ARE KNOWN AS THE FRIENDS OF EZRA. I AM THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP. NOBODY EXPECTED THAT THE COSTUMED ZAMBONI DRIVER COULD POSSIBLY BE A REPUBLICAN SUPERHERO (ACTUALLY, THIS IS PARTIALLY TRUE. SEE [HTTP://CORNELL-REVIEW.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM/2010/12/6\\_DECEMBER\\_WEBFINAL.PDF](http://cornell-review.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/6_deceMBER_webFINAL.pdf) FOR OUR INTERVIEW WITH ZAMBONI DAVE.)

**SEGWAY KID:** O, GREAT ONE! NOBODY KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY AS A CORNELL REVIEW WRITER (ALSO TRUE).

**ANDY WHITE:** ACTUALLY, SIR, I'M JUST AN UNDECIDED FRESHMAN A+S STUDENT, AND THE ONLY REASON THESE GUYS DRAG ME AROUND IS BECAUSE OF MY NAME.

**THE MYSTIC ORIENT:** O, NOBLE LEADER, I REPRESENT ALL CONSERVATIVE MINORITY STUDENTS ON THIS CAMPUS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ESPOUSE TRADITIONALIST VIEWS BUT WERE TRICKED TO REGISTER AS DEMOCRATS WHEN THEIR ANCESTORS IMMIGRATED TO AMERICA. I ALSO HAVE A PASSION FOR MAHJONG.

**ZOMBIFIED MARK TWAIN:** BOYYIE, LET ME TELL YA SOMETHIN! WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WROTE ANDREW CARNEGIE AND ASKED HIM FOR A HYMN BOOK. A HYMN BOOK!

**COLONEL CORNELL:** WHAT IS THIS MAN TALKING ABOUT?

**MYSTIC ORIENT:** WE DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW-

**ZAMBONI DAVE:** YOU SEE, GREAT ONE, THIS CAMPUS HAS SUFFERED IN THE WAKE OF PROGRESSIVISM. THE DAY HALL TAKEOVER AND CORNELL REVIEW BURNINGS ARE JUST A SMALL EXAMPLE. WE ACTIVELY FIGHT TO PRESERVE CONSERVATIVE VALUES ON THIS CAMPUS, MAINLY THROUGH WRITING FOR THE CORNELL REVIEW [SHAMELESS PLUG ENDS HERE.]

**COLONEL CORNELL:** TAKE ME TO THIS CORNELL REVIEW...



# How do Indians Think?

KUSHAGRA ANIKET  
STAFF WRITER

More than three millennia ago, Indian philosophy began with an intense skepticism about the nature and purpose of human existence. Even today, every school of Indian thought is moved to speculation by a spiritual unrest and an anxiety to discover the means to alleviate the trials and tribulations of life. The aim of philosophical wisdom is not merely the satisfaction of intellectual curiosity but the arousal of the hope that a better and more enlightened life can be attained 'here and now'. "The magic of oration, shower of words, skill in expounding the diction of the scriptures, and scholarly erudition are meant for the amusement of the learned: they are no good for liberation" (*Vivekachudamani*, I. 58). The pursuit of the fourfold human goal of virtue, material welfare, pleasure and liberation prevails as the motive behind all philosophical inquiry.

However, this does not mean that the quest for knowledge is to be subservient to practical convenience. The Indian definition of philosophy as *darśana* comes closest to Plato's understanding of the term as the "vision of truth" (Republic, V). The direct realization of truth is considered to be the *summum bonum* of life and 'liberation in itself' (Manusmriti, 6.74). This spirit of unflinching devotion to the search for truth led to the formation of a standard method of philosophical discussion. A philosopher had to first state the views of his opponents, refute them and then state his own views along with a valid proof and conclusion. In times of such intellectual strife, the outlook, which consoled the Indian mind amidst discordant conjectures and conflicting moralities and prevented it from ending in despair, was the unwavering faith in an eternal and inviolable moral order called dharma. Therefore, according to the Mahabharata (VIII. 69.59), it is the ethical principle of dharma that upholds the society and strikes

a balance between individual freedom and social cohesion.

If the ignorance of reality is the primary cause of our bondage, then liberation from the cycle of rebirth is not possible without the knowledge of reality. Moreover, knowledge, according to Indian thinkers, is self-evident and does not rest on any other assumption for its validity. Indian philosophy generally admits three indispensable sources of knowledge: perception or the cognition of objects by our senses, inference or deductive reasoning, and testimony or the authority of scriptures. The philosopher's challenge lies in employing imagination and logic to discover truths consistent with our experience.

Any attempt to determine the nature of reality can either start with the thinking subject or the objects of thought. In India, the primary interest of philosophy is in the self of the individual. The ancient Greek aphorism "Know Thyself" is echoed in the Upanishad that declares, "It is the self that should be heard of,

reflected and meditated upon as the self being known, everything is known" (*Bṛhadāraṇyaka*, IV.5.6). The consciousness of the individual is associated with three states of waking, dreaming and dreamless sleep. Each of these is relative and it is absolutely unfair on our part to regard one of them as true and the others as not. All three states of consciousness are unreal because they are not permanent and the facts observed in one are not consistent with those perceived in the other. The subject alone remains the unaffected spectator of the changing objects of perception. No proofs can be offered for the existence of the self precisely because it forms the essential substratum of even the skeptic who denies it.

Moreover, the self is theoretically immortal because there was never a time when it was not (Gita, II. 12) as the very conception of time presumes a conceiver who remains unconditioned by it. "The self never dies, is never born: unborn, eternal, everlasting, this ancient one can never be destroyed with the

*Continued on page 10*

## East Asia

*Continued from page 2*

these concepts do not necessarily fit into the political dynamics of the region. Kang describes this as "[trying to] squish into East Asia a set of dynamics which don't necessarily fit".

Expounding further on idea of balance of power, Kang pointed to the concept itself as growing out of Europe, which has historically had similarly sized, culturally heterogeneous nation-states competing with each other.

growth of nationalism amongst Asian nations, that the power structure in Asia has come to resemble a more Western model.

Despite China's growing influence, neighboring countries show very little alarm, considering the fact that the military expenditures of these countries has remained constant or even lowered since their economic rise. Thus, Kang claims that China's rise is not so much a disruption of the "proper" order so much as a reemergence of China as the dominant economic and cultural force in East Asia.

The countries of East Asia, despite their differences, share a strong common cultural heritage which China has an opportunity to utilize and to promote a greater level of mutual trust and understanding. With the cultural upheaval and turmoil in China over the past century, the question of self-identity and values has become a central one in modern Chinese society, one that Kang believes will serve as the underpinning of China's influence with its neighbors.

Kang concluded by claiming that China and Asia overall are more stable now than at

any time since the early 1800s, but that the role of China as a stabilizing influence is not by any means a foregone conclusion. China still has many unresolved issues with political and territorial disputes with Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and other countries which, if not diffused carefully, could throw the region back into the chaos and militarism of the Cold War era.

While one should be careful to properly contextualize the politics of the region, one must also be careful to see how Chinese nationalism and cultural growth change the tides of the Pacific over the coming years.

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## Europe

*Continued from page 5*

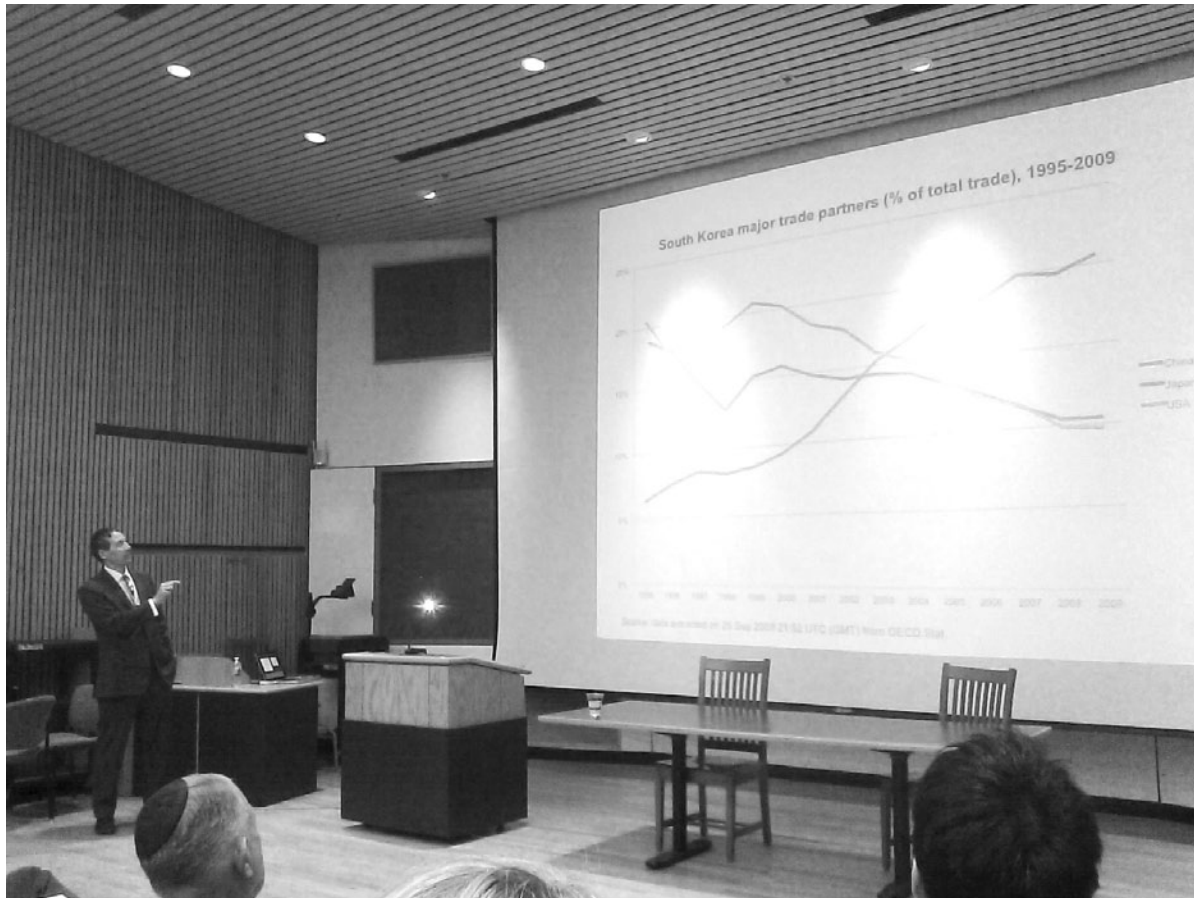
Libyan operation, it also made up for the supplies shortfalls experienced by many European militaries. Of the 100-plus Tomahawk missiles fired during the early stages of the conflict, the US fired the vast majority.

Europe is completely unprepared to take on the newfound responsibilities that the US has placed upon it. Not only does Europe lack the budget, it also lacks the military cooperation needed to fight even a minor conflict or implement policing action. As the conflict in Afghanistan has shown, Europe also lacks the political will or wherewithal to fight modern asymmetrical warfare.

While the hope is that US cuts will force Europe to increase military spending, this is wishful thinking. Not only does Europe face a graver fiscal situation than the US, but it also has a weaker economy and greater monetary uncertainty. European nations will continue to cut their military budgets, and will call upon the US in their hour of need. While we will inevitably come to their aid, the greater question is whether or not our forces will be able to meet their demands in the face of proposed spending cuts by the Obama administration.

Just some food for thought: the Russian Federation is planning on increasing its military budget 60% by 2013.

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David Kang, illustrating China's increasing importance as South Korea's trading partner over the past 15 years

This contrasts with East Asia, where for over 2000 years China was the center of culture and power. Kang believes that it is only in the last century, with the fall of the Imperial China, the rise of Japan and Korea, and the overall

It is in this role, Kang believes, that China has the opportunity to serve as a force of stability. He believes that it is not power or wealth, but rather values that will bring stability to Asia, stating that "soft power is driving East Asia today."

# With Obama contest looming, GOP begins coalescing around Romney

MICHAEL ALAN  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

“I’m glad we’ve dispelled this myth that Tea Partiers won’t support Romney.”

That’s what South Carolina Senator Jim DeMint had to say about the former private equity magnate’s victory in last month’s Florida Republican primary. In an interview with S.E. Cupp ‘00 of *The Blaze*, DeMint said that no one candidate will be able to garner the support of the entire Tea Party - which he called a diverse coalition spanning from “libertarians to disaffected Democrats to conservatives to independents” - but that Romney has showed as of late that he “could stand tough.”

This kind of talk from a Tea Party darling like DeMint, who endorsed Romney in his 2008 run, is indicative of a larger trend in the Republican primary that has even the most conservative voters responding to the looming general election contest against President Obama. Romney’s strategy of focusing on economic issues and issuing biting attacks on President Obama for decisions like the shutting down of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and using the National Labor Relations Board to assault the job growth in right-to-work states seems to be working, at least according to the exit polls taken during the primaries held thus far.

For example, Romney won every demographic in the Florida primary exit polls conducted by CNN, including snagging a huge margin against his competitors amongst voters who consider themselves supporters of the Tea Party. Romney beat former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich by four points among Tea Party supporters and had the vote of 57% of those who are either neutral or somewhat oppose the Tea Party. Perhaps more importantly, Romney won big amongst a group

of people making up nearly half of the electorate - voters that consider a candidate’s most important quality to be his ability to defeat Obama in November.

In both Florida and Nevada, much of Romney’s strength came from his business background and the campaign’s focus on economic issues. The number of foreclosures is increasing yet again and those states, where Romney earned his biggest

practices.” What Obama’s speech ignored are the more significant underlying causes, specifically the legislation and regulation that came out of Washington in the 1990s that encouraged these same lenders to take risks on home buyers with little or no credit. Furthermore, the settlement does nothing for those whose mortgages are held by the government sponsored Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, who combined hold more than

effective in Gingrich’s South Carolina primary victory, the former Speaker is vowing to stay in the race. Opting to give a press conference as opposed to a traditional concession speech after his defeat in Nevada, Gingrich vowed to push on through to the convention in August and blamed his poor performance in the state on the fact that it is “very heavily Mormon.” While Mormons did make up nearly a quarter of Nevada caucus-goers, Romney still boasts a double digit margin of victory in the state even with those voters not considered.



Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney meets with families to address Nevada’s foreclosure crisis ahead of that state’s February 4th caucuses, which he won handily. The number of monthly foreclosures increased to 62,000 in January.

victories yet, are among the hardest hit. In his State of the Union last month, Obama brought this issue back to the forefront by announcing a “settlement” with private mortgage lenders that essentially gives them responsibility for the housing crisis because of “deceptive

half of all American mortgages and whose troubles Romney has capitalized on, if not only because of his opponent’s past “historical consulting” for Freddie Mac.

Despite the electoral setbacks and Romney’s apparent success in parrying the attacks that were so

If Gingrich is to catch up to Romney, he’ll have to start making up ground soon. Romney has a fourteen point lead in the *Real Clear Politics* average of national tracking polls and, perhaps most advantageous for him when courting Republicans eager to defeat Obama in November, has about a eight point advantage over Gingrich when the two candidates head-to-head performances against the President are compared.

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“Romney won big amongst a group of people making up nearly half of the electorate—voters who consider a candidate’s most important quality to be his ability to defeat Obama in November.”

## Not Romney

*Continued from the first page*

abusive dictators? Romney will indefinitely detain American citizens better than Obama? Give more prison time to CIA officials that leak details of our secret torture programs? Eliminate even more of our constitutional rights in the name of fighting (really subsidizing) terrorism? Romney will be tougher on immigration than the man who has deported more illegals than any President in history? What a pathetic platform.

The truth is, there is a dangerous possibility that Mitt Romney actually will become president. What happens to our government if Romney does win but the House and Senate are controlled by the Dems? We need to look no further than Romney’s

record as Governor of Massachusetts to see what kind of awful big-government progressive reforms he would proudly support.

Mitt Romney as Republican presidential nominee neutralizes any leftover Tea Party momentum from 2008. We can not rely on him to bring the change this country really needs. When left-wing billionaire George Soros says, “in terms of policy, there really is no difference between Obama and Romney,” conservatives should not take this lightly.

No self-respecting conservative can say “I support Mitt Romney” with a straight face. Mitt Romney has zero—count ‘em, zero—conservative accomplishments. Sure he invented the individual mandate for healthcare, along with carbon taxes and cap-and-trade. He supported

TARP bailouts, spoke out in favor of the auto-bailouts, and even thinks Quantitative Easing creates jobs. Mitt Romney has voted against funding emergency contraception (abortion prevention) while supporting taxpayer-funded abortions. Mitt Romney has championed an assault weapons ban, supports mandatory CPI-based increases to the federal minimum wage, and has stated his main issue with Obamacare is that it “cut medicare.”

This is the man whose governance invented the individual mandate! As Governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney created the first carbon tax with his statewide cap-and-trade proposal! He expanded public housing programs and failed summer jobs training programs. Even with all of these downright liberal accomplishments, Mitt still couldn’t

even pull down 40% support in the polls for his re-election bid in Massachusetts before he decided he quit governing in 2006 to begin his epic failure of a six year-long presidential campaign.

As one of his final acts in office, big Mitt purchased every state-owned hard drive he could get his hands on and wiped all electronics records of his governance. When asked why, he said the information on them would have helped Obama’s campaign.

The candidacy of Mitt Romney is truly dangerous to the future of the Republican party, and even scarier for the country as a whole. Save the party! Vote Not Romney!

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## Sanctuary School

Continued from the front page

to analyze the proposal.” The article continues, “Victim advocates applauded the lower standard, which they had been pushing for before the Department of Education letter was released.” It goes on to cite Laura Weiss, director of the Women’s Resource Center, one of those who had already been pushing for these rules. She said, “Cornell is not a right; it’s a privilege to be here. We can have a higher standard for being here, and in having a higher standard, we can have a lower burden of proof. I think those things are compatible.”

The message that rings through the campus disciplinary system is that students (well, defendants anyway) are not to be taken at their word, nor are they to be considered innocent until proven guilty, because proof of guilt is never required. Only a leaning of opinion one way or the other is required to convict.

Weiss’ logic elevates arbitrary “he said, she said” testimony to the acceptable standard of proof.

Last semester, the CJC proposed moving sexual assault cases to a system similar to that used for University staff and faculty, where an administrative investigator would research the case and decide whether punishment was appropriate. It was criticized for taking students out of the judicial process, and later failed to pass a committee vote. The supposedly temporary amendment remains in effect, as the CJC will resume its search for an acceptable policy this semester.

But the issue remains; which administrators pushed this legislation through the UA? Did this unprecedented break in the chain of legislative authority originate with the Women’s Resource Center and other victim’s rights advocates who were already pushing for these rules? Maybe it was truly just to hedge against retaliations from the federal government (a topic for another article), but that does not satisfactorily account for why it was pushed

through with such great haste even when legal expert Professor Clermont claims there was no rush.

Perhaps the explanation is simpler; the WRC and sympathetic figures in the school’s legal department claimed the Department of Education directive was a crisis that required their amendment to be passed immediately and directly by the UA, circumventing the representative and thoughtful process of the CJC to institute their preferred policies.

This is, of course, only a theory, but the fact that the University bent over backwards to enforce a simple legal memo begs investigation. It circumvented its own legislative procedures, and even though it claims to be based on the civil justice system, the Cornell justice system now violates the Constitutional statutes of presumed innocence and the double jeopardy clause.

At the same time, the other dominate issue on campus was the so-called DREAM Act, and the *Sun’s* exposé on illegal immigrants attending the University (also the topic for another article). While the SA, President Skorton, and the *Sun* were busy trying to find financial aid for these students and encouraging and sanctioning those who would ignore real and meaningful federal laws, the University was only too happy to break its own procedures to ensure compliance with a mere legal directive in a way that deprives students of fundamental rights. The Skorton administration’s hypocrisy and disregard for law, precedent, and justice are nearly as egregious as Obama’s.

This is what happens when the nation and the University are no longer governed by the rule of law, but by the whims of liberalism. The enforcement of political correctness and liberal policy is the ultimate goal; laws, customs, and people of the nation (or school) be damned. It is enough to make me ashamed of being a client of this once-great American University.

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## Underage Drinking

Continued from page 4

fraternity houses or in Collegetown. Last year there were four incidents of unlawful possession of alcohol. Each occurred in a University-owned dormitory, either on west or north campus.

The Crime Log from rush week in 2010 tells a different story. All three violations of unlawful possession of alcohol reported by Cornell Police that year occurred in fraternity houses. The police records for 2008 and 2009 are similar, as the chart suggests.

Assuming that the Cornell Police has shown equal

attention to all areas of campus across the past five year, these numbers suggest that the amount of drinking has remained relatively constant. Instead, more students are turning to the privacy of their dormitories to consume alcohol. As a result, more are getting caught.

Meanwhile, fraternities are courting potential members with creative, alcohol-free events. These include themed events, like sports nights, or “fry-everything night,” according to Apgar. “[Events] include anything that attracts people who have similar interest around some sort of social theme that doesn’t have alcohol.”

Cornell police also reported six alcohol related incidents out of 603 total between January 17 and 22.

## India

Continued from page 8

destruction of the body. If the slayer thinks that he can slay, or if the slain thinks he is slain, they both are ignorant because the self neither slays nor is slain” (*Katha Up.* II.18-19). The study of metaphysics persuades the mind to renounce its longing for fleeting objects of the world and search for what is absolute and eternal. “That which is not can never be and that which is can never cease to be” (*Gita*, II.16) is the trial of reality. While the individual’s “mortal frame” is limited by space, time and causality, his spirit is immortal and infinite.

If the ‘self’ alone is to be considered real, how are we to account for the apparent reality of the world? How should we explain this sphere of empirical flux, full of misery, decay and death? “Not in the sky nor in the depths of the ocean, nor in the caverns of mountains, nay such a place is not to be found in the world where a man might dwell without being overpowered by death,” declares the Buddha (*Dhammapada* XI. 146).

Buddhism affirms that the world is transient. If only the permanent deserves to be regarded as the soul, then the world is soulless (*anatta*) and life is nothing but a series of becomings and extinctions. Indian philosophers had a cyclical concept of time wherein the cosmic events of creation and destruction form a beginning-less series. Prosperity and adversity, civilization and barbarity, rise and fall are relative ideas that alternate as the wheel of time turns and moves on. Within this ephemeral world, sorrow is intrinsic to human existence. The Buddha proclaimed the four noble truths of life, that there is suffering in the world, that desire is its cause, that it is possible to cease suffering by ending its cause and that by following the middle path between severe penance and self indulgence, one can attain nirvana—the extinguishing of ego and desire.

The Buddha emphasized the agency of the individual in traversing the path to liberation and encouraged his disciples to “be lamps

unto yourself.” This law of karma or individual action states that all actions, good or bad, produce their proper consequences on the agent in this life or hereafter. So while a man’s present conditions are determined by his past actions, he possess free-will as he is the master of his own destiny. The universe is meant to aid and not prejudice the individual’s endeavor towards fulfillment.

The philosophical truths momentarily established and understood are not enough to dispel our inherent ignorance unless supported by ardent effort on the part of the individual. “Yoga is nothing but the perfection of individual efforts” (*Gita*, II.50). To free oneself from the bondage of action, one must renounce the fruits of action so that one is not swayed by the outcomes of success and failure. Thus beholding the dualities of joy and sorrow with ease and equanimity, dwelling in the tranquility born of intense contemplation of truth and working for the good of world without any sense of attachment or self-interest, the liberated one rises above the law of karma and abides in the state of *samādhi* or perfect consciousness.

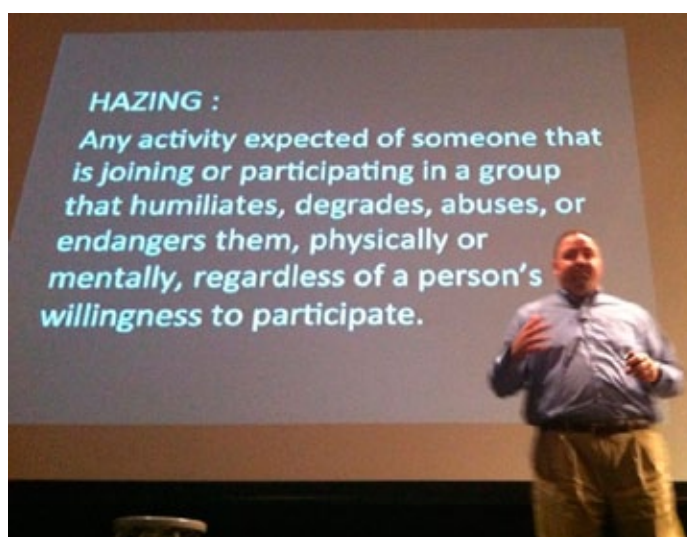
The ideal of the perfected being is not a mere flight of the intellect but a living reality and Plato’s scheme that philosophers should be the rulers of the society was evidently practiced in ancient India. In times of intellectual strife, religious fundamentalism and political corrosion, the belief in the ultimate purpose of life provides confidence to the Indian mind and keeps it moving. From the beginning, Indians have held that truth is many sided and that different views contain different aspects of truth which no one can fully express. The Veda confidently asserts, “The real is one, but the learned call it by various names” (*Rig Veda*, I.164.46). Despite numerous variations among schools, it is this atmosphere of tolerance, acceptance and reconciliation of contrary opinions that has sustained the inclusive spirit of dialogue, without compromising with the reverence for tradition in India.

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This was the same number as last year.

Time will tell how this evolving culture will effect overall involvement in the Gzzzreek System. As of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 575 men had signed bids to fraternity houses, out of around 800 students who returned for rush week.

Alfonse Muglia is a sophomore in the School of Industrial and Labor



Assistant Dean of Students Travis Apgar

Relations. He can be reached at [arm267@cornell.edu](mailto:arm267@cornell.edu).

Laurel Conrad contributed to this article.

## The Review remembers Joe Pylman, beloved editor-in-chief and inspirational friend.



Smart, funny and unfailingly kind, the world is most certainly a far lesser place without Joe. RIP friend.  
—Jamie S. Weinstein

It's kind of difficult for me to write this because Joe was just an absolutely great guy.

I enrolled at CU in the summer of 2003 in an "accelerated" MBA program at the Johnson School. I was a chemical engineering major at my undergraduate institution, and I spent so much time studying that I missed out on a lot of the "undergrad" experience. I'd always wanted to participate in the undergrad school newspaper and after I was admitted to the JGSM at CU I decided to write for The Review. I emailed Joe during the summer of 2003 and sent him a writing sample and asked him if I could "try out" for the paper. He wrote back and suggested I attend the first staff meeting of the Fall 2003 semester.

I did, and my first assignment was to cover a 9/11 memorial that—instead of commemorating the destruction of the WTC and the Pentagon—made the USA attempt to feel guilty over the Allende coup in Chile in the early 1970s. I wrote up my first article for consideration by The Review's staff and Joe liked it so much that he made it the lead story in the first issue of the paper. I had the first page of that issue memorialized in plastic for safekeeping—and I still have it today.

During the following year I got to know Joe well and I was always impressed by his leadership at the paper. He always struck me as someone who was far wiser and mature than his then-21 years might've indicated. It was a pleasure to work with him and I was happy that I became his friend. He never once thought it was odd that a grad student would want to write for The Review and I thought his critiques of my writing were extremely insightful. I was able to have something published in every issue of the 2003-04 academic year and I still have those now-yellowed newspapers. Working for The Review was one of my favorite parts of the CU experience and I'm really glad I was able to be a part of it. I think that a lot of graduate students really miss out on the traditions and history of the universities at which they enroll and Joe and The Review staff for 03-04 really did a lot to make me appreciate Cornell's history and traditions.

I was extremely saddened to hear of his far too untimely death and I truly hope that there's an afterlife and that he's able to entertain the Lord with the great personality that he brought to Cornell.

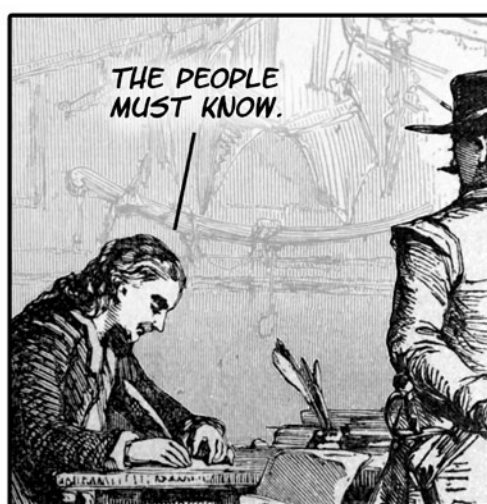
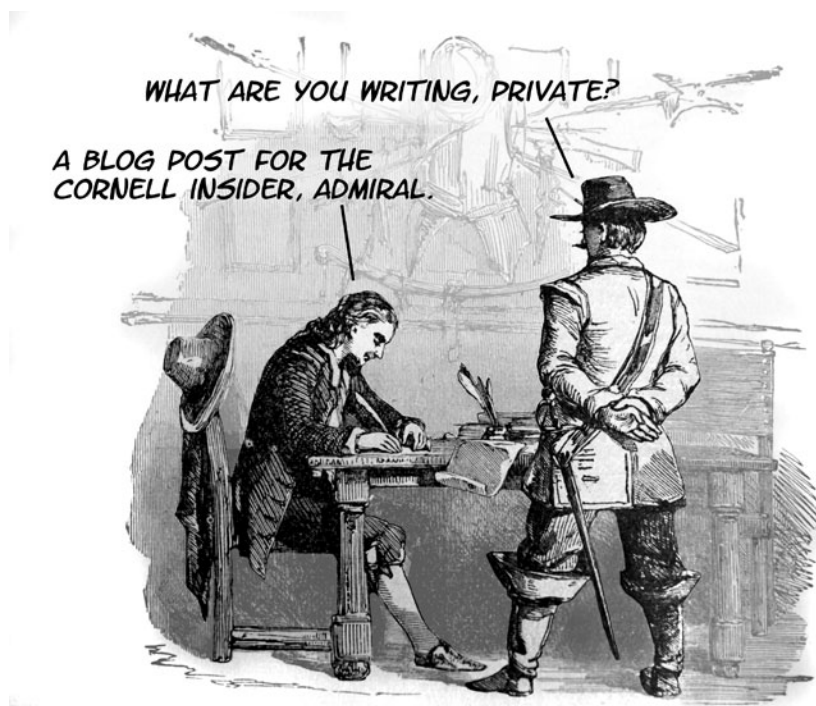
—Jeff Racho

Joe was a levelheaded leader, a good man, and the Review was lucky to have him. I was looking at old emails, and saw one from Joe which reflected how he regarded America. For what it's worth, I'm pasting the email here.

So I started to read Walter McDougall's new book, "Freedom Just Around the Corner: A New American History, 1585 - 1828." He basically argues that the American character is that of a hustler, opportunist, and scam artist, but he means those in the positive light of the words. Because of the relative freedom and opportunity we have enjoyed, Americans have more of a chance to pursue their own ends, so we are as much innovators as hustlers. Here is how the book begins:

The creation of the United States of American is the central event of the past four hundred years. If some ghostly ship, some Flying Dutchman, were transported in time from the year 1600 into the present, the crew would be amazed by our technology and the sheer numbers of people on the globe, but the array of civilizations would be recognizable. There is today, as there was then: a huge Chinese empire run by an authoritarian but beleaguered bureaucracy; a homogenous, anxious, suspicious Japan; a teeming crazy quilt of Hindus and Muslims in India attempting to make a state of themselves; an amorphous Russian empire pulsing outward or inward in proportion to Muscovy's projection of force; a vast Islamic crescent hostile to infidels but beset by rival centers of power; a dynamic, more-or-less Christian civilization in Europe aspiring to unity but vexed by its dense congeries of nations and tongues; and finally an Iberian/Amerindian culture in South America marked by relative poverty and strategic impotence.. The only continent that would astound the Renaissance time-travelers would be North America, which was primitive and nearly vacant as late as 1607, but which today hosts the mightiest, richest, most dynamic civilization in history - a civilization, moreover, that perturbs the trajectories of all other civilizations just by existing.

—Paul Ibrahim



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