

The Cornell Review

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION

The Conservative Voice on Campus

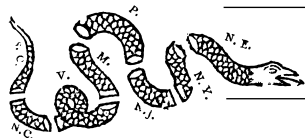
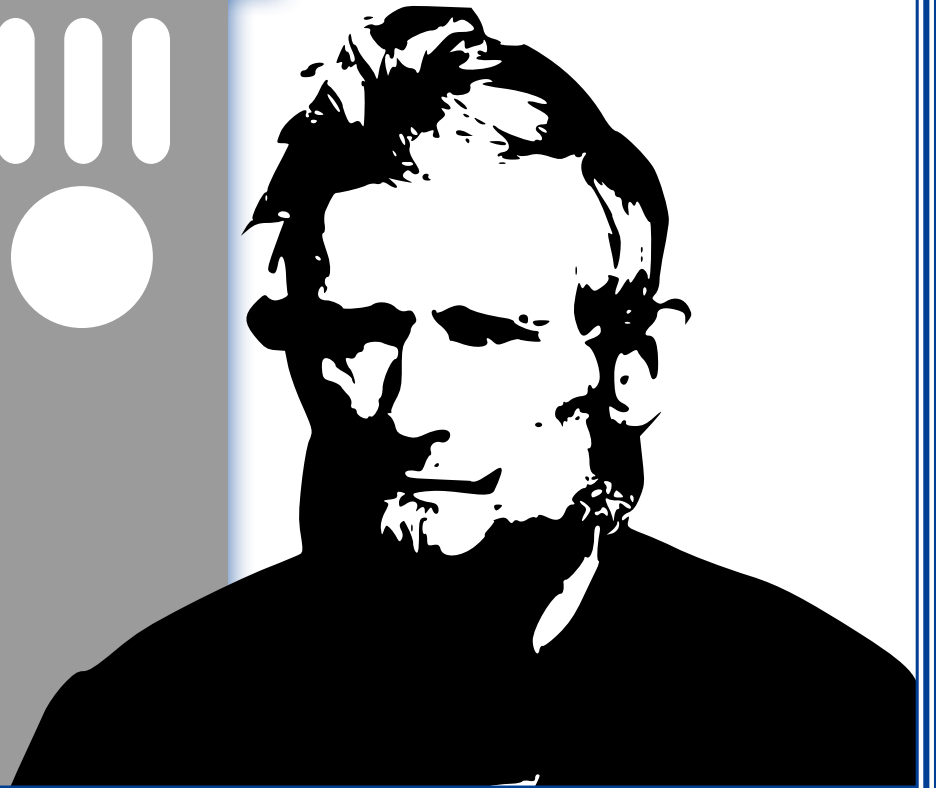
“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

VOL. XXX, NO. I

BLOG cornellinsider.com SITE cornellreviewonline.com

August 28th, 2011

welcome, CORNELLIANs



Freshman Issue

The Other Ivy: Politics and Perceptions

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NEWS EDITOR

“He went to one of those really conceited schools—uh—Cornell!” This is how a friend and fellow intern started a conversation one morning over our fellowship program’s weekly breakfast at the National Press Club. Everyone laughed, including me, but I followed up with the obligatory, “Um...I go to Cornell.” Immediately, my friend recanted her characterization of the Big Red, saying that I obviously didn’t fit the stereotype she was referring to, since “you’re so nice and you’re here talking to us.” And to be fair, her

original statement was about a specific Cornell grad whom she found to be conceited.

We had multiple conversations about this later, in which she explained that she was always afraid people who went to “schools like Cornell” judged her for going to a “crappy state school” (her words, not mine). She also said she realized not all Ivy Leaguers were so judgmental, and that if she assumed they were, she would be just as guilty of jumping to conclusions as they.

So, my friend’s comment turned out not to be an indictment of

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The War on Terror Ten Years Out

RAJ KANNAPPAN
STAFF WRITER

On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda, a transnational militant Islamist organization now familiar to virtually every American, mounted four coordinated suicide attacks against America’s most vital centers. Nineteen terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger airliners, crashing two of them into the Twin Towers in a display of utter evil, killing everyone on board as well as thousands in the structures whose iconic aura our children will never get to experience. The terrorists

crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon, leaving a gaping hole in the headquarters of thousands of defense and military officials. The terrorists also targeted either the Capitol Building or the White House, but the courage and selflessness of passengers aboard United Flight 93 thwarted this would-be cataclysm.

On May 1, 2011, in accordance with America’s history of perseverance and resilience, Navy SEAL Team 6 killed Osama bin Laden, the elusive and vehemently anti-American voice of al-Qaeda, engendering cheering parades on college campuses and at national landmarks from Los Angeles to Washington. “The death of Bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation’s effort to defeat al-Qaeda,” stated President Obama in a speech to the American public immediately following the successful mission, adding, “But his death does not mark the end of our effort. There’s no doubt that al-Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against

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The Other Ivy

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Cornell, but it made me wonder if others thought of our alma mater as a magnet for megalomaniacs.

By and large, the people I met this summer (which I spent in Washington, DC) were impressed by the mention of Cornell. Fellow students and professionals alike seemed to think it was a high-quality institution with an incredibly intelligent student body. Even an undergrad from that bastion of grade inflation and argyle-clad prepsters, Harvard, exclaimed, upon finding out that I went to Cornell, "Wow! You're a smart one!" (Though, I admit, he may have had ulterior motives.)

I did find one intern however, a recent graduate of a small liberal arts school, who seemed to agree with H.L. Rogers' and Dr. Peter Littleton's recent naming of Cornell as the country's "douchiest school." Rogers' and Littleton's satirical ranking of schools according to douchiness called Cornell "home of the chip-on-the-shoulder douche," and this intern shared that sentiment.

In fact, he used the exact same words, telling me he thought that Cornell had a "chip on its shoulder." His evidence was that one of the speakers who had come to address us graduated from Cornell and introduced himself as being from "that other Ivy League school, Cornell."

This, I thought, was not a symptom of arrogance, but rather an

attempt to poke fun at the fact that some people don't realize Cornell is an Ivy. I explained this to my colleague and he accepted my explanation, but, apparently, our speaker did not give off the fun, self-deprecating attitude I thought he was going for.

This summer also gave me some insight into where Cornell fits on the political spectrum of America's colleges.

As many of you already know, and as freshmen will soon learn, Ithaca is home mainly to hippies and hipsters— not exactly the most conservative groups in the country. As such, Cornell is decidedly to the left of some schools, such as the deliberately conservative Hillsdale College and many religious schools.

At these institutions, I learned, some of the main campus debates revolve around the question of whether to have coed housing, or how strictly school faculty and policy should adhere to the doctrines of the Catholic church, for example.

This is a far cry from Cornell, where coed housing and secularism are givens, and the debates are about water bottle bans, "anti-discrimination" clauses, and what should be included in the mandatory "diversity training."

But even among the organic farms and anti-fracking protests of Ithaca, there is apparently some force pushing Cornell rightward, as, interestingly enough, it seems *not* to be the most liberal school in the nation.

For instance, I befriended a woman from Vassar who claimed she had never met a person at her school who would call himself completely heterosexual (and she certainly wouldn't approve of that pronoun usage).

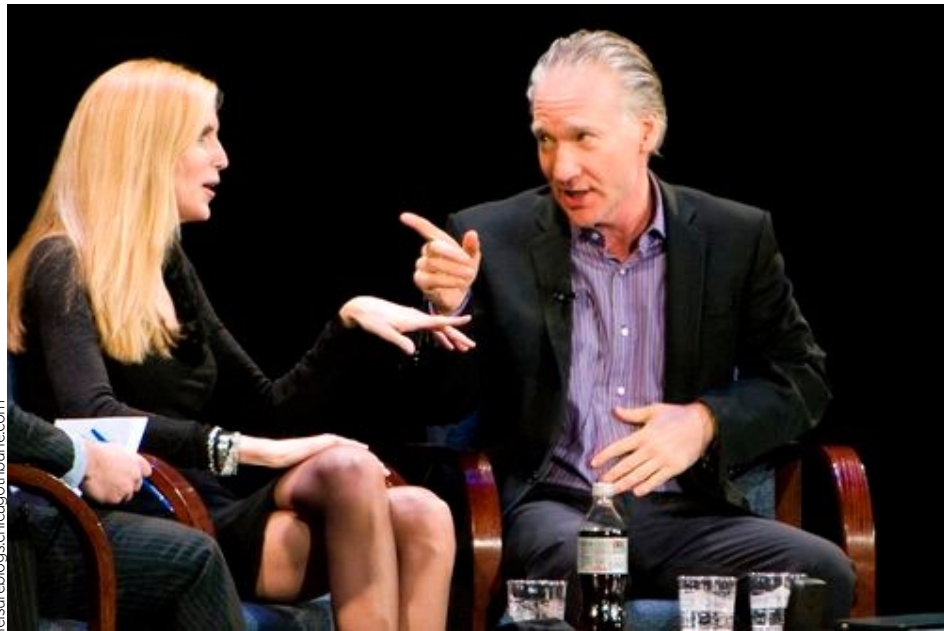
I also met a Brown student who observed that people from other schools "can't believe how sexually liberated we are at Brown. They... can't picture us all in a room talking about masturbation."

This image meshed well with the impression of Brown's culture I got from some other friends who study there. They spoke of a highly popular workshop (not a class, but an extracurricular activity with a rigorous application process and a heavy workload to match) about sexuality and sexual identity.

From what I understand, Cornell's "I Love Female Orgasm" nights and "Sex Jeopardy" sessions pale in comparison.

So conservatives should take solace in the fact that, though their numbers are relatively small, Cornell's culture and politics are not completely averse to influences from the right. In fact, it appears such influences have already started to take hold, even if among the douchiest students in America.

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



Ann Coulter and Bill Maher, both Cornell graduates

Walters Fighting for NFL Roster Spot

Preseason Kickoff Return Gives 2010 Grad National Attention

ALFONSE MUGLIA
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Former Big Red kickoff return specialist Bryan Walters, '10, has taken his talents to the National Football League and is fighting for a spot on the final roster of the San Diego Chargers.

Walters, who graduated as the Ivy League's all-time leading kickoff and punt returner and first in Cornell history in career all-purpose yards, was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Chargers last season, following the 2010 NFL Draft. He then spent the majority of last summer in Chargers training camp, before being sidelined by a hamstring injury. He was subsequently

released in August, before being recalled to the practice squad this January.

This time around, a healthy Walters is committed to doing all it takes to make the active, 46-man roster come the regular season.

The 6 foot, 190 pound receiver got his first glimpse of the national spotlight on Thursday, August 11 when the Chargers faced the Seattle Seahawks in the first game of the NFL Preseason. Midway through the 3rd quarter, Walters fielded a kickoff in his own end zone and returned it 103 yards for a touchdown. It was the first score off a kickoff since the league moved the kickoff tee up to the 35 yard line. The rule – instituted this offseason – came

in an effort to protect players' safety. Kickoffs had previously been launched from a team's 30 yard line.

"It was a blast!" remarked Walters, speaking to reporters in the locker room following the game. "The guys opened that hole wide open. It made it easy for me."

Walters' work is far from over. As of August 17, he was listed on the Chargers' depth chart as the 7th string wide receiver. His opportunities to play anywhere in the league, however, will undoubtedly come from the contributions he can make in special teams. Perhaps this gives Walters a good chance with the Chargers, who released return



specialist Darren Sproles in the offseason.

"You got to show [the coaches] that you can do it day in and day out," added Walters. "Just being on the same page with everyone is the most important thing."

Alfonse Muglia is a sophomore in the ILR school. He can be reached at arm267@cornell.



The Cornell Review

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Ann Coulter
Jim Keller
Jerome D. Pinn
Anthony Santelli, Jr.
 Founders

Lucas Policastro
 Editor-in-Chief

Anthony Longo
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Christopher DeCenzo
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 Ying Ma
 Anthony Santelli Jr.

Faculty Advisor

Michael E. Hint
 meh26@cornell.edu

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The Cornell Review is distributed free, limited to one issue per person, on campus as well as to local businesses in Ithaca. Additional copies beyond the first free issue are available for \$1.00 each. The Cornell Review is a member of the Collegiate Network.

THE CORNELL REVIEW prides itself on letting its writers speak for themselves, and on open discourse. We do not all agree on every issue, and readers should be aware that pieces represent the views of their authors, and not necessarily those of the entire staff. If you have a well-reasoned conservative opinion piece, please send it to thecornell.review@gmail.com for consideration.

The Cornell Review meets regularly on most Mondays at 5:00 pm in GS 162. E-mail messages should be sent to thecornell.review@gmail.com

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The Ithaca Review
 102 Highland Pl, Apt. 4
 Ithaca, NY 14850

Advice for the unafraid

The night I arrived on campus, I noticed the effects of the new frat party regulations: legions of tired freshmen exploring the sidewalks of Collegetown, seeking something intangible. Under the monotone of sodium streetlights, they seemed equivalent, fungible so to speak, a thought which left me depressed. College is not a time to conform, to behave as expected, or to seek the same.

Traditionally, this editorial is where we at the *Cornell Review* alert incoming freshmen to the liberal excesses of the myopic institution we call Academia. We tell you to expect the worst, as in the curtailment of your freedoms, the allotment of your tuition to destructive or illogical causes, and the incrimination of the guiltless. But while the PC paranoia of the nineties lives on, Cornell is not a prison for conservatives. It's not even a dungeon, nor a cramped apartment. It's a splendid, if poorly upholstered, mansion, badly in need of a team of carpenters and furnishers. And as you know, no conservative can claim unemployment when there's work to be done.

So our message to you is this: you can distinguish yourself, make Cornell better, and even have more fun, as an out-of-the-closet conservative. Let me convince you. Liberalism characteristically misunderstands the pillars of the American university—liberty through principled thought, logic, and an understanding of history. As such, conservatives have always been the gatekeepers of higher education. Many would argue those times are kaput, but while you're here, you might as well prove them wrong. Your independence is a valuable commodity.

What's a conservative to do?

Start by joining up with the rest of them. Crash a meeting of the Cornell College Republicans, or the *Review* if you have a journalistic disposition. (I had no such thing when

I got to Cornell, but look where I ended up.) On page 4, Republican Raj Kannapan introduces the CRs and outlines what they hope to accomplish leading up to the 2012 election.

Next, fill your humanities requirements with courses that will challenge the conservative mind and present opportunities for you to tussle with teachers and classmates. I don't buy into the tale that conservative freshmen are intimidated by liberal professors, or that they must keep quiet lest their grades plummet. You shouldn't either.

Conservatives are usually more timid than liberals, which is what's given rise to the notion that conservatives are "overwhelmed" on college campuses. To the contrary, conservative groups are increasingly prominent at Cornell.* There's no need to yelp from the sidelines: you can get into the fray right now.

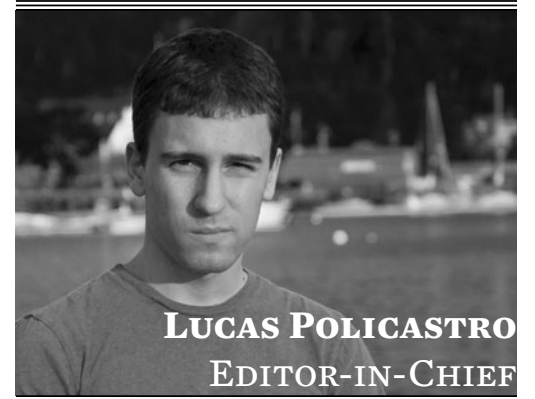
Finally (for this list, anyway), remember that Reagan's ghost is watching you during summer, too. Be bold: apply for the best internships; start a business. Entrepreneurism is in the conservative spirit. Know that you'll never regret pursuing your own agenda, no matter how infeasible or unrealistic it is. After all, fulfillment comes not from preparing, but from doing.

Truth be told, conservative students come in as many flavors as liberal ones. Nonetheless, perhaps all of us can agree with Russell Kirk on the reason we're attending Cornell:

The more people who are humanely educated, the better. But the more people we have who are half-educated or quarter-educated, the worse for them and for the republic. Really educated people, rather than forming presumptuous elites, will permeate society, leavening the lump through their professions, their teaching, their preaching, their participation in

commerce and industry, and their public offices at every level of the commonwealth. And being educated, they will know that they do not know everything; that there exist objects in life besides power and money and sensual gratification; they will take long views; they will look forward to posterity and backward toward their ancestors.¹

While I'm sure Kirk had a 4.0, it's helpful to note that his advice focuses not on academic achievement, but rather how one's educa-



LUCAS POLICASTRO
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

tion enhances real life. Too many undergrads become mired in a work-socialize-work (or just work) schedule that they have little time left to cultivate the person they wish to become. College is not for your résumé or your future employer, but for you. By definition, it's your chance to disencumber yourself from the world for a bit while you scheme behind its back. Don't take college too seriously, but at the same time,

whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in the grave.²

"The grave" being the American workforce, of course.

Lucas Policastro is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. He can be reached at ljp74@cornell.edu.

* For an authoritative example from last year, see the QR code.

¹ Russell Kirk, *Redeeming the Time*

² Ecclesiastes 9:10



Dear Conservatives,

Welcome! Welcome to Cornell, where liberalism runs deep and regressive progressivism pervades the atmosphere. Welcome to Cornell, where despite decades of the consolidation of liberalism, conservatism has risen to new heights.

The past few years have seen a promising and growing partnership between the College Republicans (CRs) and the *Cornell Review*, and a reinvigoration of the conservative movement. I suppose that the impetus for this resurgence owes much credit to President Obama, who has reneged on many of his campaign promises and whose economic policies many Americans oppose. The CRs and *Review* staff will gather for a social event at the start of this semester in order to reaffirm our ties and provide an opportunity for new students to acquaint themselves with existing members and campus conservative leaders.

Contrary to what critics may say, both the CRs and *Review* encourage and value a healthy competition of ideas. Although the CRs advocate on behalf of the Republican Party, we do not, as some suggest, use Fox News' talking points to further our cause. We do not serve as a mouthpiece for anything but the principles in which we believe. As you will soon find out, some of us espouse social conservatism, some social libertarianism. Some of us desire a paring back of our foreign interventions, some support them strongly. Some of us adhere to classical liberalism, some to modern conservatism. And some of us hail from solidly red states—Arizona, Georgia, and Texas—and some of us call home the bluest of the blue states—California, New Jersey, and New York.

To engage the Cornell community and to present an alternative to the prevailing opinion on campus, the CRs have hosted numerous prominent

speakers, the most recent ones including Karl Rove, Mike Huckabee, Luis Fortuño, and John Ashcroft. In order to immerse ourselves in the national conservative movement, we have attended the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, where we have taken advantage of various educational and political opportunities, and met John Thune, Jim DeMint, and Marco Rubio, among other movers and shakers. To act on our political responsibility, we have campaigned for candidates in local elections in upstate New York. And, to voice our opinions on campus, we have debated the College Democrats on topics such as economic policy and social issues. We will continue each of these important and valuable practices this year.

Incoming students, do realize that by joining us, you will not only discover your own philosophical direction on a campus where many students blindly recite the tenets of liberalism or ignore political issues altogether, but also attract criticism for your beliefs. Other students will often times question your beliefs, challenge your rationale for supporting a certain cause, and make you aware of the distorted ratio of liberals and non-liberals on campus. You will benefit a great deal from these challenges, as you will learn much about your personal political philosophy and how to counter the principles espoused by liberals. You will learn to defend your beliefs and ideas much more cogently than ever before. Criticism, or even a lack of criticism from the apathetic, does not represent an excuse for your avoiding participation in a political cause. Although conservatives constitute only a small percentage of the student population, do not fall into the trap of seeing yourself as a minority. I urge you to cast aside any criticism you may incur and stand for

your principles by joining the College Republicans and the *Cornell Review* to immerse yourself politically and use the power of the written word.

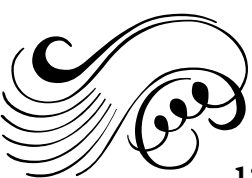
The 2012 presidential election and various contests within New York will transform the direction of the nation. Candidates will depend not only on veteran campaign strategists, but also on college students, to help them win public office. Our task is clear. Much criticism has targeted conservatives for not rising to the challenge of competing effectively with young liberals. We need to respond to such criticism by mobilizing conservative and independent voters. We need to do for the Republican nominee what liberal students did for Senator Obama in 2008. Reagan won the youth vote in 1984. George H. W. Bush won the youth vote in 1988. While we do not truly believe even for a moment that the Republican nominee will win a majority of the youth vote in 2012, we do believe that we can do a far better job of mobilizing 18-25 year olds than did conservative activists in the 2008 election.

Join us in furthering the conservative movement. We will hold the first College Republicans meeting on Monday, August 29 at 7PM in Goldwin Smith Hall Room G22. We will outline a plan to counter liberalism, both on campus and nationally, and discuss a list of speakers, debates, trips and social events that we have planned for the academic year. Seize the chance to immerse yourself in something which transcends academics and serves a cause of great importance, particularly for our generation.

Conservatively Yours,

Raj Kannappan
Chairman of Cornell University College
Republicans

The *Review* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Long, gaseous letters that seem to go on forever are best suited for publication in the *Cornell Daily Sun*. The *Review* requests that all letters to the editor be limited to 350 words. Please send all questions, comments, and concerns to thecornell.review@gmail.com



Cornell in New York City

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Despite what many of the incoming freshmen may think, Cornell is not just that enormous Ivy League school tucked away somewhere in rural New York. It is a massive global enterprise. While Ithaca is the hub of the Cornell galaxy, its gravity radiates outward, from the nearby cooperative extensions across New York State to Cornell's medical school halfway around the world in Doha, Qatar. Within Cornell's sphere of influence lies New York City, where our humble rural university has a huge—and possibly growing—presence.

Last December, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced his intentions to have a major university build a new science and technology campus in the city. The response has been overwhelming. So far, 27 schools ranging from Stanford on the West Coast to Technion in Israel have submitted preliminary proposals for the project. Cornell is considered one of the frontrunners.

The city administration envisions the new campus as a way to position NYC as a global hub for technological and engineering development, capital investment, and entrepreneurship. To attract schools and sweeten the deal, the city is offering land at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, on

Governor's Island, or on Roosevelt Island, with the Roosevelt Island location being the most attractive due to its proximity to Manhattan. The city has also promised \$100 million in infrastructure development for the winning proposal. However, Mayor Bloomberg expects this con-

“Although the mayor and Cornell administration consider the plan a win-win, not everyone is sure that the seeds now being planted will grow to bear fruit.”

tribution to be “matched several times over,” by the chosen school.

While the final proposal will not be released until late October, Cornell has already made a huge investment in trying to win the competition, hiring a top NYC lobbyist as well as a public relations firm. When Mayor Bloomberg gave a speech about the contest in July, President Skorton was there, as was Provost Kent Fuchs and enough representatives and influential alumni to fill up three tables at the event, reported *Crains NY Business*. Tables cost \$3000 each. Should Cornell's proposal be chosen, it will undoubtedly be a huge investment for the school, but the *Sun* reported that Provost Fuchs pledged, “No Ithaca campus tuition would be used,” to fund the new campus. He hoped that funding

would come from the city and from companies hoping to benefit from research done at the new facilities.

This new venture comes at a time when Cornell's presence in the city is already expanding. Across the river from the proposed Roosevelt Island site, Weill-Cornell Medical College is investing more than a billion dollars in new medical research facilities, and Manhattan is already dotted with ten Cornell out-

growths. The new campus is looking like it will bear a price tag similar to that of WCMC's expansion. Competition rival Stanford's preliminary proposal estimates the cost of their design will be \$1.2 billion. No matter the cost, Mayor Bloomberg certainly has high hopes for his project. “During the 1980s and 90s, Silicon Valley—not New York—became the world capital of technology startups, and that is still true today. But if I am right, and we succeed in this mission, it won't be true forever,” said Bloomberg. He sees a new research campus bringing economic vitality to New York, creating the technology for new startups to create thousands of jobs and bringing billions in revenue and investment into the city over the next several decades.

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Roosevelt Island: Will a new Cornell campus be built here?

Why Gay Marriage Is Not A Civil Right

SAM PELL
STAFF WRITER

While Cornellians were basking on the beach (or, more realistically, crammed in a cubicle), Governor Cuomo signed a horrendous bill into law. This serpentine bill twists a venerable institution into an unrecognizable form. Its poisonous venom will be expelled only with great difficulty. I am referring to the Marriage Equality Act, which permits gay couples in New York to get married.

“Well,” you're thinking. “What's the matter with that? After all, marriage is a civil right, isn't it?”

The point you raise is legitimate. But by the time you're done reading this article, I guarantee that even if you are not taken by my DeMille-ish first paragraph, you will at least think twice about gay marriage. If you don't, I'll buy you a cup of coffee or something. If you walk away from this article totally convinced of my position, you owe me coffee. Deal?

Gay marriage passed because many in the state legislature saw it

as a civil right. As Buffalo Republican Mark Grisanti said, “I cannot come up with a single legal argument against gay marriage.” Governor Cuomo said the gay marriage bill delivered “long overdue fairness and legal security to thousands of New Yorkers.” According to Cuomo, all states should recognize gay marriage; to do otherwise would be a violation of civil rights.

But what civil rights are

How can we talk of “equality” between two fundamentally different kinds of relationships?

being violated here? It seems to me that gay rights activists throw around the term “civil rights” indiscriminately, bullying the general public into agreeing with them. I posit that illegalizing gay marriage in a given state violates no civil rights.

“What do you mean, violates no civil rights?!” You object. “Every

year, gay children are killed in school!”

This is indeed a horrendous fact. No matter what we think about sexual orientation, all people have an inalienable right to life. To destroy innocent life is always evil, regardless of the circumstances.

The right for a couple to get married, however, is a completely different issue from the right of an individual to live. Let us ask ourselves, then, what aspects of marriage gay couples claim as their right.

From debates I've had, it would seem that there are two such aspects. First off, there is the question of benefits. If straight couples can

cohabitate and receive tax breaks, why shouldn't gay couples? Secondly, marriage brings social legitimacy to a given sexual relationship. If gay couples are not allowed to get married, then their relationships are seen as socially inferior. This causes them to be discriminated against.

When gay activists make these arguments, they implicitly assume that

heterosexual relationships are pretty much the same as homosexual relationships. This is simply not true. Heterosexual relationships tend towards the procreation of children; homosexual relationships are inherently sterile. Heterosexual relationships are founded upon the natural biological principle of reproduction; homosexual relationships are not. If these points are minute and irrelevant, then so is the process by which all humans came to be. There is clearly a difference between homosexual relationships and heterosexual ones; any further discussion of the issue must concede this position.

But as soon as we acknowledge this point, the whole principle of “marriage equality” falls apart. How can we talk of “equality” between two fundamentally different kinds of relationships? Perhaps arguments can still be made in favor of gay marriage. It no longer makes sense, however, to say that gay couples have a right to everything straight couples have.

“But wait,” you say. “Infertile couples can get married. Their relationships are just like gay relationships. Therefore gay marriage is still a civil right.”

Let me reply by means of an analogy. Baseball teams are

Please turn to page 8



Surviving Cornell

in the Median Grade Era

Too bad we can't do the whole four years pass/fail like Brown

One of the biggest Cornell news items you may have missed over the summer – I'm sure you saw the "Douchiest College in America" nod we got from GQ all over your Facebook feed – is the Faculty Senate's May 26th decision to stop posting course median grades online. The decision, made in response to a study showing that (duh) students used this information to pick easier courses, marks the biggest shift in grade reporting policies since median grades began appearing on transcripts in 2008.

Despite the Faculty Senate's intentions, this decision likely won't prevent the scouring of PDF files for the A's and A-'s (or B's and B+'s for you engineers and

premeds) that many Cornellians turn to the night before course enrollment. The median grade reports from past semesters are probably on the hub right now, but if not, the beleaguered grade grubber can turn to schedule-maker sites like Chequered (which offers the most recently available median grade for each course) and the "infographic" of the Fall '09 median grade data beautifully engineered by Munier Salem '10 that recently debuted all over the Cornell blogosphere (fine, the Insider, IvyGate, and Ithacating aren't really a "sphere," but you know what I mean). For at least the next few years, this information will still be widely available and current enough for students to realize that taking "Physics

of the Heavens and the Earth" might be an easier way to fill that science requirement than going all in on an Orgo class.

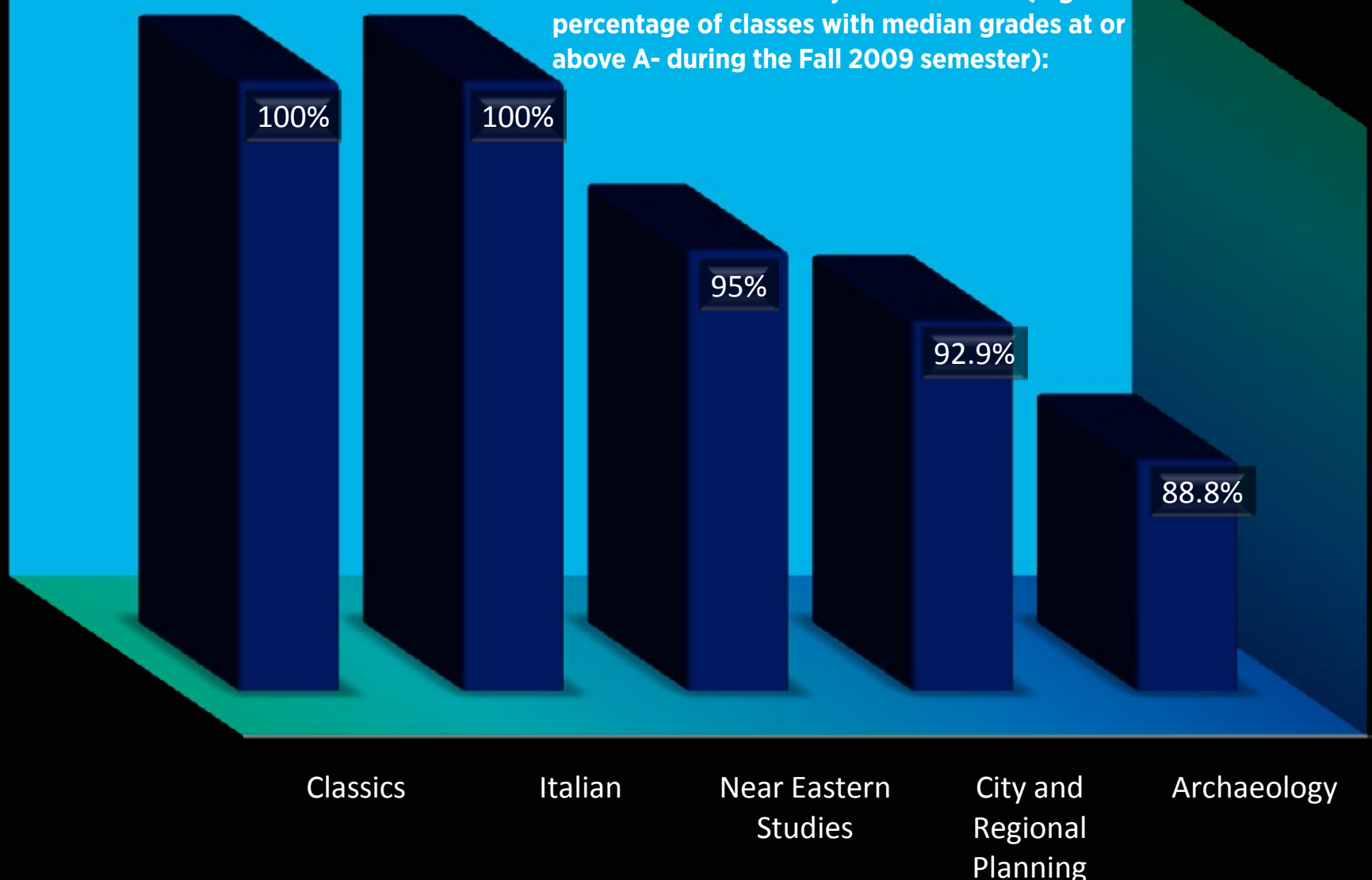
But what is particularly interesting about this decision by the Faculty Senate is that median grades are still going to be recorded, but only for viewing, in theory, by faculty members... and, of course, the grad school admissions counselors and future employers that will be reading your transcript. This is a complete change of course from the Faculty Senate's original 1996 decision to both put median grades on students' transcripts and make median grade reports available online (the former not being enforced until 2008), which was

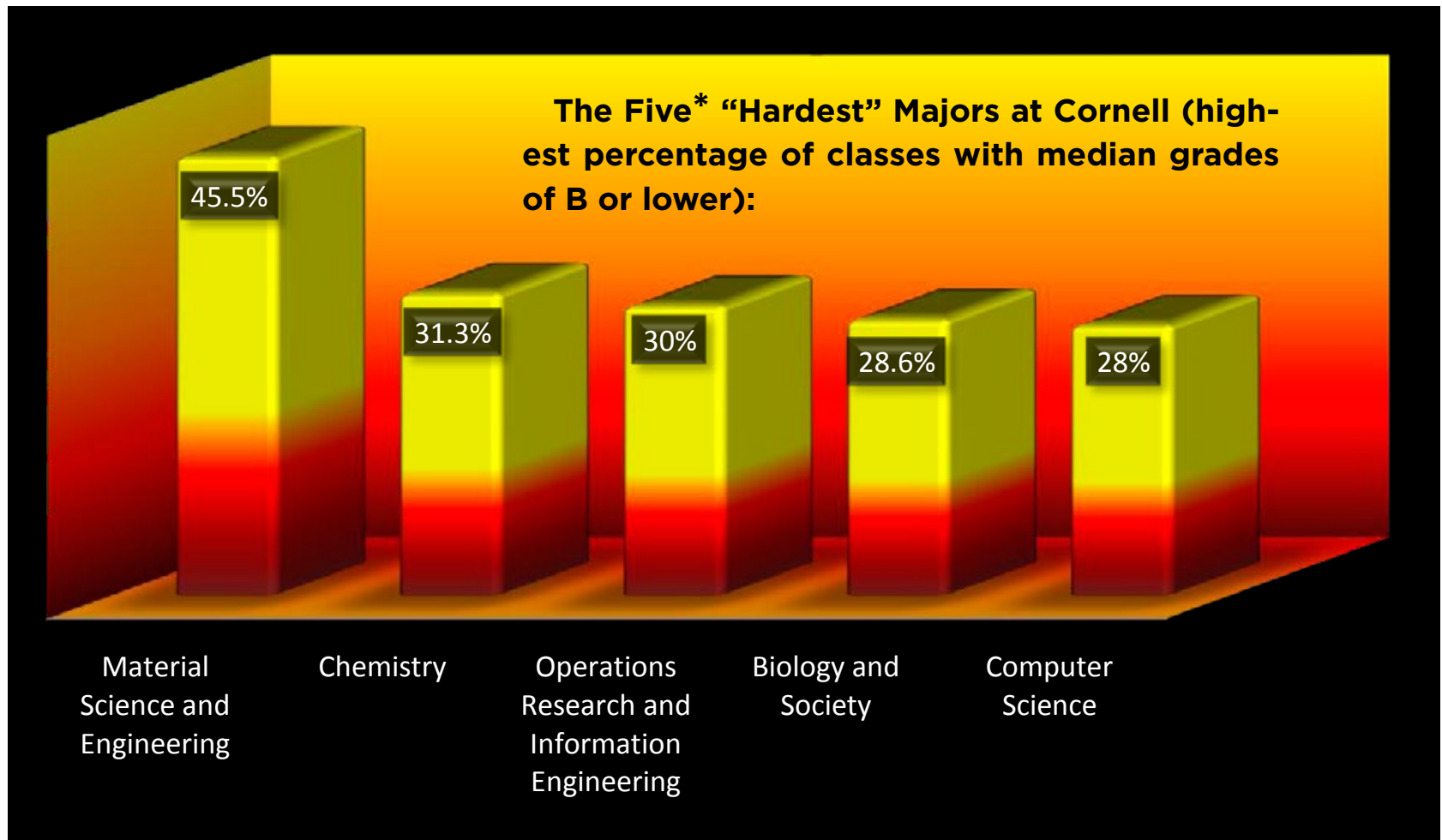
considered a fair compromise at the time despite some student opposition to having median grades printed on their transcripts at all.

While we recognize the problems posed by grade inflation, we at the Review still understand that many, if not most, of Cornell's increasingly grade-centric students want the ability to utilize median grade information. So with a little help from Salem's infographic (you should really check it out for yourself; there's a link to it on the Insider) and the approaches taken by the aforementioned members of the Cornell blogo...village, we've made our own observations* of the median grade data...

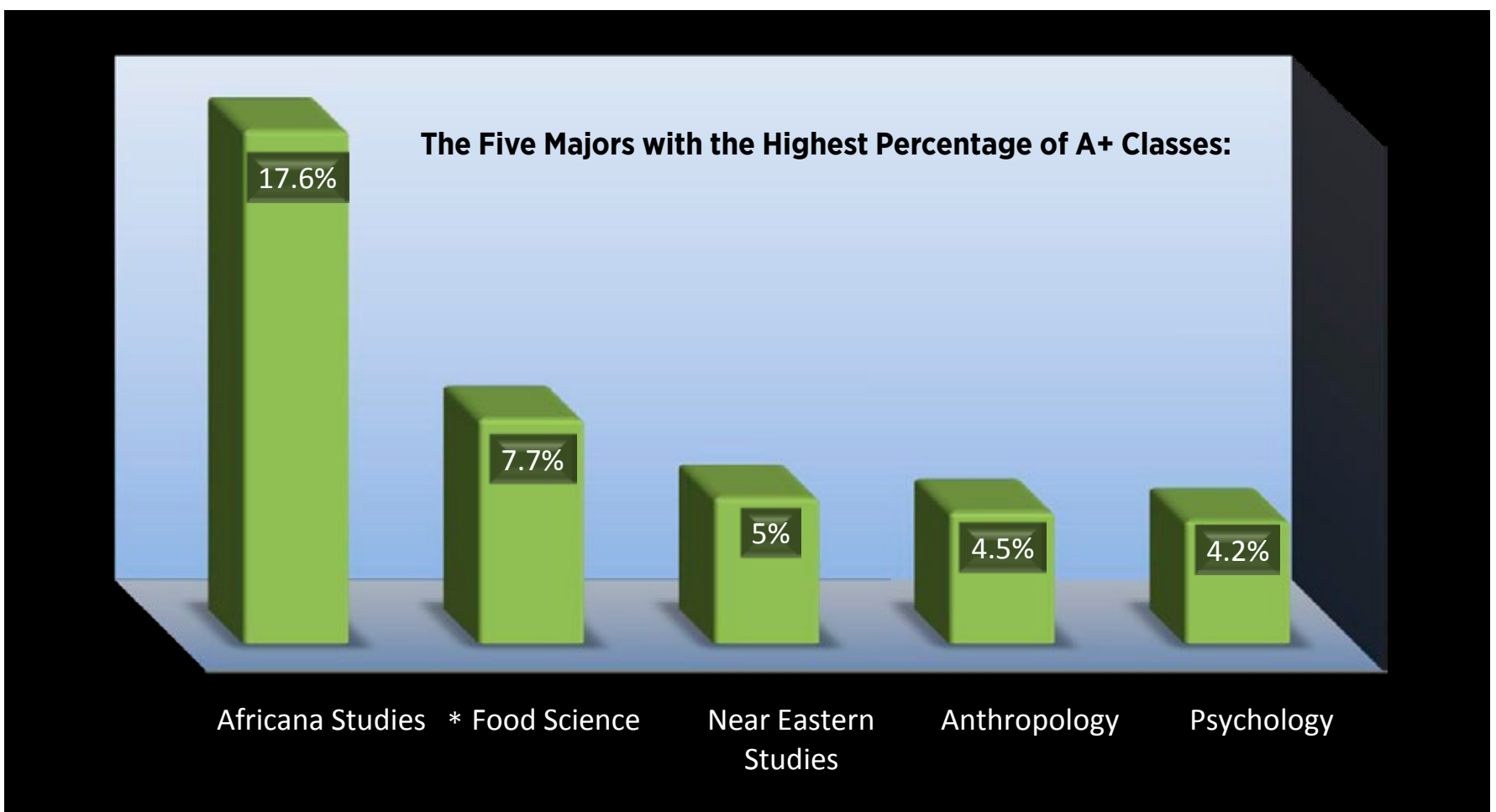
***Please take all of these with an ENORMOUS grain of salt; these are just for fun and should not be used as some sort of guide to picking classes or a major**

The Five "Easiest" Majors at Cornell (highest percentage of classes with median grades at or above A- during the Fall 2009 semester):





*The Honorable Mention "Hardest" Major: Hotel Administration (27.8%), where the grades are as bad as Mark Talbert's pleasant side is pleasant.



*in all fairness, ARSC professors do award extra credit to students that can come up with a dirty pun for a University administrator's name

OBAMA ISN'T WORKING

Career Services

22% of Recent College Graduates are Unemployed
"Many With New College Degree Find Job Market Humbling", The New York Times, 5/18/11

Cornell Students for ROMNEY

Get involved today by joining the Cornell Students for Romney group on Facebook or emailing us at CornellForRomney@gmail.com

The nerdy-pants at *Ithacating in Cornell Heights* came up with a system to quantify median grades with a number (10 for an A+, 9 for an A, and so on) and then calculated the mean median grade for each department in CALS.

Using this scale, the five "hardest" CALS major departments are:

- Biology and Society
- Biology
- Crop and Soil Science
- Earth and Atmospheric Science
- Plant Pathology

The five "easiest" CALS major departments:

- Entomology
- Applied Economics and Management
- Nutrition Science
- Communications
- Horticulture

We at the *Review* would urge freshmen not to see this information to confirm a stereotype they're coming in with about a particular department or to pick a major with the most skippable classes, but as a clear indication that if you actually *want* to study the material in your major, you're going to do better. You might think that's a no-brainer, but you'd be surprised.



Cornell in NYC

Continued from page 5

Although the mayor and Cornell administration consider the plan a win-win, not everyone is sure that the seeds now being planted will grow to bear fruit. Matthew Kahn, an economics professor at UCLA, recently wrote for the Christian Science Monitor that he foresees few positive benefits from a new applied sciences college. One noteworthy issue he raises is the fact that there are already several graduate engineering schools in the city – most notably at Columbia and NYU – none of which have brought the benefits the mayor claims one more will bring. He goes on to question whether New York is really an ideal place for this type of campus. “Will the imported engineering nerds really make a discovery that they would not have discovered had they not been in NYC?” he said, “How will the people of NYC gain from being an engineering mecca? I lived for years near MIT while my wife worked there... but I can’t claim to have seen any “multiplier effects” for the local economy.”

Christian Science Monitor contributor Patrick Wall also thinks NYC may not be the best location for a new graduate engineering school. “At present the city is known for high taxes, expensive office space, and large-scale investment firms,” he stated, highlighting the fact that this type of environment will never attract grad students and startups the way Silicon Valley can.

Nevertheless, as evidenced by the volume of interest, colleges are still jumping at the opportunity. Are the academics and administrators merely caught in the headlights of the possibility of prestige, or will Bloomberg’s initiative really lead to a tech renaissance in New York, possibly with Cornell at the forefront? The answer will not be known for decades, but as President Skorton said, for now, “The mayor has caught everyone’s imagination with this [initiative], including ours.” Will it be Cornell? We will know when the winner is announced in December.

Noah Kantro is a sophomore in the College of Engineering. He can be reached at nk366@cornell.edu.

Dennis Shiraev's Old Fashioned Tips for Freshmen

Don’t worry if you don’t have your major figured out yet- it’s perfectly okay to treat freshman year as an opportunity to check out

C new classes and find the major that’s the best fit for you.

Obamacare’s Hidden Costs

KARIM LAKHANI
TREASURER

In 2010, then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi convinced Democrats in Congress that “we have to pass the [health care] bill, so you can find out what’s in it.” Indeed, it takes close inspection to uncover the specific implications of ObamaCare on the American people. On top of growing debt and a job crisis that has spiraled out of President Obama’s hands, the repercussions of ObamaCare may put our problems over the top.

Last month, Cornell’s Richard Burkhauser, a policy analysis and management professor, and Indiana University’s Kosali Simon released a study highlighting the flaws in ObamaCare that may cost the taxpayers billions more a year in “subsidized exchange coverage.” According to the study, the legislation does not clearly define what it means for an individual to have or an employer to provide “affordable coverage.”

Though it is assumed by many that “affordable coverage” is coverage for an employee’s family, this is not the case, as “affordable coverage” requires only coverage for that individual regardless of whether he has a family. According to the law, “family members of an employee with any offer of coverage are disqualified

from accessing subsidized exchange coverage.” Therefore, a family with one individual receiving health coverage from his employer would not have any family members qualify for subsidized exchange coverage.

As a result, employees who have uninsured families may respond to obvious incentives and drop their employer coverage so that their entire family can receive exchange subsidies. This is a benefit to employers also, who may work together with employees to develop contracts that maximize employee coverage and minimize employer cost (there is a \$3,000 fine for not providing coverage).

Unfortunately, this comes at a cost to the taxpayers. Currently, 75% of Americans receive employer-sponsored health coverage. If ObamaCare is passed and employees and employers do not respond to noticeable incentives, then 78% of Americans would receive employer-sponsored health coverage. If they realistically respond by working together, 74% of Americans will receive health insurance from their employers, forcing at least 4 million more people onto subsidized exchange coverage.

If we take a broader interpretation of “affordable healthcare” that includes families, 66% of Americans

would receive employer-sponsored health coverage. This means almost 22 million people in America would receive subsidized health coverage from the government. The initial cost of 9 million subsidies was \$44.5 billion. This would increase by \$66.5 billion (with 13 million additional people receiving subsidized coverage) to a total of \$111 billion in taxpayer money.

It has been a year since this passed through Congress, yet we do not have a concrete understanding of the broadly defined terms in this law. This is because our representatives, the Democratic majority at the time, felt as though they “should pass the bill, so you can find out what’s in it.”

Lack of health insurance is one of the most serious issues in our country, so does it not warrant a national debate so that we may settle upon an effective and consensual solution? ObamaCare must be repealed; it is an irresponsible piece of legislation that will kill jobs and recklessly spend money, both of which we cannot afford at this time.

Karim Lakhani is a sophomore in the School of Hotel Administration. He can be reached at kml248@cornell.edu.

Gay Marriage

Continued from page 5

structured to win baseball games. The players selected for the team, the drills they perform, all tend toward that end. However, some baseball teams never win a game. That doesn’t make them less of a baseball team, though. If you got a bunch of basketball players together and drilled them with basketball moves, you still wouldn’t win any baseball games. But if you did this, you would cease to have a baseball team. You would have a basketball team.

Infertile couples are in some ways like a losing baseball team. You have a man and a woman (the right kind of players) having straight sex (the right kind of drills), but they never have a kid (win a game). We still consider them married, though. But if you have two men or two women (basketball players) doing an entirely different set of moves, it’s a completely different game. Infertile

couples and gay couples are not the same.

“Okay, so, they’re different,” you say. “That doesn’t mean gay relationships should be seen as socially inferior to straight ones. If gay marriage is illegal, gay relationships will *de facto* be seen as inferior to straight ones.”

Might I point out that we’re a long way from where we started. We started with the assertion that gay marriage is a universal human right; now we’re left with a private belief that homosexual relationships ought to receive the same social standing as heterosexual relationships.

I claim that different societies have the right to make up their own mind on this point. Since marriage is a public institution, the public has a right to determine what constitutes a marriage. If you don’t care, that’s fine. But you don’t have the right to impose your apathy on everyone else.

The majority of people in New York, on the other hand, do care

how marriage is defined. 57% of New Yorkers agree that marriage should be only between a man and a woman, whereas 32% disagree. 57%, a simple majority, is a large percentage upon which to impose an alien view of marriage (especially considering that only 3.5% of the nation’s population is homosexual). Upon signing the bill, Governor Cuomo proclaimed, “New York made a powerful statement, not just for the people of New York, but for people all across this nation.”

You sure did, Cuomo. Apparently, 57% of New York’s population must look on in horror while the state legislature equates a false equation, all for the sake of a miniscule minority. And you do this with the hope that the rest of the nation follows suit. No offense, but that’s kinda gay.

Sam Pell is a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences. He can be reached at sep87@cornell.edu.

Keep an open mind about joining a fraternity/sorority.

Reach out to professors for research opportunities, even during your freshman year.

Check your book prices on Amazon. You might be able to save hundreds of dollars compared to buying at the Cornell Store.

Try out the library for studying early on. Many people prefer this

over their dorm rooms but don’t make the switch until later on in their Cornell careers.

Check out the College Scholar program if you’re in A&S. It’s one of Cornell’s best kept secrets, in my highly biased opinion.

Join as many clubs as you want at the beginning of freshman year, but realize that you’re better off focusing on 1-2 after first semester. This

isn’t high school, and very few people are able to hold genuinely efficacious leadership positions in more than one or two clubs.

Go to cornellinsider.com for the rest! Relieves headaches and upset stomach. Not for oral consumption.

A Long Hot Summer It Has Been: Racial Violence in America

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

State fairs are an American tradition. Every bit as much as apple pie and the Fourth of July, they are a part of our culture and heritage. They are a way for each state to celebrate their history and the people, places, and products that make them unique. This year, though, one state's festival was marred by something wholly foreign: mob violence. On the opening day of Wisconsin's state fair in Milwaukee a few weeks ago, several hundred black youths overran the fairgrounds, attacking and robbing from visitors, pulling motorists out of their cars and beating them, damaging and vandalizing property, and looting. The attacks were specifically targeted at non-blacks.

Unfortunately, this has not been an isolated incident. It is the escalation of a trend in recent years of what has been called, "Knockout king," or, "The knockout game," or "Polar bear hunting." It also made its appearance last summer, when a black mob at the Iowa state fair declared it "beat whitey night," and

proceeded to do just that. Between then and now, this has been happening all too frequently in urban centers across the country. Groups of blacks sucker punch and beat a non-black (Many have been seriously injured and even killed this way), or more recently have started going into stores and helping themselves to a five-finger discount, relying on their numbers and the suddenness of their actions for protection.

The media has been referring to these events as "flash mobs." This is wrong. A flash mob is when an organized group plans and coordinates a seemingly spontaneous dance or some funny actions in public. The correct term for these actions is a "wilding." Oxford English Dictionary defines wilding as, "The action or practice by a gang of youths of going on a protracted and violent rampage in a street, park, or other public place, attacking or mugging people at random along the way." The explanation of why the media has attempted - on the rare occasions when they do cover them - to substitute the warm, fuzzy, innocuous-sounding "flash mob" in place

of a word that better describes the events is not within the scope of this article, but let it be known that these events should hereafter be referred to properly as wildings. Violent, barbaric, dangerous wildings.

This summer has seen so many of them that cities as large as Philadelphia have been forced to institute curfews to protect their law-abiding citizens from such blatant racially motivated attacks. In Wisconsin, Milwaukee sheriff David Clarke said after the state fair wildings, "This is racially involved; it is a cultural aspect of young black roving groups of individuals. This is an underclass mentality...this is an indictment of underclass behavior...they act like this is some sort of sport, to just go out and pound on people."

Things like this are not supposed to be occurring in the post-racial age of America's first black president. Was not Obama, the smooth-talking, biracial, untouchable "Magical Negro" supposed to forgive America's white guilt and solve all the problems of the black inner cities? He gamed both sets of emotions to win the White House, but upon arrival revealed himself as nothing more than a leftist. The two-sided guise of racial healer and racial savior has gone into hiding, and his skin color, "genius," and hope-and-change attitude have done as little to help his black constituents as have the failed liberal policies he champions.

That is not to say that Obama is responsible for the wildings, but he has most certainly not helped. He is a role model for the black youth perpetrating these crimes. He is their savior, the man who overcame the forces of white racism which they are constantly reminded are arranged against them. When Obama attacks the Tea Party or the political right and hints at their "racism," what is a violent culture to do but act violently against these oppressive forces of white racism in defense of their role model? After all, the time to fight back is now. A black man is president. And he is on our side.

Obama is just the most recent national black leader who has failed as a role model. He had the chance to motivate and inspire responsibility in his followers. He has instead accepted and exploited their culture, created by liberal black leaders before him, of perpetual victimhood and blaming others for their social problems. When it is hailed as moral to blame someone else,

it is easy to do something you know to be wrong. Of course the sense of being owed, especially in a violent society, will lead to taking through force. Hence wildings.

On the left, many excuses have been made for this behavior. Some have forgiven these mobs' existence because of so-called "social frustration," or the bad economy, or perhaps even a lack of productive ac-

"People who are religious do not act this way. People with morals refrain from deliberately hurting others."

tivities for these youths. Anything is being blamed as long as it is not the real root of the problem; the culture these people inhabit and their acquired social attitudes. True, poverty reigns supreme in many of the cities where the wildings have occurred, but poverty is no excuse for a lack of morality. True, gang behavior is a natural temptation. The desire to feel the thrill and exhilaration of destruction and of holding power over others is a quintessential human trait. But a society that fails to teach its young people to control these urges cannot be forgiven. People who are religious do not act this way. People with morals refrain from deliberately hurting others.

The question then is not how to immediately put a stop to the wildings, but how to fix black inner city society. The answer? Not more money and handouts, or platitudes about finding them jobs. Neither is a solution to be found in building more "community" centers or incentives to stay in school. None of these things can teach the simple fact that responsibility and morality are the conditions of leading a good and productive life, not something to display if and only if a good life is available. Conservatism teaches this fact. Conservatism is the answer. Conservatism, and religion.

Noah Kantro is a sophomore in the College of Engineering. He can be reached at nk366@cornell.edu.



B.H.Obama: A role model who leads by bad example



War on Terror

Continued from front page

us. We must and we will remain vigilant at home and abroad.” Bin Laden’s death was certainly a defining moment in the War on Terror, concluding one chapter but bringing up many new questions: What has America done right in the War on Terror? What has it done wrong? And what should it do to eradicate the radical Islamist terrorist threat more effectively?

Although President Bush left office with his popularity numbers in tatters, history will recognize him for preventing another catastrophic attack on American soil. Amidst a sea of growing unpopularity, his administration made tough and often derided decisions—waging wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, implementing the surge, and ultimately, adopting the Freedom Agenda—in order to counter the terrorist threat. Despite preventing a follow-up to 9/11, the administration did fail on a number of accounts. It made intelligence errors, primarily on the war in Iraq, did not gather public support effectively, and committed strategic errors of a larger scale in fighting radical Islamist terrorism.

President Obama’s administration, on the other hand, has blundered repeatedly in spite of some individual policy successes. Its policies have rooted out many al-Qaeda leaders—the most prominent being bin Laden himself—and taken the fight to the organization, but for all the promises of conducting the fight against terrorists more intelligently, the administration has implemented many muddled policies. It is slowly losing what public support remains among Muslims in the Middle East through increased drone strikes, whose use has now expanded to six Muslim-majority countries and each of which kills an average of ten civilians. It has set a strict politically determined timeline for a large-scale troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq despite stern warnings from top generals, which will likely force back the gains made over the past few years. Furthermore, it has marginalized the threat posed by al-Qaeda affiliates such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Lakshar-e-Taiba, and the Haqqani Network, choosing instead to pursue a narrow-minded al-Qaeda-centric policy that could at best lead to a half-victory. And still, the administration

fails to even refer to the religious component of terrorist doctrine in its newest counterterrorism plan presented by Obama’s chief counterterrorism advisor John Brennan at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, whose namesake is remembered ironically for his fervent anti-Communist stance

“minds.” The best available solution to counter the influence of radical terrorists is an ideological campaign in cooperation with a military one—one that pits modernist democratic forces against Islamist extremists. Too much of the campaign against terrorists has depended on the abilities of our military and defense per-

adequately and vigorously enough. Building schools, roads, and other types of infrastructure may help America’s public relations campaign in the short term, but ultimately it will not change how average Muslims in the Middle East view America. The only way that will change is through a clear and on-message presentation of an alternative to their way of government—by encouraging through financial and political support moderate democratic parties and Islamic groups opposed to extremists. Rather than devoting mainly a preponderance of military prowess to fighting terrorists, the United States should increase the operational abilities of its civilian service and start an information campaign whose sole purpose would be to discredit extremist ideology and persuade civilians that ceding political power to extremists will only lead to further and more severe problems. Without separating moderate Islamist organizations and individuals from the extremists that have hijacked the religion in order to justify their perverse ideology, the United States can never truly win the War on Terror.

But what would a victory in the War on Terror look like? Would terrorists no longer attempt to attack the United States or its allies? Would America actually declare the war to be over? Would America and its allies recognize a victory? Even more importantly, exactly when will they have won the war?

They will have won the War on Terror when the ideological basis for terrorists’ violence against them is discredited. They will have won the war when terrorists acknowledge that the very people they intend to scare—average citizens—are going about their daily lives without trepidation from a potential terrorist act. More significantly, they will have won the war when Islamist terrorists essentially fade away into oblivion due to the futility of their ideology. Just as it emerged at the end of the Cold War, victory in this war will not be clear, decisive, or obvious to anyone. But when it comes—and it will because extremist Islamism is not a sustainable ideology within the Muslim world—America and its allies will close out another chapter in the battle against undemocratic forces.

Raj Kannappan is a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences. He can be reached at rk398@cornell.edu.



and the writing of NSC-68, a classified Cold War report that called for a massive buildup in order to push back aggressively against the threats posed by the Soviet Union.

The Obama administration is failing most clearly in developing a strategy for dealing with radical Islam as separate from Islam itself. Although President Bush and his advisers repeatedly stated that the War on Terror was not a war on Islam, the message became diluted after years of occupation and nation-building in Afghanistan and Iraq. On the other hand, by refusing to even admit that religion has an influence on the actions of militant terrorists, President Obama and his counterterrorism team have abandoned a nuance without whose recognition the War on Terror can never be won.

After a decade of war, what is clear is that military power alone will not do the job of winning “hearts and

sonnel. However, this strategy will not actually destroy the ideological basis for terrorists’ violent actions or any support they receive, as the work of the Office of War Information and the Writers’ War Board did against the Nazis in WWII and the travails of the United States Information Agency and CIA in employing the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and Radio Liberty did against the Soviets during the Cold War. Today, the development of such a campaign may invoke images of totalitarian propaganda, but such alarmism is unnecessary.

An organized information campaign to win over the “hearts and minds” of average citizens in the Middle East is what can change the trajectory of the War on Terror. Officials from the Bush administration—most notably Douglas Feith and Abram Shulsky—have noted that they too did not pursue this strategy



CORNELLINSIDER.com
a blog by the writers of the Cornell Review

CCC Does it Again: B.o.B to Perform at Homecoming

Posted by Alfonse Muglia

Homecoming weekend just added a little "Magic."

The Concert Commission announced earlier this evening that hip-hop superstar B.o.B will be coming to Ithaca on September 17. The Georgia-based performer will rock Barton Hall in a special presentation, following an opening act by Motion City Soundtrack.

"The show spans vastly different genres and should really appeal to many Cornellians," remarked Harris Nord, executive director of the CCC, in an email to the club.

B.o.B is most recognized in popular culture for its hits "Nothin' on You," "Magic," and "Airplanes," all of which peaked in the top ten in Billboard's Top 100. The last of these songs was written by Cornell's own Kinetics and One Love, before the rights were sold to B.o.B's label Atlantic Records. Many fans are hoping that the duo will make a surprise performance and join the many alumni flocking back to Ithaca for homecoming weekend.



The CCC united with Alumni Affairs throughout the selection and planning process, and the two organizations will be cosponsoring the event.

GQ Honors Cornell with a Surprising Award: #1 Douche

Posted by Alfonse Muglia

Welcome to Cornell University, the douchiest college in America and home of the "chip on shoulder" douche.

At least that's the interpretation of life in Ithaca by GQ Magazine's annual "10 Douchiest Colleges in America." This year's article, published last week, was an excerpt from the groundbreaking book, *The Rogers & Littleton Guide to America's Douchiest Colleges*, in which authors H.L. Rogers and Peter Littleton, Ph. D. mock all facets of a douchebag's life at college, from "The Eleven Douchiest Drinking Games" to page long descriptions of well-known American universities. (The book is a must-read, seriously.)

Cornell's "biography" draws attention to some of the typical, unglamorous facets of four years of studying in upstate New York at our school in the "Fake Ivy League Conference." It describes Cornell's "Douchey Affectations" to be "Wearing a forced smile that fades with each step up the frozen, wind-howling slope to classes all winter (October to May) while wondering if this is all worth it for a an [sic] Ivy League degree lots of people don't even realize is Ivy League."

The excerpt also highlights some of our alumni and creates an unofficial motto for the school: "I can tell you don't respect me, you asshole." It goes on to capture some of the all too real aspects of the mindset of most Cornell students.



"Is it because all anyone ever talks about is how people go to Cornell and then kill themselves? It's a myth! Check the numbers! Or maybe you can't because you weren't required to take any Math classes at Brown!"

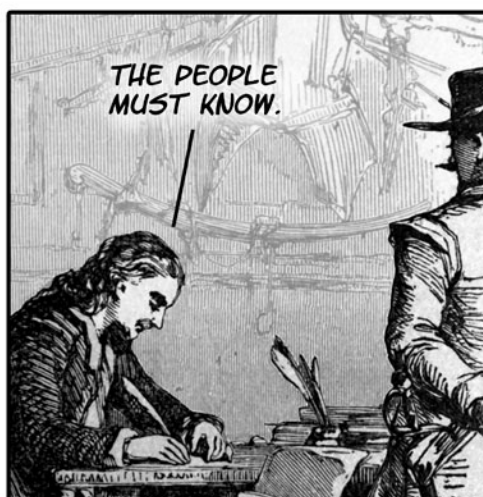
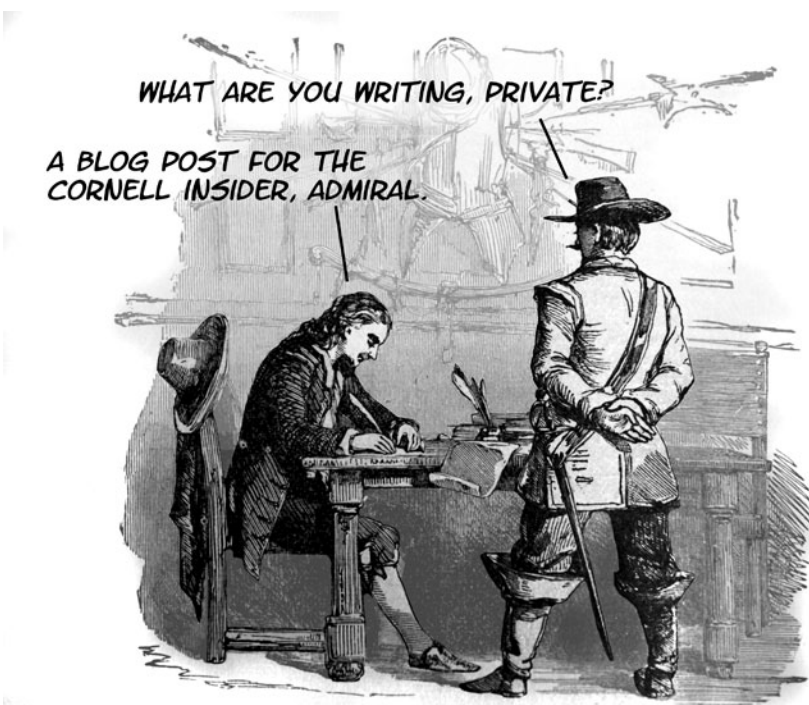
What the experts at GQ failed to convey, however, was how any of this bitterness translates into Cornell's supposed "douchiness." According to *urbandictionary.com*, a douche is "a word used to describe an individual who has shown themselves to be very brainless in one way or another." Complaining about having to walk up the slope on a frozen morning doesn't make a person a brainless. Neither does the fact that we dislike the attention drawn to exaggerated suicide numbers. And yes, we consider Brown's liberal, coreless education is a joke.

As Cornell grad, Tony Manfred, '11, described in his article for *Business Insider*, "Douchiness is bred by uniformity...But this doesn't describe Cornell at all."

Cornell beat out #2 Penn State, home of the "All I've got is college football; seriously, don't laugh, all I've got is college football" douche and #3 Yale, home of the "Skull and Bones Douche. No other Ivy League schools made the list. Seven private schools cracked the list, with only the University of Florida (#10) south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Apparently, GQ believes the most brainless college students are concentrated in the Northeast.

When choosing a picture to accompany the article, the magazine's editors used a candid photo of our mascot to convey our "douchiness," while the blurb about Penn State features a picture explicitly mocking the school's obsession with football. The blurb about Yale features a young man with an explicit obsession with his school, displayed with the banner hanging on his wall: "For God, for country, for Yale." (Enough said.)

How the editors couldn't find a picture to better capture why our institution landed the #1 spot is beyond me; until I tried to find a picture of a "Cornell Douche" online for this blog and failed. So I settled for an Andy Bernard reference. But let's face it, Andy Bernard is probably the reason we landed on this list.



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Wisemen & Fools

No risk of that . . . no risk.
Timothy Geithner on the risk of the United States losing its AAA credit rating

I never comment on whether I'm carrying a handgun or not. That's why it's called "concealed".

Rick Perry

I am not going to raise taxes. And if you want someone who's going to raise taxes, you can vote for Barack Obama.

Mitt Romney

Even if they don't agree with you every time, they're gonna give you points for being willing to speak your mind... Nobody agrees with you every time. I barely agree with me every time.



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

The gentleman from Florida,

who represents thousands of Medicare beneficiaries, as do I, is supportive of this plan that would increase costs for Medicare beneficiaries. Unbelievable from a member from South Florida.

DNC Chairwoman and Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, lying about Medicare reform

Look, Debbie, I understand that after I departed the House floor you directed your floor speech comments directly

towards me. Let me make myself perfectly clear, you want a personal fight, I am happy to oblige. You are the most vile, unprofessional and despicable member of the US House of Representatives. If you have something to say to me, stop being a coward and say it to my face. Otherwise, shut the heck up.
Congressman LTC (ret.) Allen West

It's all about showing the police we can do what we want... It's all good fun... We're showing the rich that we can do what we want, too.
Group of teenage girls interviewed by the BBC in the midst of a London riot

I don't really care about being right, you know. I just care about success.
Steve Jobs

The advantage of hindsight, the benefit of a thorough review of the case, clearly points me to things that I

would have done differently.
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms official William McMahon on his agency's scheme to allow the illegal trafficking of firearms into Mexico that resulted in the death of a US Border Patrol agent

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force; like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.
George Washington

They used to talk about Lincoln almost as bad as they talk about me. Democracy has never been for the faint of heart.
Barack Obama

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

Barack Obama

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Join the Review.

Come to our first meeting: Goldwin Smith 162±2
 Monday August 29th
 5:00pm

or send us an email at thecornell.review@gmail.com

