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As Stewart Brings His Act to Cornell, Obama Becomes More of a Target

President moves in to late night comedian's crosshairs with Solyndra scandal

MICHAEL ALAN
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As Cornellians prepare for *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart's Parents Weekend stint in Barton Hall, the left-leaning comedian has moved from his usual targets of Fox News and the Tea Party to President Obama.

A segment from the September 15th episode of the *Daily Show* entitled "That Custom-Tailored Obama Scandal You Ordered is Here" signals Stewart's departure from the blasé reaction on the left to the evidence being uncovered in an investigation

being led by the House Energy and Oversight committees.

The investigation surrounds the Obama Administration's 2009 decision to give the now-defunct solar panel manufacturer Solyndra \$535 million in loan guarantees. Emails recently uncovered show Energy Department officials accurately predicting the company's collapse—even down to the month, something Stewart pointed out—and fighting with the White House as the President hoped to unveil the poster child for his "green" jobs initiative at an already-scheduled speech.



Even Jon Stewart thinks Obama's Solyndra loan is sketchy. Stewart will be performing at Cornell on October 28th and 29th.

"On the plus side, how about a little something for faceless bureaucrats," Stewart quipped.

But, as a clip later in the segment shows, the prediction wasn't that difficult.

"Their price was over six dollars a watt, but they were selling it for three dollars a watt. The numbers just didn't add up," said energy analyst Peter Lynch.

But even before the latest revelations, the Obama Administration had been taking heat for the Solyndra loans. Republicans attacked the

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Bullish on America

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NEWS EDITOR

Our country's current economic turmoil and political division have some scholars talking about the inevitable deterioration of its global influence. But these domestic stumbling blocks don't trouble Cornell's professor of Government Peter Katzenstein, who addressed a crowded McGraw Auditorium two weeks ago.

Katzenstein's lecture was called *America in Decline?* and he was sure to emphasize that the question mark was the most important part of that title.

"Is America in decline?" He asked the audience. "Well," he continued, "America hasn't paid its bills."

Katzenstein went on to offer his theories and predictions regarding the financial state of the nation. For instance, he blamed the mortgage crisis on what he called a "land-focused" development path. The country's economy was built on the desire of its citizens to become landowners, he said. And when this desire ran amuck, we found ourselves in dire straits.

The problem was exacerbated by an overreliance on credit. Katzenstein claimed that it would be a mistake to label the US a "free-market economy." Rather, it is a "welfare society state" on par with Europe, and this is largely a result of the evolution of the credit card.

Katzenstein explained that when credit cards were first introduced, consumers had to prove themselves qualified to get one, and even then they had to pay off their balance at the end of each month. This is not so today, though, at a time when even minors with no incomes or financial track records are bombarded with credit card applications. Extending credit is the "core business for the financial sector," Katzenstein said,

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Ithaca Remembers September 11th

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

2,997 people were murdered on September Eleventh, 2001. Three of them were members of Father Carston Martensen's church in Oceanside, Long Island. Ten years later, he still remembers being told of the events that day during morning Mass. "We all went outside and looked West," he said, "and we could all see the smoke rising in the sky." Father Martensen, now a chaplain at Ithaca College, shared his story and the stories of the three parishioners who did not return home that day at Ithaca's memorial service marking the tenth anniversary of 9/11. He described the heroism of Jim Barbella, who instead of trying to get out carried an injured woman up to the roof of Tower Two to escape the smoke. He did not survive.

Stories of uncommon valor abounded at the memorial ceremony, which took place at the Ithaca Fire Department. The ceremony was above all a time for remembrance. It was a time for people to try to put words to emotions and memories too powerful to be put into words. "Ten years ago most of us stood transfixed, stood by and watched, knowing there was nothing we could do," recalled IFD Chief Brian Wilbur, "We had a common solidarity. The country stood united...To prove it, we flew our flags everywhere."

Tom Rochon, president of Ithaca College, touched on this theme of remembrance, saying, "It was the defining moment in our lives, one that has been seared into our collective consciousness. It was a once in a generation experience of seeing

heroism in action." For some like Cornell Associate Dean Renee Alexander, whose husband lost his life that day, the tragedy is personal. For others, remembering the tragedy brought a sense of unity and national pride in the American spirit that has helped us recover from the attack. For Mayor Carolyn Peterson, the tenth anniversary was "A time of reflection to remember those innocent people who died that day, and the first responders who died later." For President David Skorton, the day signifies "The American troops who [went] to war in the struggle against terrorism...who we also remember today." Martha Robertson, chair of the Tompkins County Legislature, voiced her gratitude by recognizing

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The Greek system need to regulate itself before administrators decide to do it for them.

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Newcomers to campus and the *Review* offer their insights and opinions

Page 6 Ship of Fools Draped in bronze, she sets sail once more.

Jon Stewart

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investment as singling out one company in the competitive solar energy markets. In response to the blame for the firm's collapse being placed on the cheaper production of solar panels, Westinghouse Solar CEO Barry Cinnamon wrote, "Chinese solar panels are 10-20 percent less expensive than U.S.-made panels; but by some estimates, Solyndra's panels were 100 percent more. It's a mistake to blame Solyndra's problems on our lack of manufacturing commitment or relatively higher labor costs compared to China."

Stewart closes the segment by pointing out a significant distinction between the Solyndra affair and previous Presidential scandals. Referring to the Monica Lewinski scandal from the Clinton Administration, Stewart said that Congressional investigators were usually "shameless

grandstanders." This time around, however, it seems the House Republicans have it together.

The segment featured a clip of Representative Brian Bilbray (R-CA) grilling Department of Energy loan officer Jonathan Silver on the rationale behind his decision. Bilbray questioned Solyndra's manufacturing techniques and the DOE's failure to sufficiently warn the White House of the danger in the investment, saying Solyndra employed techniques "even China wasn't using."

"I don't have a clue what that Congressman is talking about . . . but—and here's the thing—he does," Stewart said.

Jon Stewart will be performing in Barton Hall on October 28th and 29th and, hopefully, he'll give the Cornell audience a little more than the "Fox News is bad" song and dance they're used to.

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Cornell Remembers Terror Attack with Flag Memorials

BY JOE BONICA

In recent years, it has become tradition for Cornell students to memorialize the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 with an arrangement of flags on the Arts quad. The flags, planted in the ground to spell "Remember 9/11", attracted in general a good deal of attention, most of it overwhelmingly positive. In addition, smaller flags were sold for people to plant into the ground among the memorial to honor a loved one lost, or to express general solidarity with the victims of the attacks. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

As always, a great deal of preparation went into setting up the memorial, with the majority of the work being done the night before. Dozens of students arrived to arrange the flags into their proper lettering. In fact, according to one member of the event, participation was so high that the sheer volume of people began to interrupt the event's efficiency. Within a very short time frame, the memorial was set, and numerous volunteers proceeded to take turns watching the memorial.

Ever diligent, students volunteered to watch the memorials at all hours of the night, never leaving it unattended for more than a few minutes. Thankfully, unlike last year, there was absolutely no desecration or trouble caused at the memorial, which was a legitimate and serious fear for all those involved. Be

it extra respect for the day due to it being the 10th anniversary, or just blind luck, the lack of

trouble at the memorial was nevertheless very welcome by all those involved. During the day itself, those at the event held moments of silences at every time the planes struck. As the day wore on, the memorial sparked the interest and curiosity of some onlookers, with numerous students and tourists alike photographing it and purchasing flags to honor loved ones. Those who set up the memorial were approached with words of encouragement, with a few saying that they were surprised and very glad that a patriotic display such as this was being maintained on this campus.

The fact that such an outward showing of patriotism such as this attracted such little controversy, and in fact great praise, speaks volumes for the magnitude of the day and the spirit of many on campus. Regardless of political leaning, or opinion of the U.S. government after the terrorist attacks, September 11 remains a day of universal mourning and remembrance, inspiring reflections on things as grand as the great unity and charity of the American people, and as narrow as appreciating those in our immediate family. Perhaps it is this unifying factor, this reaction that 9/11 inspires in the hearts of all people, that makes the memorial as powerful and unifying as it is. Regardless, the memorial was a tremendous success, and it is the highest home that future tributes to the day are as successful and respected.

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THE ARAB ILLUSION

A Postscript to the Revolution

KUSHAGRA ANIKET
STAFF WRITER

It's official now. The 'revolution' in the Arab world was a 'non-violent' one. Political commentators and analysts grappling with the idea of the Arab Spring have finally sought refuge in portraying the protests in the familiar clichés: 'revolution', 'civil resistance' and most fantastically 'non-violence'.

In a lecture delivered to an audience of law students and professors, distinguished jurist, human rights activist and a former presidential candidate in Lebanon, Professor Chibli Mallat of the University of Utah commanded his years of experience (including imprisonment by Saddam Hussein) and erudition to prove that the Middle Eastern Revolution was non-violent. Professor Mallat, lecturing on 'Law and the Middle East 2011 Revolution: Non-Violence, Constitutional Moments and Transitional Justice' argued that the Middle East has always had a precedence of non-violence and the movements that began on December 18, 2010 should be studied in this light. To illustrate his point, he quoted the examples of the Iranian Revolution (1979) and the First Intifada in Palestine (1987-93), overlooking the fact that while the two movements began as general strikes, boycotts, and street demonstrations, they ended in huge numbers of casualties on both sides.

However, even he could not ignore the troubling legacy of violence exemplified by Libya, and dwelled at length on the dichotomy between Cairo and Tripoli. To answer the paradox, it appeared a lot easier to Mallat to invoke German Idealism and French poetry than address the hard facts of war. Immanuel Kant came as

his redeemer. Mallat explained that in his essay *Perpetual Peace* (1795) Kant had proposed his own program for interminable peace in the world: a league of free and cooperating republics. He argued that democratic and responsible governments are more likely obey the rule of law and hence be at peace with each other. So what if an estimated 30,000 people lost their lives in the civil war in Libya, it was after-all a transient step towards eternal tranquility. In fact, it was NATO's intervention (though in this case, inevitable and in the more rational sense, desirable) that coerced the protestors to sacrifice their long-cherished principles of peace and non-violence. And finally, to be sure, Gadhafi was actually more brutal than Mubarak.

The real question, then, Mallat asked is: "What makes non-violence so efficient that the Egyptians love it?" Scholars are as divided on this issue as they seemed to be in the large lecture room of Myron Taylor Hall. First, violence invariably runs into trouble amongst pacifists, and it can be intuitively shown that there were at least some of them among the protestors. The pacifists would maintain, from their highest pedestal of ethics, that violence leaves behind a trail of death and destruction and tends to spin out of control.

However, there are more pragmatic and even sinister explanations to the question in the context of the Arab revolution. Here non-violence plays the role of a strong moral weapon and an even stronger strategic tool. In traditional Western political thinking, it is assumed with some merit that the authoritarian rulers of the Middle East are far more moderate than their subjects, who are predominantly influenced

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Greeks' Largest Asset: Grassroots Intuition

One month into another stirring semester at Cornell, it is no secret that the administration is on a mission to fundamentally alter Greek life. They seek to bring the activities of perhaps their largest liability under control, while sitting in their offices in Day and Willard Straight Hall.

The question remains: what should our fraternities and sororities do in response to this "Skorton Pledge." Many houses are stating that their biggest problems lie in the ambiguity of the changes the university is seeking. They fear that even if they do make changes, the implications of these alterations may not be as dramatic as the university desires. Some pro-Greeks have expressed worries that their inability to meet the administration's expectations may ultimately result in the demise of their beloved houses, regardless of their efforts in the coming weeks.

What exactly is this "Skorton Pledge"?

In his August 29 opinion piece in the *Cornell Daily Sun*, President Skorton walks a fine line when defining his "pledge." He states very clearly halfway through the article that he has met with Greek leaders "to discuss the decision to ban pledging." At another part in the article he is less blunt and instead calls for a redefining of "pledging as we know it." Many supporters would be quick to highlight the latter of these remarks, claiming that the President is sincere in his repeated claims that he does not wish to end Greek life.

At the *Cornell Review*, we are optimistic that the administration will continue to work in favor of a Greek System. We also understand that, given the evolving culture on campus, changes need to be made to the new member education process. That being said, overgeneralized remarks like, "the decision to ban pledging," made by those in authority, cannot be ignored.

As one of the most renowned educational institutions in the world, Cornell should be the paradigm for

how a structurally strong Greek life could enhance the college experience of students of all social interests. Those students, who so desire to take on the responsibilities associated with joining a fraternal organization, understand both the risks and rewards associated with this opportunity. They do so while recognizing that this journey compliments the already mentally strenuous activities associated with their education and movement toward college degrees as well as their ensuing initiation as *new members* of society upon graduation.

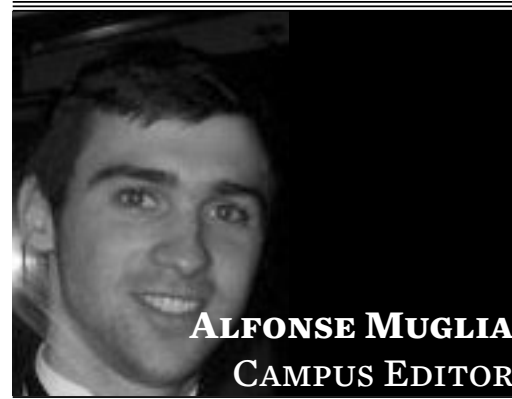
With every passing year, the IFC loses more ground in the struggle to continue independently governing the Greek system. By its very nature, the idea of an independent organization of students governing themselves – holding each other accountable for each other's actions – is revolutionary. It is especially revolutionary considering that the organization that is Cornell University already has an Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, also charged with overseeing the Greek community.

Expanding upon an analogy that I found especially effective made by *Sun* columnist Jon Weinberg on August 31, the IFC operates similar to a union. This union exists within an organizational structure that has a strong, well-established Human Resource department (OFSA). The workers don't know if they are better off with the benefits package that management gives them or that of the union. Meanwhile, as the two units compete for the approval of both the worker and management, the process of actually considering workers' rights is slowed and the individual worker becomes isolated and confused. This is very similar to the current state of the Greek system at Cornell.

While this paper is typically not one to side with unions, the administration has indicated that their part in the ongoing reformation process is complete for the time being. President Skorton has passed the baton to the student. This

creates a great challenge for us to prove that we can rationally manage ourselves.

Every good entrepreneur knows that with a great challenge comes great opportunity for success and personal gain. Those individuals, who can identify the problems and have the insight to work on a



ALFONSE MUGLIA
CAMPUS EDITOR

solution, will thrive in a changing culture.

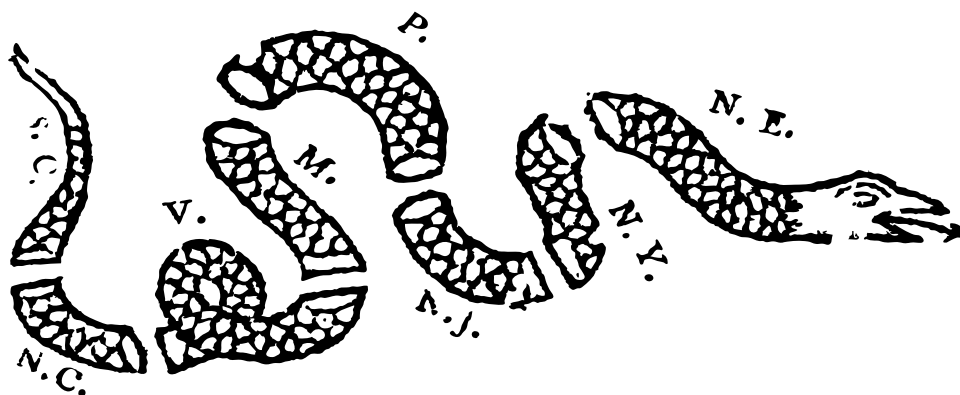
That's what Nicky Hajal did at RPI in April 2006. Instead of standing by as, then-Associate Dean of Students, Travis Apgar and others in the RPI administration cracked down on Greek life, Nicky launched a website SaveRPIGreeks.com. The site sought to garner support among the student body by highlighting the benefits of going Greek. Five years later, the website's Facebook page still appears in search engines.

The time has come for a similar grass-roots movement on the part of the Cornell Greek community to prove to the authority that they have the intuition and intelligence to make Greek life thrive in the Ivy League.

The fine print suggests that those fraternity bros and sorority gals that can't adjust on their own will be forced to do so on Skorton's terms. If they fail to adjust to Cornell's transforming culture, they face the threat of being left behind. Time will tell if any of these organizations will fail to rise to the occasion and thus cease to exist, as they watch their beloved homes transform into additional Cornell housing.

The IFC must continue to take immediate action in adjusting the pledging process on their terms, before the administration retakes the baton.

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J O I N, or D I E.



The Fog of the Presidency

RAJ KANNAPPAN
STAFF WRITER

If you have a pair of eyes and ears, you recognize that President Obama has squandered away the support he had when he took office on January 20, 2009. No longer does “Yes we can!” resonate with the American electorate. No longer does eloquent oratory and self-adulation do justice for the 14 million unemployed Americans. The president has repeatedly failed to lead, instead choosing to delegate to Congress many of the responsibilities assigned to the executive office. He has essentially chosen to take a back seat at a time when the country needs a strong leader, instead vowing to raise one billion dollars to get himself reelected.

The administration’s record of failure reads like an abhorrently lengthy talking points sheet.

Stubbornly refusing to acknowledge that his first stimulus package was not as successful as he had predicted, the president has put forth another stimulus—this time, a \$447 billion proposal to create jobs. Unfortunately for him, 33 percent of Americans disapprove of his handling of the economy thus far. The administration has failed to deal effectively with the country’s debt and deficit problem, the single greatest threat to the American century. President Obama has blamed everyone but himself for failing to put America on the right path economically.

When the most recent polls fall on his desk, it serves him best to blame the ghost of President Bush, which apparently remains well and alive, manipulating the economy from behind the scenes. And when he receives the monthly jobs report, of course, President Obama does not fail to rail against House Republicans. With the unemployment rate at 9.1% and no jobs created in August, now is hardly the time for the leader of the free world to cast blame on everyone and everything but himself.

On healthcare, the story does not narrate much differently. What was supposed to ensure that all Americans had access to quality healthcare and reduce overall government healthcare expenditures has done enough to ensure just the opposite. The administration has criticized Paul Ryan’s proposed Medicare reform plan, arguing that it would not actually decrease costs. But what it has failed to recognize is that its own healthcare plan will almost certainly increase costs. Obamacare’s individual mandate has been the most controversial provision of the bill since the Medicare debate began. Conservatives have long recognized that the provision forces all Americans to purchase a particular product whether they desire to or not, thereby channeling an unprecedented flaunting of federal power. Liberals, on the other hand, need to come to terms with the fact that the

provision establishes a marketplace for the very thing the president has vilified—private health insurers, the evil, greedy, and heartless malefactors. In short, Obamacare does not appear to help the country in any meaningful way. What it has done, shocking its blinded supporters, is create an incentive for the Supreme Court to step in. The Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in August that the individual mandate represents an unconstitutional hoarding of federal power, all but assuring that the country’s highest court will rule on the case in the near future.

The most puzzling of all the administration’s actions is its foreign policy. It has mishandled the Arab Spring, squandering away much of the influence America had in the region. It has turned the Middle East peace process into an utter disaster, throwing itself into a position where it will have to veto Palestine’s UN bid for statehood. President Obama also seems to have given inadequate time and effort to the nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea, both of which appear to have progressed much further than previously thought. Shockingly, the administration also took the country to war in Libya, digging up memories of Bill Clinton’s illegal intervention in the civil war in Kosovo. The war that was supposed to take “days, not weeks” still labors on. Such an

action would have provoked bitter opposition from liberal legislators during the Bush years. But alas, President Obama epitomizes audacity and hope, so his formerly fervent supporters cannot criticize him for fear of criticizing themselves. Little do they realize that audacity and hope have failed to engender a coherent foreign policy framework.

The president has even muddled his once somewhat acceptable Afghanistan policy, choosing to keep one foot in the war and plant the other one in politics. Why he has decided to pull out 33,000 troops from Afghanistan by September 2012 is a question that elicits a thoroughly unclear answer from the president’s advisors. That this withdrawal falls immediately before the first presidential debate raises serious questions about how dedicated the president was in fighting the “necessary war” in the first place. And in Iraq, America is in danger of losing the gains it has made, and sacrificing the losses it has endured, over the past decade. The president’s goal of withdrawing all troops from Iraq by the end of this year could throw the country into a large-scale civil war. That the president either appears to not recognize this or acknowledges this and does not care should frighten the military establishment.

Even liberals have recognized that the administration, for all its promises of painting a rosy masterpiece of America abroad and fighting for citizens’ liberties at home, has simply continued—even expanded—the Bush administration’s national security and foreign policy strategies. Guan-

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9/11 at 10: Waiting to Mellow

BRENDAN PATRICK DEVINE
STAFF WRITER

Any attentive recollection of the phenomena that define our generation will include the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, along with any number of other disasters. Intellectual exertions attempting to define or discern the meaning of this terrible date have not defined the ten-year wake of the disaster. Instead, consideration of these events has been characterized by petulant liberals eager to make former-President Bush out to be the most damning influence on America since the Dred Scott decision or by neoconservatives who cannot identify the difference between New York City and Tel-Aviv. What lessons has our generation, or Americans on the

whole, learned these last ten years since the disaster then?

The first words essaying an answer to this question at Cornell’s “9/11 at 10” debate roused more memories of political buncombe circa 2006 than any sincere effort to ruminate over the past decade. A combination of fear and anger composed the American *anima* after 9/11, but feelings quickly funneled into two distinct pools: the neo-conservative sentiment, which sought to re-make the Arab world in the American democratic image, and the liberal sentiment, which blamed then-President Bush and the American right for everything from the attacks and the ensuing mini-recession to America’s loss of international prestige. Peter Beinart, a fatuous journalist from New York City,

resurrected from its needed grave the latter sentiments.

“9-11 hit at a time of enormous hubris” in America’s worldview, pontificated Beinart at the debate. America incited the Arab world’s wrath by championing “regimes” that oppress Muslims, almost daring Al Qaeda to attack. After the golden years of the Clinton’s quiet administration “Al Qaeda got lucky” and set off a storm, one which swept Americans off their sane footing and into the realm of right-wing paranoia. We wasted “vast expenditures of money” on this frenzy-driven series of battles called the “War on Terror,” money which could have been spent in economic warfare with Asia or feeding baby-boomers who were too dense to save for their retirements. 9-11 and the wars in Afghanistan and

Iraq constitute a “tragedy and waste that has left us a weaker country.”

Jonathan Kirshner echoed these bromides, although with much more eloquence. Kirshner at least posited that 9-11 gave us some idea how the world was organized after the Cold War ended, hinting that there are political and economic lessons to be learned from the attacks. Whatever those lessons are, they were ignored in favor of condemnations and anathemas upon the Bush administration for empire building, “American exceptionalism,” “stretch[ing] our army to the limit,” and the “self-mutilating gesture” of the Iraq War. America overestimated the ability of its “irresistible force” to change the Arab world and the eight year quagmire of Iraq is the consequence. Theirate badinage of Kirshner and Beinart suggest, at best, an entire decade of

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Arab Illusion

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by extremist ideologies. Supporters of the protests have been most vocal in declaring that the exact inverse has proved to be true. However, they tend to ignore that the word ‘people’ often refers to a bizarre amalgam of non-state actors. In Libya, the National Transitional Council is an incoherent coalition of rebels feigning cohesiveness in the face of a common enemy. The Benghazi regime cannot claim to be a representative of the entire country unless it

resolves its internal sectarian and tribal conflicts. Thus, amidst the reality of multiple armed groups resisting an autocratic regime, the use of non-violence can cloak internal differences between rival factions and present a united offensive.

Following the Arab Spring, academicians have started toying with the unusual concept of a dialectic between armed resistance and non-violence. No matter how much they stress upon the centrality of non-violence in protests across the Mediterranean, it is certain that force or threat of force has played a crucial role in sustaining pressure on the

governments. Even Professor Mallat conceded that although the rebels try hard to remain non-violent,

a principle already so inherent in society’s ethos. What he means is that the revolutionary regime, in

“...it appeared a lot easier to Mallat to invoke German Idealism and French poetry than address the hard facts of war.”

a violent state sometimes compels them to resort to aggression. If it has become difficult for rulers to repress non-violent protests against their reign, it is primarily because of the fear of peaceful demonstrations turning violent. Therefore, while Tahrir Square began with civil disobedience, it was ultimately military coercion that forced Mubarak to step down.

But Professor Mallat’s quest for “perpetual peace” will not be complete until the rebels have designed a constitution that replaces the authoritarian regime by “institutionalized non-violence”. Presently, the Egyptians and Tunisians are involved in a “constitutional seminar” and he, Professor Mallat, is helping them out. But one can only marvel at his scheme of “institutionalizing on paper”

its search for legitimacy, must find ways and means to perpetuate non-violence and sustain the “spirit of revolution”. A government that is visibly consistent in its policies must replace the Noah’s Ark brand of politics, where everyone ranging from the Islamic fundamentalist to communist revolutionary finds a place. The constitutional moment after the success of a revolution presents a compelling dilemma that requires serious thought and engagement. It has been observed repeatedly that after a revolution succeeds, the victors embark on a campaign of retribution, unleashing anarchy and a reign of terror. Transitional ‘justice’ in countries that just witnessed a change of command is yet to develop, but develop it will amidst countless models of governance and accountability.

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Bullish

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and after a time, the housing market was overrun by overly generous loan providers and overeager consumers.

Now that the country is in recession, the public has lost confidence in the economy, and consumer spending has decreased, Katzenstein predicted it will be 8-10 years before the housing market recovers, no matter who is president. This issue is quite independent of politics, he said, because it depends mainly on consumer choice. He also predicted consumer debt will continue to decrease over the coming years, but that unemployment will

optimistic. “I am bullish on America,” he said. Although he qualified his position by saying he did not have such confidence in the American political system, he also characterized the US as a nation with a special ability to “recreate itself.”

Both Obama’s and Reagan’s elections to the White House were indicative of this ability, according to Katzenstein— Obama’s because it showed the country to have truly overcome a history of racial segregation, and Reagan’s because it was in response to then-President Jimmy Carter’s admitted lack of knowledge about how to deal with so-called stagflation. In both these instances, Katzenstein remarked, the US

Katzenstein further asserted that “This is a country which attracts talent,” and which can deal with the challenges before it. He noted that this is not the first time America’s decline has been thought imminent. But the US survived its previous challenges, and so it will survive those to come.

That is not to say the country is perfect. Katzenstein had plenty of criticism for politics in the US. He said, for instance, that political discourse often “does not respect facts,” and he called the Bush family a “political machine” that took power from “mainstream Republicanism.”

He also said that the typical American way of dividing the world into civilizations such as the East and the West “makes no sense.” There is no good way, he claimed, to decide where to draw the lines between civilizations, and other countries often draw them differently than we do.

But even in the face of these impediments, some domestic and some diplomatic, Katzenstein is convinced that the America’s strength will not erode. After all, he said, America’s



very way of life is layered into global society, and it is unique because people around the globe conceive it as the “New World” and all are able to imagine and invent America anew for themselves.

It is this malleability, this nationwide willingness to change when necessary, that Katzenstein presents as America’s constant safeguard against destruction.

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“...people around the globe... are able to imagine and invent America anew for themselves.”

remain high, again regardless of the results of the 2012 election.

Despite these problems, though, Katzenstein’s overall outlook was

showed itself capable of significant change, capable of recognizing when the status quo was unacceptable and of acting on that realization.



The
Cornell
Review



Ship of Fools !

CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS A TRADITION REVISITED



You know what I really hate? Hippie professors assuming that all minorities are liberal and preaching white-bashing is doing minorities a big favor. Here is a typical assignment that is supposed to make white people feel guilty by making them list 20 privileges they have over other races. Well Prof., I know you want to make yourself look as non-racist as possible by assigning such a thing, this assignment is quite racist to me. Do you know how hard it is for an Asian guy like me to follow the politicized examples in your lectures/text book and come up with 20 privileges I have over other people because MY ancestors came to the United States 400 years ago and killed a bunch of Indians? It was impossible. I couldn't find a Chinese Columbus anywhere. Thanks to you I had to come up with an original list, wasting 30 minutes of my life on your Political Correctness 101 that could have been spent on some less idiotic things on the liberal agenda, such as conserving water by not flushing the toilet. I actually handed in the following :

1. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I am entitled to tell jokes without having to constantly worry about political correctness (Depends on the diversity ranking of the listeners. According to the data released by the Department of Diversity in 2011, Asians, unlike some races who have diversity levels of over 9000, are currently ranked pretty low. So jokes will mostly be about whites).

2. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I have the privilege of enjoying the things I work hard for, knowing that 100% of it came from my own effort because the Democrats never include us in affirmative action (even though they include us in the word "minority" in every political campaign).

3. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I am allowed to tell simple facts about my own race without being labeled a 19th century European orientalist.

4. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I am able to openly embrace my cultural heritage because apparently unlike white people, we have culture.

5. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I am able to openly embrace my cultural heritage because embracing a minority culture doesn't automatically make me a racial supremacist.

6. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I am allowed to join the numerous campus clubs and organizations that are racially defined (Korean StarCraft Club) without being assumed to be a Klansman.

7. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I enjoy the fact that people think twice before labeling me as a narrow-minded red-neck racist sexist homophobic product-of-inbred truck driver from Texas when I tell them I am in fact a Republican.

8. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I have the privilege to enjoy the thought that my family and most of my people immigrated to the United States legally because apparently an ocean is more effective than a fence.

9. On a daily basis as an Asian person, when I'm provoked, I can hit whoever I want without being tried for hate crime (Again, it has to be someone who has a lower diversity ranking than me. When I was in middle school I got into a fight without checking the diversity level for everyone in the school courtyard and got in SERIOUS trouble).

10. On a daily basis as an Asian person, most fundamentalist atheists would actually leave me alone if I said I believed in God. I guess the Department of Diversity is feared by even the most radical liberals.

11. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I enjoy the positive attention I get from people when I talk about my religious beliefs because non-Christian religions are by definition ancient, civilized, deep and profound. They say the same thing about pot, so I don't know if I should take that as a compliment.

12. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I enjoy the fact that I can theoretically be friends with everybody, since the

textbook says racial tensions only exist among Whites, Blacks, and Latinos.

13. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I enjoy confusing people with my unpronounceable name.

14. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I eat rice and am amused by the fact that the liberals decided that Asian people eating rice is actually considered a negative stereotype. Liberals accuse conservatives for using this stereotype all the time when they can't win an argument.

15. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I can save a lot of money by taking my guests to a cheap Chinese restaurant and make them think that the lack of tablecloth is part of the ethnic décor.

16. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I can pretend to not know English when I don't feel like talking to some Marxist idiot.

17. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I can enjoy the amusement I get from pressing 2 for Spanish and not understand a word of it.

19. On a daily basis as an Asian person, I can omit number 18 on this list without you noticing it because you should always trust Asians with math.

20. On a daily basis as an Asian person, since the professor has a lower diversity ranking than mine, I can do this to an assignment and not get in trouble for it. Prove me wrong.



Law in the Land of the Pharaohs

The Rewriting of Egypt's Constitution

CHRISTOPHER SLIJK
MANAGING EDITOR

It is easy to forget in an era where basic human rights are taken for granted by most in the world that for most of human history, authoritarian rule and centralized power was typical. Governments that have upheld individual rights have been the exception, and though it would seem that the Middle East, a land filled with theocrats and tyrants, would hardly fall into such a category, the recent explosion of protests and revolutions of the Arab Spring may have catapulted Egyptians into a new era of constitutionalism and independence.

In a lecture at the Cornell Law School, Professor Nathan Brown of The George Washington University's Political Science department presented how Egyptian culture is transforming from one of suppressed grievances and passive acceptance to one of fervent political debate and constitutional reform. Brown explained that this focus on constitutional politics in the restructuring of the government was significant, separating the Egyptian revolution from some of the other, more chaotic revolutions and revolts in the Middle East. He pointed to the past insignificance of Middle Eastern constitutions, saying that "historically in the Arab world...[a country] would issue a constitution just like it would design a flag." Such casual treatment had engendered constitutional cynicism among most of the Egyptian populace. Yet, the sudden calls for constitutional reform by these very same people indicates that they are beginning to see their central document as an effective tool for societal change.

It would seem, however, that the compilation of a new Egyptian constitution would be difficult and chaotic with the current political climate: between Islamists, secularists, military leaders, and others vying for a say in the reshaping of their nation, reaching a consensus on the new supreme national document would seem to be

percent is easy to write, and the 10 percent that is hard to write doesn't matter." He pointed out that the fears of a military coup and a repeat of the 1952 Egyptian Revolution were largely unfounded, claiming that the military desires autonomy and wants to extricate itself from the civilian government, not control it. Similarly,

of Egypt will emerge from the chaos, seems to believe that the revolution and the government that results from it will be good in advancing the causes of freedom and individual rights. Yet the problems he highlights among the squabbling political factions are just superficial signs of much deeper philosophical schisms on proper governance and the rights of the individual. While they may be willing to set aside these differences for now in the interest of return to a stable government, the day may come when an Islamic cleric or a military officer tires



Demonstrators gather in Tahrir Square, at the height of the Egyptian protests.

difficult given such polarization. Yet, Brown claims that while the various groups jockeying for political power have different visions on how to run the state, they all have a fundamental understanding of what caused such an uprising and are willing to concede to the majority of the citizenry's demands. On organizing the new constitution, Brown said that "...90

he rebuffed fears of an Islamic Revolution, saying that while groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood desire a say in the running of the new government, they wish to retain Egypt's strong, secular institutions, particularly the courts, rather than see a shift to clerical rule as in Iran.

But will it all come together? Brown, while uncertain what kind

of allowing Egyptians' freedom from standing in the way of their ultimate vision and assume more direct control of the government. When and if this day will come, only time can tell.

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9/11 at 10

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intellectual immaturity and, at worst, criminally irresponsible thought.

Such undeveloped and ill-considered analysis as that which comes from a second tier print magazine or the vacuum of an Ivy League school deserves a realist refutation. Stephen Rosen, professor of Political-Military Affairs in Harvard's Government department, fired back using bullets forged not in a vacuum, but in the realm of common sense.

"We did things no [International Relations] professor would ever do," Rosen started, "and somehow that must be bad." America's "house had been broken into" and her residents pistol-whipped behind their heads. The government finally broke free from an old spell which treated terrorists like common criminals and tried them in domestic courts. The actions taken against the first

bombers of the World Trade Center in 1993 would no longer suffice. Terrorists like Osama bin Laden, and even Saddam Hussein, would have to be treated proportionately to the threat they presented. This higher standard for security can entail preemptive wars, such as the one waged in Iraq since 2003.

What if England and France waged a pre-emptive war on Germany in the 1930s? asked Rosen. Europe would have plunged deeper into economic depression and Germany would likely have passed in a military coup to a minor dictator. Then Europeans would ask whether or not it was worth replacing Hitler. The lessons and benefits of the Iraq war are invisible, and thus objective consideration of the war is near-impossible, pleaded the professor from Cambridge.

Rosen's words at times seemed like the neo-con response from five years ago, as Beinart and Kirshner mimicked the Bush-era left. The closest any of these commentators

came to genuine insight was in a rebuttal Rosen made to the common argument of the contrarians that American politics are irrevocably fractured and that the wars have left us in dire financial straits. "For those of us who remember the 1960s," countered Rosen, "you bitterly smile" at suggestions that America is historically divided. And the wars are not where we should attribute our financial problems. Rather we should place the blame on our inability to account for "four decades of geriatrics."

Cynicism and bitterness seem now the best tools for deducing any pearls of wisdom from this past decade, which is a fair bit more than the left has offered in recent years. A few years ago political talk of 9/11 would bring my blood to a boil. Now I reminisce to those times and now muse that sarcasm and anger might be our path to maturity.

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Ithaca Remembers 9/11

Continued from the front page

“the twenty-five thousand lives that were saved by the first responders who ran into the towers.”

Gratitude was another common theme among the speakers at the ceremony. Aaron Baum, a student at Thompkins-Cortland CC, expressed his gratitude to the firefighters, not only for their heroism that day, but for their willingness to face danger on a daily basis. “When I think of 9/11 I think of the guys sitting there [In the firehouse] and the alarm goes off,” he said, “I think of all the firefighters around the world who came to New York City.” Another student, Cornell senior Michael Alban, expressed that for most students the event will be remembered as a defining moment of our childhoods and of our generation. However, what he will remember from that time are “not stories of terrorism, horror, and death, but stories of heroism and hope.”

All of these words were said in front of a half-raised American flag, a constant reminder of the great weight of the tragedy being remembered. The final act at the ceremony was to ring the stationhouse bell – four sets of five rings in memory of a fallen comrade – to commemorate the 343 firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. After the ceremony, there was general happiness at the firehouse following the playing of Taps and Amazing Grace, two of the most solemn and beautiful songs ever written. As for all the victims of 9/11, let it be as Father Martensen said: “May they be in the arms of God, and may we never forget.”

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A man remembers at Ithaca's 9/11 memorial.

“It was the defining moment in our lives, one that has been seared into our collective consciousness.”

“It was a time for people to try to put words to emotions and memories too powerful to be put into words.”



Ithaca's 9/11 memorial will stand in the Commons throughout the month.

Illegal Immigration

The Animal Farm Catastrophe

ATTICUS DEPROSPO
STAFF WRITER

We are a nation of laws, not a nation of men. The statue of Lady Justice wears a blindfold for that very reason. She is blind to the color of the skin or the gender or ethnicity of any person. In this light, we ask concerning illegal immigration: why do liberals think that certain people of certain ethnicities should be allowed to break the law?

It is a simple, basic truth that people of all skin colors must obey all the laws all the time. Are we all to be equal under the law? We often hear that the Latino and Hispanic vote will go to the Democrats because they support amnesty for illegal aliens. This line of thinking

assumes that Hispanics and Latinos support criminal, law-breaking activity. Conservatives do not think this way. We believe that Hispanics and Latinos support our rule of law and do not want lawlessness. They do not believe that Latinos receive special exemption to break the law and enter the country illegally. Between 1965 and 2008, 29% of immigrants in America came from Mexico, and Latin America gave us 50% of all immigrants. This explains why liberals think they have to pander to this ethnic group. Conservatives and Republicans believe that people come to our great country because we are a nation of laws, not a nation of men. Certainly this argument can be extended to the fact that there are illegal aliens here from Russia,

China, Iraq and many different ethnicities. So, should Latinos receive amnesty while Chinese are deported? If a white middle class American does not pay taxes, they are prosecuted. Why then should a Latino or Russian receive amnesty?

Conservatives find that the act of amnesty would create a new under-class of Hispanics. Once we hold a certain ethnic group to “lower standards” then their entire culture will fail to assimilate or progress in America. This is the case with ESL (English as Second Language) classes in public schools. Again, as early as first grade, we hold Latinos to lower standards. If they cannot read or write English, we give them exemptions. Thus the families of these young ones fail to mesh with an English-speaking nation because they are constantly exempted from the former challenges traditionally faced by legal immigrants.

Liberal “amnesty” demands that certain people be allowed to break certain laws. This is

unacceptable. America must remain a nation of laws and Lady Justice must wear her blindfold all the time; no exemptions, no exceptions, and no amnesty. If illegal aliens do not have to seek legal visas or work hard to learn English, then they remain “separate but equal”. This brings to mind Orwell’s famous quote: “All Animals are created equal. Some are more equal than others.” If we do not enforce equality under law, we risk finding ourselves in Animal Farm, where the rest of us wake up every day to a new rule that only applies to some people, some of the time.

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Presidency

Continued from page 4

tanamo stands as strongly as ever and the administration has conveniently glossed over the breaking of Obama's campaign promise to shut down the detention center for which liberals railed against the previous administration. The "nuanced foreign policy" president has implemented a strategy of Predator and Reaper drone strikes in six Muslim-majority countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. If the president's conception of a sensitive and more-respectful-than-Bush foreign policy is marshaling unmanned aerial robots to target specific individuals, accidentally kill an average of ten civilians per strike and force civilians to hear over their homes the buzz of life-size weaponized crickets and consequently develop a further hatred of America, then the president and the Left, infatuated with their moral righteousness on human rights issues, need to adjust either their principles or their vision for the world.

The president has even harmed America's relationship with India, its strongest ally in South Asia and America's most important deterrent to China. Following President Bush's establishing of the Strategic Partnership with India—the most significant step taken by any American president regarding India—Obama has chosen to revert to America's old position of attempting to strike a strategic balance between Pakistan and India. He fails to recognize that the world's second large populace and third largest military establishment no longer sees itself simply as a pawn in the grand framework of an American president. As India's economic and military might rises, the American president would do well to secure a stronger relationship with it rather than attempting

to woo China. At least with regard to the purposes of countering China's economic and military rise and fighting the War on Terror more effectively, trying to persuade India to comply with the president's outdated conception of the U.S.-India relationship as a conduit to a more peaceful and stable region is a fool's errand.

In short, yes, the administration's foreign policy has rooted out many al-Qaeda leaders—the most important being bin Laden himself—and taken the fight to the organization, but for all the vows of implementing the fight against terrorists more intelligently and sensitively, the administration has implemented a strategically inadequate policy. 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.

What may just have been the supreme indictment of Obama's presidency was the special election in NY-9. Attribute Republican Bob Turner's victory in the election to the mysterious and omnipotent Ed Koch if you wish, but to disregard the fact that the district had not elected a Republican to Congress in nearly 100 years is to fool yourself. To his credit, Democrat David Weprin attempted to separate himself from Obama during the campaign, but he failed miserably and paid for it dearly. In fact, Weprin admitted candidly following the election that President Obama's declining popularity among Queens and Brooklyn voters cost him the election for Rep.

Anthony Wiener's Congressional seat.

To add to insult, even the president's own legion has begun to question him and avoid his heavy-handedness, something they would have begged for just two years ago. To be sure, a June 2009 testy exchange between Robert Gibbs, then White House Press Secretary, and Helen Thomas, the longtime doyenne of the White House press corps, was a signal of what was to come.

Thomas openly criticized the administration's policy of restricting journalists' freedom, asking, "What the hell do they think we are, puppets? They're supposed to stay out of our business. They are our public servants. We pay them." Not to mention, Leftist activists and liberal politicians have crossed the do-not-criticize-our-own threshold, now mincing no words in chastising Obama for compromising with Republicans far too much. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), merely one of many frustrated Democrats, stated publicly to the shock of many of his colleagues that a primary challenge to Obama would "push the president and his advisers a bit." Who would have thought that despite the importance of Chicago-style politics to the Democratic Party, one of its very own would go out on a limb to



suggest a challenge to the Anointed One?

President Obama's political strategies and policies have failed to appease the Left, and they have continued to anger the Right. The 2012 election will test the Republican desire to get the country back on track to an American century, and it will certainly test the Democratic ability to come to terms with outright policy failures. More importantly, it will require Americans to judge for themselves through the fog of the administration's idealism and naiveté whether they wish to risk a continuation of the aforementioned fiascos or whether they desire a return to American preeminence.

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At the start of each year, the *Review* asks its new
writers to reflect on their first month at Cornell.**

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My Conservatism

BY PATRICK MORAN

I was eight years old on September 11th, 2001. I had just finished another day of third grade and was walking home with my mother when she told me what had happened. In a matter of hours, the world I knew throughout my life, free of major wars and without significant domestic strife, was gone. In the ten years since, we have witnessed two wars in the Middle East, an increasing age of security, a rise in paranoia and a political system increasingly defined by partisanship and fiery rhetoric rather than progress. Yet, in many ways, we have also been reminded that despite our numerous differences we are all Americans. The selfless sacrifices of the first responders on that day ten years ago and the ensuing outpouring of care so many citizens showed for one another cannot, and has not, been forgotten. Regardless of your position on the war you can neither deny the sacrifices our troops make daily nor ignore the same sacrifice of their families. Everyday Americans throughout the country and abroad make sacrifices that go unnoticed, but do so gladly and without complaint. I may define myself as “Conservative” and

others may define themselves as “Liberal”, “Libertarian”, “Socialist”, or any number of other classifications we use. I am thankful, however, that we live in a country where such self-identification is not persecuted but rather the very thing that we are based on.

My conservatism stems mostly from my belief that, all things held equal, private actors and individuals are always better equipped to make decisions for themselves rather than have them imposed unilaterally by government. As the philosopher Immanuel Kant notes in *Doctrine of Right*, “There is only one innate right. Freedom (independence from being constrained by another’s choice), insofar as it can coexist with the freedom of every other in accordance with a universal law,” which underscores the vitality we place on individual freedoms in modern society. As long as my decision to act in a certain way does not conflict with the natural freedoms of another, or more precisely another’s independence to act in a way beneficial to them at no expense to society, there is no reasonable ground the state has to limit my rights. Insofar as my autonomous decision-making does not impinge on the health of the society to which I belong I have a just claim to that freedom.

As manifested in my views of the current political system, I oppose the constant paternalism that abounds in Liberal rhetoric.

I find that if they observe an issue which plagues society, let’s take income inequality for an example, they immediately look to the government to resolve the issue by whatever means necessary, i.e., higher taxes on the rich. If one operates from the default position that the government is always the ideal actor to implement change or rectify some cosmic wrong occurring within our system then they are irreparably prejudiced against the beneficial gains possible only in the private sector. The paternalism rampant in modern liberalism becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Poverty is a very real problem in the United States, to say nothing of the world, but assuming bloated and inefficient bureaucracy is the only way to solve it eliminates very legitimate, private, actors from acting beneficially.

Bill Gates epitomizes the great opportunity for wealth in the United States that has drawn countless foreigners to our shores looking for a better life. According to Forbes, Gates is the 2nd richest person in the world today, his wealth at an estimated \$56 Billion, and is at the forefront of technological innovation through his company Microsoft. Gates is also one of the world’s leading philanthropists and a living testament to the power private actors wield in affecting positive change. According to Michelle Nichols of Reuters “Gates and his

wife Melinda have so far given \$28 billion to their foundation, the largest in the United States... Gates and [Warren] Buffett have joined forces to encourage other billionaires to publicly pledge to give away at least 50 percent of their wealth during their lifetimes or upon their death as part of a campaign called The Giving Pledge.” The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation shows us the power of private efforts to improve society. Not only is the Foundation blessed with the nearly endless resources of its namesake but also with the unencumbered freedom to dedicate its resources in the most efficient way possible.

I find the caricature of the modern Conservative, greedy, dispassionate, disdainful of the poor, to be unfair at best and libelous at worst. There are a great number of ills in our world today and they do need to be solved. We do not, however, require expansive government as the only means to do so. Government serves its purpose, upholding law, protecting society and respecting property and wealth. It is not the answer to all problems; that is what its citizens are for.

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Perspective of a North Campus Resident

BY ROSHNI MEHTA

I distinctly remember quaking with embarrassment, as I pictured my dainty self lugging heavy footlockers and suitcases up crowded stairwells, two days prior to the move-in day. Fortunately, upon entering my high-rise building, I was greeted by two robust, steel coated, large elevators. But, little did I know that exactly a week from then, I would be cursing them.

After a particularly exhausting day of classes, as I entered my building, all I could think of was crashing into my soft bed and drowning under its warm blankets. Oddly enough, my wait was short, one of the elevators was already on the ‘Ground’ floor, as if nature was collaborating to get me every drop of sleep I missed that week; The doors closed, and the elevator started up. I had just enough time to think how much I hated stuffy carpeted elevators, when THUD! The

elevator ground to a stop. *What the...* I stood in stunned silence. After a few minutes of stillness, I regained my senses and hit panic. Immediately, I pressed every button on the elevator panel, hoping that one of them would stimulate a command, but, to my misery the entire panel was lit up in bright red and the elevator was still motionless, like a tormenting monster. I jabbed at the ‘Door Open’ and ‘Door Close’ buttons. Nothing happened. I punched all the buttons again, harder and faster this time. Zilch.

Suddenly, my eyes fell upon a red ‘Help’ button, I pushed it – it buzzed and that’s it. I pushed it again, three, four, five times, *buzz, buzz, buzz*. Now I was getting irritated, help was not going to find me and I was clueless about the protocol of being stuck in an elevator, *was I supposed to scream for help? Bang on the door? Or continue pushing the shrieking buzzer?* Abruptly my phone rang, it was a Facebook notification... *my cellphone had network!* Instantly, I called up my suitemate, demanding her to get help and in the interim, to keep my mind off the claustrophobic carpeted floors, I started doing my calculus homework, after all I am at

Cornell. After nearly twenty minutes, I was rescued.

Although I took an oath not to step into those elevators, I continue to use them, because in the high-rises, the stairs go down and lead you out of the building, but one can’t take them from the ground floor to go up. Somehow, the stairwell conveniently skips the ground floor. What is the architectural logic to that? No one knows.

However, my dorm dilemma did not stop there. Two days after Hurricane Irene, a heat bubble hit Ithaca. Temperatures soared, humidity levels rose and it was blistering hot, especially in our non-air conditioned dorms. Having moved in from Dubai, a 100 degree climate (on a good day), I am acclimatized to hot weather coupled with fantastic air-conditioning; naturally, the scorching temperatures in Ithaca felt like an apocalypse. For those two days, the red-brick building was a boiling-pot, with heat waves churning ubiquitously and the general confab being “it’s getting hot and hotter in here.” Obviously, all the mini-fans in the building were operating simultaneously, resulting in frequent power cuts in the rooms.

What further exacerbated the situation was the bathroom heater, which untimely went haywire. When we turned the tap to the right side, the water obviously became hot, but when we turned it to the left side, it became hotter. Basically, we had boiling water in our taps, showers and in the toilets (as incurred by the heated toilet seats). In fact, the water was so hot that, over the course of one week, it caused the bristles on my toothbrush to coagulate, as they became semi-molten. Everything that week was possessed by heat.

As an incoming freshman our minds are clogged with anxieties over adjusting socially, emotionally and academically. However, here in Cornell, a north campus resident not only learns to overcome social dilemmas, but also overcome physical dilemmas they never imagined they would encounter. But, as the clichéd saying goes, with time, love follows, every evening when I head back to north campus and enter my unpredictable elevator, I know I am home.

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Impressions of North Campus

BY DILLON HICKMAN

We've all heard the jokes: "It's the easiest ivy to get into, but the hardest to get out of"; "It takes two Cornell students to change a light bulb: one to change it, the other to crack under pressure"; "Ithaca is gorges? Drop dead gorges!"

Having been in Cornell for only a few weeks now, one wouldn't think that these sayings would apply yet. Prelims are several weeks away, and most classes have only assigned a problem set or two. It's even sunny outside. Still, freshmen are catching on fast. Beginning as soon as I wake up, I can see students hunched over

textbooks. Study groups are forming, and competitive instincts are kicking into gear.

What's wrong with this? Academic knowledge is a great thing to explore and discover, but students must not let it negatively affect other aspects of their lives.

Freshmen subscribe to the work hard, play hard mentality by venturing off to frat parties in faraway Collegetown on weekends. The next day they are decidedly detached, but still feel the need to let others know about their self-perceived mischievousness.

Unfortunately, all of this studying and partying leaves little room for political liveliness. Many freshmen are apathetic when such topics are brought up in conversation. On North Campus, the extent of government debate lies in student assembly

candidates' goals to put "more garbage and recycling bins on North Campus", "improve transportation", or "free ID replacement", countered by the "the Student Assembly can't actually do anything" argument.

This withdrawn attitude certainly has made it a challenge to find the conservative community. Although the political community appears to be lacking in North Campus, the overall liberal atmosphere certainly presents its obstacles. It's hard, even for the politically withdrawn demographic, not to realize the combined effect that co-ed housing, free copies of the *Cornell Daily Sun* and the *New York Times* lying near the entrance of nearly every dorm and community center, and recruiters of the infamous "I Love Female Orgasm" club can have on Cornell freshmen. North Campus nurtures

the liberal-minded like fertilizer nurtures plants.

The reality is that, both socially and academically, there are barriers that compel the conservative mind to shy away from exhibiting itself. Challenge these social norms. Conservatives are a minority at Cornell, but we shouldn't take refuge. Absorb all that goes on around you, but stay true to yourself. Life at Cornell might be a big change from what you're used to, but don't let it change you. Spend less time worrying about liberalism around you, and secretly take comfort in the idea that conservatism is something that you will not give up.

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Frosh Fraternity Fiasco

BY MATT LANDERS

A month into our first year at Cornell University, the incoming class of 2015 is beginning to get the gist of what the typical day for an authentic college freshman entails: wake up to your alarm clock set at 8:00 AM for a 9:05 Microeconomics class, contemplate actually getting out of bed, check Facebook every five minutes during your three lectures, maybe attend an extracurricular club in the afternoon, stuff your face at RPCC, and finally procrastinate homework by watching "Shutter Island" with roommates and venturing to Nasty's for some midnight munchies.

Sure beats the hell out of high school (sorry, Mom).

Despite this notion of a characteristic weekday for a college student, many freshmen, are left puzzled as to the routine of the much-hyped college weekend nightlife. We freshmen are new to the college scene, a predisposed image in our minds

influenced by "American Pie" and hearing upperclassmen friends praising it as the single most outrageous experience in an individual's life.

It goes without question that the campus culture of these particular years that the Class of 2015 is walking the hills of Ithaca hold a certain nuance that doesn't necessarily carry advantage for us. As the administration cracks down with regard to freshmen involvement in fraternity life, some of us are puzzled as to how the changes will affect our long-term college experience. At the same time, many upperclassmen are wondering exactly what to do in response to these regulations.

This dilemma draws an awkwardly perplexing scenario for the freshmen, considering the uniqueness of this situation. No preceding classes have had to face such limitations. Therefore, we lack guidelines and traditions to follow. This leaves freshmen with a lot of room for improvising; the "going where the wind takes us" mentality that has emerged does evoke some thrill of living on the edge, but it can also be frustrating some nights.

So what exactly do we freshmen do? The pilgrimage through Central Campus to Collegetown has become infamous as the consensus among

most of the freshmen class for the path to weekend festivities. Despite the regulations that have been hammered down by administration, fraternities remain the best place for freshmen to have their fun.

Of course, there is a risk of walking all that way just to get turned down at the door of many of the annex houses of these fraternities. However daunting the risk may be, the benefits seen from our perspective outweigh the costs of possible rejection, and the people skills and other lessons gained from having this confidence are indispensable.

When you think about it, free alcohol is unheard of on most college campuses. Why buy our own when we can save up? About a week ago, I contacted one of my friends from home, another first year student at a small New England liberal arts college. He was bewildered that I have not had to dish out a dime to have a good time on the weekends.

That being said, with the recent regulations and the implications they have had on the social culture this semester, the typical freshman does not have the resources available to meet and interact with upperclassmen. We hear stories about glorious open house parties that help houses build their reputation, yet we are scorned for even talking

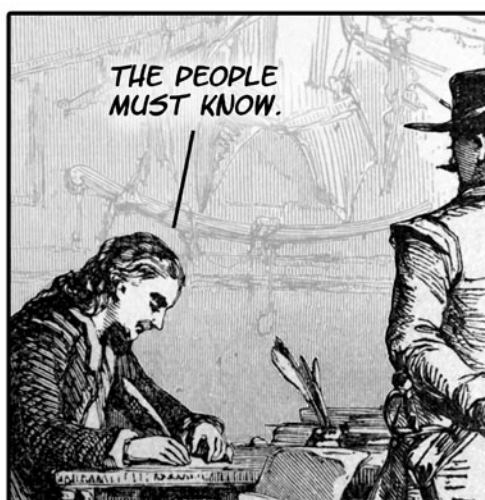
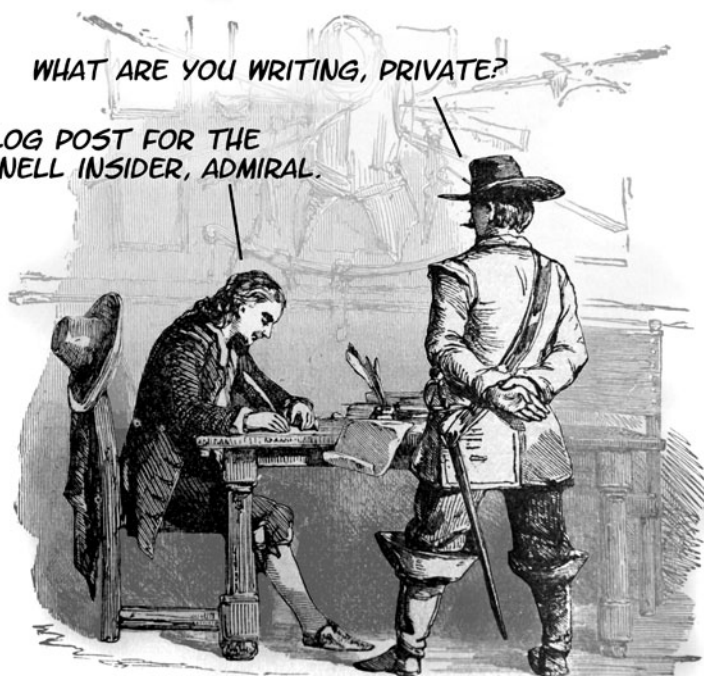
to fraternity brothers about these events.

As a result, admission into the popular fraternity houses has gotten much more difficult to obtain. Nevertheless, those freshmen who have come into school with connections with upperclassmen continue to find ways to exploit loopholes in the rule. Consequently, these freshmen have become centers of their social circles.

As one can discover from experience, there are tricks to the trade that can help a freshman work within the system to get results. Popular examples that I've heard while standing on the corner of Dryden and College Ave. eating a slice of pizza include "waiting it out"-until frats become indifferent as to who walks in and out of the house. Another strategy I have heard of is the old sneak through the back door ploy, but that has its own risks associated with it.

It's still an undeniable reality that frats are becoming a liability in regards to freshman social life, posing a problem to first-year students without many alternatives. How this issue will develop is beyond me, but I know what I'm doing this weekend.

Matt Landers is a freshman in the College of Human Ecology. He can be reached at mjl334@cornell.edu.



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Wisemen & Fools

This is not class warfare. It's math.

Barack Obama

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

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi



It's completely untrue—one hundred percent that is not true.

Chris Christie

in response to rumors he'll run for President

In politics, an absurdity is not an impediment.

Napoleon

Man up and say I'm fat.

Chris Christie

We've always been shameless about stealing great ideas.

Steve Jobs

I believe with all my heart that our shared

conservative values, that our belief in the individual, is the great hope of our nation.

Rick Perry

We created more jobs in the last three months in Texas than he created in four years in Massachusetts.

Rick Perry

Texas is a great state. Texas has zero income tax. Texas has a right-to-work state, a Republican legislature, a Republican Supreme Court... but Governor Perry doesn't believe that he created those things.

Mitt Romney



Throw out the current tax code, a 9 percent tax on corporate income, our 9 percent tax on personal income and a 9 percent national sales tax. If 10 percent is good enough for God, 9 percent



Quotations often fail to capture a public figure's ardor. As supplementary material, we present this overly large picture of **Rick Perry**.

ought to be good enough for the federal government.

Herman Cain

I can get you a gallon of gasoline [moderator: time] for a dime. [moderator: time, thank you Congressman] Now, you gotta let me finish the sentence! You didn't give me

time before. [wrangling] You can buy a gallon of gasoline today for a silver dime.

Ron Paul

I come from a long line of saloon keepers and proselytizers, and I draw from both sides.

Jon Huntsman, Jr.

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