

# The Cornell Review

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*The Conservative Voice on Campus*

“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

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## A Conversation with Michelle Rhee '92

*The former DC chancellor's thoughts on teachers unions, her successor, and the Obama Administration's education policy*

**MICHAEL ALAN**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Just last year, the nation's second largest teacher's union spent upwards of \$1 million on a mayoral election in what is probably the safest city electorally for Democrats in the entire country. The American Federation of Teachers, led by the fervently anti-reform Randi Weingarten '80, poured that many

resources into the Democratic primary in Washington, D.C. almost entirely because of the actions of another Cornell alumna, Michelle Rhee '92.

Rhee, who served as former Mayor Adrian Fenty's Chancellor of Schools from 2007 until his primary loss last year, provoked the union by attacking the policies that give them the enormous clout they have.

Namely, seniority-based tenure and an absence of both standards and means of gauging teacher performance.

Since leaving her post, Rhee has seemed to tread carefully when it comes to speaking out on the biggest obstacle her

reforms faced in DC. On the one hand, she worked on the transition team of the outspoken conservative Governor Rick Scott of Florida and her new advocacy group, StudentsFirst, is spending tens of thousands defending the Republican, pro-reform Chairman of the Education Committee in Michigan's State House as he faces a union-backed recall effort. On the whole, however, the new group has tried to appear welcoming of unions (a March 29th column in the Huffington Post penned by Rhee on behalf of StudentsFirst is entitled "Why StudentsFirst Supports Teachers' Right to Collective Bargaining") and Rhee has even hired the controversial former head of the anti-reform Democratic National Committee's rapid response outfit, Hari Sevugan, to lead StudentsFirst's communications team.

In an attempt to reconcile these seemingly contradictory stances and get her thoughts on other education-related issues, the *Review* spoke with the former Chancellor on her October 18th visit to campus:

**Cornell Review:** Thanks so much for sitting down with me; it's great to see education reform discussed on campus. Getting right into it, I wanted to set the record straight with

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UJOO/USNEWS

## Ensnared by Unemployment

*Getting America Out of its Economic Slump*

**CHRISTOPHER SLIJK**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Jobs: a word at the core of modern political debate. Regardless of foreign and social policy, the issue at the forefront of the American voter's mind is whether or not he will be laid off from his or her job tomorrow. Since the 2008-2009 financial crisis, politicians from left, right, and center have built their campaign platforms on the promise of job growth. With President Obama's recent push for a new jobs bill, the government is trying to once again spur the economy and employment with a combination of stimulus spending and payroll tax cuts for small businesses, funded by a \$500 billion surtax on millionaires.

While the bill has very little traction in Congress and is unlikely to pass, it would be largely ineffective even if it did pass due to the fact that it ignores the root cause of stagnating employment. The problem isn't simply too little revenue or too much taxation: many companies, despite

the dismal economy, are doing well enough that, in better times, they would be eagerly expanding their operations. The problem is the vicious coupling of financial uncertainty and a zealously over-regulating government.

On one hand, volatility in financial markets and low consumer confidence have kept larger businesses sitting on massive stockpiles of cash, fearful of expanding their operations or investing their profits back into their own businesses without knowing if there will even be a market for their new goods and services. While this instability is largely outside the control of any one person or group to fix and must ultimately be sorted out by the markets themselves, artificial manipulation of interest rates and government bailouts of failing corporations has certainly exacerbated the uncertainty we face now. Bringing government spending under control and having the Federal Reserve cease its interventionist

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## Defending Coercive Interrogation

*Marc Thiessen Fights the Battle of the Narratives at Cornell*

**BRENDAN PATRICK DEVINE**  
STAFF WRITER

Everything you thought you knew about coercive interrogations, or "torture" as some seditious elements of society call it, is wrong, and former speech-writer to President George W. Bush came to Cornell so he could tell you why.

"100,000 enemy combatants were captured during the War on Terror. Of those, 800 were sent to Guantanamo and about 100 went to CIA black sites," said Thiessen to predicate his argument. The 800 enemy combatants sent to Guantanamo Bay were targets Thiessen characterized as "mid-level" leaders of terrorist circles. The 100 sent to CIA black sites aroused the genuine interest of the American intelligence community.

America's intelligence community was caught in an interstice between morality and efficacy. This fundamental question arose when

high-interest terrorist leaders such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammad (hereafter KSM) came into custody: how does one coerce a terrorist into cooperation without threatening the subject with severe physical harm? The United States, by its historical and Constitutional standards, is not permitted to engage in interrogative methods that permanently threaten the "long-term physical and mental well-being" of the subject, Thiessen emphasized. Instead of trading America's moral obligations for information, the Bush administration devised a safe, riskless system of interrogative methods based on the latest medical advice and research. These methods simulated the threat of physical harms, at their worst, or simply provided the subject with extreme discomfort for several days at a time.

Indeed, there were numerous gradations in these methods. Most

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## Interrogation

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terrorists were subjected to the “tummy slap.” If the subject proved resistive to that, he would next be given and diet of water and sugar: “We ‘tortured’ [the terrorists] by giving them Carnation products,” jested Thiessen. Should these men remain obdurate, they would be deprived of sleep for short periods of time, usually a few days. The more severe coercions—such as sleep deprivation—were administered under close medical watch and well within the reasonable limits of time a person could live under these conditions without experiencing pain or severe mental anxiety.

And if the subject would still refuse to cooperate, he would be put to waterboarding. Waterboarding, an interrogative practice that many journalists like Evan Wallach compare to Japanese water torture or Nazi execution methods, needs to be understood within the context of its use. “How many of you knew that no one at Guantanamo was waterboarded?” asked Thiessen. Two people, in a room of about one hundred, raised their hands. “How many of you knew that only three people [out of the 100,000 captured during the War on Terror] were waterboarded?” The same two people raised their hands. “In fact, more journalists trying to prove waterboarding is torture have been waterboarded than terrorists,” he asserted.

Waterboarding proved very effective among these three subjects,

including September 11th mastermind KSM. “The point wasn’t to get their information,” retorted Thiessen to the common objection that people will say anything to escape the pain of torture. “The point was to get their cooperation.” E-mails, letters, invoices, and bank accounts needed to be understood in context, missives had to be decoded, and voices required recognition. Interrogators would ask questions to which they already knew the answers during waterboarding sessions in order to gauge the subject’s will to cooperate. In KSM’s case, three weeks of sessions were necessary. The other subjects lasted three days. Thiessen aphorized “[Mohammad] went from Khalid Sheikh Mohammad to Professor KSM, running a graduate level seminar for the CIA and even quizzing students at the start of every class to make sure they were paying attention.”

President Bush’s coercive interrogation methods provided ten years of fruitful information for the CIA and military to utilize in its fight against terrorism. Yet, that information is perishable, according to Thiessen. Thiessen is in many ways a disciple of Donald Rumsfeld’s philosophy of Force Transformation, which suggests that the current administration should make military and intelligence investments for its successors. After September 11th, the American intelligence community knew nearly nothing about Al-Qaeda or how any of the other major Islamic terrorist networks operated. Now there is a treasure trove of

information, which President Bush passed on to his successor, President Obama. This intelligence facilitated the assassination of Osama bin Laden and allowed the Obama administration to continue most of the policies of the Bush administration with little friction.

There is one major cause of concern to Thiessen: President Obama, unlike President Bush and Donald Rumsfeld, does not seem to believe in Force Transformation. He discontinued the Bush administration’s coercive interrogation program and, rather than capturing terrorists for questioning, prefers to either remotely kill them with drones or to simply “catch-and-release” as though these men were fish. “Their minds die with them,” Thiessen repeated throughout the evening, as something of a mantra, a chorus to opus.

During the Question & Answer segment one thoughtful veteran and current graduate student asked a revealing question: what are we doing to win the “Battle of the Narratives?” Much of Thiessen’s motivation to speak at universities and to write in newspapers comes not from his professional penchant for writing, but from his desire to right the Bush administration’s poor public



image. Most interrogation officers “would have been given medals” for the service they did to their country, Thiessen lamented. “Instead, they got subpoenas” from President Obama’s attorney general, Eric Holder. One day after he took office President Obama released information on President Bush’s interrogation methods to the public and desensitized discourse on the subject, an action Thiessen called “giving the terrorists an instruction manual for resistance.” However, if any good has come of President Obama’s myopia, it is that Thiessen and others like him are now able to come to the aid of the good men of the Bush administration and defend their names from press predators. Thiessen is now able to fight in the “Battle of the Narratives.”

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# The New War on Terror

**PATRICK MORAN**  
STAFF WRITER

With the recent announcement by President Obama that the U.S. would begin the long-anticipated drawdown from the Iraq War, one would be reasonable in viewing this as the dawn of a new era in the War on Terror. Indeed, The Wall Street Journal has gone so far as to opine that the drawdown, along with an expected drawback in Afghanistan, “clears the way for the U.S. to shift its focus to Asia and, in particular, China.” Without a doubt, the United States is prepared to begin relegating to history the two wars that over the last decade have simultaneously defined and have been defined by our country, both in tragedy and triumph. The War on Terror has brought immense costs yet it has also served as a reminder that our country, for better and for worse, is still capable of protecting its people and ideals. That is why the recent Department of Justice allegations against the Iranian government, and more specifically its Quds Forces (a special forces unit within The Revolutionary Guards), of a terror plot against a Saudi Arabian ambassador are so jarring.



To a degree, we have been conditioned to view international terror plots as more often than not the province of organized terror groups and non-state actors who transcend national boundaries. 9/11 was the work of Al Qaeda, the November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks were carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba, and the bungled Christmas bombing in 2009 was perpetrated by the Yemeni branch of Al Qaeda, yet it had been considered unlikely to find a plot originating from the upper levels of a belligerent government. The accusations against Texas car dealer, Manssor Arbabsiar, and Quds Force member Gholam Shakuri of their plot to assassinate Saudi Arabian diplomat Adel Al-Jubeir read like a sensationalist film plot. Their hit men of choice were a Mexican drug cartel, and the setup would be almost comically inane if the implications of the plot were not so dark.

Realistically, the numerous issues many Middle Eastern specialists have taken with the details of the plot by are most likely correct. Kenneth Katzman of the Congressional Research Service states as much, having said, “There are a number of dimensions to this that argue against the idea that this was some sort of dedicated plot approved and thought

through at high levels of the Iranian government.” As much as many in the mainstream media would love to use this as yet another example of the danger of a country run by belligerent clerics and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, it seems unlikely that they would take such radical actions. To organize the assassination of a foreign country’s diplomat in the United States would be an act of war, and radical or not, the ruling class in Iran is not suicidal.

What the plot does speak to, however, is that the Middle East is likely to pose a foreign policy challenge for the United States well into the future. The major wars in the greater War on Terror may have indeed run their course but we cannot pretend that their end signifies the end of conflict. The overthrow of Moammar Gaddafi in Libya underscores the types of smaller regional conflicts likely to embroil the United States in the future, conflicts deemed necessary to prevent insurgent groups and destabilizing terrorist organizations from gaining footholds in the ensuing power vacuums.

Furthermore, while it seems unlikely that Iran would take such overt actions to promote regional unrest, the United States cannot

ignore the many subversive moves the Iranian government, and by extension the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, have taken over the last few years. Iran has been listed as a state sponsor of terrorism since 2007 and according to the 2009 Country Reports of Terrorism from the State Department “Iran has long been the foremost state sponsor of terrorism, supporting Hezbollah, HAMAS, and other rejectionist Palestinian groups as proxies for their own interests in the Arab world.” Iran is not a purely ideologically driven belligerent. Rather, they are a state willing to use unrest and instability to advance their own power within the region against the United States.

The War on Terror is entering a new stage. The likelihood of new long-term military engagements is lower than ever, but the potential threat is still high. Ultimately the takeaway from the newly discovered plot should be this: despite our best efforts to stem terrorism we will never be able to completely eradicate the threat. However, that does not mean there is no hope for our safety. The continued diligence and vigilance of all citizens and members of the intelligence community will ensure our future security.

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# Intellectual Properties

## *Cornell is not focused on housing.*

BY LUCAS POLICASTRO

Every two years since 1999, Cornell has issued an undergraduate student survey. The most recent iteration is called the Cornell PULSE—Perceptions of Undergraduate Life and Student Experiences. It asked a potent salvo of questions across seven pages, covering nearly every aspect of the student experience. It did not ask about housing satisfaction.

None of the surveys did.

Two questions about housing did come up. Earlier surveys asked where we live, and most of the surveys asked whether we are satisfied with the “sense of community” where we live.

Apparently, our overall satisfaction with housing is secondary to whether we feel a sense of community.

To their credit, though, at least Cornell no longer needs to ask its students where they live.

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It needn't be said that housing is an issue. It needn't be said that housing is a problem. The majority of undergrads reading this have experienced firsthand the inadequacies, frustrations, and horrible failures of Cornell housing. It is a stain on the Cornell experience for thousands of students. Some get lucky—it is a lottery, after all—but those students (myself included) certainly commiserate with unlucky friends.

Freshmen and their parents detect the trouble ahead before they arrive. Cornell is now acting proactively to stem the usual parent indignation over housing woes. During Parents' Weekend, mums and dads who keeled over during Cornell Days dorm tours are pacified with “Housing Beyond the First Year” info sessions. Freshmen are also being treated to Off-Campus Housing Info Sessions. These point to one glaring predicament: Cornell admits more students than it can

house.

That's one gripe to rule them all. While it's possible to complain about unhygienic conditions, hot summers, and 10 Watt light bulbs, all of these would seem bearable if only students could live where they wanted. The truly sweat-inducing matters are all space-related: the lack of singles, the impossible lotteries, uncertainty about next year, and the most harrowing outcome—desertion to the lawless landlords of Collegetown and elsewhere. Granted, some students are excited about independent living, which is fun on good days (see recent *Sun* pieces on C-town). Regardless, it should be the students' choice to live off-campus, not their only option.

Collegetown is the least luxurious element of the Cornell experience. We can blame the city of Ithaca for poor urban planning in C-town, if there is such a thing. A little more grocery store, a little less pizza, if you know what I mean. The landlords are more to blame for their price-gouging and lack of an eye for rotting wood. (Obviously, they aren't all bad; we appreciate every landlord who gives a hoot about his or her tenants.) But again, Cornell holds the keys. If you build dorms, they will come, especially those who never even attempted to seek campus housing. What insurmountable roadblock has kept the administration from allocating funds to new dorm construction?

It's easy to say they don't care. But we know they do, in a languid, bureaucratic sort of way. Cornell's tight on funds, yes. But it's not lacking donors. Cornell has been able to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars to fund construction and renovation, mostly at Weill in Manhattan. Down there, they are very happy to have a \$637 million Medical Research Building in the works. That amount of money will

never show up for the purpose of measly undergraduate housing, but one wonders if anyone bothered to ask those donors to set aside toward undergrads a bit of their immeasurable generosity. Are we to believe that the Roosevelt Island tech campus and the lavish Goldwin Smith extension are also of greater import than adequate housing?

Ah yes, I forgot—the Goldwin Smith building has already received \$46 million in specific donations. “An elegant tribute to Goldwin Smith!” And a crude slap in the face to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, like those who were counting on the lottery only to be sent back to Collegetown after the rent rush was over. This problem shouldn't occur at such a wealthy institution. Cornell exists primarily for the benefit of promising young men and women; it's disingenuous to offer them an incomplete experience while expanding other excellent pursuits like medical research.

Every student knows that the housing problem is the callus on Cornell's foot—a callus used in particular to kick the ass of any student hoping they might be able to call Cornell's campus their home away from home. I don't blame the housing office. They do the best they can with a wholly inadequate housing portfolio. The one solution—build more dorms—is out of their hands.

We need four years of guaranteed housing. There is no better way to reduce stress for students and make Cornell a more desirable college, and the administration should make it a priority to convey this to donors as part of the Reimagining initiative. Undergraduate housing is a costly right, not a paid privilege.

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## Unemployment

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monetary policy would no doubt stabilize the economy in the long run, but for now there is no quick way to fix this.

On the other hand, cumbersome federal and state regulations are highly discouraging to small businesses and would-be entrepreneurs: after all, when on average half of all business start-ups fail within five years, why risk your own financial future when you must cut through miles of red tape and regulation before you even get the opportunity to try to succeed? With new rules such as last year's requirement that all manner of business transactions be filed with the IRS under 1099s (oddly enough hidden within last year's healthcare bill), small business are especially exposed if they expand their operations only to find there is no one willing to buy from them. So they wait, and meanwhile the American economy—largely dependent on the small business sector for job growth—has nearly ground to a halt.

Ultimately, our problem isn't just lack of jobs: if it were as simple as that, we could add more people to the government payroll, like the

hiring spree of census workers last year. We could provide more incentives for low-skill service jobs and have McDonalds make up the bulk of new employment, as it did at the beginning of this summer. We could throw even more entangling business regulations and restrictions onto the federal register, which would force businesses to hire more accountants and lawyers to remain compliant with the law. But none of these outcomes have brought us any closer to a stabilized and growing economy than we were at the onset of the financial crisis. What we need is the growth of productive, high-skill manufacturing and service sector jobs—jobs which will let us capitalize on American creativity and ingenuity and leave the low-skill manufacturing work to low-wage countries which are more than happy to take them off our hands. If we are to remain a first-world nation, we need to stop focusing on filling up third-world jobs and instead build upon the innovative technological industries that have made us so prosperous in the past and can do so again.

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## Honesty in the Fight for Labor Action

ANDRE GARDINER  
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this semester the Cornell Organization for Labor Action (COLA) rejected a debate offer from Students and Workers for International Free Trade (SWIFT) and the Cornell Republicans. Not only does this move blatantly fly in the face of what Cornell stands for as an education institution, it shows at tremendous amount of arrogance on their part.

Putting aside the weak intellectual underpinnings of COLA, the group exhibits an extreme amount of hypocrisy in their advocacy efforts on the behalf of sweatshop workers. While on the one hand they participate in campaigns against Nike, individually they spend lavishly on tech products made in sweatshops. They wear Alta Gracia tee shirts, but at the same time they tweet away on iPhones and MacBooks made in sweatshops. COLA exhibits selective outrage, a fact shown by their emphasis on Nike over Apple.

While everyone knows Nike's labor history, I will save you a Google

search and summarize Apple's briefly. Apple manufactures their products through a Taiwanese manufacturer, Foxconn. Foxconn employs about 200,000 workers in mainland China and is a major manufacturer for Dell, Motorola, Sony, Nokia, and HP. Foxconn has a long and storied history of labor problems. Most notably, in 2010, eleven workers at Foxconn committed suicide. While it is always difficult to ascertain the true reason for such a tragedy, it is believed that the suicides were a result of overworking on iPhone production. Outrage over this incident was mostly muted by labor organizations such as COLA. There was an immediate response just after the incident but they've since gone back to protesting Nike.

Anyone who has taken a class with any amount of microeconomics realizes that the externalities related to producing raw materials are sometimes larger than the direct impact of producing a good. The societal impact of a Nike factory traces mostly back to cotton. Depending

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## Why Do We Conserve?

KUSHAGRA ANIKET  
STAFF WRITER

Those of us who are philosophers sometimes relate the human life to an interminable journey. An individual is described as a traveller who must traverse an arduous path of ceaseless obstacles and perpetual struggles to attain an inexplicable collective state, variously described as 'scientific advancement', 'modernization', 'enlightenment' or even 'salvation'.

To the uninitiated, however, these ends are uncertain for two reasons. First, how can we ever be sure that the ultimate goal promised to us would be 'better' than whatever sort of society we started with? Second,

who would embark on a voyage fraught with tremendous difficulties when there are doubts

concerning the desirability of our unknown destination? If progress is nothing but movement without any foreseeable objective, only naïve optimism can lull us into the false security of its desirability.

If we can never be sure of the validity of our future knowledge, the past is the only reliable means of developing our present criterion of truth. "He who opts for the uncertain choices, sacrificing the certain objects, fails to gain the uncertain and loses the certain already in his possession" (*Ethics of Chanakya*, I.13). Rebellion against the tyranny of the present has almost invariably motivated people to look upon the past and take crucial clues from history. Thus, in such times of crisis, the outlook, which consoles the human mind amidst discordant conjectures and conflicting moralities

and prevents it from ending in despair, can be called conservatism.

A number of ideas that are frequently taken for granted or even questioned today, trace their origins to the intense debates over the past centuries. Modern institutions of democracy and capitalism that we seldom appreciate and often criticize are rooted in the traditional approach of addressing the relationship between individual initiative and social cohesion. When we complain that the decisions made by the UN Security Council or the International Monetary Fund reflect "Western" interests, we ignore the underlying fact that most of the world's political and security institutions and much of our contemporary economic thinking are products of the Western Civilization.

So how can the past aid our comprehension of the present? More than two millennia ago, Socrates argued that to uphold the virtue of justice, the guardians or rulers of the state must maintain high standards of fairness, temperance and courage (*Republic*, IV). Applying this principle to more contemporary times, we can see how the Western understanding of democracy revolves around the ideas of government by popular approval, freedom of conscience and rule of law. If in a democracy, the citizens elect the rulers who take the most important decisions, 'fairness' in democratic politics lies in the pursuit of the interests of common people.

The Protestant Reformation that led to the separation of the state and church in medieval Europe was the precursor to the modern idea of religious tolerance. Secularism is built on the twin principles of mutual exclusion and equal distance. First,

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# Michelle Rhee

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regards to your thoughts on collective bargaining, especially considering it was an obstacle for your reforms in DC.

**Michelle Rhee:** The context that I'm coming from is that when I was in DC, we were able to do the things that we needed to do with collective bargaining. We signed a contract, granted it was a drawn out, three year process, but we did come to that agreement through the collective bargaining process. I think there do need to be reforms to collective bargaining, for example, when it comes to teacher performance. Those things shouldn't be decided by union bosses and administrators duking it out. But I do think that you can see aggressive education reform with a more contained collective bargaining process in place.

was I a Democrat?" Well, there are a lot of Democrats that don't like where the party is on education policy and probably agree more with the Republicans on that issue, but they may not like where the Republicans are on other issues. I think that, in the future, we'll be less focused on partisan politics and more focused on the actual solutions.

**CR:** Moving on to another big issue, there's no question that there are serious problems with No Child

**"I think I can be honest because I am a Democrat when I say that my party needs a lot of work."**

Left Behind, but do you think Secretary Duncan's plan to issue waivers allowing states to bypass many of the law's provisions could result in schools ignoring students that needed extra help to meet Federal standards, particularly special needs students and students coming from underprivileged backgrounds?

local governments and he has cited the need to put more funding into education as a reason to pass the legislation. Do you think school districts should continue a course of spending that shows no real efficacy in terms of student performance and requires a \$35 billion bailout from the Federal government?

**Rhee:** I definitely think that the way we spend money on public education is flawed. You just have to look at the situation in places like New-

having the opportunity to teach in an impoverished Baltimore classroom. How do you think schools can better recruit highly qualified teachers who want to make it their career instead of just a short stint, as we see with so many TFA participants?

**Rhee:** I think the best way to get highly qualified teachers that stay in education is to make it a profession that they'll want to stay in. Young people that I talk to today are concerned about going into education because of policies like seniority. That's very disheartening to young people that want to be judged on the merits of their work, not how long they've been there. We also need to recognize and reward effectiveness.

**CR:** Going off of that, what's the best way to institute a performance pay system?

**Rhee:** What we implemented in DC was a mix of really large bonuses for highly performing teachers in roles we needed filled, along with a raise in their base pay that's not tied to seniority, but on effectiveness. I think that's a pretty good start and does a good job of incentivizing better performance in the classroom.

**CR:** Finally, what do you think of what your successor as Chancellor, Kaya Henderson, has done and what are your feelings on Mayor Gray's performance so far? I know that, despite the campaign rhetoric, some of the reforms you kicked off, like laying off teachers based on IMPACT assessments, have still been implemented.

**Rhee:** Mayor Gray is running into his own issues right now. There are a lot of issues being raised with both him and city council members [referring to alleged ethics violations facing District Democrats] and I just hope it's not a distraction from the big issues. But, at the end of the day, Kaya was with me both before I went to DC and when I was there and I have faith that, as long as he continues to support her, she can continue to push the district in the right direction.

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Former DC public schools chief Michelle Rhee '92 (left) and AFT President Randi Weingarten '80 (right) were clashing long before anyone outside of Wisconsin had heard the name "Scott Walker."

**CR:** Your new group, StudentsFirst, seems to be doing a lot of outreach to Democrats. This makes sense, seeing as you are a Democrat, but do you really think your reforms can be implemented in a party that made its opposition to your reforms pretty clear when it defeated Mayor Fenty in the primary last year?

**Rhee:** I think I can be honest because I am a Democrat when I say that my party needs a lot of work. Somebody at a Republican event asked me, "if I really cared about education, why

**Rhee:** Absolutely, I am worried about that. I understand the Secretary's decision to issue the waivers—there's no question that the law needs to be modified. I think the biggest concern is how they're implemented. If the waivers can be issued without taking away the standards and accountability that are necessary, then I'm fine with it. But the devil's going to be in the details.

**CR:** President Obama's proposed Jobs Bill includes measures intended to essentially bailout state and

ark and DC where they're spending a lot of money for not a lot of results. It's hard for me to argue to politicians, even though I ran a school district and a superintendent or a chancellor always wants more money, that they should throw more money at a broken system. What we have to focus on right now, given the economic crisis, is changing school districts so they operate with more efficacy given what they have and then, once the system is changed, we may need more money. But we have no way to tell where the money is actually needed because we waste so much of it.

**CR:** What did you think of Secretary Duncan's "Race to the Top" program and do you think there were issues with how it was implemented, especially with regard to the stipulation that reforms must have received union support in order to get full credit under the program's point system?

**Rhee:** I think the concept behind the program was brilliant. Rewarding reform instead of just spreading that \$4 billion around equally is great. But I do think the implementation was a little rough. Anytime you're dealing with a massive bureaucracy like the Department of Education, you're going to run into problems. Moving forward, I think the idea was great and if they can fix problems with things like scoring and how they judge those reforms, it can definitely be effective.

**CR:** Your roots in education reform come from Teach for America and

On November 8,

Ying Ma

Author of *Chinese Girl in the Ghetto*

Presents

**The Dark Side of  
Chinese State Capitalism**

Goldwin Smith 142, 7:00-8:00 PM

Sponsored by the Cornell Review and the Young America's Foundation





# Ship of Fools !

A SHIP ❄ A CAMPUS ❄ A SHAME



## How to Create New Departments at Cornell and Receive Funding

Choose any random term from the prefix column, suffix column, and right column (optional, if needed).

Prefix	Suffix	Optional Ending
Feminist	Relations	Studies
Gender	Feminism	
Ecological	Humanism	
Environmental	Communication	
Developmental	Society	
Africana	Literature	
Comparative	Ecology	
Humanitarian	Gender	
Ethnic	History	
Economic	Economy	
Asian American	Science	
Racial	Tension	
Labor	Inequality	
LGBT	Resources	
Latino	Discrimination	
Political	Sociology	
{Insert Third World Country}	Development	
Contemporary	Psychology	
Human	Statistics	
Cognitive	Culture	
Sexual	Race	
Public	Diversity	
Policy	Management	
Information	Tolerances	
International	Policy	
Global	Globalization	
Natural	Dance	
Cultural	Humanitarianism	

Here are some examples.

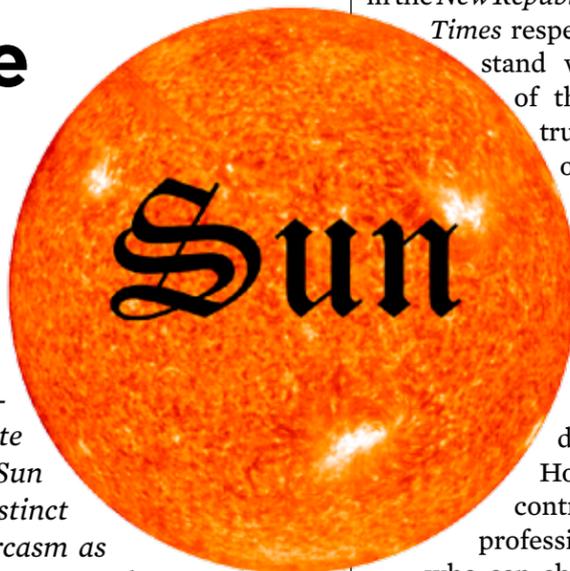
See if you can spot the ones that are actually Cornell departments or classes (answers upside down at the bottom). We may not even be completely correct because we have not accounted for departments that have sprung up in the short interval in which this issue was published.

- Comparative Inequality Studies
- Feminist Ecology
- Labor Gender Studies
- Human Ecology
- Asian American Development
- Comparative Literature
- Humanitarian Ecology Studies
- Latino Dance Studies
- Developmental Sociology
- Cognitive Science
- Feminist And Gender Studies
- Human Development
- Labor Inequality
- Sexual Humanitarianism
- Gender Inequality Studies
- LGBT Culture Studies
- Feminist Resources
- Cultural Race Studies
- Racial Management
- Immigrant Literature





the



Mr. Ortiz,

I wanted to commend you on the high quality of your humor piece, entitled "On Stupidity and the Political Right". It has been quite some time since any article published in the Sun aroused such laughter from me. Your most distinct talent is the ability to mask your biting sarcasm as complete and total historical ignorance, and are so good at your art that it almost seems that you have no concept of what conservatism actually is. The amount of effort necessary to confuse a philosophy of hard work, free markets, and peace and life for all with a hateful ideology of racism and religious oppression is commendable. To ignore basic tenets of American history, like how the first conservatives fought tirelessly to halt and end slavery and giving women the right to vote (Susan B. Anthony was quite conservative in many of her views) is bolder than most other comedians of your ilk would dare. And to make the association that a desire to openly worship equates to "forcing people to believe in God"? Genius my friend, pure genius. Put that together with some ad-hominem attacks and you've got a perfect satire piece for the Onion or the humor site of your choice.

Oh wait, this was a serious editorial for a supposedly reputable college newspaper? Well then.....

Sincerely,  
Joe Bonica

## President Obama's Wall Street Blunder

BY RAJ KANNAPPAN

President Obama certainly has a way with digging a hole for himself—whether it's his inability to lead on the Palestinian peace process or his failure to deliver an immigration reform bill that he confidently promised to Hispanics. He's done it again through his shamelessly contradictory behavior on bankers. In a 2009 interview with Steve Kroft on CBS's 60 Minutes, Obama declared boldly and without compunction, "I did not run for office to be helping out a bunch of fat cat bankers on Wall Street." He has continued to employ this antagonistic rhetoric toward those in the financial sector, even using ad hominem attacks and convenient but intellectually lazy arguments such as his newfound Buffet Rule in order to punish them. Obama so desperately wants to appear as though he's fighting a great battle against the wealthy on behalf

of the disenfranchised. Yet, what liberals and now, more specifically, the Occupy Wall Street protestors—who presumably voted for Obama and will vote for him the second time around—fail to consider is that Obama has benefitted more from the largesse of "fat cat" bankers than any Republican in recent times. They fail to perceive reality—that Obama took the White House not only through the small contributions of millions of average Americans, but also through sizable donations from the wealthy. Obama has received more money from Wall Street than any politician from either party in the last 20 years. During his 2008 presidential bid, he received approximately 20% of his total campaign donation from Wall Street. Wall Street also contributed a greater total to Obama's campaign than it did to Senator John McCain's.

More specifically, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, in the last presidential elec-

## Journalism at its Not-So-Finest

BY GARRICK LAU

One needs look no further than the recent publications in the *Cornell Daily Sun* to know that there is no journalism major at Cornell.

Those of us who remember Stephen Glass and Jayson Blair, reporters who fabricated accounts for articles in the *New Republic* and the *New York*

*Times* respectively, can understand why a large mass

of the population distrusts the media. But

one can still admire Glass and Blair for their ability to fly

under the radar for so long with

such convincing articles, cheating

with such tremendous success.

However, *Daily Sun* contributors are not

professional journalists who can cheat as well as others

have before them. Students, like any other humans, feel okay with

skimming through articles without realizing the subtle, and at times

not so subtle, attempts by the writers to push their own opinions, even

in news pieces. Even ignoring the stylistic blunders evident in several

articles, any analytical reader should realize that few members of the paper

will be joining the *Washington Post* any time soon.

Why such an inflammatory statement?

Editors know that a block quote—the large, bold inset containing the

words of an interviewed person—should have at least three features:

it should be interesting, pertinent to

the story, and above all, accurate. If anything other than headlines and pictures stand out to readers, it is the block quote. It screams to the reader that this is important. But on October 17, 2011, the article "C.U. Democrats 'Occupy' Ho Plaza in Protest Rally" failed the most important element of the use of block quote: it was not accurate.

First, in the article and block quote, the writer misspelled the name of the interviewed source. Second, after I spoke with the source, whom I know personally, she said that her

opinion to the reporter was along the lines of "Occupy Wall Street needs more concrete goals, but their intentions are good."

Now for what the article claimed she said: "I think [the Occupy movement] does not need a more defined goal, as long as we go back to supporting those who are underrepresented."

A writer has the freedom to edit a quote in certain ways; for example, inserting [the Occupy movement]

was necessary for the quote to make sense. However, one look at the two quotes above should yield the conclusion that they are coming from

two different people. I am not claiming that the writer of this article misquoted on purpose.

However, I am claiming that he should have double checked on his sources, as it is obvious that he misunderstood those whom he referenced in his article; for example, Cornell Republicans President Raj Kannappan claims that he, too, was

misquoted in the article. But one can argue that a single mis-

Continued on page 8

tion Obama reined in wads of cash from multiple bulge bracket firms.

In total, including employees and the respective bank's Political Action Committee, Obama collected

\$1,013,091 from Goldman Sachs, \$808,799 from JPMorgan Chase & Co., and \$736,771 from Citigroup.

Furthermore, he took in \$532,674 from UBS and \$512,232 from Morgan Stanley. An examination of campaign finance records also reveals

that Obama picked up \$421,242 from Bank of America, outdoing the bank's previous record contribution

of \$329,761 to President George W. Bush in 2004.

It would also surprise ardent populist supporters of Obama, who claim to be waging a Manichean battle valiantly for the cause of the

trampled and unprivileged, that according to figures dating to 1990, Goldman Sachs—the corporation

against which liberals continue to rail against for its representation of what's wrong with society—has

consistently contributed more money to Democratic rather than Republican candidates for federal office. In

2008, for example, three out of every four dollars contributed by Goldman

Sachs went to Democratic coffers. Unsurprisingly, as he has done on

so many issues since entering the White House, President Obama—the leader of the party that seemingly

claims to have monopolized the representation of the impoverished—has failed to reconcile his supposed

moral adherence to defending the poor at all costs with his sycophancy to "fat cat" bankers.

Perhaps the statement most indicative of Obama's self-contradictory behavior was one by an anonymous

Wall Street executive who wished to avoid blowback from the administration. Invited to, but ultimately

rejecting the offer to, a meeting with Obama in the White House's Blue Room a few weeks before the

president announced his reelection bid in April, the executive remarked that it was quite ironic that the man

who had vilified bankers as "fat cats" would have the nerve to invite him and his colleagues to a fundraising

dinner at Daniel, the Upper East Side restaurant whose \$185 six course tasting menu and opulent interior

reject any notion of re-

Continued on page 10



## Journalism

Continued from page 7

quote (or two) is not a show of poor journalism.

Nevertheless, one can certainly argue that bias is. And said article, and alas several others, is full of it.

It is unfortunate that news articles can ever be accused of bias, but the “Occupy” article takes the sole opposing opinion on Occupy Wall Street and cleverly places it at the end, which the common reader rarely actually reaches. Kannappan’s (misquoted) opinion gets not only a mere 43 words of 721, but he gets the butt end of it as well. Throughout the first few paragraphs of the article, a naïve reader is led to believe that the rallies are a just way of communicating frustration, and that protestors being “not solely focused on one issue... ‘shows solidarity’” with the protests against Wall Street. Read that last part again, and try to tell yourself that that doesn’t sound Orwellian.

It is obvious that this opinion was what the writer was attempting to push, even going as far as to turn a quote from a member of the Cornell Democrats upside-down to align it with the idea that the lack of purpose in the Occupy movements is justified. Those who closely read the article know that this is inexcusable for a news article and would find a home in the opinions section of the *Sun*. It would fit well with the other biased articles there.

This is not the first case that the *Daily Sun*’s partiality has reared its ugly head, and I’m sure it won’t be the last. But there is a way that the

*New York Times* and the *Washington Post* can excuse their partisan status: NYT has its public editor, Arthur S. Brisbane, and the *Post* has its ombudsman, Patrick B. Pexton. Both serve two purposes: firstly, should any reader have any complaints about unfairness or inaccuracy in any article, the public editor and ombudsman receive said complaints and represent the readers in the paper; secondly, the ombudsman is to act as the internal critic of the paper, in the paper.

Last I checked, the *Daily Sun* lacks such a representative. When news articles are evidently and unashamedly prejudiced and opinions pages are entirely one-sided, such as on October 14, 2011 when the opinions section was vehemently anti-conservative, an ombudsman would have been useful. But the fact that our school newspaper is clearly lopsided in its views and lacks a public editor is unforgivable.

As a previous editor-in-chief of a newspaper, I understand that the duties of the newspaper staff are heavy, especially for a daily like the *Sun*. I also understand that this workload does not justify poor journalism. There is no excuse for poor reporting, unmistakable prejudice, and the lack of an ombudsman to boot.

As a side note, this was originally a letter to the editor sent to the *Daily Sun*, sent several days before they started advertising for a public editor. And, to no surprise, it was not published.

*Garrick Lau is a student in the College of Engineering. He can be reached at gl259@cornell.edu.*

## Sweatshops

Continued from page 4

on where it is grown, there are local concerns about the future health of soil and pollution of water. With that said, what is involved in making a laptop has a much larger societal impact. Obtaining the raw materials is significantly more labor intensive and dangerous, and the supply chain is much broader. At its base, miners and refiners work around the world to obtain the vast quantities of silicon, aluminum, copper, and more complex compounds that go into Apple products. An Apple product has a much larger impact on societal wellness than a Nike product.

Needless to say, a vast majority of companies in the apparel or tech fields mirror the manufacturing habits of Apple and Nike. Despite the fact that tech-related products have a larger impact on worker wellbeing than apparel, COLA has put all their time and energy toward ridding Cornell of sweatshop-made apparel. They brought Alta Gracia to the Cornell store and have helped ban shirts with a Cornell logo on it from being made in a sweatshop. However, these are simply feel-good measures. There is no evidence to show that students at Cornell have shifted towards more worker friendly clothing over the last few years.

If COLA worked to effect changes in tech purchases, they could have a major impact. Cornell has spent millions over the last decade buying computers and technology that were made in questionable working

conditions. Changing individual and institutional consumption patterns would have a much larger impact on the developing world than a comparable change in apparel preferences. While this would by no means be easy, nothing worthwhile ever is. If COLA is actually trying to increase worker wellness, then protests and sit-ins over apparel are not going to cut it.

Although my personal concerns with COLA relate to the very nature of global economics and the benefits of sweatshop labor on Third World development, it is clear that COLA needs to do some self-reflection. Their dogmatic focus on apparel has been ineffective and has only blemished Cornell’s reputation. COLA should take a minute to reflect on their goals and intellectual underpinnings.

Relations between COLA and their opposition on campus have been difficult at times, and this article definitely will not help. Yet it is irresponsible for COLA to protest against the school without participating in an open exchange of ideas. Every other group on campus understands the importance of debates, and relishes the opportunity get in the ring with the “opposition”. Without debates all groups on campus risk shifting away from grounded policy and towards the danger territory of pure ideologues.

*Andre Gardiner is a sophomore in the College of Human Ecology. He can be reached at apg58@cornell.edu.*



# Bike Trails and Killer Whales

## A Fortnight of Follies

BY LUCIA RAFANELLI

### About This Column:

Horace Mann once said, "Education is our only political safety. Outside of this ark all is deluge."

It is in this spirit that I hope to inform readers about happenings on "the other side of the aisle." I've often found it all too easy to get caught up in enthusiasm for one's own cause, all too easy for conservatives to fight against some abstract and undefined *liberalism* without knowing well enough what exactly they are opposing.

When we do this, though, when we refuse to acknowledge the actual, specific positions of our opponents, we lose more than just credibility—we start to lose that meaningful political dialogue that is so important to a healthy democracy.

So, in order to do my small part to prevent this loss, each issue I'll be commenting on recent events in liberal activism, whether they involve Cornellians, college students in general, or liberals at large.

Happy reading!

### This Fortnight...

According to Campus Progress (the arm of the George-Soros-funded Center for American Progress focused on encouraging liberal activism among college students) the left has found a new discriminated-against group to protect.

Who are they? An oppressed race? A persecuted religious group? The financially downtrodden?

Nope. Bicyclists.

Campus Progress' October 20th newsletter featured an article entitled "GM Pulls Offensive Ad Mocking College-Aged Cyclists." The ad (pictured) showed a car passenger laughing as a cyclist passed her on the road, blocking his face with his hand. It encouraged students to take advantage of a GM discount and buy cars rather than bike.

Campus Progress and objected because it made biking, "an environmentally and health-conscious choice," seem uncool. In fact, GM received so many complaints about the ad, which ran in several college publications, that they eventually pulled it.

Why this ad was so shocking to the left I do not know. Companies have been trying to make their products seem cooler than other products since the dawn of capitalism. I think there's even a name for it... marketing. Certainly, there are other damaging ads out there—ads that encourage promiscuity and violence, songs that promulgate racism and sexism— but, clearly, Campus Progress has identified the true threat to society: cyclist stigmatization.

Perhaps, if everyone really does love bicycling so much, they should express this not by vilifying one of the few American manufacturers still in existence, but rather by simply not buying a car.

While Campus Progress was fighting this fight, though, PETA found a social crisis of its own to worry about: The well-known animal rights organization launched a campaign against what it claims to be a vast slavery ring right here in the US.

What interest could PETA have in slavery? Oh yes, the "slaves" are whales.

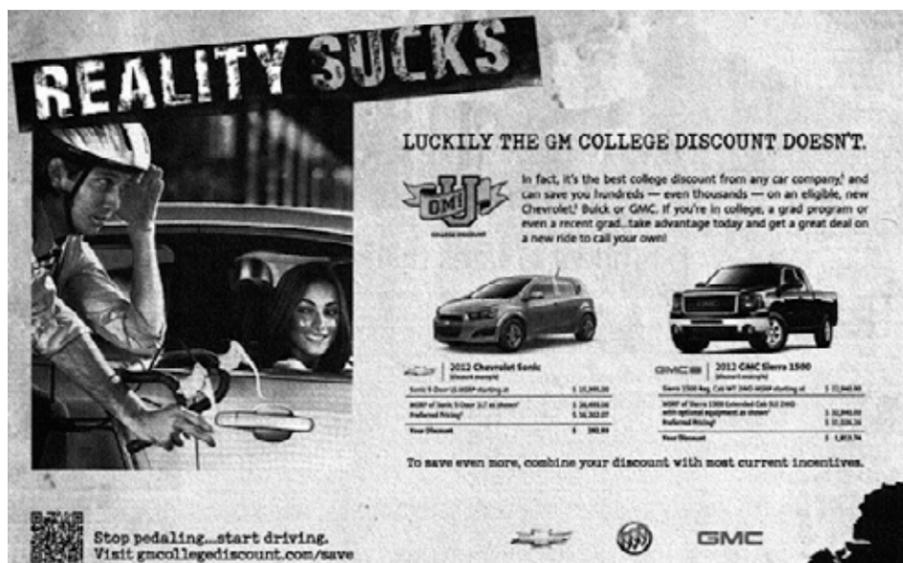
PETA claims that the whales trained and kept at SeaWorld's facilities are in fact being treated like slaves. To me, it is unclear what exactly this means for a whale. Indeed, it seems that many of the traits typically characteristic of a slave (the inability to keep the fruits of one's labor, the lack of authority to make legal decisions about oneself, the inability to participate in political processes) are quite irrelevant to the lives of non-humans.

That didn't stop PETA, though. The group is filing a federal lawsuit with five orcas as the plaintiffs (no, you couldn't write this stuff), and claiming that their Constitutional rights have been violated. Even the CNN anchors presenting this story didn't seem to believe it, pointing out that the Constitution only covers people.

I would go on, but I feel like this one really speaks for itself.

Until next time, try not to enslave too many killer whales and keep your derision off the bike trails!

Lucia Rafanelli is a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences. She can be reached at [lmr93@cornell.edu](mailto:lmr93@cornell.edu)



# Obama's First 1,000 Days: A Failure

## Coffee with Karim



BY KARIM LAKHANI

President Barack Obama gave his first thousand days in office an "incomplete" grade. At Cornell, a student deserves an incomplete grade in a course if that "student has substantial equity in course and is unable to complete course requirements because of circumstances beyond his/her control." This is not the case with the President's first thousand days. He has had ample time to use measures in his control, those measures set out by the Constitution for his office, to turn around a slumping economy and put it back on track.

Instead, I believe President Obama deserves a failing grade. The President cites healthcare reform as one of the most important accomplishments in his Presidency. ObamaCare set a new record for government overreach. It was quickly passed with obscurity and will hurt job-creating businesses and the American people, who will see an already detrimental national debt spun out of control with more spending.

A new Fox News survey shows that 51% of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of ObamaCare and only 34% feel favorably about the legislation. Healthcare reform is vital to our country's future, but the President cannot cite this poorly developed, overreaching plan as a success.

The President also cites preventing an economic depression as a success in his Presidency. Whether or not we were actually going toward a depression and whether or not he simply prolonged the sinking economy is up to you, but let me give you some of the facts:

- The jobless rate in the country as a whole has been at or above 9% for 840 of his 1,000 days, and 37 states have unemployment rates higher than that as of October 30.

- The country's debt crisis has led to further economic turmoil. Over the last 1,000 days, the country has piled up as much debt as it did in its first 79,135 days (from 1776 to 1993).

- President Obama has failed to help those who are struggling to

hold on to their homes. In the last 1,000 days, more than 2.4 million homes were repossessed due to fail-



ures in paying mortgages.

The President has had some impressive foreign policy "successes," killing of some of the world's leading terrorists threatening the country's safety. Unfortunately, these cannot overshadow the incompetent job

he has done with domestic policy and the economy. (Editor's note: As we learn on page XX, these terrorists would have been much more helpful captured alive, but Obama would rather kill them than face ire from liberals over more enhanced interrogation.)

In his first thousand days, we have seen increased unemployment, increased poverty, increased gas prices, falling home prices, and a country full of young individuals questioning the debt burden that will be left to them once this President has come and gone. The President told us: "If I don't have this done in three years, then there's going to be a one-term proposition."

Wall Street is not the problem; protesters should show their disapproval of the real problem: President Obama and his failed job as President of The United States of America. The country needs a more capable individual to Occupy the White House.

Karim Lakhani is a sophomore in the School of Hotel Administration. He can be reached at [kml248@cornell.edu](mailto:kml248@cornell.edu)



## Wall Street

Continued from page 7

straint or genuine recognition of the plight of the country's poor.

After all the slanderous statements he has made about bankers and corporate employees in general over the past three years, the least the president can do is set the record straight.

He needs to tell the American people the truth about Wall Street and give them the post-partisan message that he promised he would give them when he was running for the presidency. He needs to tell them that corporate businesspeople are, in fact, a vital and necessary source of the country's economic prosperity.

In other words, vilifying Wall Street

employees amidst a 53% disapproval rating and an abhorrently stagnant economy isn't the intelligent way to run a reelection campaign. Even bankers don't have skin thick enough to cast aside Obama's rhetoric and continue to back him. President Obama will regret his actions more and more were someone, say, like Mitt Romney, the established CEO candidate in the election, to win

the Republican nomination. In fact, Obama's hypocritical antics toward the corporate world are just the kind of push Romney will use to become not only the people's candidate, but also Wall Street's candidate. And we all know just how powerful those "fat cat" bankers are.

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



# CN

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## Conserve

Continued from page 4

while the state will not intervene in matters personal religion, religion will not interfere in the affairs of the state. Second, the state shall not give superior status to adherents of one faith and inferior to others. Thus, the ethic of 'equanimity' requires rulers to tolerate different opinions and regard all citizens as equal irrespective of their religious affiliation.

However, tolerance should not be mistaken for indifference towards those who threaten the freedom of others. Anarchic liberty, if tolerated,

would seriously impair our understanding of liberty. The Plato's *Apology* warns us of the injustice of mob-freedom by example of Socrates, who was condemned to death by an instigated majority on the unsubstantiated charges of impiety and corrupting the youth. A legitimate exercise of power is indispensable in an organized society to uphold the inviolability of justice. Thus, a 'philosopher-king' must possess the 'courage' to use force in order to diminish the need for actual coercion.

It is not difficult to see where he fails. As in political theory, so in economics it is often easier to point out

“While conservatism gives hope to the mind skeptical of the worth of politics, the decline of political conservatism has been historically accompanied by the rise of dangerous ideologies.”

exceptions rather than acknowledge the general rule. Rethinking the alternatives to mainstream economics should not be at the cost of conventional theory, which satisfactorily explains much of the economic phenomena around us. It is assumed in microeconomics that given some constraints, buyers and sellers interact in a market to maximize their payoffs leading to an outcome that is both efficient and inevitable. There can be certain rare situations wherein due to asymmetries of information and influence, social restrictions or downright irrationality, people renounce their 'self interest' for apparently uneconomic considerations. However, the expression of this possibility does not undermine the applicability of the general principle that perfectly competitive markets do result in an optimal equilibrium. Fiscal prudence or more careful management of government debt and spending finds its resonance in almost all ancient polities. Proto-economists of the antiquity accorded far more importance to an effective and extensive system of taxation rather than government expenditure in securing economic growth. Fiscal surplus was regarded

as the ideal system that every government should aspire toward. Analogously, Edmund Burke maintained that a government does not have the right to run up large debts and then throw the burden on the taxpayer.

Abraham Lincoln once wrote that conservatism is “the adherence to the old and tried, against the new and untried.” While conservatism gives hope to the mind skeptical of the worth of politics, the decline of political conservatism has been historically accompanied by the rise of dangerous ideologies: Bolshevism in Russia, Nazism in Germany and militarism in Japan. As the history of the two World Wars aptly illustrates, whenever the conservative fail, the generals have to be called in. In his *Elements of Political Economy* (1821), Mill argued that the humanity's only purpose is progress—by any and all means available. But if in this incessant process of blind trial and error, we unconsciously lose our cherished and time-tested values, progress is not worth the effort.

*Kushagra Aniket is a freshman in the College of Arts & Sciences. He can be reached at ka337@cornell.edu.*



Inspired by WONDERMARK

## The Cornell Review is pleased to present The Morton-Grigg Tolerant Response Generator

For Cornellians, speaking tolerantly is often a game of guess-and-check. If one is worried that he or she may offend his or her fellow person, this utility may be referenced to forge original statements of utmost tolerance.

“Excuse me, fellow	{ downtrodden working-class oppressed unfortunate hardworking unappreciated misrepresented	 laborer. homosexual. minority. nature-lover. immigrant. forward-thinker. person of faith.	I don't mean to	{ offend, prejudice, criticize, discriminate, stereotype, preconceive, be biased,
but my	{ moral judgement opinion religion's teaching parent's teaching prior notion personal viewpoint informed knowledge	contradicts your beliefs. I will reconsider your	{ alternative non-standard uncommon unaccepted personal open-minded overlooked	 lifestyle. ethnicity. culture. faith. preference. point of view. orientation.

DONE!



*With this December 1985 edition written by W&F creator and Review founder Gordon Haff, we begin a series of reprints exploring the history of the Review.*

Some people pay a compliment as if they expect a receipt.  
—Kin Hubbard

A bureaucrat is a Democrat who holds some office a Republican wants.  
—Alben W. Barkley

When I want to read a book, I write one.  
—Benjamin Disraeli

Old men are fond of giving advice to console themselves for being no longer in a position to give examples.  
—Francois de la Rochefoucauld

Accidents will happen—that's why there are so many different kinds of croquettes.  
—Gerald F. Lieberman

I have forgotten more law than you ever knew, but allow me to say, I have not forgotten much.  
—Sir John Maynard to a British magistrate

The efficiency of our criminal jury system is only marred by the difficulty of finding twelve men every day who don't know anything and can't read.  
—Mark Twain

I distrust camels, and anyone else who can go a week without a drink.  
—Joe E. Lewis

I get my exercise acting as a pallbearer to my friends who exercise.  
—Chauncey Depew

There is nothing more irritating than somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have.  
—Don Herold

We prefer the old-fashioned alarm clock to the kind that awakens you with music or a gentle whisper. If there's one thing we can't stand early in the morning it's hypocrisy.  
—Bill Vaughn

One of our American wits said that it took only half as long to train an American army as any other, because you only had to train them to go one way.  
—Woodrow Wilson

# WISEMEN AND FOOLS

By Gordon R. Haff

A judge is a law student who marks his own examination papers.  
—H.L. Mencken

Edison did not invent the first talking machine. He invented the first one that could be turned off.  
—Gerald F. Lieberman

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