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“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

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The Liberal Pipe Dream

BY RAJ KANNAPPAN

If only liberals could awaken from their pipe dream, they would recognize the lie they're living.

On his campaign of change and hope, which ironically began in the Old State Capitol building in Springfield, Illinois—where Abraham Lincoln delivered his historic “House Divided” speech in 1858—Senator Obama made promise upon promise to transform the fabric of the country and even the world in order to set everything “right,” to undo the evil actions of President Bush and his “cabal” which had

squandered away America's moral standing.

Nearly three years in the West Wing have revealed the true nature of Obama's change and hope. They have shown the country and the world what Obama and his team are incapable of accomplishing. If only liberals would take a look at the facts, as they often like to command others to do, they would agree that Obama has abandoned his promises to them for a grand reelection bid, in which he will once again vie for their votes.

Under a fireworks-filled sky in August of 2008, Senator Obama

proclaimed to voters, “Tonight, more Americans are out of work, and more are working harder for less. More of you have lost your homes, and even more are watching your home values plummet. More of you have cars you can't afford to drive, credit card bills you can't afford to pay and tuition that's beyond your reach.” His “whiz kid” advisers would be wise to pull out this quote now and show it to their boss, as voters would need no convincing to believe that one of the Republican candidates had attributed these disasters to Obama himself.

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“America, we are better than these last eight years,” he added. “We are a better country than this.”

To this, I say, “America, we are better than these last three years. We are a better country than this.”

Obama's campaign was a series of audacious promises. Yet, today America is unquestionably worse off than it was three years ago. Obama vowed to set America's foreign and defense policy on the right—even morally correct—path,

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Getting Serious about Student Elections

ROSHNI MEHTA
STAFF WRITER

North Campus had been taken over by an omnipresent green elf. He was all over the place: sketched on roads in green chalk, glorified on flyers, walking through dorms, on Facebook, and in dining halls singing Christmas carols. Today, after a two week campaign, this green elf sits on the Student Assembly as Peter Scelfo, having won the Freshmen class elections with a whopping 816 votes.

“Hey look, it's Buddy the Elf!” exclaimed one girl, referring to the 2003 Christmas movie that starred Will Farrell.

The Student Assembly's presence on North Campus is overwhelming during the freshmen election season, with candidates using all types of mediums to publicize themselves and make their names remembered. This year thirty-four students stood in the Student Assembly elections to represent the freshmen class, and campaign techniques varied from covering every inch of the roads with chalk to putting on an elf costume.

Each candidate addressed pertinent issues that they were willing to take action on. Some believed that lack of garbage cans was the biggest issue haunting North Campus, while others thought it was more essential to improve handicapped amenities on campus.

That being said, this focus on the issues was a minor part of the elections. Instead, what dominated the campaign season were the innovate strategies candidates adopted to get noticed in a community of three thousand students. Most of these strategies did not address crucial

issues, but were trivial and obscured the candidates' leadership abilities.

Starting his campaign in full-force, Scelfo posted a music video via Facebook on September 10. This video, a rendition of pop-artist Jason Derulo's hit “Ridin' Solo,” showed Scelfo in different parts of the campus, decked out in elf attire and singing “Votin' Scelfo.” What did this video convey about Peter Scelfo as a candidate and a leader? “My video was funny, but I intentionally wanted it to be happy and uplifting,” said Scelfo to the *Review*. “That is the ultimate purpose of the Student Assembly—to make the students happy.”

“[The campaign] was not *humorous* because that has a negative connotation. Instead, it was more of a *happy* campaign,” he assured. “When people saw me, they didn't point and laugh at me. Instead they'd want to take pictures with me, give me high fives, and shout ‘Scelf!’ whenever they saw me.”

One can't help but wonder whether such innovative campaigns defeat the purpose of SA elections.

It is certainly not out of the question to assume that many of the people who voted for Peter Scelfo did not vote for the Peter who believed that students shouldn't be fined for replacement student ID cards. Instead, they voted for the lovable

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The Truth about Occupy Wall Street

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ochlocracy is the Greek term for mob rule. It is the opposite of the original American system of government. American representative democracy values using the political system to effect measured and prudent change. It recognizes the importance of public debate and the ability to petition government for redress of grievances. Ochlocracy is the uninhibited rule of the general population. It is not government by reason, law, and precedent, but by the demands and reasoning of a mob. It is brought on by demagoguery.

The Occupy Wall Street (OWS) protests are an attempt at ochlocracy. They want what they want (more on that later) and they want it now.

Even their slogan – “We are the ninety-nine percent.” – demonstrates a mob mentality, as if this small group speaks for 99 out of every 100 Americans. As if 99 percent of Americans should want the same thing.

The protesters claim the rhetoric of the American dream, claiming they want to grow the middle class. However, they preach the opposite, calling for the abolition of the freedom necessary for companies to create high-wage jobs. Corporate “greed” allows competitive wages to be paid. Without it there is no middle class.

Of course, in the Chicago school of politics, no crisis can be allowed to go to waste. Especially one specifically designed to be exploited. The

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You Can Call Them DREAMers

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NEWS EDITOR

“We question the rationality of justice of this legal status limbo.”

If the above sounds a tad incoherent to you, you’re more than a little right. Unfortunately, though, it’s not a typo. Rather, it’s a quote from an activist speaking at Cornell’s October 3rd panel entitled “DREAM Act: A Pipe Dream or Eventual Reality?”

The panel, unsurprisingly devoid of conservatives, consisted of Tania Peñafort, a Cornell student and activist; Katharine Gin, Executive Director of Educators for Fair Consideration; Roberto Gonzales, assistant professor at the University of Chicago; and Josh Bernstein, Director

of Immigration Strategy and Policy, Service Employees International Union.

Peñafort began the evening by with a largely anecdotal talk about the importance of the DREAM Act, which would, among other things, allow children of illegal immigrants—or “undocumented youth,”

as the politically correct jargon goes—to receive public assistance for higher education. Early on in her talk, she told the audience that her mother decided to emigrate from Mexico and illegally enter the US when she was a child, and that she had no say in this decision. Then she asked the audience with a smile, “How many of you think I’m a criminal?”

After resisting the temptation to raise my hand simply to garner material for this article, I continued to listen to Peñafort’s stories, which included the assertion that her life actually *began* “with the act of agency my mother took [to immigrate to the US].”

She also spoke of how she developed an American identity. “It’s what happens to you,” she said, “when you eat, sleep, make friends, and watch Barney.” (By this latter criterion, I fear I am quite a standard American.)

Peñafort and her mother eventually went through the legalization process and were granted green cards, but she claimed that, to this

attributed to the public’s mental images of Mexicans. And it is this and other manifestations of her social and political identity that Peñafort said motivate her activism, which includes two DREAM Act marches

American Identity: “It’s what happens to you when you eat, sleep, make friends, and watch Barney.”

(one here in Ithaca and one in Washington, DC).

She also called the US “clouded by fear and anger” when it comes to debates about immigration. This became especially true after 9/11, she said, when immigration and the War on Terror were conflated, and the fear of terrorism was used to spur on the movement for greater border security. Needless to say, the *Review* is glad Peñafort is not a counterterrorism agent.

The other speakers on the panel generally echoed Peñafort’s sentiments, lauding her efforts as a so-called “DREAMer.” Their talks were generally more academic in nature, with the possible exception of Josh Bernstein, who described the Republican filibuster of the DREAM Act as a bunch of anti-immigration people throwing a “hissy fit.”

This falls a bit short of the reasoned intellectual debate I would expect from a political leader of the world’s foremost democracy, but there is an obvious explanation: perhaps Mr. Bernstein simply did not watch enough Barney as a child.

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Campaigns

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Elf who sang for them at dinner. As Peter won hearts and votes (more so than any freshmen in over 6 years), he diverted voters’ minds from the purpose of the election.

Peter ran with a different fundamental belief about the purpose of the Student Assembly—“to make the students happy.” Whether one agrees with the mentality or not, it was his strategy. And it worked.

That being said, Peter does believe the campaign conveyed his leadership qualities.

“Being outgoing is a really important characteristic of a leader and I think I got that across with my elf suit,” he commented. “When people saw that I was not afraid to walk to class in an elf costume, they were assured of my determination and simultaneously assured that I would go the extra mile to get concern and voice of the freshmen body heard.”

As Scelfo also pointed out, the fact that a record-breaking number of freshmen voted this year is a manifestation of the legitimacy of the election results. The question of whether his campaign was too trivial for university-level assembly elections should no longer arise. It’s possible that the attention and excitement Scelfo’s tactics brought to the election were the driving force behind the increased turnout this year. Second place Ross Gitlin received an impressive 673 votes, more than any *first* place winner in recent memory.

Do lighthearted campaigns undermine the importance of Student Assembly elections? The answer is in the mind of the voter—the students—and their understanding of the SA’s relevance on campus. But the end result is clear: Peter Scelfo won the elections in an election that brought more students to the polls than in recent memory.

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of Immigration Strategy and Policy, Service Employees International Union.

Peñafort began the evening by with a largely anecdotal talk about the importance of the DREAM Act, which would, among other things, allow children of illegal immigrants—or “undocumented youth,”

day, she “can’t escape the phenomenological perception of those who judge me by the image they walk around with in their minds of who Mexicans are.”

Luckily for the rest of us, she clarified this idea with examples. Apparently, she has been taken for both a cook and a maid, mistakes she

Should We Tolerate Intolerance?

KUSHAGRA ANIKET
STAFF WRITER

“Should a democracy tolerate attempts to replace it by dictatorship? Should a free nation tolerate groups that aim at subjecting it to foreign domination? And above all, should toleration extend to those who advocate intolerance?”

This year’s Robert S. Stevens Lecture, delivered by the distinguished political theorist Professor Rainer Forst of Goethe University, was an occasion to rethink some such paradoxes concomitant with the idea of tolerance. In his lecture entitled “Toleration and Democracy”, Dr. Forst argued that tolerance, which is now seen as an essential component of constitutional government following Locke’s *Second Treatise on Government*, was not at all an acceptable concept a few

centuries ago. Aristotle called tolerance “painful” because the stronger the objection is, the more painful it is to tolerate. In his famous essay *What is Enlightenment?*, Kant identified the “arrogance of tolerance” as one of the causes behind the lack of intellectualism in Germany. While Thomas Paine described tolerance as the counterfeit of intolerance and hence no less despotic, Goethe was even more vehement when he said, “To tolerate is to insult.”

Furthermore, even today when tolerance is considered a ‘virtue’, its meaning and boundaries are matters of serious contention. In this regard, Forst provided three contemporary examples from Germany: the visit of the Pope causing religious unrest, the ban on wearing headscarf in schools, and the move to declare the fascist National Democratic Party unconstitutional. He demonstrated

how it is interesting to note that in all such conflicts, each party invokes the principle of tolerance and argues its point from exactly the same axioms as its opponents. So how can we reconcile contenders taking opposite positions when they all agree on the fundamental ideal of tolerance?

Forst proposed that tolerance comprises of objection to “false, wrong or bad” views, acceptance for contrary opinions as far as they do not violate one’s beliefs and the rejection of ideas that are downright dangerous or “blasphemous”, in the religious sense. But this understanding of tolerance raises a number of paradoxes. Will a staunch racist who rejects others



on the basis of birth but ‘tolerates’ them by not acting on his beliefs, be considered tolerant? Can a person possibly tolerate opinions that he regards as immoral without compromising his own sense of ethics? If what is intolerable is intolerable

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Europe's Self-Destruction

BY KATHLEEN MCCAFFREY

In August, the German Chancellor's cabinet ratified measures to combat the euro-area debt crisis by revamping the euro-zone's bailout fund. Last month, the leaders of Germany and France concocted a plan to salvage the euro by suggesting another regulatory system in Brussels. Additionally, the two Euro nations will adopt a common corporate tax system by 2013, signaling greater co-ordination of their economic policy. Though what some see as co-ordination may just break the international edge of the euro zone.

The euro was founded on the promise of creating a level playing field for economic competition. But by breaking the rules set out to keep a strong currency for all, such as waiving the ECB's requirement to only accept investment-grade sovereign debt as collateral for loans made to banks, otherwise credible economies have made themselves vulnerable to the reckless spending practices of nations like Greece. Now each euro nation is more vulnerable and less structurally independent at the hands of another.

The economic integration of the euro zone is subject to the same faults as any other cartel. When they don't face competition, they become sloppy. When they have a free insurance buy-in, they become sloppier. History suggests that this brand of autarky is only successful insofar as it remains unchallenged by outsiders.

During the Middle Ages, merchants seeking secure methods of trade retreated from the governance of local nobles to work in cities aligned with the Hanseatic League. The League functioned as a network to protect commercial interests on the Baltic Sea in a time when it was particularly risky to trade. It provided a common market to build wealth by insuring its pursuit.

Yet as the League adopted protectionist measures to sustain trade exclusively among its membership, such as blockading Norwegian ports to prevent commerce with rising British and Dutch merchants, its success dwindled. As the modern nation state caught up to the technological progress and prosperity of many Hanseatic cities, the League dissipated. To the modern reader, the Hanseatic League's reaction is not unlike the EU's high tariffs on processed goods from developing nations, or the current rumor that Brussels is considering a raise in tariffs on Chinese goods.

The alternative to this protectionism is a market for government—not its reinforcement. To paraphrase F.A. Hayek, competition is a process of formulating opinion through diversity, creating the views people have about what is best. This does not require the creation of new nations or the demolition of old ones. It requires political diversity.

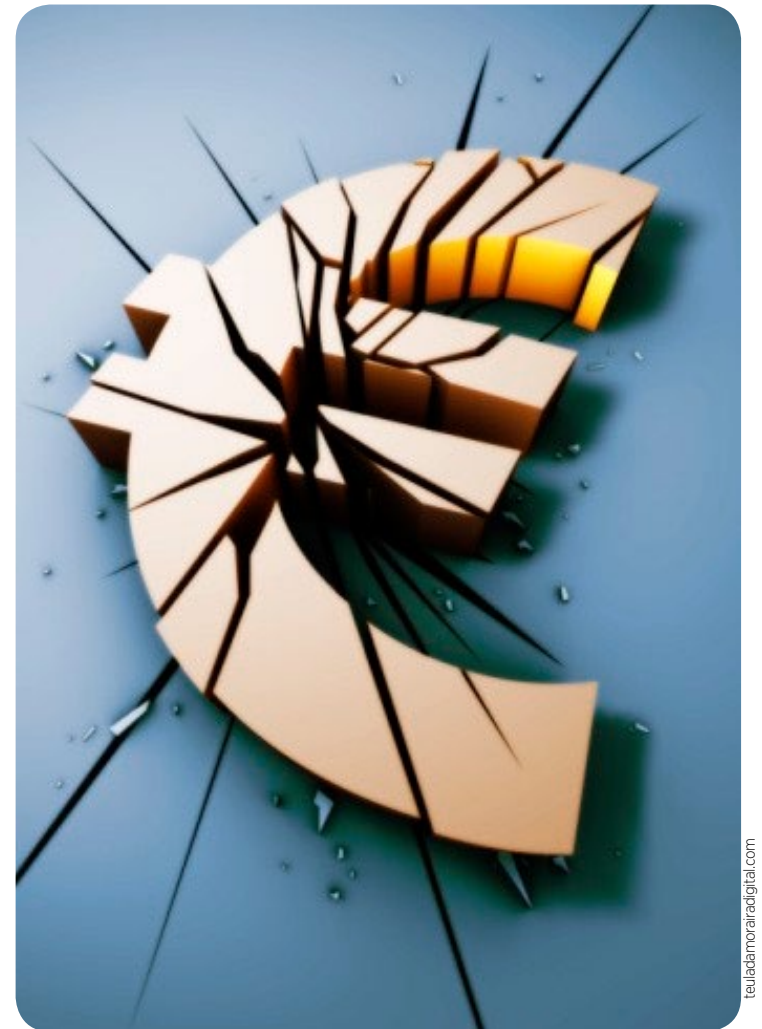
Switzerland was born of dissent from the Hapsburg empire and slowly grew to a plurality of states with their own autonomy and cultures. After the demise of Napoleon's Helvetic Empire, the Swiss cemented their government as a confederation of states at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, only to reassert this sentiment in 1848. Today, Switzerland boasts 26 distinct cantons, each with their own constitution, parliament and courts. Through their autonomy, every canton is able to attract commerce from across the world by voting themselves into competitive tax brackets within the same monetary system.

Pfaffikon, a village outside of Zurich, recently changed its reputation from a small town speckled with dairy farms to a hedge fund incubator. It aims to compete with Zug, once one of the poorest cantons in Switzerland, which attracted more than 180 regional headquarters of large foreign companies between 1998 and 2008. Appropriately, the nation was recently ranked 'most innovative economy' by INSEAD Business School.

By contrast, the second German Reich was the product of uniting distinctly different German states, some of whom initially resisted unification until the Franco-Prussian war. Though the states united in the face of a common enemy, the Empire that emerged from their union was largely dominated by Prussian interests. While the German nation benefitted from the integration

of the distinct states, Prussian interests resulted in the oppression of formerly autonomous citizens. Bismark imposed legal restrictions on Catholic education and worship, eventually expelling the Jesuit order. In the late 1880s, German Anti-Socialist Laws tried to repress the growing labor organizations. When leadership changed hands in 1890 to Wilhelm II, German nationalism took hold as a primary political concern.

To its credit, the European Union has not been void of decent proposals to promote competitive government within its borders. Legislation, such as the Shengen Agreement, made travel, schooling and work relatively hassle-free for EU passport-holders. These sorts of windows allow for practical competition, like the tenfold increase in applications from British students to Maastricht University in the Netherlands after their government raised tuitions at universities.



The European story is torn between a history that rewards competitive governance with prosperity and local autonomy, and politicians who see the continent as opportunity for centralization and cartelization (so-called "solidarity").

Today they seem to be headed in an untenable, but unified, path.

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Liberal Pipe Dream

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to solve virtually all of America's problems at home, and to redress the vile nature of American politics itself.

Obama vilified the Bush administration for intervening in Iraq. Channeling his inner pedagogic and professorial spirit in a Q&A with the *Boston Globe's* Charlie Savage in December of 2007, he said, "The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation." Lo and behold, America intervened in Libya—that too, without Congressional approval. In Libya! What said the liberals who berated Bush for his illegal war, the one which actually secured the support of Congress? Nothing. Unless, of course, you include the starry-eyed peace activists who want to banish war itself from the global lexicon.

As early as April of 2007, Obama was claiming boldly, "As president, I will close Guantanamo and reject the Military Commissions Act!" Liberals need to take a good hard look at Guantanamo, Cuba on Google Earth and tell me that the detainment camp no longer exists. They should find the transcript for any one of the many speeches in which Obama railed vigorously against the use of military commissions by the Bush administration and tell me that Obama has expunged the policy from the country's record. In fact, liberals should have been outraged when, in May of 2009, the White House released a memo that began, "Military com-

missions have a long tradition in the United States. They are appropriate for trying enemies who violate the laws of war...."

criticism of the Military Commissions Act as a call for making modifications to it. Rather, they had perceived it as a full-throttle call for abolishing military commissions altogether. Yet, where were liberals when Obama failed to do so? Where were those who would have come out in hordes to protest an extension of military commissions by a Republican president?

On a policy that should irk liberals to their core, they have stayed mum. In a 2005 speech on the Senate floor, Obama himself remarked of the Patriot Act, "This is legislation that puts our own Justice Department above the law," adding, "And if someone wants to know why their own government has decided to go on a fishing expedition through every personal record or private document—through library books they've read and phone calls they've made—this legislation gives people no rights to appeal the need for such a search in a court of law." He concluded his masterful speech with the words, "This is just plain wrong."

Yet, five months ago, Obama signed into law a four-year extension of the Patriot Act, claiming without any sign of hesitancy, "It's an important tool for us to continue dealing with an ongoing terrorist threat." Of course, liberals will never challenge this or criticize their supposed savior because to do so would be akin to criticizing themselves.

Obama has let them down not only on foreign and defense policy, but also in an arguably more important area—domestic policy.

Liberals likely do not even remember that he promised to further increase the hourly minimum wage to \$9.50. Go to any McDonald's and ask the cashiers how much they earn. I can guarantee you that it's not \$9.50 an hour.

are still waiting for you to come out of the closet and declare your support for same-sex marriage, which you tellingly chose not to do in a speech to the Human Rights Campaign two weeks after the military ended DADT.

In May of 2008, in an interview with Jorge Ramos on Univision, the most popular TV network among Hispanics in the country, Obama claimed as he did boldly on every contentious issue, "What I can guarantee is that we will have in the first year an immigration bill that I strongly support and that I'm promoting. And I want to move that forward as quickly as possible." At the time, Ramos enthusiastically called this "*La Promesa de Obama*." But three years later, immigrants and to-be immigrants are waiting, Mr. President. What are you going to do?

For someone who so often pontificates on equality and peace and diversity and fair treatment, the president has failed to uphold such standards even in his own house. Following a meeting with Larry Summers, then-chairman of the National Economic Council, Christina Romer, former head of the Council of Economic Advisers, stated bluntly, "I felt like a piece of meat." Former White House Communications Director Anita Dunn, who now conveniently denies criticizing the administration for its work environment, minced no words after the Obama team prepared a 2008 campaign ad which featured no women, stating, "I was dumbfounded. It wasn't like they were being deliberately sexist. It's just there was no one offering a female perspective." Senator Obama also campaigned vigorously as a model leader and paragon of ethical behavior, someone who would in a hundred years never allow a political appointee to lobby the executive branch after

leaving government service during the remainder of his administration. Yet, his administration has granted waivers to numerous former lobbyists, allowing them to serve and influence his policies. Furthermore, his administration has allowed for "recusals," through which former lobbyists can excuse themselves from discussions revolving around interests for which

they used to lobby. However, implicit in the "recusals" policy is the understanding that despite serving his administration, lobbyists may still have a conflicting loyalty to a special interest group or cause. President Obama has disregarded this and his own beliefs for political gain.

Obama also campaigned as a leader who would bring to the

White House a level of transparency never seen before. He repeatedly criticized the Bush administration for its secrecy and adherence to a nefarious form of governance. But, as he has done on countless policies, he has reversed course since winning the presidency. On the campaign trail, Obama told voters that they would have five days to look at every bill that landed on his desk. I would ask which voters in their right mind actually believed this rhetoric, but apparently many did. Obama violated this promise over and over, highlighting this best with his signing of the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009 on May 22, only two days after the bill was finalized in Congress. The law was scheduled to take effect only after a full year, so I can think of no reason why, in the name of transparency, the White House would not give the public enough time to pore over the details of the bill.

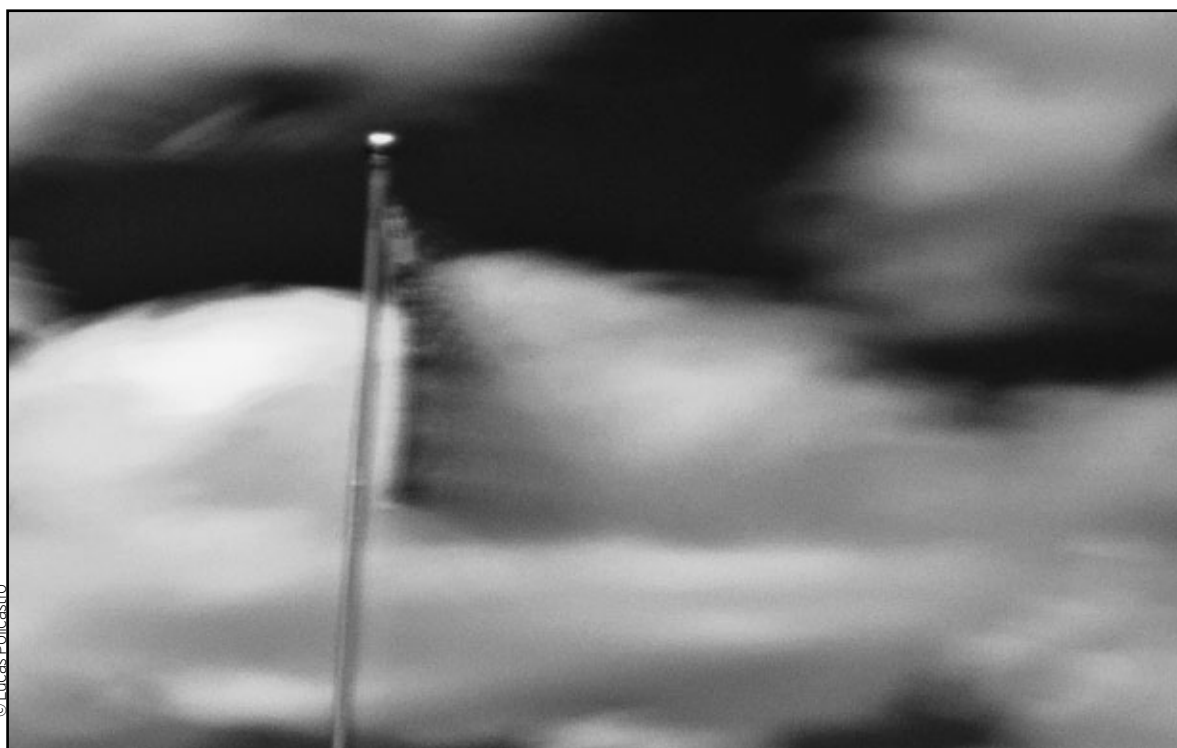
Furthermore, despite relentlessly criticizing President Bush and Vice President Cheney's "secret meetings" in the White House, Obama continued the Bush administration's practice of keeping White House visitor logs secret. Only after increasing pressure from watchdog groups and a federal judge in Washington, D.C. did the White House choose to make some of the visitor logs public. However, the Center for Public Integrity has found that the logs omit the names of "thousands of other visitors to the White House, including lobbyists, government employees, campaign donors, policy experts and friends of the first family." Still, the administration continues to use as justification for not revealing the entirety of the logs the Bush administration's argument that some visitors are too high-profile and fall under the jurisdiction of greater national interest. So much for the change which liberals so desperately hoped for. It seems that the White House has left even its once-ardent supporters out to dry.

In short, President Obama has broken promise upon promise that he so valiantly made to liberals on the campaign trail.

To those who fight these claims by stating that they did not actually expect the president to fulfill all these promises, I feel sincere pity. They would never have voted for Obama had they not expected him to keep at least some of these grand promises. They would never have voted for him had they realized that most of his promises were politically unviable and tied down to a dream "over the hills and far away." Inexplicably, Obama has managed to displease liberals while continuing to anger conservatives.

The upcoming presidential election falls on November 6, 2012. For liberals' sake, it's not soon enough.

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missions have a long tradition in the United States. They are appropriate for trying enemies who violate the laws of war...."

Clearly, even as early as mid-2009, Obama was reversing many of his campaign calls for change after recognizing that reality does not permit merely feel-good ideas to take root. However, his voters had not interpreted his

In an open letter titled "Equality is a Moral Imperative" to the LGBT community in February of 2008, Obama vowed, "As your president, I will use the bully pulpit to urge states to treat same-sex couples with full equality in their family and adoption laws." Mr. President, all those lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transsexuals who without question threw in their vote for you

Fairness and the Free Market

CHRISTOPHER SLIJK
MANAGING EDITOR

Capitalism tends to be a nebulously defined term in the modern lexicon: some people envision it as a system of free markets and trade; others demonize it as a scheme for the rich to satiate their greed while the poor languish perpetually. But some have the belief that capitalism can take on forms which most would traditionally define as mixed economies or borderline anarchy.

On September 30, two professors from Central European University – Bela Greskovits from the Department International Relations and European Studies and Dorothee Bohle from the Department of Po-

litical Science – came to Cornell to give a joint lecture on the development and transformation of capitalism in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse. Dubbed "Polanyian Varieties of Capitalism", Professors Greskovits and Bohle used the post-Cold War development of Central and Eastern European countries as case studies of different styles of capitalism, applying 20th century political economist Karl Polanyi's ideas of

the "conflictual dynamic" of capitalism. Bohle claimed that much of the change in capitalism in recent years has consisted of "expansion of markets at the expense of society". The differing styles of capitalism, said Bohle, are determined by the growth of a society on six different, and in some cases opposing, dimensions: market freedom, macroeconomic coordination, governmental strength, corporatism, democracy, and, welfare statism. This "hexagon of development" is meant to measure how well-rounded a society is in allowing freedom of trade and development while providing for its people. However, Professor Greskovits was quick

to point out that more often than not, countries quickly regressed after a good deal of progress simply because they overextended themselves by trying too quickly to cover all of these dimensions.

disintegration or a paternalistic welfare state. Greskovits presented four main models of capitalism: "non-regimes" (nations which had not developed significantly on any of the six dimensions) "neoliberalism" (referring here almost exclusively to the liberalization of markets), "embedded neoliberalism" (foregoing liberalized markets for more macroeconomic coordination coupled with a stronger welfare state), and "neocorporatism".

The Baltic States were presented as the archetypical neoliberalist development of capitalism, as they have a relatively high degree of market freedom but very weak welfare systems which have been reduced even further as a result of the financial crisis. Embedded neoliberalism is typified by Central European countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, with slower market development but stronger central governments and somewhat stronger welfare institutions. Finally, neocorporatism was shown to be symbolized by Slovenia, which was presented as excelling overall, lacking only slightly in market development. While Greskovits and Bohle refrained from explicitly saying which system was "better", it wasn't hard to discern that they held the Slovenian one in rather high esteem.

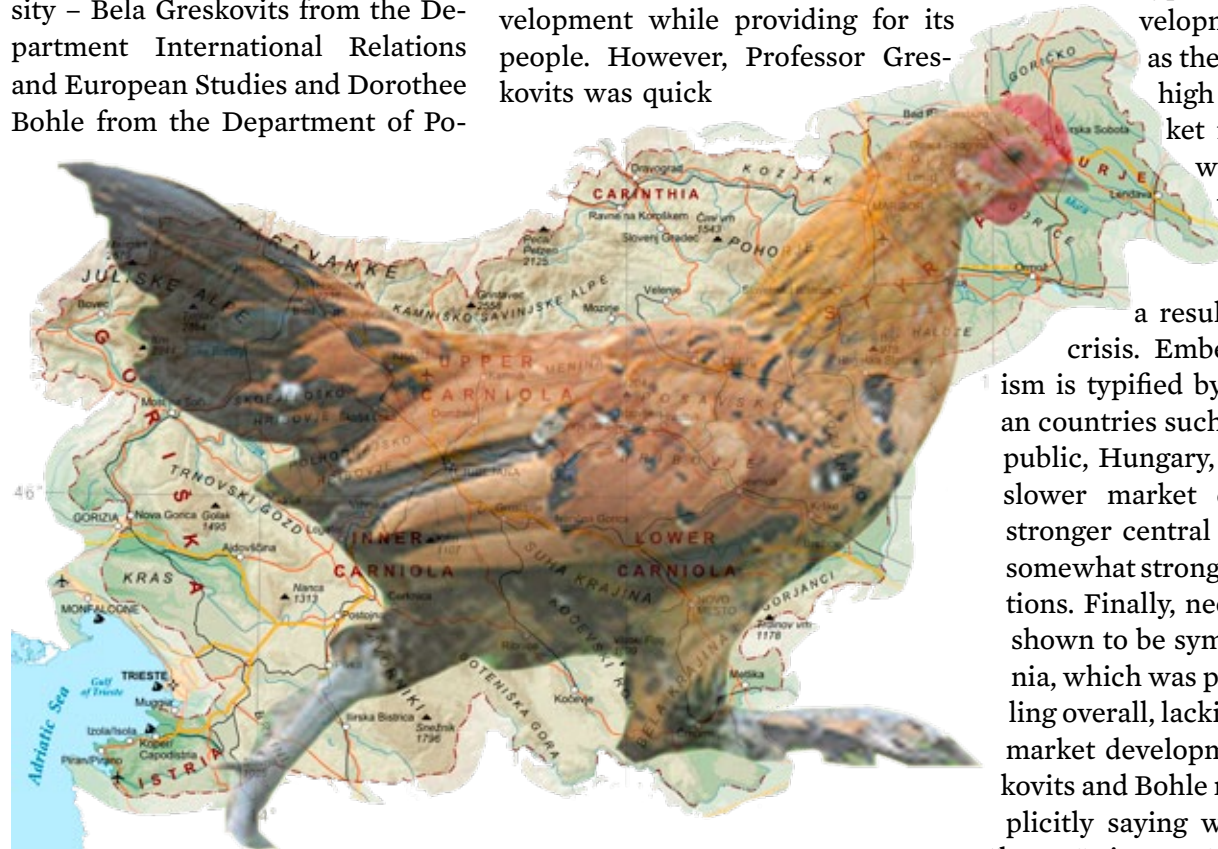
Interestingly, Bohle pointed out that recent trends have shown that the result of economic turmoil in Europe over the last few years has been to push all of these countries further into the neoliberalist camp, with many of them enacting strict austerity measures and encouraging private sector growth rather than ramping up the government's role in the economy as is the case in much

of Western Europe and the United States.

Overall, Greskovits and Bohle present an interesting but flawed notion of capitalist society, particularly in the false dichotomy between market freedom and public welfare. This is a narrative that has cropped up time and time again from the writings of Karl Marx to the protesters of the "Occupy Wall Street" movement: growth or stability, economic independence or social independence, freedom or equality – these are portrayed as opposites that cannot coexist in the same society when, in fact, they are ultimately interdependent. One cannot claim to support freedom in the market, nor for the individual, if one also believes that the majority, through the arm of government, has a right to take from some and give to others out of warped perceptions of equality, fairness, or need. Some like to believe that "the rich get richer, the poor get poorer", when more often than not the innovations, discoveries, and products of the rich have made everyone, not just the wealthy, better off.

Ultimately, freedom is meaningless without the freedom to fail, unpleasant though it may be, and detracting from the successful in society by making them pitch in for those that did not do well not only distorts market incentives but also detracts from the idea of inviolable property rights, the foundation of any capitalist society. Professors Greskovits and Bohle seemed to forget that stronger central government, higher-level economic planning, and welfare structures pull societies further from these roots and, at some point, are so far removed from them that they can no longer be called capitalist at all. It is only in the steadfast protection of individual rights, regardless of wealth level, that a capitalist society can truly prosper economically and socially.

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Slovenia: The paradigm of modern capitalism in Europe.

her frustration with society's image of beauty. Other TEDx speakers, including Jesse Turk, '14, Khamila Alebiosu, '13, and author and poet Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon acknowledged that the poems or theatre pieces they presented represented the best way they could think about these issues and express their ideas clearly.

"Poems are how I think," Van Clief-Stefanon revealed.

More closely resembling the traditional TED enthusiast, Jeremy Blum '12 endorsed the concept of open source sharing. Open source sharing differs from well-grounded societal norms such as copyright and intellectual property protection in that distributed peer review and sharing of ideas and information are supported. Although this might seem impractical from a business point of view, Blum maintained that one could create something, share it, and still make

First TEDx Promotes Social Change and Nonconformity

DILLON HICKMAN
STAFF WRITER

The growing popularity of TED Talks has inspired Cornell to create its own independent event, TEDx, a self-organized conference featuring past and present Cornell students and professors. On October 3, this diverse group of speakers all gave presentations on the common theme of "Rethinking Our Society."

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is a nonprofit organization built around the slogan "Ideas Worth Spreading." The group began by hosting an annual conference to connect some of the world's leading thinkers and activists. Since, TED has expanded to encompass a

wide array of topics, ranging from science, arts, politics, global issues, architecture, and music. TEDx, with "x" indicating independently organized events, has taken the talks to the local level.

I.D.E.A. (Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness), a new student organization on campus, organized Cornell's TEDx event. Its goal, similar to TED, was to bring together cultures from across the world through deep discussion of new ideas and concepts.

Ankur Bajaj, the master of ceremonies for the event, described the mission of TEDx as "bettering yourself to the pursuit of knowledge." Bajaj also mentioned how optimistic I.D.E.A. is about the future. "My

generation is on the brink of something huge."

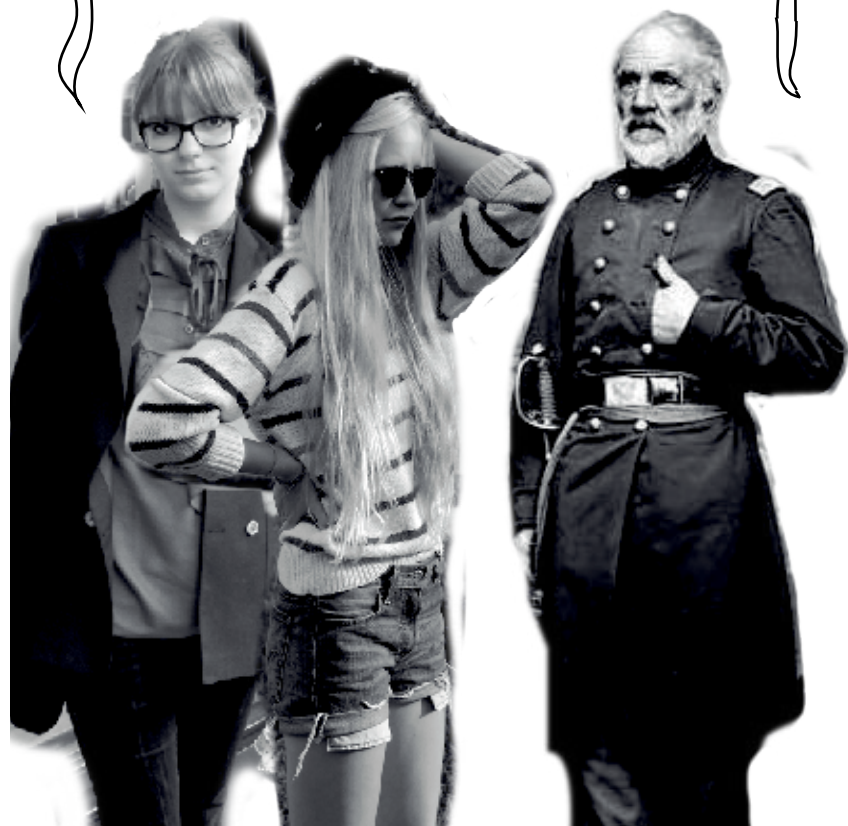
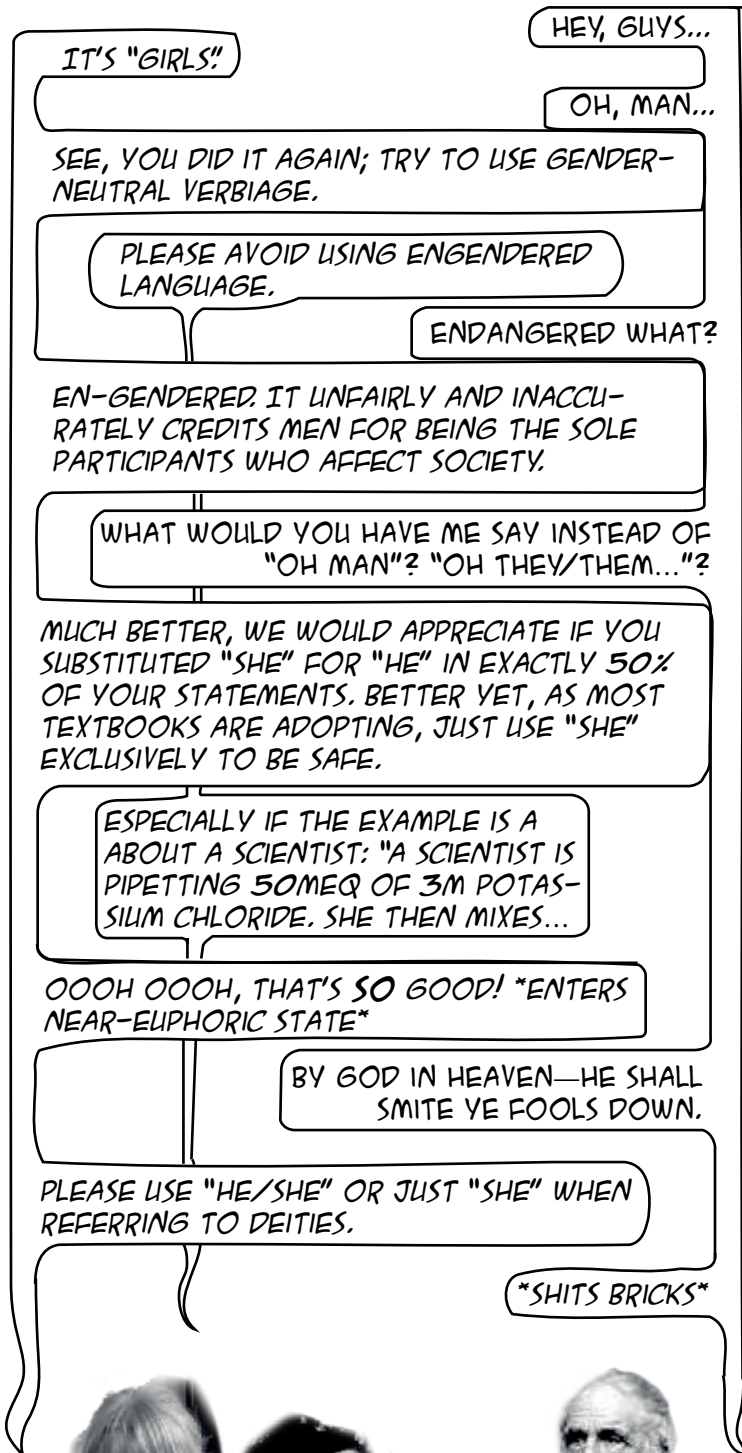
Each of the event's speakers sought use his unique interests and skillsets to attack conformity in society. Jeffrey Lipton, a graduate of Cornell's Applied and Engineering Physics program and a current PhD candidate at Cornell's Creative Machines Lab, began the program by criticizing the American educational system's attachment to standardization and to teaching to score well on tests rather than teaching to learn or discover.

"Everyone loves this tangible interaction with knowledge," Lipton remarked.

Meril Pothen '13 presented "Beautiful," a poem that addressed



ON HIS WAY TO FIND THE CORNELLCAVE, HE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLES INTO SOME FEMALE HIPSTERS (HIPSTETTES?).



scends into the unknown depths, simultaneously being serenaded a *cappella* by Cayuga's Waiters. Little does he know that his dastardly arch-enemy Privateer Princeton is lurking in the shadows.

THE RETURN OF THE COLONEL

Colonel Cornell: Issue #1

Captain America Colonel Cornell—after being frozen in an Arctic Ice shelf for nearly seventy years after protecting Cornell from an atom bomb strike during WWII—is found by Arctic explorers. The revitalized hero decides to return his alma mater. The Colonel returns to campus to find it overcome by the worst kind of liberalism—the Church of Che Guevara and the Latter Day Hipsters.

...TO THE CORNELLCAVE...EXEUNT.

COL. CORNELL VISITS THE ARTS QUAD, LOOKING FOR THE ENTRANCE TO HIS FORMER HIDEOUT, THE CORNELLCAVE.

STUDENT [LOUDLY]: HEY JAKE, DID YOU CATCH GLEE LAST NIGHT?

COL. CORNELL: GREAT SCOTT! TEE FEE CRANE'S STOMPING GROUNDS ARE OVERRUN BY THESPIANS!

SEVERAL PEOPLE WALK BAREFOOT THROUGH THE QUAD.

HIPSTER STUDENT HANDING OUT CARDS: SEPTEMBER 11TH IS A LIE, BRAH.

TAKE ONE OF MY QUARTER-CARDS AND BECOME A TRUTHER; CHECK OUT OUR AWESOME STICKERS ON THE THURSTON BRIDGE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

COL. CORNELL: LAD, I MAY HAVE BEEN FROZEN FOR SEVENTY YEARS, BUT EVEN I KNOW THAT IS BULLSHIT!

ANOTHER HIPSTER: CORPORATE ALLEGIANCE IS BAD! I DON'T SUPPORT BIG CORPORATIONS! I'M AN INDIVIDUALIST! [STUDENT IS WEARING AN AMERICAN APPAREL SHIRT, LEVI RIPPED JEANS, AND VANS SNEAKERS, WHILE DRINKING STARBUCKS COFFEE AND CARRYING AN APPLE MACBOOK PRO IN A NIKE STRAPPED BAG.]

STUDENT WITH DOG: HEY OLD MAN, WANT TO SEE MY DOG DO A TRICK?

COL. CORNELL: SURE, LAD. IT MUST BE BETTER THAN LISTENING TO THIS PINKO COMMIE TALK.

STUDENT WITH DOG: "GEORGE BUSH!"

AS A RESPONSE, THE DOG ROLLS TO THE GROUND WHINING, SHAKING ITS HEAD, AND THEN PLAYS DEAD.

STUDENT IN A CAPE: LORD VOLDEMORT IS COMING! EVERYBODY RUN!

COL. CORNELL: WHAT IN BLASTED TARNATION IS A LORDVOLDEMORT?

STUDENT IN A CAPE: "PLEASE REFER TO HIM AS HE-WHO-MUST-NOT-BE-NAMED," MUGGLE. [FOLLOWED BY INCOMPREHENSIBLE HARRY POTTER GIBBERISH.]

COL. CORNELL: MORE OF THESE PROGRESSIVES CRITIQUING MY RHETORIC. MY PARLANCE IS IMPECCABLE, YOU LOWLY PIKER! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, I AM EZRA'S GREAT-GRANDNEPHEW THRICE REMOVED FROM HIS FATHER'S SIDE!

COLONEL CORNELL IS WHISKED OFF BY A MOB OF COSPLAY WIZARDS TO THE CENTER OF THE QUAD, WHERE AN INTENSE MATCH OF THE HARRY POTTER SPORT QUIDDITCH IS OCCURRING.

CORNELL TOUR GUIDE (WITH A GROUP OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS): AND THIS TO OUR LEFT IS CORNELL'S DIVISION I INTERCOLLEGIATE QUIDDITCH TEAM.

TEN PEOPLE IN FLIP FLOPS WITH CHIMNEY SWEEPERS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS (AND ONE WITH A TOILET BOWL CLEANER) ARE SEEN AROUND CHASING A BOUNCY BALL, CHANTING AND YELLING.

"CORNELL APPLICATIONS THE FOLLOWING YEAR ARE DOWN 10%."

COL. CORNELL: JESUS, I NEED TO GO TO ZINCK'S! OLD MAN ZINCK WILL EASE MY WORRIES.

Col. Cornell walks to the old site of the pub Theodore Zinck's to find it replaced with "Look-Ah-Hookah" and other similarly-themed storefronts. Tired and weary, Col. Cornell finds the secret entrance to the Cornellcave—secret trapdoor under Ezra's statue by Morrill Hall. He de-

Story to be continued in the next issue of *Colonel Cornell*... while you wait, go look up the etymology of *colonel*.

REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

WAR, ECONOMIC CRISIS & THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

FALL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Three years after the financial crash of 2008, the world economy is entering another tailspin. Mass unemployment and declining wages, drastic cuts in health care and other social programs, the shutdown of public schools and rising tuition—these are all part of the right wing conspiracy. The Republicans are naturally evil and would do anything to harm the working class. Personal responsibility is such nonsense. How can anyone be personally responsible when the government takes away welfare for the people who are too underprivileged to work and depend on it to live? The Republicans need to understand that we are jobless not because we are lazy and living on welfare. It's ALL because of the social causes, such as racism, racism and racism, which outweighs other factors by about 1 million percent.

The decade since the attacks of September 11 has been years of unending war, attacks on the most basic democratic rights, strongly guided by the inherent racism by the white men. The terms and events that exemplify the period are testament to the disaster that has been unleashed: wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Libya; Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, "enhanced interrogation," and domestic spying; the crash of 2008, bank bailouts, mass unemployment and social austerity. If you have noticed, all these events are targeted at the underprivileged people who are not capitalist pigs. You may think that raised national security benefits all of us, but it's not true for those of us who care about unprivileged, proletariat terrorists in middle east who became terrorist not by choice, but influenced by social causes such as class struggle, class struggle and class struggle (and probably racism). We have undeniable proof that September 11 was completely staged by George Bush so that he could launch his massive conspiracy against the proletariats worldwide. Bush is the ultimate source of all evil, and as Chairman Obama constantly reminds us, he still torments us today even after about 4 years since the end of his presidency. Experts say his lasting effect of his evilness will not wear off until another Republican is elected president.

It is becoming clear to millions of people that there is something fundamentally wrong with the entire system, just like back in 1917. All efforts to change policy have failed. Chairman Obama, though he has passed many socialist bills, are still giving in to the capitalist pigs. A small layer of corporate executives and Wall Street bankers still control the entire political system. People have to realize that rich people are inherently evil and ABSOLUTELY NONE of them accumulated wealth based on their hard work. Every single one of the rich people inherited their wealth from their parents, and if you trace it back to the first rich man ever, he received it from God, who absolutely doesn't exist. Therefore, they MUST share their wealth so that the jobless, underprivileged racial and socio-economical minorities can get compensated for what they deserve.

Workers and youth need a new program and perspective. The Socialist Equality Party is calling a series of meetings throughout the United States to discuss the socialist response to the capitalist crisis and plan the organization of an independent industrial and political movement of the working class. One of the initiatives we are planning this year is to implement a policy that require all student GPAs to be summed up and divided evenly among all students. As we all know, high achieving students never work hard. They inherit their GPA from their rich parents and it's an unfair advantage for those of us in the working class. The only reasonable thing to do is to share the GPA so that the effect of class struggle can be minimized. Eventually, we are going to call for a nation-wide revolution. Many people think socialism has been proven to be unfeasible, but this is not true. Joseph Stalin, despite killing more than 20 million people, had done many remarkable things to make this world a better place. Sometimes, people's lives need to be sacrificed for the greater good (though any form of sacrifice toward a conservative cause is by definition bad, because Bush is bad). Besides, this time we have 7 billion people to throw around. It might even be an effective population control strategy. Join the revolution!

THIS IS A CORNELL REVIEW PARODY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH ANY ACTUAL CAMPUS EVENT



Occupy Wall Street

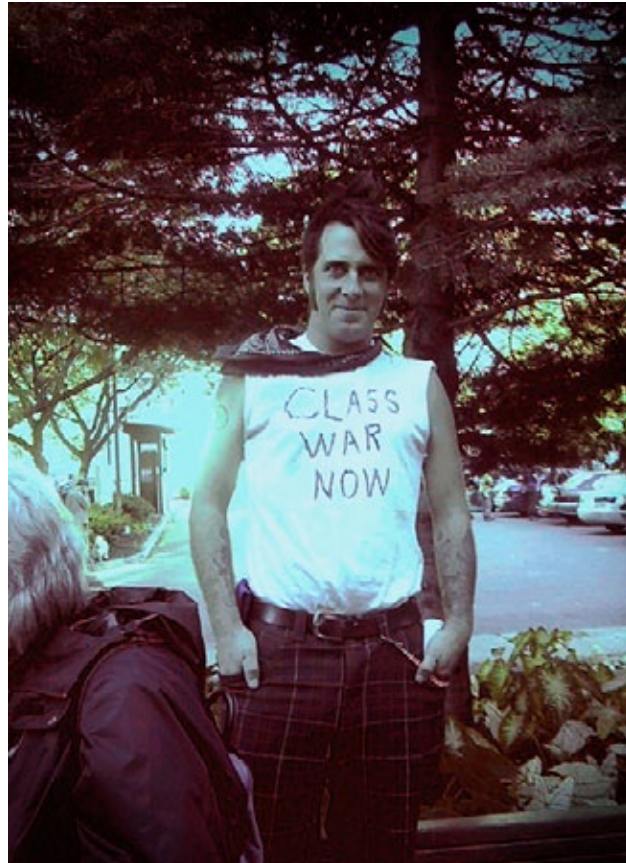
Continued from front page

protesters claim to be leaderless. They claim to have no specific demands (despite their signs, chants, slogans and mere presence telling otherwise). Yet this movement is far from organic. The first calls to literally Occupy Wall Street were made by the Canadian anti-establishment magazine *Adbusters*, which is funded indirectly by liberal godfather George Soros (who made his money as a Wall Street hedge fund manager, and now has voiced public support for OWS). While some people did take it upon their misguided selves to get the protest started, the occupation has been far from independent. Professional community organizers are responsible for publicizing, romanticizing, and getting attendance for the protest. Big-money unions like the SEIU and Transit Workers Union and their full-time activists are out in full force supporting the occupation. Communist, socialist, anarchist, and even libertarian groups are active and represented. Antiwar group Code Pink is out in force at these rallies (War against our enemies abroad? Never. Class war against fellow American citizens? A moral imperative.). Some of the local occupation movements have even hired people to protest in order to augment their numbers.

And the left claims this is their long-awaited “grassroots” response to the Tea Party. When the Tea Party formed it had no professional voices behind it. It formed in small, local groups, most of which are run by volunteers (who have families, careers and other responsibilities to attend to), and receive no more funding than what they can get from donations. Contrast this with the conglomeration of long-established activist organizations currently defecating across Zuccotti Park.

Another difference between this group and the Tea Party is subtle;

it is in their mannerisms and methods. OWS has been camped in public places for a month, having sex in public, performing bodily functions in corners, not showering, and rendering the occupied locations unusable and unsanitary. Compare this with the respectability of the Tea Party. When they rallied in Washington, the National Mall was left spotless. They went home at the end of the day leaving only a message, not



A protestor in Ithaca demands war against America

a mess. OWS is closer in appearance to a music festival than an American political movement. When the Tea Party has an event, the demonstrators are well-dressed, clean, and focused. OWS would do well to note the link between the Tea Party's behavior and their success.

Of course the Tea Party's success was most intimately linked with its message. It formed with the clear goal of opposing Obama's growth of government and electing conservatives in 2010. To do this, it rallied, presented information, and raised awareness through legitimate means. The occupiers' goal has

something to do with eliminating the profit motive, something about reducing corporate greed, and a desire to tax the ultra-wealthy. A list of proposed demands has been circulating the internet, which includes a \$20 minimum wage (paid regardless of whether one is employed or not), free college education and healthcare, open borders, trillions in environmental and infrastructure spending, and the elimination

of all public and private debt. While many protesters may agree with these ideas, some do not (or are just there for the party), and the incoordination of the crowd leads to a cacophonous message. Each group at the protests has a different focus: economic and taxation issues, wealth disparity, environmental “justice”, social “justice”, the existence of corporations, anti-war demands, welfare and entitlement programs, healthcare, the cost of education, electing Ron Paul, enacting Marxism, or even the national debt. The occupiers, though, seem proud of their leaderless state and lack of direction, refusing to specify demands

or promote a specific plan to address what appears to be their main concern of fixing the admittedly dysfunctional tax code. Instead of promoting representatives to voice their opinions through our democratic system, they think rioting in the streets is the best way to implement their economy-crippling goal of wealth confiscation and redistribution. That is not the way American government works.

At the same time, liberal leadership wholly supports the demonstrators. “God bless the Wall Street protestors,” said Nancy Pelosi. Mr. Obama says he understands why

they are angry. Joe Biden's deep sympathy can be seen in his words, “The core [of the protest] is: the bargain has been breached. The American people do not think the system is fair, or on the level.” This is from the man who called the Tea Party a bunch of terrorists. Apparently to the vice president activism is prudent only when it is firmly behind your agenda.

If Obama's army in 2008 was comprised of relatively mundane get-out-the-vote collegians and the anti-Bush, anti-War, anti-Republican crowd, this is the seed of his army for 2012: socialists, anarchists, and agitators occupying the streets. The anti-republican crowd. The high leadership and the high sources of influence behind the political and social left have thrown their quiet but growing support behind the OWS movement, and stamped this type of behavior with their seal of approval. The force behind it is not the force of law or democracy, but the force of the mob.

While OWS is presently nothing more than a mouse casting a large shadow due to media light, should the movement grow and find a leader, or should a leader claim to represent the protestors as election season approaches, he or she will be America's Caesar, a demagogue who will ignore or circumvent the Constitution at the behest of the mob. Implementing their demands will be the crossing of the Rubicon; a violation of the Constitution so great it will herald the end of the republic (Under this analogy, Obama can presently be seen as Sulla, an earlier Roman leader who was made dictator after illegally leading an army into Rome, showing that it was possible to treat the law with impunity and be rewarded for it, paving the way for Caesar's later domination).

“This is what democracy looks like,” they chant. They could not be further from the truth.

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With Christie and Palin Opting Not To Run, the 2012 Field Is Set

Romney and Perry now look to gather up the remaining undecided primary voters – and donors

MICHAEL ALAN
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Over the last few weeks, two potential contenders for the Republican presidential nomination opted not to enter the race, effectively indicating that the field of candidates is set and allowing former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and Texas Governor Rick Perry to breathe a sigh of relief.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a grassroots favorite for his candor and willingness to take on tough targets like public employee unions in his normally blue state, held a press conference on October 4th indicating that he had given the countless urgings to run his full consideration, but that his decision had not changed.

“For months, I’ve been adamant about the fact that I would not run for President. My language was clear, and direct, no matter how many times I was asked the question. For me, the answer was never anything but no,” Christie told reporters, before adding, “It wasn’t until recently that I paused to really

reflect on my decision. When I saw serious people from all across the country passionately calling on me to do something as consequential as running for President of the United States, I felt an obligation to earnestly consider their advice.”

Christie had been courted by bundlers (the bigwigs that help candidates raise a lot of money) and grassroots leaders from the early primary states to throw his hat into the ring, but it wasn’t until his September 27th speech at the Reagan Library that his previous Shermanesque statements began to be called into question. The speech was widely lauded for showcasing Christie’s presidential potential and demonstrating a grasp of the issues – everything from foreign policy to the federal government’s ballooning deficits – beyond what is expected of a governor.

Even New York State Republican Party Chairman Ed Cox floated the idea of a Christie candidacy. “One of the things he could do is stay in New Jersey, because he really wants to finish his job there, and use these big money guys that want him to run



Both of these men are very clearly desperate to be President.

so badly to stage a media campaign. I think it could be done,” Cox told the Cornell Republicans during his October 2nd visit.

But while Christie’s exit may have disappointed his backers, it seems they didn’t waste a lot of time finding a new candidate. Early reports indicate that another governor from a Northeastern state, Mitt Romney, is the candidate benefiting most from his departure. *The Wall Street Journal* reported soon after Christie’s press conference that as many as twenty bundlers that were waiting for Christie’s decision had signed on to support Romney, including the billionaire venture capitalist and co-founder of Home Depot, Ken Langone. *The New York Times* later reported that Romney had also recruited the support of another prominent Christie fan, JP Morgan Chase Vice Chairman James Lee, who raised nearly a half a million dollars for Senator John McCain in the 2008 campaign.

Christie’s backers, however, aren’t the only ones shopping for a new candidate. Former Alaska governor and 2008 Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin announced on October 5th that she too would not seek the nomination. The decision allows Palin to continue her seemingly effective policy activism and successful career as an author and Fox News commentator. Candidates looking for Palin supporters, a list which undoubtedly includes the House’s Tea Party Caucus Chairwoman Michele Bachmann, are hoping to channel their grassroots enthusiasm. A Palin endorsement was a big prize for Republican candidates in the 2010 midterms, bolstering both their campaign coffers and turnout at the polls, and her supporters are expected to carry similar sway in the presidential primary.

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The Christie Bid

Waiting is better... I hope.

ANTHONY LONGO
PRESIDENT

I knew Chris Christie when he was nobody.

Annually, New Jersey dumps nearly a thousand high school juniors on the campus of Rider University for an event called Boys State—a weeklong convention of leadership, politics, brotherhood, and female-lusting. Every day, the thousand-or-so boys would cram into one of Rider’s inappropriately small auditoriums to hear a presenter speak—typically a well-to-do New Jersey politician or statewide leader. One of the speakers for 2008 Boys State, which I attended, was the US Attorney for the District of New Jersey, a jovial but hardcore fellow by the name of Chris Christie.

Of course, no one had ever heard of him. (This is not to say that he hadn’t accomplished a lot or wasn’t an amazing person!) He gave a rousing speech of which the contents honestly elude me (and I wish I could remember), but I remember

generally the Republicans in the audience (albeit the few there were) gave him a standing ovation. After his speech, his presenter joked, “Who knows...maybe he’ll be the next Governor of New Jersey!” *Applause and laughter. Some chanting.* It was clearly a joke. He likely had not even considered running, since he didn’t even announce his candidacy until January 2009. So, I think that he may have laughed heartily when the statement came up. None of the thousand hormonally-raging boys took it seriously, either.

But the joke came true, and on January 19, 2010 New Jersey found itself at the command of the Newark-born lawyer. He aspired to do what no New Jersey politician had ever dreamed of—take on the ballooning, gluttonous, wretched force known as the Teachers Union. Needless to say, he simultaneously made enemies with the 605 school districts in New Jersey. He then took on the wage corruption in the police force, in which officers could rack up gross sums for a little bit of overtime here

and there and retire at a young age with full pension. He then made himself the enemy of nearly every officer in the state. But he didn’t stop there; he continually worked to do everything he could in his power to make New Jersey more efficient and less corrupt, and (most importantly) he seeks to bring in more revenue and increase the incentives to inhabit the Garden State.

“He’s unelectable!” jeer his opposition, of which there is much of in New Jersey. That may be true. He did infuriate police officers and teachers, which by conservative estimates make up approximately 99.98% of the state. [Note: by teachers I include the “school administrators” that make six figures and yet have never stepped foot in a classroom or even met a student.] The ardor with which many of these folks lash back is quite scary. And for the teachers, many are spreading this hatred to their students—future voters. But just because he’s unelectable in the state does not mean he’s unelectable on the national scale. In fact, there is much evidence to suggest he is extremely popular—he is already the chairperson-at-large of the Republican Governors Association and has fans in every state—notably Utah (which theoretically and

theologically should be Romney territory) and California (where he is currently visiting upon the writing of this article).

But I agree with his decision not to run this season. He has to finish the job he started in New Jersey before he could claim the experience required for President (although in recent years this experience requirement seems to have been waived).

Christie has decided not to pull a ‘Sarah Palin’ and fail to even finish his term. Palin lost all credibility (if she had any) when she did that. Christie may have been the most powerful GOP force against Obama, but he still may not have won if he ran, due to lack of preparation and funding (the latter arguably more important). However, if he chooses (and I hope he does) to run in the next election, he will be an extremely strong candidate—even despite whatever political changes and candidates spring up. But it would be cool to someday be able to say that some guy I saw speak in some little auditorium when I was seventeen became the 46th President of the United States!

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Urbina's Journalistic Integrity at Question

KARIM LAKHANI
TREASURER

This article is not about fracking, its benefits, its dangers, or if I support it. These questions will be answered by science, and science alone. It is about basic journalistic credibility. Ian Urbina, a reporter for the New York Times, was brought to Cornell on Tuesday as the "Kops Freedom of The Press" lecturer. Urbina's work on hydrofracking has been characterized by some as being groundbreaking, but his work is much less reliable and trustworthy than it seems.

For more information, I interviewed Jon Entine, a Senior Fellow at the Center for Health & Risk Communication and the Statistical Assessment Service (STATS) at George Mason University. Entine writes for publications across the political spectrum and has closely examined Urbina's work. Entine explained that there are two clear issues at stake. First, throughout the lecture, Urbina bragged of having thousands of pages of paperwork that "resulted in and have given rise to the impact the series has had." Entine explained that although most of the quotes Urbina uses are from so-called "anonymous" sources, Arthur E. Berman, a Houston geologist, was cited for his criticism of natural gas drilling from shale. What is not explained by Urbina or the "credible" New York Times is that Berman had a clear financial conflict associated with natural gas drilling. Berman is a strategic partner for Middlefield Capital, a company invested in other non-natural energy companies. Berman had a clear stake in aggressively and publicly opposing natural energy, not a sign of a credible source for an "investigative" piece.

The second—and more problematic—issue also discussed with Entine is the connection between Urbina and the Cornell Study on fracking. The Cornell Study was released in

May of this year and, according to Professor Robert Howarth's statement to the Cornell Chronicle: "Shale gas is worse than conventional gas and is, in fact, worse than coal and worse than oil..." A month later, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology released a study that found that replacing coal-fired power plants with natural gas plants is "the lowest cost way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 50 percent." M.I.T. professors also criticized Cornell's study as being "a really poor piece of work."

When the opportunity came for Cornell to bring a journalist that could speak about Freedom of the Press, it seems as though they focused more on finding an individual who backed up their poorly administered study, instead of a fair, unbiased individual that truly exemplified journalistic integrity. Urbina has manipulated public opinion by using unreliable sources and providing biased, one-sided information. Cornell has rewarded him in an attempt to improve its reputation. If Urbina's works were opinion pieces, journalistic principles would not be at question, but his fracking series has been classified as investigative news and, astonishingly, the New York Times has continued to allow its progression.

All energy sources have risks associated with them. It is time we have a clear discussion about natural gas that fairly analyzes costs and benefits *in comparison* to other energy sources. I expected more from The New York Times and from Cornell; "Freedom of the Press" entails accredited organizations like these the freedom to express their opinions, but the responsibility to clearly differentiate those opinions from facts.

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Intolerance

Continued from page 2

to an intolerable extent, tolerance is ultimately reduced to intolerance towards what is intolerable.

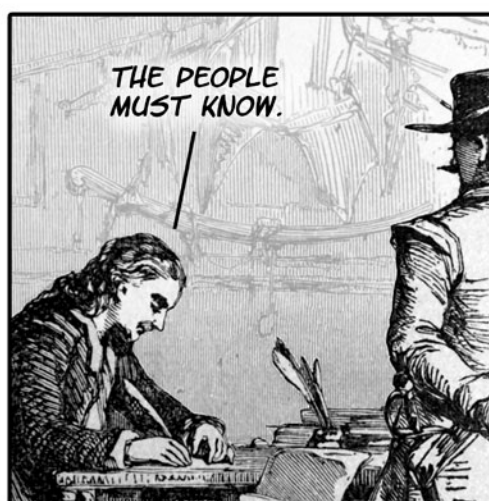
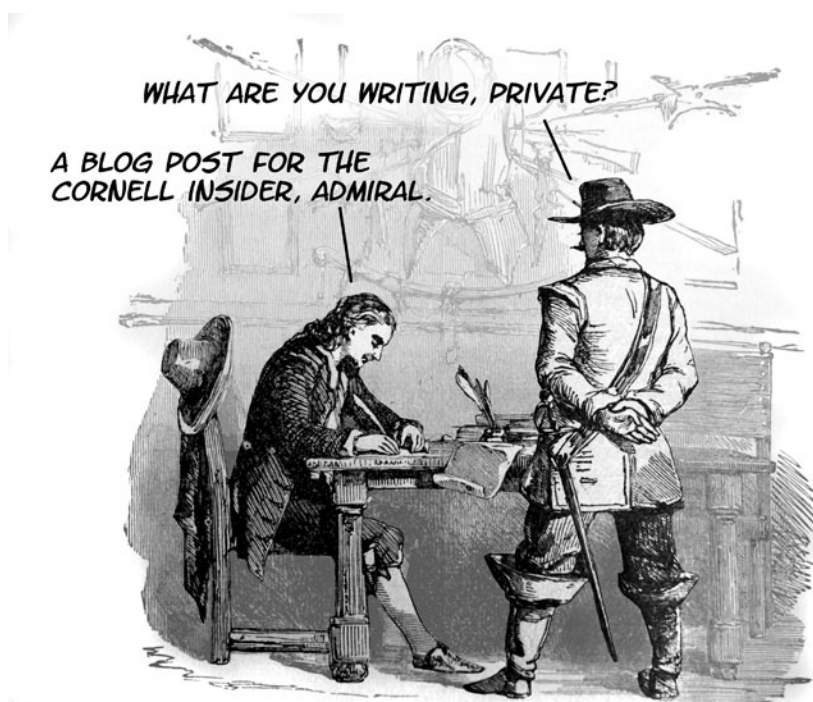
To avoid such fallacies of logic, Forst argued that tolerance is an absolute and ethically neutral concept dependent on our normative understanding of justice, freedom and pragmatism. Tolerance can be 'good' only if the reasons for tolerating are 'good'. In that case, he asked, who gets to decide what is 'good' and what is 'bad' when it comes to tolerance? An authority can grant permission to people to live according to their convictions as long as they do not do not challenge its sovereignty. However, this vertical form of tolerance can turn out to be a perpetuation of domination as it rests on the goodwill of the rulers as well as the clever policy of creating loyal citizens out of potential enemies. Alternatively, people can decide on a common commitment to the principle of tolerance. In this sense, tolerance is a stance accepted by citizens towards each other, acknowledging that they disagree on the most important matters but agree to comply with certain basic rules of social interaction. Both of these tendencies co-exist in modern democracy, which invariably involves the power of the majority to define the meaning of tolerance.

So what should a democracy do when faced with the questions of freedom of religion or the existence of anti-democratic groups? In a majoritarian regime, toleration of dissenters is based on the expectation that the minorities will submit to the dominance of the majority. On the contrary, it can be argued that since it is impossible to coerce a person's conscience, it is much more prudent to accept people's diverse cultural identities rather than discriminate against ways of life that appear unconventional or alien. But one must remember that redefining cultural norms or political institutions

should not be to the detriment of the rights of the greatest number. Even Locke, who in his *A Letter Concerning Tolerance* argued passionately for the freedom of conscience, was unwilling to extend this principle to atheists precisely because they didn't have any conscience. Similarly, if an authoritarian regime should theoretically ban an anti-government party only if it subverts its authority, it is only fair that in a democracy, those who reject the principle of tolerance have no right to be tolerated. A democracy should never allow anti-democratic groups to exist even though they are not violent or dangerous.

Tolerance rests on the twin principles of reciprocity and reasonability. One cannot expect treatment from others that one would not give to them. Simultaneously, the reasons given for tolerance must be deducible from valid and acceptable principles. We cannot ask a racist to be tolerant but we can try to convince him to stop being a racist as racism is a universally condemnable attitude. One should try to think as a lawgiver in a democracy to test if one's objections to opposing opinions are strong enough. Mere objection is not sufficient to justify rejection. However, indifference should also not be mistaken for tolerance because it often becomes necessary to stop being indifferent to preserve the inviolability of tolerance. Jonas Proast, who disputed Locke's notion of tolerance based on the liberal view that people are autonomous authors of their lives, successfully demonstrated that a legitimate exercise of power is indispensable in an organized society. Anarchic liberty, if tolerated, would seriously impair our understanding of tolerance. If a civilized way of life is to survive amidst challenges of war, fundamentalism, and bigotry, the principle of tolerance must be upheld, by intolerance if need be.

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Myrick Vies for Ithaca: Should You Care?

ALFONSE MUGLIA
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Svante Myrick, '09, was more than the typical Cornell student. From humble beginnings, he emerged as a leader on the systematic campus by his sophomore year. He assumed responsibility roles in some of the most structured organizations on campus, yet always remembered where he came from by showing eagerness to care for the less fortunate in the Ithaca community.

Two years after his graduation, this same Myrick – a combination of political correctness and devote humanitarianism – continues to win the hearts of the Ithaca common folk. His allure appears to be working, as the Ithaca novice has earned the Democratic Party's nomination for mayor.

As the calendar turns toward the

students not to express their opinions. He likens unregistered students to others in the community who cannot vote.

"6 year olds can't vote," remarked Myrick in a recent interview with the *Cornell Review*, "but we should still keep in mind the interests of 6 year olds."

Of course, Cornell students are more educated than this group of Ithaca's future activists, yet their cries are no louder. When Cornell students do speak, their voices are heard. The problem is that they are not speaking up in great numbers when it comes to local matters. As a result, when issues of interest to the students—like building regulations aimed at lowering rent for tenants and business owners alike—are brought to the table, their voices are marginalized.

Commons. In the city of Ithaca, Democrats constitute 8 of every 9 registered, party-affiliated voter.

These same Ithacans, according to Myrick, are angry about the inconsistencies of their city's government. They also wish the city's universities were more engaged in the interests of the town – something Myrick echoed.

"The University is not contributing enough to the tax base," he declared. "I will engage the University in a conversation."

This is the adult version of the Svante Myrick that first stepped on the Cornell campus six years ago. This transformation can be attributed to a young man who realized the opportunities and resources that Cornell gave him.

"Being in a fraternity taught me how to best manage personality," said the former SAE brother. "At a young age, you are given the opportunity to manage a large household and manage interests."

If elected, Myrick would be the youngest mayor in Ithaca's history and the first African-American.

That being said, he has come this far by using the same, age-old campaign tactics: promising to lower taxes, while pitting the well-off against the masses. Ithacans have responded positively to the message.

Meanwhile, all Cornell students that face the same opportunities and resources are confronted with the conflict between their lives in the real world and their daily routines on campus.

Myrick may have found his opportunity to make a difference right here in Tompkins County, but most will do so elsewhere in society. In the process, they forget about their lives in Ithaca, a city that has been slow to represent their concerns in Collegetown.

It is a perennial cycle. Ithaca's elected officials show little interest in the improvement of Collegetown because few Cornell students bring them into office. Student apathy then continues from the lack of support.

If the 2007 election numbers are any indication, a familiar number—99%—of Cornell students will show little interest in the Ithaca legislative process going forward. The opportunity for real change in their college living environment will remain out of reach.

Even a 24-year-old Cornellian mayor will be unable to modify that.

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general election, one may wonder how the presence of a young, Cornell graduate in the executive chair would affect the University's relations with the city and the reputation it holds from Cayuga Heights to Buttermilk Falls. How could the lives of Cornell students – particularly those with interests in Collegetown – be touched?

The reality is that the mayor's jurisdiction legally includes a disheartening small portion of Cornell students, the majority of whom are registered in their hometowns and therefore cannot vote in the mayoral election. This exemplified itself in the 2007 election, when 63 of 8000 Collegetown residents (Ithaca's 4th Ward) came to the polls. In that year Myrick captured a seat on the Common Council, and for the ensuing four years, he represented a constituency of whom less than 1% actually voted.

This phenomenon is the result of a lack of registration stemming from student apathy in the local legislative process. Myrick understands this fact, yet finds it no reason for

Because of this, Myrick—a former Sigma Alpha Epsilon Vice-President and Interfraternity Council VP for Communications—has rightfully chosen to turn his attention to the interests of the Ithaca masses.

"I knocked on every door, and learned that the people are frustrated by the extremely high property taxes," he stated. "You hear how much people love living here. They love the culture and what being around these institutions adds to their lives. But a lot of people are getting taxed right out of their homes."

The 24-year-old former-fraternity brother is running for mayor of Ithaca with the pledge of lowering the property taxes of Ithacans.

"When I decided to run for mayor it wasn't just on behalf of the 4th Ward," he continued. "You get involved because you want to do something, and when you look around the town or the world, there is no shortage of things to be improved."

This is the message that has captured the votes of the Ithaca masses – the 99% that continues to rally before Bank of America in the

TEDx

Continued from page 5

money. He reasoned that communities could help identify errors and improve products.

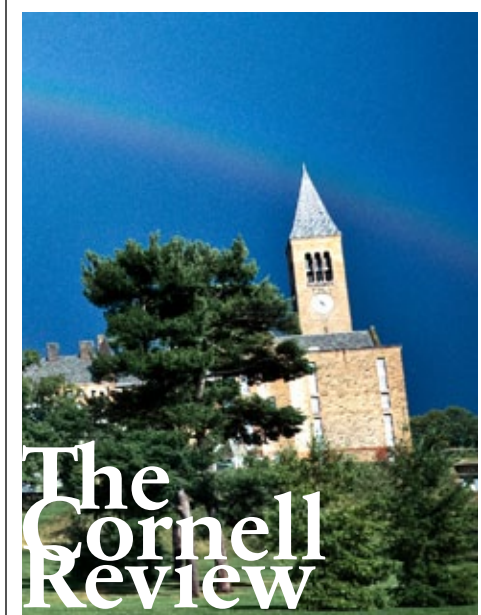
In general, TED talks are designed to motivate people to impact society through innovation. Miki Agrawal, a Cornell alumnus, spoke of her success as a social entrepreneur in developing a pizza restaurant called Slice. She noted that she had trouble eating regular pizza before as a lactose intolerant individual, and implied that pizza, a very large part of the food industry in the United States, contributed to widespread obesity. Although she had no background in food or the restaurant industry, she was able to network with friends to build upon her concept.

"I urge you guys to commit with me, to take that first step, and you too can become a social entrepreneur," said Agrawal, who echoed the panel's call for students to take advantage of their bright peers to create networks.

In an energetic and lively ending, professor of Computer Science Graeme Bailey emphasized this need, saying that when an individual comes up with a unique concept, "the idea is so slow that when you're a fraction into it, it's half evaporated. Collaboration with people in other areas is critical."

TED talks are not designed to force ideas upon their audiences. Nor are they simply opportunities for speakers to plug their businesses or organizations. The first Cornell TEDx, in the spirit of TED, echoed a call for entrepreneurship and intellectual innovation amongst the student body. Though events like this one tend to be populated with liberals, their general sentiment is laudable and serves as a springboard for conservatives to apply tested principles to new concepts. Cornell students should realize that in order to tower above the masses and achieve breakthroughs in thought and deed, challenging societal norms is a must. Otherwise, it is awfully easy to become indistinguishable and unremarkable.

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Wisemen & Fools

The Nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools.

Thucydides

An honest man can feel no pleasure in the exercise of power over his fellow citizens.

Thomas Jefferson

There are a lot of reasons not to elect me.

Mitt Romney

Paying taxes is voluntary.

Sen. Harry Reid

There is no better way to reinforce the likelihood that others in the world will opt for more open societies and economies than to demonstrate that our own system is working.

Chris Christie

It's not news flash to me that I'm overweight. I saw



Letterman's top ten list; I thought probably eight out of the ten were really funny.

Chris Christie

If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.

Albert Einstein

Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

William Pitt

Bill is the greatest husband and father I know. No one is more faithful, true, and honest than he.

Hillary Clinton

I did not have sexual relations with that woman.

Bill Clinton

We are an exceptional nation and we plan to keep it that way! Mediocrity is not in our DNA.

Herman Cain

When the people find that

they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.

Benjamin Franklin

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

John Adams

The only true labor leader is the one who leads labor to work and to wages, and not the leader who leads labor to strikes, sabotage, and starvation.

Henry Ford

You do NOT want to be between Michelle and a tamale.

Barack Obama

And now, a Humorous tale.
It appears that Shortly after we had pease with England Mr. [Ethan] Allen had occasion to visit England, and while their the English took Great pleasure in teasing him, and trying to Make fun of the Americans and General

Washington in particular and one day they got a picture of General Washington, and hung it up in the Back House. Mr. Allen Could see it and they finally asked Mr A if he saw that picture of his friend in the Back House. Mr Allen said no. but said he thought that it was a very appropriate place for an Englishman to keep it. Why they asked. For said Mr Allen there is Nothing that will make an Englishman Shit So quick as the Sight of General Washington.

Abraham Lincoln

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

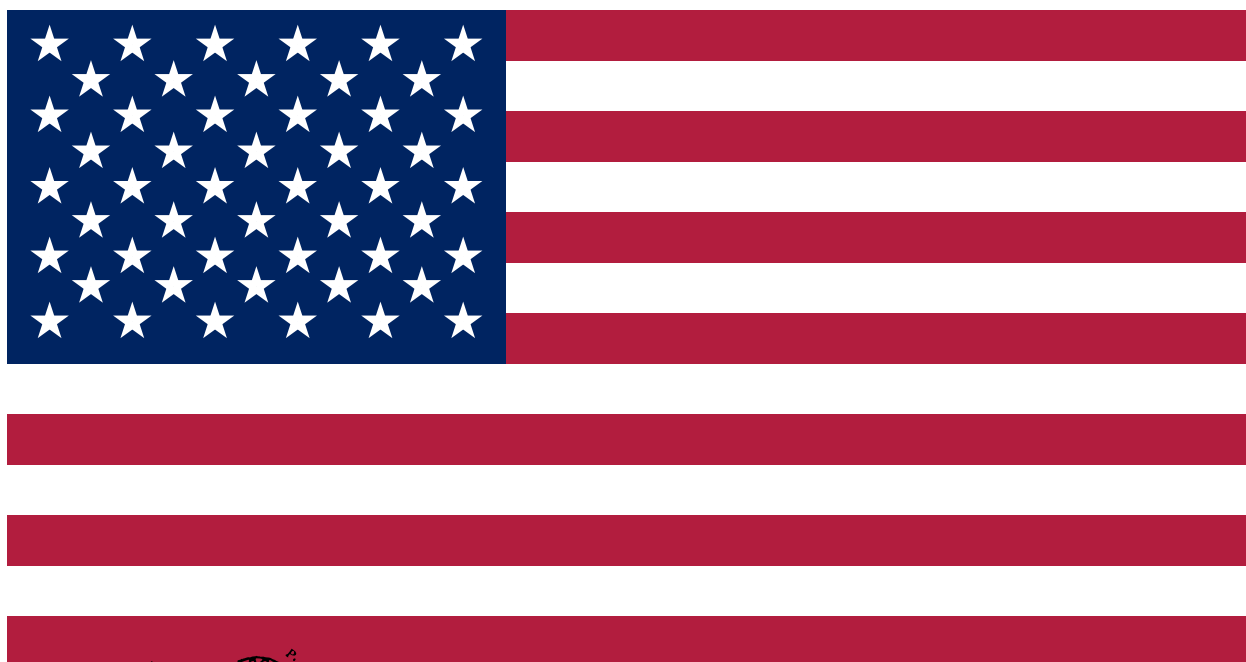
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Barack Obama

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