

The Cornell Review

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION

The Conservative Voice on Campus

“WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE.”

VOL. XXX, NO. V

BLOG cornellinsider.com SITE thecornellreview.com

November 18th, 2011

Page 2

Thanks for nothing

Myrick will raise taxes on Cornell

Page 3

Editorial: The growing E-PARASITE

Dangerous legislation threatens the internet

Page 6

Defending Madison

Anonymous speech was integral to our Nation's founding

Page 9

Generation apathy

Young occupiers are overindulged and lazy

Page 7

Humor: Obama op-ed to students

Obama is a surprisingly poor writer

The Cornell Daily Sun: Fair and Balanced?

BY RAJ KANNAPPAN

“Almost everyone admires *The Cornell Daily Sun*”, according to a current student’s comment proudly displayed on the *Sun*’s website.

And here I’ve been thinking that more than a handful of Cornellians cannot stand the paper’s average standards: anti-climactic sex columns that merely occupy space, underhandedly slanted “news” articles, and even the recent attempt at cleverness by the inclusion of an ad telling off readers to resist their perfectly reasonable urges to contact the editor about the publication’s errors.

Most egregiously irresponsible was the newspaper’s publishing of “On Stupidity and the Political Right,” which I hope was not actually edited by the Opinion Editor. If it was, then the publication has even greater problems with which to grapple. Mr. AJ Ortiz, seemingly a liberal elitist with an extraordinarily narrow grasp of the history of political ideologies, claimed in his column—ironically titled *I Respectfully Dissent*—that “there is no doubt that conservatives are generally

stupid.” Apparently, according to the supremely well-read and cultured Mr. Ortiz, conservatives, “just like an imbecile who is a source of laughter to a group of friends,” merely “have some usefulness for the rest of the public.”

The Opinion Editor should not have published this article. The poorly-written piece not only contains little factual support for Mr. Ortiz’s claim that conservatives are generally stupid, but it also does not pass a basic threshold that I’m quite sure the *Daily Sun* would uphold in other similar cases. Would the *Daily Sun* have published an opinion article calling any other group of individuals stupid? Or a piece comparing any other group to imbeciles? I do not for a second doubt that upon the moment the Opinion Editor reads a submitted opinion piece calling liberals, a race, or a religious denomination, stupid, the *Daily Sun* would jump the gun to throw out the piece if only to avoid the censure of its readers.

It seems as though the *Daily Sun* cabal takes Cornellians for fools. The publication should not feign a fairness which it does not enforce. I’ve

heard the generic claims of fairness the paper claims to uphold. Apparently, I also do not know the definition of “balanced.”

If balanced means not publishing even one article from the conservative viewpoint in response to “There is no doubt that conservatives are generally stupid,” then, by all means, the *Daily Sun* is the fairest publication that I have encountered. It’s even fairer than Fox News—the epicenter of liberal hatred—which hosts liberals on its roundtable discussions and cross-fire segments. Even Hosni Mubarak’s *Al-Ahram*, Egypt’s state-controlled and second oldest newspaper, previously published a front-page opinion article criticizing Mubarak and supporting Egyptians’ call for revolution.

Set aside these serious obstructions.

The *Daily Sun* also fails to set its priorities straight. At times, the *Daily Sun* has little clue what to include in a publication printed for what Kurt Vonnegut ’44 called “a highly intelligent American community of respectable size.” Take, for example, the out-of-place November 3 article on Joel Harlan, an Ithacan who collects cans from fraternity parties and redeems them in order to make a living. What were the editors thinking, putting such a bizarre and arbitrary article on the front page? Do they really think

Please turn to page 2

Escape From a North Korean Gulag

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Dong Hyuk Shin is the only known person to successfully escape from a North Korean “total-control zone,” a forced labor camp where enemies of the state are sent to die. He was born inside the camp in 1982, and for 24 years, labor, pain, and eternal hunger were all he knew. “For 24 years I did not question why I lived like I did,” he said, speaking at Cornell last week. The only justification he had for his living condition came from the camp guards: “Your parents ought to be dead but we let them live.” At the time, his imprisonment for their “crimes” seemed to make perfect sense.

In North Korea, guilt by association is the standard for imprisonment. Shin’s father was thrown into the camp as a teenager (along with the rest of his family) because two of his uncles had aided the South during the Korean War and then defected. His father, though, made the best of his lifetime sentence (all prisoners at the camp are there for life—there is no release) by being an exemplary

worker. For this he was assigned a wife by the camp overseers. He and his new wife – Shin’s mother – were allowed to spend five nights with each other, and thereafter were permitted to spend time together only as a reward for good performance.

Shin spent the first 12 years of his life with his mother, who had to work fifteen hours a day in the prison farm and then attend a daily indoctrination session, where prisoners would denounce one another and be punished for poor performance. As a child he went to school, but according to Shin, “Even the teachers at school are prison guards; they come into class holding their guns.” He was taught reading, writing, and basic math, but, “The most important thing they teach in the schools is how to work in the prison camp.” One time in the school, a girl was found to have five unauthorized grains of rice. She was beaten to death by the teacher.

After his schooling Shin was taken away from his mother and was sent to work in the camp garment

Continued on page 5

Unrest Continues Within Africana Department

One year later: Anger has become discouragement

ALFONSE MUGLIA
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The tone around the Africana Studies and Research Center on Triphammer Rd. is a somber one. It has been since the start of the semester.

“There have been less and less people in the libraries,” commented Karim Abouelnaga, co-president of Black Students United. “There is definitely discomfort. I feel it when I am around Africana professors.”

Three months into the fall semester, the first in which the Africana Department has operated under the wing of the College of Arts & Sciences, students and faculty alike are trying to adjust to the new bureaucratic structure. Feelings of discomfort resonate at all levels, throughout

the community. Most would agree that they are having difficulty figuring out how their department is to continue to operate within this framework.

“I don’t think most students across the University know how Africana is expected to function now,” added fellow co-sponsor Sasha Mack. “[The center] still seems to be in limbo and of course this affects the daily life of students. People are on edge because, as the trend has shown, we never really know what is going to happen next.”

On October 5, over 10 months after Provost Kent Fuchs’ announcement of the department’s transfer, the Ithaca Common Council passed a Resolution in support of the autonomy of the Africana Studies and

Continued on page 4

Simplified Flow Chart of Mayor Myrick's Infrastructure Plan

Fix sidewalks → More people go to the Bubble Tea Shop → ??? → Profit!!!

Mayor-Elect Myrick to raise taxes on Cornell

BY ANTHONY LONGO
AND LAUREL CONRAD

After waging a highly successful and publicized mayoral campaign, Svante Myrick '09 is now the youngest mayor-elect in New York State. Receiving gushing praise after praise from the *Daily Sun* (who endorsed him in the first place) and other news outlets, one would be hard-pressed to actually unearth a fact or position of the mayor-elect. But if you're reading the *Sun* to hear a feel-good lovey-dovey Cinderella story rather than a critical and unbiased perspective on Myrick's policies, then I suppose the paper served its purpose. We at the *Review*, however, feel that our goal is to inform readers. So, we will present all of the facts—both *good and bad*—about the Myrick win.

I will concede that Myrick's victory was impressive. For Ithaca politics, where the trend is minimal voter turnout and low-key advertising, the outreach of Myrick's campaign was unprecedented. This can't be denied. Myrick set the bar for a new era of Ithaca campaigning by personally spending numerous hours doing door-to-door campaigning, holding office hours, and engaging social media in order to connect with voters. His impressive hold of nearly fifty-four percent of the total vote was

helped in part by his young Cornell contacts, but is largely a testament to residential support. Winning eighteen out of eighteen voting districts in a four-way race is, again, an incredible achievement.

What the *Review* does not understand about the Myrick election are the fervent claims and comments by supporters that his youth or his heritage somehow made him a better candidate or made the win a more wonderful victory. Why does his diverse status matter? We value diversity of ideas. If Myrick was bringing fresh ideas to the table, then he would be a diverse candidate, but—as you will see—his ideas are as fanciful as any other inexperienced, worldly-unwise Democrat.

The *Review* did some investigation into some of Myrick's proposed policies, strategies, and ideas. Some of them were fairly eccentric. How about this one: By improving sidewalks and bicycle trails, more people will enter local storefronts, which will somehow convince storeowners to pay their employees more. This circuitous logic is reminiscent of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*—the 2009 stimulus bill—which assumed that spending \$787 billion to create transient jobs would somehow jump start the US economy.

Myrick, like many Democrats before him, proposes that rather than

cutting spending, funding for his programs should be provided by—you guessed it—raising taxes on Cornell. Forget that Cornell already makes a massive economic contribution to the region. Rather, focus on the fact that his plan of action is to further drain the University's resources. Does he realize how much Cornell's programs improve the community? Into the Streets, the Cornell Elderly Partnership, and countless other programs allow Cornellians to engage with residents to improve the community. Money that could be directed towards education and wages for Ithaca residents will instead now be consumed by increased town spending.



What does Cornell do when it loses money? *Answer:* Raise your tuition! Cornell executes this near-Pavlovian response in every tight financial situation it encounters. (*Other acceptable answer:* They cut department funding. Math and Education seem to be their favorites.) So, to the 51 people on the Cornell Facebook page that

Continued on page 10

Continued from the front page

that frat bros care about a man who sifts through their post-party mess for cans? Or do they actually think that Cornellians are touched by such the personal story of a trespasser who likes to read about murder cases?

The editors have the interest to publish that article, but they apparently do not have the curiosity to publish an article about Chief Bush speechwriter Marc Thiessen's speech on enhanced interrogation, despite having a *Daily Sun* reporter present at the event. The space they could afford for this event, sponsored by the College Republicans, amounted to a small picture of Thiessen inside the covers. Quite frankly, this exclusion should puzzle others too. Not only did Thiessen discuss in detail the practice of enhanced interrogation, but he also defended the policy vigorously. If this event does not merit even a short article, then I'm truly confused, as my conservative stupidity



tells me that many Cornellians

and Ithacans would have interest in such a piece.

Once again, it is extremely unlikely that if Jon Favreau, Obama's top speechwriter, graced Cornell with his presence, the *Daily Sun* would not publish a grandiose article on the event.

Maybe these complaints are petty.

But by repeatedly allowing bias to cloud their judgment—intentionally or unintentionally—the respective editors and news reporters of the *Daily Sun* have helped uphold the status of their publication as a left-leaning one.

I suppose this is appropriate, as most Cornellians are of a liberal persuasion. If the *Daily Sun* wants to please Cornellians, then it must necessarily lean to the left. And that is what will prevent it from becoming the “completely independent” and intellectually satisfying paper for which the *Daily Sun* staff regards itself highly.

Raj Kannappan is Chairman of the Cornell College Republicans. He can be reached at rk398@cornell.edu.

Occupy Cornell

KATHLEEN MCCAFFREY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I joined several members of the Cornell Republicans and Libertarians at the OccupyCornell weekly meeting on November 11 to get a sense of what the satellite installment of OccupyWallStreet has to say. The Cornell group is a tremendous departure from the “real” OccupyWallStreet, which has no clear message or idealism behind it. The OccupyCornell group is definitively against what they call “The Ivy to Wall Street Pipeline” and seem deeply concerned by the number of Cornellians working in finance. On their official GoogleDocument, they claim:

“It is up to us to decide if we will simply be passive participants in an oppressive system or if we will have the courage to step aside from the pipeline and commit to a world where the will of the people comes before the will of corporations and where social justice, sustainability, and democracy exist in practice, not in theory.”

The Occupation split into groups, between logistics for their protest that weekend and “theory.” I joined the theory group because I wanted to know what was so morally reprehensible about finance and if there was a profession in the large sector that was particularly bad. While I can't speak for the whole group, one individual said he was bothered by the “secretive” type of trading. I asked if he meant high frequency trading (HFT) and he claimed that he did. I happen to know a decent

amount about finance, so I proceeded to ask if he knew what exactly HFT, which is roughly defined as the use computerized algorithms to analyze market data and make trades, was about. He claimed his gripe was about the lack of transparency.

I did not know what he meant, so I told him what HFT does: it provides liquidity to the market, lowers the cost of trading, and increases linkage between markets. Furthermore, futures markets and derivatives trading, which HFT methods operate on, stabilize pricing systems. The price of onions—the only commodity that cannot legally have a futures market—consistently fluctuate more any other good. This year, their retail price rose more than that of gasoline.

I suggested that this person did not like HFT or futures markets essentially because he didn't know what it was or how it works. He did not disagree (or, really, reply).

From my understanding, accuracy over valuations—like what HFT seems to provide—should be encouraged by these folks who also alleged that financiers are the ones who willingly *distorted* the housing market. It proved difficult to explain that the goal of finance was not to scorch the earth, but to make good investments based on proper valuations.

Regardless of this, it is difficult to criticize OccupyCornell because they seem extremely well-meaning and tolerated dissent. It is also easy to understand their fear: there are plenty of nefarious people in every

Continued on page 10

The Cornell Review

Founded 1984 • Incorporated 1986

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

Anthony Longo
 President

Lucas Policastro
 Editor-in-Chief

Christopher Slijk
 Managing Editor

Karim Lakhani
 Treasurer

Kathleen McCaffrey
 Executive Editor

Lucia Rafanelli
 News Editor

Alfonse Muglia
 Campus News Editor

Michael Alan
 Campus News Editor

Noah Kantro
 National News Editor

Contributors

Kushagra Aniket	Jonathan Jaffe
Joseph Bonica	Raj Kannappan
Peter Bouris	Tianye Liu
Laurel Conrad	Roshni Mehta
Brendan P. Devine	Patrick Moran
Andre Gardiner	Shelby Park
Dillon Hickman	Dennis Shiraev

Board of Directors

Christopher DeCenzo
 Joseph E. Gehring Jr.
 Ying Ma
 Anthony Santelli Jr.

Faculty Advisor

Michael E. Hint
 meh26@cornell.edu

The Cornell Review is an independent biweekly journal published by students of Cornell University for the benefit of students, faculty, administrators, and alumni of the Cornell community. The Cornell Review is a thoughtful review of campus and national politics from a broad conservative perspective. The Cornell Review, an independent student organization located at Cornell University, produced and is responsible for the content of this publication. This publication was not reviewed or approved by, nor does it necessarily express or reflect the policies or opinions of, Cornell University or its designated representatives.

The Cornell Review is published by The Ithaca Review, Inc., a non-profit corporation. The opinions stated in The Cornell Review are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the staff of The Cornell Review. Editorial opinions are those of the responsible editor. The opinions herein are not necessarily those of the board of directors, officers, or staff of The Ithaca Review, Inc.

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

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

The Cornell Review meets regularly on most Mondays at 6:00 pm in GS 164.

E-mail should be sent to thecornell.review@gmail.com

Copyright © 2011 The Ithaca Review Inc.
 All Rights Reserved.

The End of the Internet?

Intrusive Government Eyes Turn To Our Activities Online

BY CHRISTOPHER SLIJK

In this day and age, we hear so constantly about government's erosion of our economic and social rights it has become almost mind-numbing. But no matter how bad things get, no matter how quickly the shallow pool of real-world activities we are legally allowed to engage in evaporates, there is some small comfort in the fact that there exists a way for us to vent our frustrations and express our thoughts in a relatively unfettered environment: the Internet.

Until now, that is. In the past month, the House and Senate, eager to add to the alphabet soup of government, have respectively introduced the E-PARASITE (Enforcing and Protecting American Rights Against Sites Intent on Theft and Exploitation) and the PROTECT-IP (Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property) Acts, both of which have, confusingly, been rolled into the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).

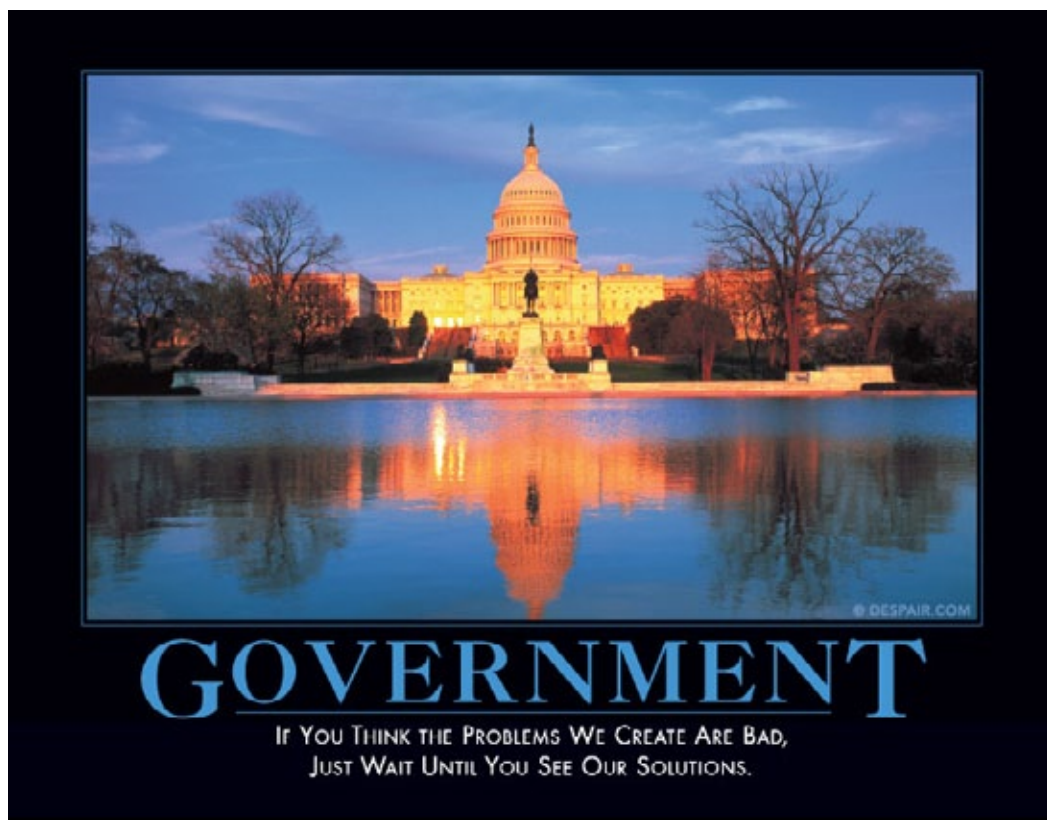
Acronyms aside, the true horror of this unconstitutional legislation is hard to overstate. The government and private copyright holders would have the ability to go after not just individuals suspected of copyright infringement but also hold liable the internet service providers which facilitate their actions. Thus, the onus of ensuring that no copyright violations have occurred is placed entirely on ISPs, which, out of necessity to avoid hordes of lawsuits, will be made to self-censor on a massive scale, actively monitor their users, pulling down any websites, and banning internet access to people who may or may not be involved in illegal activities. A simple accusation of wrongdoing can cause legal action to be taken against an ISP or website, completely circumventing the judicial system and plunging the internet into a mess of red tape from which it may never fully recover. Worse, rolled into SOPA is the Commercial Felony Streaming Act, which, as the name suggests, could see people who upload any copyrighted content facing up to 5 years in prison. It is clear that no one but zealous copyright holders and big government benefit from this, while everyone else from Youtube and Google to students simply wanting to stream music are irreparably harmed.

On the issue of online freedom, lawmakers are generally not divided along party lines, but rather into two groups: those who fall prey to the hypocritical entertainment

industry lobby, and those who actually understand the internet. Those who recognize the massive flaws in SOPA make up a rag-tag bipartisan group, including Michele Bachmann and Ron Paul. Republicans point out that SOPA is detrimental to small business, as it creates large liabilities for media-oriented internet startups, who could be shut down at the whim of a judge. Other groups who have come out against the bill include the Association of Research Libraries, band Passion Pit, and even Justin Bieber (whose career-launching Youtube cover videos would render him a felon under the bill). Companies eBay, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Mozilla all wrote to Congress in a single letter.

It doesn't end with SOPA: last month President Obama, along with

while governments from China to Australia were blocking websites they deemed "unsuitable" for their people, the US government seemed very 'hands-off' in its approach. Even the proposed Net Neutrality acts of the past several years, which enjoyed a great deal of popular support, failed to pass, leaving the internet mostly untainted by the autocratic hand of government. This new legislation puts Washington on the same level as Beijing, giving the government a self-proclaimed right to censor the internet by tampering with the Domain Name System, undermining freedom of speech and the core functionality of the internet. In fact, SOPA includes an anti-circumvention rule, making it illegal to create proxy software which doesn't include a censorship mechanism.



the leaders of Australia, Canada, Japan, and others, signed the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), a treaty which was negotiated in complete secrecy due to the US government's pretext of "national security". The treaty establishes a new international body for enforcement of copyright law. In the context of the internet, this agreement would, like SOPA, shift much of the liability of copyright violations to intermediaries such as ISPs and increase governmental authority in searching for and dealing with suspected (not proven) copyright infringers and internet pirates. Worse, despite being an international treaty which should require Senate ratification, the White House has acted independently and completely circumvented Congress, making the treaty, regardless of its contents, unconstitutional. With even the EU Parliament questioning the legality of ACTA, its effects on internet freedom are not promising.

Until recent years, the US was one of the freest countries in the world in terms of internet usage;

In many ways, the boundless expanses and unfettered creative potential unleashed by the internet represents the American ideal. Similarly, the increasing frequency with which lobby-loving legislators seek to regulate it is a mirror of how far we have fallen. A decade from now, will we continue to enjoy free association and anonymity on the internet, or will mandatory registrations, website licenses, and constant monitoring render such things a distant memory? It's difficult to be optimistic, but as long as nothing has passed into law there is still a chance.

Christopher Slijk is a senior in the College of Arts & Sciences. He can be reached at cps95@cornell.edu.

See the text of SOPA [pdf]:



Coming To Terms With Underage Drinking

☞ Platonic Squabbles.

BY KUSHAGRA ANIKET

There is at least one undergrad, say 'Joe', under the age of 21 at Cornell, who consumes alcoholic beverages. No, I'm not accusing you, but let's go forward on this premise. I am not concerned with the questions of "how many?" or "how much?" when it comes to underage drinking, as this statement of fact is more important than the quantity or frequency of consumption. However mark two claims of my premise carefully: (1) That drinking is voluntary and (2) That the person is strictly less than 21 years of age. Thus, we assume that Joe virtually enjoys *free will* while choosing to drink and does not consume alcohol under mistake, undue influence, coercion or otherwise.

Second premise. There is a law that states that any person under the age of 21 is prohibited from consuming alcohol in New York without consent from a legal guardian. I am not worried whether the law is right or wrong. To argue whether the law is just will only lead us to endless debates and no objective conclusions.

Third premise. Joe, as a person of reasonable intelligence, is aware of the drinking law and understands that he is acting against its provisions. And finally, there is a police officer, Barry, who knows that our first three premises are true and whose duty, then, is to stop Joe from drinking.

Continued from the front page

Research Center. Only then did the Cornell Student Assembly do the same, following the council's example by passing Resolution 22 later that month, which called for a re-evaluation of the hiring of Grant Farred as chair of Africana faculty search community. Resolution 22 was the only resolution passed by the Assembly in support of the Africana community since the administration's announcement.

The only other resolution in the past eight years showing support for the Africana community came in 2009, also titled Resolution 22. This measure requested the reinstatement of Ken Glover as the RHD of Ujamaa Residential College. It was rejected within months.

Resolution 22, however, was more successful. One month after its passing, Farred announced his resignation on November 2. Taken alone, this event appears to be a step in the right direction for the autonomy of the Africana center. The man that became the symbol of anti-Africana interests – along with Provost Fuchs – is no longer in power. That being said, the resignation has flown under the radar, and the

Why does Joe break the law in the first place? Let's start with only the first premise. Let $X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n\}$ be the set of all actions that Joe can possibly engage in. Joe cannot choose any possible option (x_i) arbitrarily. So how should Joe compare the available alternatives and make a choice? It is frequently assumed in economic theory that a rational agent makes choices with the primary objective of maximizing payoffs. However, one of the central limitations of traditional economic analysis lies in its attempt to quantify returns in strictly measurable terms such as utility or profits. But people are also guided in their decisions by other considerations such as social expectations or ethical perspectives that can regulate the payoffs derived from individual choices. Combining both these arguments, we can assume that Joe acts to maximize his satisfaction, subject to some constraints, both economic and social. In the absence of the drinking law, Joe drinks because the total benefit derived from drinking outweighs its total cost.

Now suppose that the second and the third premises also come into force. How will the law alter Joe's behavior? The imposition of a law influences individual behavior by limiting the choice set of the actions and opportunities available to people. The new law will impact Joe's set of actions (X) by subtracting certain elements from it. By prescribing a punishment for its violation, the

leaders of the Africana faculty would have had it no other way.

While Farred's announcement came on November 2, the Africana faculty did not choose to publically acknowledge the change until November 14. As highlighted by the *Sun* article that hit stands the next day, Africana co-directors David Harris and Elizabeth Adkins-Regan even kept the knowledge hidden from Mack and Abouelnaga.

Put simply, one year after Fuchs' announcement, the students and faculty of a center rooted in controversy are now operating peacefully as part of the College of Arts and Sciences. They are not looking to upset the status quo. In fact, Africana was one of the few departments not to see budget cuts this past fiscal year. Not by coincidence, there have been few recent, substantial events related to its reclassification.

The only noteworthy happenings since the occupation of a Student Assembly meeting on December 2, 2010 and a protest the following day have been the passage of the Student Assembly and Ithaca Common Council resolutions, along with cries of distrust "in email threads that circulate around campus," according to Abouelnaga.

law changes the incentives Joe gets from drinking, thereby seeking to impact his choices and by extension, the final outcome (Basu, 2011).

If Joe continues to drink under the new law, that does not mean that the law had no effect on his actions. On the contrary, it implies that the law did not have sufficient effect to alter the final outcome, *i.e.* stop Joe from drinking. Somehow, Joe's altered payoffs derived from drinking still remain greater than the costs. Perhaps the probability of being discovered by Barry remains very small. For some, this small probability itself provides an incentive to commit the action by adding a psychological thrill derived from breaking the law. Joe might decide to obey the law only if he expects others to obey it, and if he sees others violating the law, he has no disincentive not to do so. No matter what the actual reasons are, from Joe's perspective, drinking remains the optimal option even under the new law.

Now police officer Barry, as a rational agent, will catch Joe because Barry expects his superiors to catch him for not catching Joe. Barry's superiors would, in turn, be punished by their superiors for not reprimanding Barry if he doesn't catch Joe, and so on. However, in real life, the sequence cannot continue add infinitum and must end somewhere. If the loop ends with the agent A, it implies that A punishes the person immediately subordinate to him for dereliction of duty either out of his sense of ethics or self-interest.

This is best illustrated by a tale my grandmother once told me. A bird flying with a grain of rice in her

This is a far cry from the outrage Cornellians experienced last December.

"This is about white supremacy," Ken Glover cried on December 3, 2010 at the demonstration on the sidewalk outside Day Hall.

"I am not going to be forced to go into buildings with pictures of people who do not look like me," screamed one protester. Other speeches of the day highlighted the origins of a "national petition" to call for President Skorton and the administration to reconsider their actions.

"This is about getting rid of black people from this campus," echoed another speaker. This last speaker highlights one theme of the demonstrations last December that resonates a year later: fear for the Center's future.

Many within the community continue to worry that the change in the operating format of the Africana studies major was the first step in a process to marginalize the department. They developed the notion that the administration's unilateral decision was a sign of doom, and they make examples out of the college's choices of which faculty members to hire or fire. The Student

beak accidentally dropped it on the ground and to her dismay, found it trapped in the crack of a



carpenter's exquisite woodwork. Helplessly, she repeatedly appealed to the carpenter to break open the crack but the 'selfish' carpenter refused to destroy his creation for a mere grain of rice. So, she went to the king to have him punish the carpenter but he too snubbed her appeal. Then, one after the other, the relentless bird approached the queen (to threaten the king), snake (to bite the queen), stick (to hit the snake), fire (to burn down the stick), water (to extinguish the fire), elephant (to glug down the water), trap (to ensnare the elephant), mouse (to gnaw through the mesh) and finally to the cat (to devour the mouse). While each and every creature disregarded the bird's plea, the cat readily accepted it because the bird directly appealed to its self-interest. As the cat approached the mouse with the apparent intention to eat it, the mouse, sensing the imminent calamity, ran towards the mesh, which in turn escaped towards the elephant and so on. In the end, the carpenter, fearing that the king would thrash him with his sepulture, immediately slit open the crack and the bird retrieved her food. (Do not try this at home.)

Applying the moral of this story to our example, the police officer Barry will catch Joe for underage drinking; if not, the magistrate will rebuke Barry for not catching Joe; if not, the governor will suspend the

Continued on page 11

Assembly assumed the responsibility of spreading this propaganda, even before having formally established (by passing a resolution) that they actually do stand for and support Africana autonomy.

With the Student Assembly and *Cornell Daily Sun* already slow to express their support of Africana autonomy, now even the co-directors of the Center have shown a desire to take a less-controversial, less-publicized role.

With few allies and no budget cuts, it is no surprise that the Africana Center has taken this passive, backseat role in expressing their opposition to their new position in the University. The mistrust, however, has continued to increase.

As Abouelnaga emblemizes the community's mindset, "Although I am optimistic that the administration will eventually open discussions, I am apprehensive of what the future of the Africana center at Cornell will be like."

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

Gulag

Continued from the front page

factory repairing sewing machines. When he dropped one of them the guards cut off his middle finger. Still, he maintained his dream of achieving the camp's highest honor of being given a wife as his father had done. This was all he knew. All he could desire.

When Shin was 14 his mother and older brother tried to escape from the camp but were caught. Although Shin had not seen his family in weeks, he was told to confess everything he knew about the "family

didn't know about the country of North Korea or its leader Kim Jong-Il – the man responsible for his condition – until he escaped (prisoners are not considered worthy of the state's "revolutionary ideals"). However, the new inmate told him about China and life outside the camp, where food was plentiful. For the first time he became curious about the outside world. "The reason I decided to escape is because I heard how people were eating well outside," he said. Escaping no longer meant a death sentence, but the chance for an infinitely better life, even if that simply meant a full stomach. "My determination



escape plot". When he told his interrogators that he knew nothing, he was suspended over a fire while his gut was impaled with a steel hook. He remembers passing out and waking up in a cell. For the next seven months he was locked in the underground cell with no attention paid to him. An old man who shared his cell tried to treat his wounds, and gave him half of his meager food ration. Shin recalled that this was the first time he had felt respect and empathy toward another human being.

Upon release he was immediately taken to the square used for public executions. He and his father were forced to watch as his mother was hanged and his brother was shot. At the time, his only feeling was that, "I was glad I was not the one being publicly executed." He later commented that public executions (both inside and outside the camp), "are the soul of the communist regime," used to establish fear and compliance in the population. He spent the next nine years working in the camp with no hope, no family, and hunger as his sole companion.

The first time he heard anything about the world outside the camp was in 2004, when he befriended a new inmate who had escaped North Korea to China, but was caught. Previously, Shin had known of nothing beyond the barbed wire and mountains that surrounded the camp. He

was to get out of this prison camp and be able to eat chicken or rice as much as I wanted," he explained, so six months after first hearing of the outside world he and the other inmate made a dash over the electrified barbed-wire fence. Shin made it over, but the other man did not. "The one thing I regret after 30 years is that I wanted to be able to rescue him and escape together," he lamented, but, "In 2005 I had no guilt or conscience. If I did I would have been dead."

"The first time I saw North Korean society outside the prison camp it was like heaven," said Shin. Even the famine-stricken prison-state of North Korea was heaven compared to his first 24 years. After three weeks Shin was able to bribe the border guards and enter China, where he spent a year hiding from authorities by working at a remote logging camp before finding his way to a South Korean consulate.

Since then he has been working to let the world know about what occurs under the communist regime of the Kim Jong-Il. "200,000 people in the camps are not even considered North Korean citizens," he said, "The government has the capacity to kill all 200,000."

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

A Call for Cleanliness

Or: Why Facilities Maintenance Should Clean Up More Often on North Campus

ROSHNI MEHTA
STAFF WRITER

Sticky hair strands in the bathtub, shredded tissue paper in the toilet, water droplets on the mirror, dried toothpaste covering the sinks – this was the condition of a freshman bathroom, three days after it had been cleaned. A dorm bathroom shared by seven girls is bound to get messy and unclean, but is just one day of cleaning sufficient?

On October 30th, Cornell hosted its first parent weekend for the newly admitted freshmen class. All over North Campus, gleeful students excitedly welcomed their parents into their new lives; taking them to classes, introducing them to their friends and of course showing them the current condition of their dorms. Naturally, most dorms were not in the same pristine state as they were two months ago when parents had set them up; the most common sights were those of scattered books and dispersed clothes all over the room.

However, the bigger concern among the parents was the state of the common areas in the dorms, especially the bathrooms, and the fact that the dorm maintenance staff only cleaned them once a week. Most parents expressed concerns over unclean bathrooms leading to generally unhygienic dorm conditions, putting their sons and daughters at risk of falling ill or catching infections like meningitis. When parents voiced these anxieties during the 'Questions and Answers' session at parent weekend, the administration responded by saying that the onus was on the students to keep tidy conditions in their dorms.

Many students have echoed similar anxieties about the dorm

bathrooms, stating that it is impossible for the bathrooms to remain clean when more than five people share each one. Some students have also complained about unpleasant smell in the bathrooms.

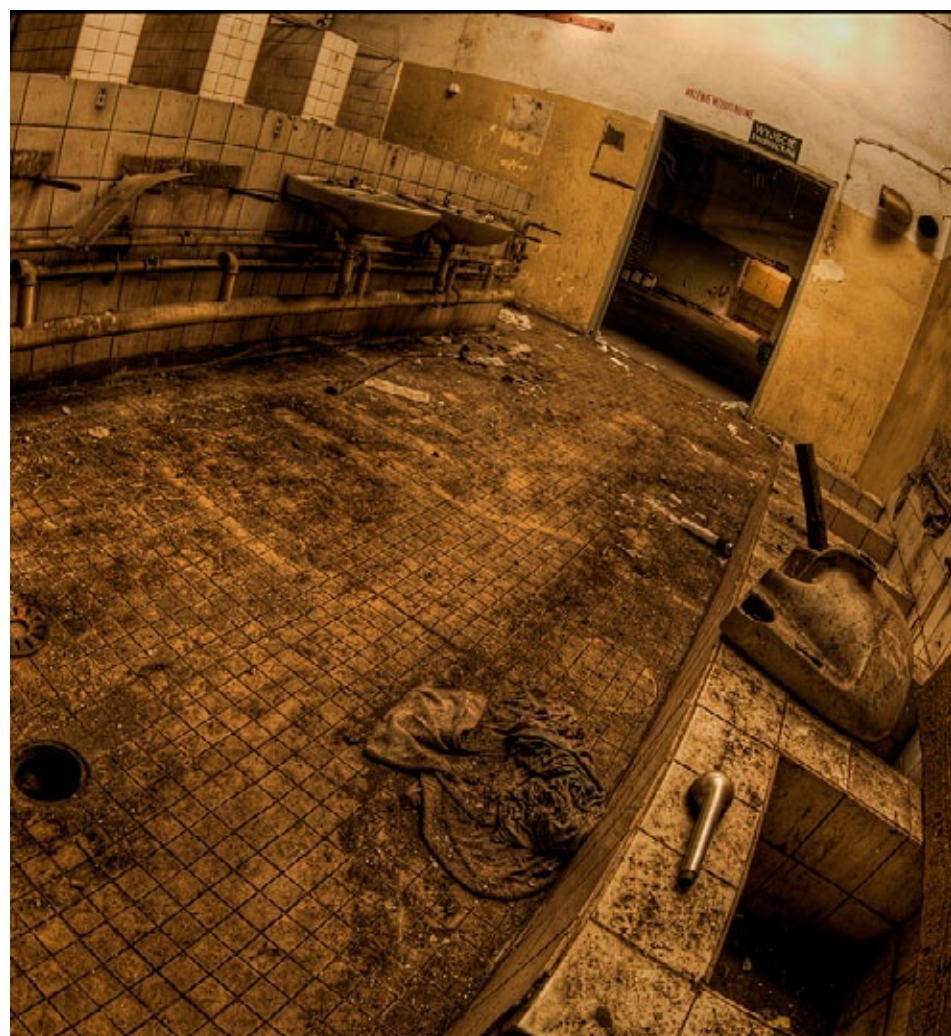
"When you have seven boys sharing one bathroom, the foul smell is bound to occur due to bodily fluids, gases and excrements," remarked freshman Kim Li. This issue stems from lack of cleaning combined with inadequate ventilation in the bathrooms, which fosters the growth of a bacterial biofilm covering the surfaces of the room.

At the same time, many parents proposed that the college housing should enforce stringent hygiene laws, which all students must abide, in order to ensure that their child dwells in a clean environment.

One freshman who requested to remain anonymous said "I'm clean; however, my roommate is untidy and so my room ultimately looks unclean, even though I keep my side tidy." By implementing basic hygiene rules, like emptying room trashcans once every few days or vacuuming the floors once every fortnight, North Campus can foster a hygiene environment for every student.

Being a first-year student on North Campus is an exciting experience. That being said, the downfall of any large cohabitation of boys and girls is inevitably unhygienic living conditions. Although it is our responsibility to maintain sanitary conditions in our dorms, it is critical for university housing to do their part and clean up more often, especially in dorm bathrooms.

Roshni Mehta is a freshman in the College of Arts & Sciences. She can be reached at rm545@cornell.edu





The

RAGE PAGE

Colonel Cornell's ~~Guide to the Galaxy~~ latest and longest uncensored rant in his 223 year life

Entry #251: Colonel Cornell's Guide to...Being Popular

This is the alpha male of Cornell Society:

A thick-rimmed glasses-wearing overly-tanned unshaven plaid-sweatshirt-wearing high-pitch-voiced middle-class suburbanite neobeatnik male sitting on a couch bare-foot (or with one sandal dangling precariously) "DJ-ing" with iTunes on his MacBook Pro hooked up to crappy bass-less mobile speakers, blasting a remix of some song from *Tha Carter IV* or some boring dubstep beat, saying the phrase "yea bro" a lot, while onlookers, both male and female, play billiards and try to justify the fact that they aren't studying. Occasionally participates in a brodown, which contrary to its name, does not involve actual fighting or even physical contact because that would be against his pacifist principles. Will also insist his inability to fight does not stem from his unused, atrophied muscles or the fact that he has never even been in a fight—nay, even witnessed one from afar—because he went to a private school. Has walked a grand total of two blocks in New York City to go to the *Met*; keeps a Metrocard in his wallet anyway and claims to anyone he talks to that he's been "in the inner city." If he's from the west coast: is likely from a small suburb of San Francisco or Palo Alto but tells everyone he's from Oakland. If he's from the east coast: is likely from Northern New Jersey but tells everyone he's from "The City." When pressured, cannot name all five boroughs. Will insist that his moderate piano skills and ability to only play one song—which is always, without exception,

Fur Elise—that he is a virtuosic, cultured guy. Got an Epiphone for Christmas in high school; still learning.

If you act like this, then you are *guaranteed* to be popular at Cornell and get at least five girls...at the same time.

Entry #605: Colonel Cornell's Guide to...Your Wonderful Textbook Authors

College textbook authors are all the same guy. I've been reading the biographies of these guys for three years now, and here are my observations:

All went to some small loserish college, then an Ivy-ish graduate school (usually Harvard, Yale, MIT), and then went back to teaching at some unknown, small college in the Midwest, where they are head professor of some department and have won some unknown school-specific, meaningless teaching award—which they proudly tout as if it is a Nobel Prize.

They all have 2-3 daughters with unpronounceable, faux-ethnic names even though the professor is a WASP from the Midwest. The only way you can even tell that the names even correspond to the female gender is by re-reading his biography which states that he "has three daughters."

They all dedicate their books to a woman who has provided them with intense emotional support during the writing of the book, and, without whom, the book could

not have possibly been written...and this woman is absolutely never their wife.

They all cycle (not "bicycle"; this has to be explicitly written as "cycling" in order to accentuate to their tenth-generation European roots) in the *Tour de France* and/or play basketball for recreation and find that this fact is necessary to include in their biography because it highlights the polymathic, Renaissance-man image that they are desperately trying to create. Even if they are mildly obese, gray-haired old men, they use still somehow are able to play intense sports. Their photo is at least ten years old.

Entry #1087: Colonel Cornell's Guide to...Freshman Parents

In addition to their Cornelian child, they all have an older daughter who either goes to Brown or Columbia. This rule is *without exception*.

True story: While some upperclassmen was on North Campus during Freshman Parent Weekend, asking passersby to sign a petition to have Presidential candidate Ron Paul speak on campus, a girl stopped by and began to sign. A freshman parent swatted the upperclassmen away and forbade her daughter to associate her name with this poisonous, hate-filled conservative trash infesting the open bastion of learning that is Cornell. This happened multiple times, until it got to the point in which the petitioners simply avoided freshman passersby with parents in tow.

Join Colonel Cornell next time as he descends into the Cornellcave, where Privateer Princeton has conducted an illegal squirrel breeding operation for the past 50 years.



We Can't Wait

Helping Manage Student Loan Debt and Getting Rid of the Republicans

PRESIDENT OBAMA OP-ED FOR COLLEGE PAPERS

Over the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity to get out of Washington to play golf. While I was at it, someone reminded me that I should think about how we can create jobs and get our economy growing faster.

This is a tough time for a lot of Americans—especially young people who are protesting all over America right now. Most of them are frustrated because they don't know what exactly they are protesting, so I am here to tell you. You've come of age at a time of profound change. The world has become more connected with your iPhones, iPads, hipster glasses, Che T-shirts, and Starbucks coffee, but it's also become more competitive. And for decades, too many of our institutions—from the Republican-led Washington to the 1%-controlled Wall Street—failed to adapt, culminating in the worst financial crisis and recession since the Great Depression.

For the last three years, we've worked to stabilize the economy, and we've made some progress. But we still have a long way to go, because according to our independent, completely unbiased media, I could literally save the economy in one second with a wave of my hand, but the Republicans are quelling my Mosaic magic. And now, as you're getting ready to head out into the world, many of you are watching your friends and classmates struggle to find work, and many of them are participating in the Occupy Movement at the risk of getting robbed and raped by fellow Occupiers.

The truth is, the economic problems we face today didn't happen overnight, and they won't be solved overnight. But the fact that you're investing in large quantities of alcohol right now tells me that you believe in the future of America, or you believe in studying something completely useless and wasting your parents' money. Either way, you want to be a part of it. And you know that there are steps we can take right now to put Americans back to work or otherwise provide them with redistributed wealth and benefits.

The problem is, there are some in Washington who just don't share that sense of urgency. That's why it's been so disappointing to see Republicans in Congress block jobs bills from going forward—bills that independent liberal economists say could create millions of jobs though the kinds of proposals supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past. (Yes, I know there is a typo in

that last sentence, but I'm too busy trying to rebuild America to instruct my interns to proofread something that will be read by several people.)

Now, the best way to attack our economic challenges and put hundreds of thousands of people back to work is through bold action in Congress. That's why I'm going to keep demanding that Members of Congress to vote on common-sense, paid-for jobs proposals. (That typo was inserted deliberately to challenge your intellect.) And I hope you'll send them a message to support massive government spending for your future, and the future of our country. I mean, what is so hard about putting all your faith in me and our never-failing brilliant economists whose predictions after every economic event have been 100% accurate? By infusing hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy, I can create jobs and never have to pay for them in the future, since I won't be President at that point.

But we can't wait for Congress to make me look good. That's why, I've announced a new policy that will help families whose home values have fallen refinance their mortgages and save thousands of dollars. (I've decided that my grammatical errors are intended to represent the struggles of working-class families.) Congress needs to stop impeding our progress as a country. In my years of presidency, I discovered that when Congress isn't controlled by my party, it isn't very easy to do whatever I want. What good is a leader if he cannot do whatever he wants all the time? Some people say the job of the President is to work with Congress and achieve his goals even if Congress isn't controlled by him, but that is just nonsense.

Michelle and I know what it feels like to leave school with a mountain of debt. We didn't come from wealthy families, although I can't remember what that was like. By the time we both graduated from law school, we had about \$120,000 worth of debt between us. And even though we were lucky enough to land good jobs with steady incomes, it still took us almost 10 years to

finally pay it all off (no thanks to my racist white grandmother). It wasn't easy.

Living with that much debt forces you to make some tough choices. And when a big chunk of every paycheck goes towards student loans, it isn't just painful for you – it's painful to our economy and harmful to our recovery. Don't you want to live in a world where banks receive no interest for the money they lend? Well we can't, because all the Republicans are still alive. Until we can rid the world of war, famine, AIDS and Republicans, we'll have to compromise and take smaller steps.

That's why we're making changes that will give about 1.6 million students the ability to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their income starting next year. We're also going to take steps to help you consolidate your loans so that instead of making multiple payments to multiple lenders every month, you only have to make one payment a month at a better interest rate. Sure, taxes will be raised to pay for

at a time when it desperately needs it, although I will present to you no data or historical evidence on how that should happen. After my guidance, I hope you understand the fact that the Republicans and rich bankers are making you pay more for college.

That's not just important for our country right now—it's important for our future. Michelle and I are where we are today because our college education gave us a chance to learn the art of political thought, reading the great works of philosophers and theorists, which we have thoroughly ignored since. Our parents and their generation worked and sacrificed to hand down the dream of opportunity to us.

Now it's our turn. That dream of opportunity is what I want for my daughters, and for all of you, although my daughters will face the additional challenge of convincing employers that they won't perform as poorly as their father. And even in these tough times, we are going to make that dream real once again.



it, but what's more important than you, America's future? The most important part of youth is to have fun and worry about things later. That's something those boring old "personal responsibility"-preaching Republicans don't get.

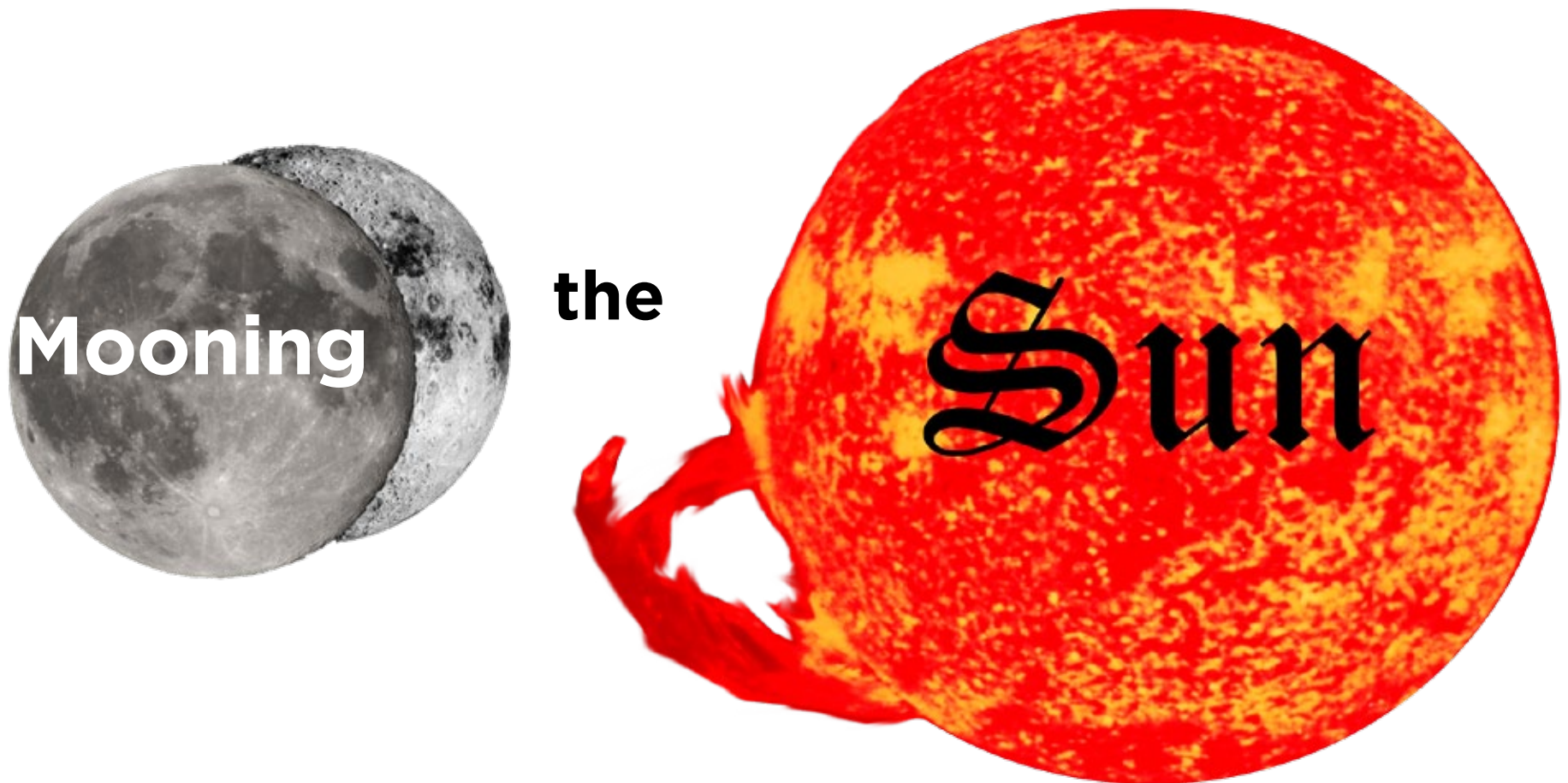
These changes will make a real difference for millions of Americans. We'll help more young people figure out how to afford college while reserving plenty of time to continue playing videogames and going to bars on weeknights. We'll put more money in your pocket after you graduate (about \$8 per month). We'll make it easier to buy a house or save for retirement, although the word 'retirement' may fall out of usage by the year 2055. And we'll give our economy a boost

I don't mean to say that the American dream is dead; my prose is just very simpleminded.

In the weeks ahead, I'm going to keep doing everything in my power to make a difference for the American people by making decisions without consulting Congress. Because here in America, when we find a problem, we fix it. When we face a challenge, we meet it. And when Congress doesn't agree with you, we give it the finger and propose more unwanted legislation. We don't wait for the voice of the people to speak. I'm going to help you and you can't stop me.

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States, in case you forgot.





Standing Up For Madison: A History Lesson, Courtesy Of The Sun

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

One of the columns in a recent *Sun* attempted to give us a simple lesson: don't be an @\$hole on the Internet. Surely a noble goal— I know that I for one could do with less mindless and anonymous name-calling. The essay relates the existence of some distasteful threads in one of the author's Blackboard discussions to a perceived notion that with freedom of speech comes the responsibility to take credit for one's words.

However, the piece was called "Why Madison is Rolling Over in His Grave". I believe a history lesson is in order. The title is referring to James Madison, the fourth president of the United States, who is often called the Father of the Constitution for his work in crafting

and defending it. He was also one of the authors of the Federalist Papers, one of the most famous and influential works ever to be published anonymously. Writing under the pseudonym Publius, Madison (along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay) crafted a series of essays to convince New York State to ratify the Constitution. The collection of essays remains one of the most important explanations of the Constitution, and it has been cited in countless legal opinions.

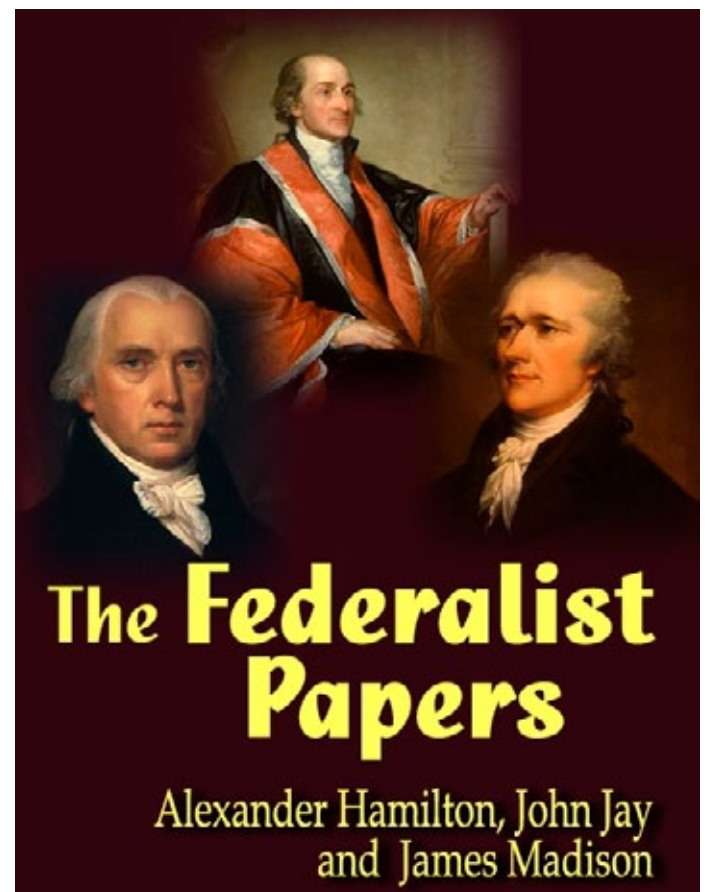
"When we do not own our words, the freedom to use them means nothing," wrote *Sun* columnist Hannah Deixler, but Madison clearly valued the freedom to speak anonymously. He and other early Americans (such as Thomas Paine, whose famous pamphlet *Common Sense* bore only "written by an Englishman" as its authorship) knew

that exercising their freedom of speech could prove dangerous, and that anonymity is the best protection against physical or libelous retaliation for one who shares a controversial opinion. This holds true whether the persecution is from the British army or from a kid in a chat room.

The federal government, limited? Oh how wrong they were... which is why the Anti-Federalist papers are also a must-read.

Continuing the history lesson, let us examine another one of the column's claims—that Madison would want a Constitutional amendment, "Promoting the value of filtering one's thoughts," if he could see the sorry way we often treat one another today. Madison was not a big proponent of amending the Constitution. The Federalist Papers make the case against a bill of rights, and although Madison did later author the Bill of Rights to ensure the ratification of the Constitution, he thought it a superfluous and dangerous list to include in the nation's charter.

Even if it is not a serious claim, the column's call for something as serious as a Constitutional amendment to encourage being polite on the web should be looked at critically. Must government be the



first line of defense against every societal problem? The Founders thought not. They shaped a government system that protects the most basic natural rights, not one that protects people from criticism, juvenile and ad hominem as most of it may be these days. It is this proposal that would have Madison rolling over in his grave, not the lack of civility by anonymous citizen surfers. That problem he would leave to the proper authorities: parents who should teach their offspring that prudence and propriety should be displayed regardless of whether or not there will be consequences, and individuals who should (most of the time) take responsibility for their actions and words.

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

Federalists:

- ▶ Favored ratification of the Constitution
- ▶ Favored a powerful federal government
- ▶ Argued a Bill of Rights was not needed, as federal power was limited
- ▶ "The Federalist Papers"

V.

Anti-Federalists:

- ▶ Opposed ratification of the Constitution
- ▶ Wanted a weak federal government that would not threaten states rights
- ▶ Wanted a Bill of Rights to declare and protect the rights of the people

RATIFICATION:

- Federalists promise addition of a Bill of Rights
- Ratification succeeded, new government formed 1789
- James Madison drafts 10 amendments to the Constitution, these become the U.S. Bill of Rights

Generation Apathy

A Fortnight of Follies.

BY LUCIA RAFANELLI

The growing political apathy of the youngest generations of Americans has been a large part of the national discussion in recent years. The infamous Occupy Wall Street movement, though, has highlighted another, more troubling, kind of apathy among today's youth—apathy about their ability to shape their own lives.

It may seem odd to think of a large-scale demonstration like this one as a sign of apathy. After all, by its very nature it consists in thousands of young people taking to the streets and voicing their opinions. But I suggest that if you listen closely to what they are saying, you will find that at least some of them seem to have lost faith in themselves as free agents who are capable of determining the courses of their own lives. In short, they have given up on themselves and decided they need the government to provide whatever it is they once thought they could get on their own.

Perhaps this attitude is best illustrated by the story of a young fashion student from New York. Her handwritten declaration was featured in a list of “The Top 15 ‘We Are the 99%’ Signs from Young Americans,” released by the liberal activism organization Campus Progress in mid-October. Her sign read:

I am a senior at a top fashion school in New York City. My **dream job** is to do editorial at

a major publication like Vogue or Elle. Even though I am qualified, I can't afford my dream because it only pays \$30,000/yr (or even less starting out). Because girls from very affluent families want to work at magazines, Daddy continues to pay her bills and expenses (even though they aren't all necessarily qualified for the positions) and magazines don't need to increase their salaries. My parents have “white collar” jobs, but based on principle, won't pay for anything after I graduate. Living in New York is **expensive**: my box (apartment) is \$1,700/month and to dress like I belong at Vogue is too. I'd have to wait-ress to **make ends meet** (and have no life) or (ironically) date a Wall St guy (the norm), but I'd rather **OCCUPY WALL ST than date it. I cannot afford to work in my industry. I am the 99%.**

When I read this, I was, admittedly, deeply saddened. But that sadness did not stem from the finding that the author of this sign was somehow deprived by society, or the government, or Wall Street stockbrokers.

Yes, I thought as I began to read, it is unfair for fashion magazines to give jobs to under-qualified candidates simply because their parents are willing to subsidize their living expenses. And, yes, perhaps it is unfortunate that this young woman's parents are not willing to provide such a subsidy. Surely,

though, she has options other than completely abandoning the search for her “dream job.” Certainly, there are many ways she could make some extra money or save up until she could afford to live as a magazine editor in Manhattan. And, sure

“She acts the victim, showing she has no faith in her ability to act freely, to make meaningful choices, and to deal with adversity.”

enough, she has found a way—part-time work as a waitress.

For some inexplicable reason, however, she immediately rejects this option as inconceivable. In fact, she devotes more time in her narrative to consideration of dating a “Wall Street guy” for his money than to that of waitressing “to make ends meet.”

Why is this? Is holding down a part-time job such a horrific notion? Well, she does mention that she would “have no life” if she waitressed on the side, but this hardly seems like a reason to give up any hope of achieving her dream if that dream really is so important to her.

In other words, it seems like this woman has two options: (1) If her goal of doing editorial work is more important to her than having a thriving social life, she could get a job at the magazine of her choice and waitress part-time; or (2) if

having a social life is more important to her than this goal, she could find work elsewhere.

It appears from her sign that she has chosen the latter option. It does not appear, though, that she recognizes she has made such a choice.

This is what I mean by people losing faith in themselves as free agents.

This woman has made a choice to leave the industry in which she truly wants to work for a higher-

paying one. But instead of acknowledging this and taking responsibility for it, she blames the result of her choice (that she will not work in fashion editing in New York) on society.

Her narrative does not end with the words “I chose not to work in my industry.” It ends with the words “I cannot afford to work in my industry.” She paints herself as completely helpless, *without any options*, as if she were forced out of editing by society. Perhaps this would be true if her only alternative to leaving her industry were working as an editor and starving for lack of sufficient funds to support life.

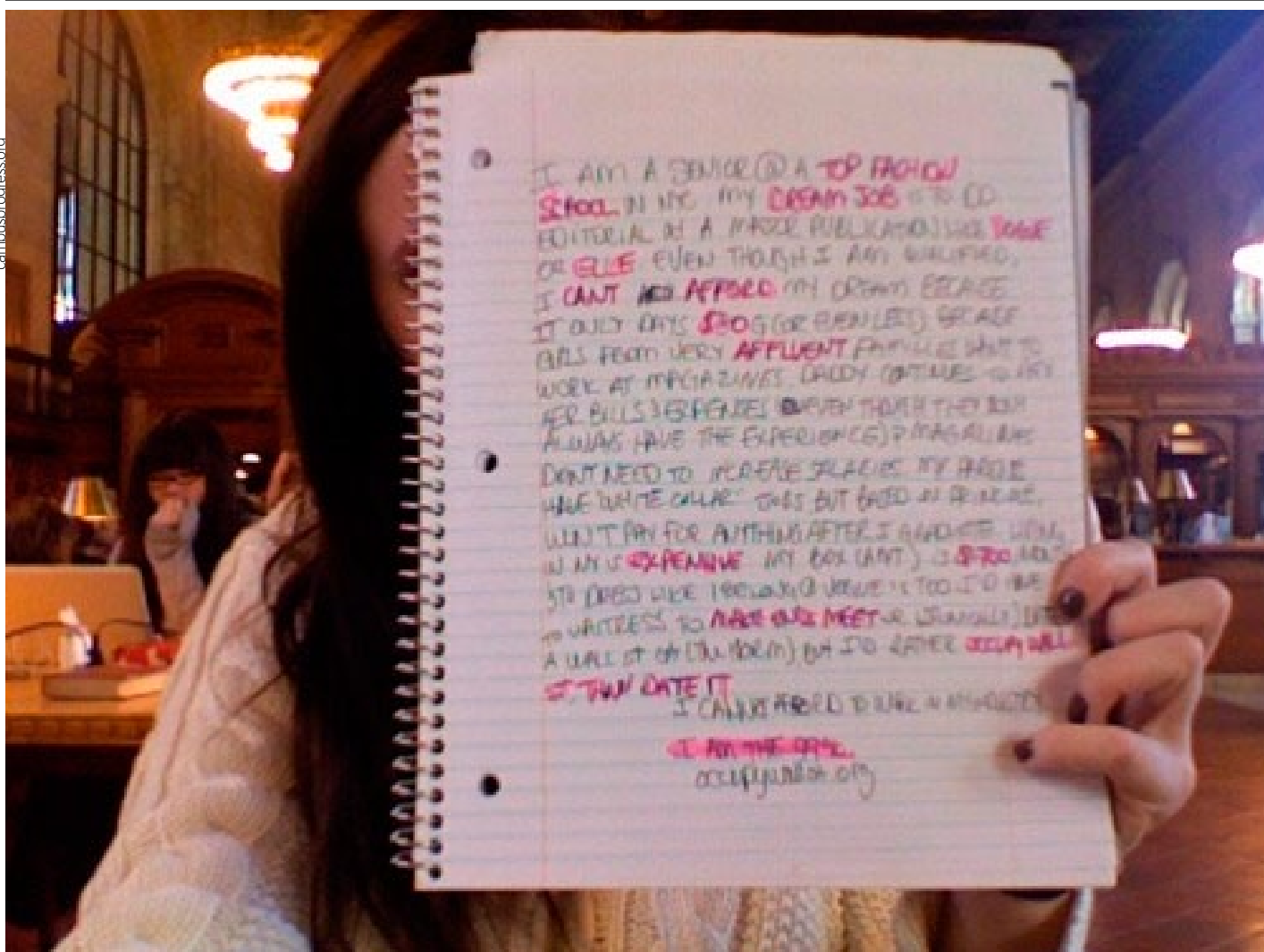
In reality, though, this is not the case. She is not helpless, she has *herself identified multiple options for action* (I think we can all agree waitressing is a far cry from living destitute on the city streets), and the choice to leave editing was hers, not society's.

By refusing to acknowledge this, our 99%-er effectively disrespects herself. She does not give herself the recognition she deserves as someone who is able to control her own life circumstances. Rather, she acts the victim, showing she has no faith in her ability to act freely, to make meaningful choices, and to deal with adversity.

I don't know what principle on which her parents refuse to pay for her living expenses after graduation, but I highly doubt it is a principle that says you should give up on your dreams if they aren't easy to achieve; that you should not even take responsibility for giving up; that you should completely abdicate your responsibility for your choice; that you should become the ultimate apathetic.

It is this principle, though, that seems to exemplify the cries for help of some young Occupiers who haven't yet realized that they have the power to help themselves.

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



Myrick

Continued from page 2

'liked' Cornell's Myrick victory status without a single comment—have fun paying more! Or, more probably, your parents will have fun paying more. If tuition increases don't bother you, I hope you don't mind seeing your favorite department receive staff and resource cuts.

Myrick's plans are about as solid as the snow pile outside Lynah Rink.

Besides taxing Cornell, his solution for prior fiscal mismanagement will be installing new parking meters. That's quite a start for the budding new mayor-elect.

Anthony Longo is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. Laurel Conrad is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences. They can be reached at ajl272@cornell.edu and lrc54@cornell.edu.

Occupy

Continued from page 2

profession, and it is scary that some work in powerful institutions.


At the same time, though, I doubt that any piece of evidence I could have presented would have assuaged them to change their views. These representatives of the 99% seem to know very little about what they are so vehemently against. Blind hatred is never as threatening as when it

accompanies a declaration of majority rule.

Thankfully, only fifteen of them showed up at their big protest on Saturday outside of a finance recruiting event.

That was not even 99% of their weekly meeting.

Kathleen McCaffrey is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. She can be reached at kam424@cornell.edu.



CN

THE COLLEGIATE NETWORK

THE HOME OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGE JOURNALISM SINCE 1979

The CN trains the next generation of professional journalists, providing them with the experience and network of support they need to succeed.

"My CN internships at The Washington Times and USA Today gave me a great start on my journalism career. Without the CN opening doors, I doubt that either newspaper would have glanced at my résumé."

- CN Summer Intern

The Collegiate Network offers **paid summer internships** and **year-long fellowships** at influential publications including *USA Today*, *The New York Post*, *Dallas Morning News*, *The Hill*, and others. Applicants must submit a cover letter describing their interest and experience in journalism, five reporting clips, transcript, two letters of recommendations, and a résumé.



Priority application deadline: **December 1, 2011**

Final application deadline: **January 15, 2012**

Visit www.collegiatenetwork.org/internships to submit an application, or e-mail apply@collegiatenetwork.org for more information. The CN is a program of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

Continued from page 4

magistrate for not punishing Barry and if not, Joe (and many others) will outvote the governor for not maintaining law and order. We can safely infer that laws can fail if they are unsuccessful in completing this circuit.

But here we have a paradox. Joe drinks because it is in his self-interest to do so and simultaneously outvotes the governor for allowing him to do so. The paradox arises due to a conflict between Joe's personal satisfaction derived from drinking and his (and other's) welfare resulting from the operation of the law. If Joe does not drink, everyone except Joe, including the police officer, magistrate and governor will be happy. But if he does drink, although Joe will surely be happy as he maximizes his payoffs at this optimal point, the other three players will be safe only if they perform their obligations by punishing Joe.

In this respect, a law can be called valid if it is compatible with at least *one* agent's interest. It is obvious that nobody would frame a law that is against everybody's interests. Laws that are regarded as unjust or oppressive do not lose their validity till the point they satisfy somebody's interest. Historically, many laws that were perceived to be barbaric or inhuman remained perfectly functional till the time they were repealed. But for a law to be effective, it must be consistent with *every* player's interest in complying with it. Had the carpenter seen some good in incising the crack in the first place, the bird would not have worried about completing the loop, saving her time and effort. Clearly, by our definition, the underage-drinking law is ineffective but not invalid.

So, why should we worry about making a valid law more effective? Laws derive their efficacy not only from deterrence but also from their reputation. If a government is reputed for making laws that are not obeyed, any new law passed may not

be followed. So if the drinking law is blatantly violated, other laws on more important issues are likely to suffer the same fate. The reputation for being powerful makes you even more powerful. A law that is valid but poorly enforced is much more dangerous than an invalid law that is well implemented.

Therefore, one should either repeal the law or try to make it more effective. To make the law more effective, we must find ways to alter Joe's payoffs in a manner that makes him choose not to drink. We can politely ask Joe to stop drinking or try to convince him of the justness of the law, the dangers of alcoholism and the benefits of teetotalism. But alcohol education and all other efforts towards enforcing the law by the University have had inadequate success simply because our first premise is true. Some theoretically valid but extremely impractical prescriptions can be to arrest Joe and destroy all knowledge about the techniques of manufacturing alcohol. Since these recommendations are not feasible, we can infer that we must try something novel but viable.

One such prescription I propose is to provide all students under the age of 21 with the option of accepting a token monthly sum as a "non-alcoholic recreation allowance". Most people will readily accept this and those who don't can be secretly marked as suspects for future reference. The allowance shall of course be given on the condition that those who accept it will sign a contract promising to refrain from consuming alcohol. The names of the signatories shall be made public. For sure, the authorities have limited ways of ensuring that the students honor the contract and will invariably lose some money in the process. But the amount lost would be smaller compared to the expenses incurred in catching all underage drinkers on campus and then instituting legal proceedings against them.

The token sum will have a three-fold impact. Those who do not drink

(and the University claims this to be a large section) shall be encouraged to continue obeying the law. Some of those who drink very rarely will be under an obligation to curb their transgressions, as there is a body of evidence to show that people are more likely to respect an explicit contract rather than an impersonal law. If the heaviest drinkers accept the token, they are likely to become the targets of social mockery. If rationality in social contexts lies in maximizing individual benefit subject to constraints that might have little economic weight but great social deterrence, public censure can motivate the heaviest drinkers to moderate their drinking habits.

However, the large body of 'moderate drinkers' (by official figures 3 out of 5 persons) remains the most unpredictable. But if a moderate drinker is caught in the act, he can be charged for the violation of the New York State Law, Campus Code of Conduct as well as the contract the student entered into. Apart from legal prosecution, the token amount can then be recovered along with un-liquidated damages. Unlike the case of crimes where the only respite comes from the course of law, enforcing a simple contract is swift and easy. In case of a breach of the contract, the parties can simply opt for arbitration and settle the matters out of court. Moreover, if the authorities manage to catch even one underage drinker every month, they can recover almost all of their losses and create a sound precedence.

We must realize that the efficacy of a law depends on its ability to appeal to our immediate sense of rational interest and laws that fail to do that remain ineffective. The problem of underage drinking requires us to indulge in innovative and bold policy-making but on condition that our prescription must be compatible with the interests of all stakeholders.

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

American auto industry, while she herself drives a foreign-made car.

Most egregious are her utterly inaccurate tantrums on Republicans' attempts to reform Medicare. Her Medicare tactics have merely contributed to the erosion of a genuine policy debate on entitlement reform. Her primary goal seems to be the vilification of Paul Ryan, seemingly one of the few public officials—from either Party—who wants to implement true health care reform.

Appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" during the summer, the Congresswoman argued that Republicans "would take the people who are younger than 55 today and tell them, 'You know what? You're on your own... We're going to throw you to the wolves and allow insurance companies to deny you coverage and drop you for pre-existing conditions.'" By conjuring up wholly inaccurate and exaggerated talking points like this one, not only has Wasserman Schultz lost any credibility that she had with Americans outside the far left, but she has also failed to impact policy debates in a meaningful way.

Of course, one could say that the sole responsibility of the head of the DNC is to raise as much money as possible—and that would hold true in general. However, Wasserman Schultz has decided that she wants to extend her reach to the policy arena, so the least she can do is supplement her talking points with a few facts.

The only redeeming quality Wasserman Schultz seems to possess is her penchant for elaborate tales, bursting with creativity, of Republican evil-mongering. If only this creativity could spill over to her discussion of policy proposals, the Democratic Party and President Obama would receive more respect from the American people today.

Worse still, the Congresswoman has sold out some of her Party's own supporters. Immediately following Republican Bob Turner's victory against Democrat David Weprin in NY-9—a 3-1 Democratic district—a few weeks ago, the Congresswoman responded by arguing that the district is "a difficult district for Democrats." Surely, she knew that the district hadn't had a Republican representative since 1923, and that Jews, who make up approximately one third of the voters in the district, vote overwhelmingly Democrat in virtually every election.

Given her record of committing gaffe after gaffe—both in employing simple rhetoric and on discussing policy—it is truly amazing that not a single official from the Obama administration has criticized Wasserman Schultz publicly. However, come January 2013, it is unlikely she will remain as the chair of the DNC—regardless of which Party comes out on top. She has embarrassed the Democratic Party too many times.

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



Stateswoman in Disguise

BY RAJ KANNAPPAN

Immediately following the start of her tenure as Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Debbie Wasserman Schultz reverted to her old gaffe-prone self when she claimed on national television that Republicans "want to literally drag us all the way back to Jim Crow laws—and very transparently—block access to the polls to voters who are more likely to vote for Democratic candidates than Republican candidates."

By uttering those words, Wasserman Schultz rose to the peak of her gaffe-tastic career. Her comment equates state laws requiring voters to show identification with laws that mandated segregated schools and drinking fountains. She faced immediate and forceful opposition, especially in many Democratic

circles, impelling a retraction from Wasserman Schultz. In her defense, unsurprisingly, Democratic strategist and top political Obama adviser David Axelrod stated that the President and his team were pleased with Wasserman Schultz's performance and had no second thought about her leadership.

This incident is worth remembering as a source of humor amidst economic turmoil and international volatility—not to mention the impending negativity that the Obama team will use in its 2012 campaign to compensate for its inability to perform over the last three years.

This statement was simply the beginning of a string of gaffes for Wasserman Schultz, which begs the question: what was President Obama thinking when he chose as the Democratic Party's leader a woman who seems bent on merely exaggerating

claims and framing those who oppose her as evildoers? Surely even though the chair of the DNC is an office not worth fawning over; President Obama could have selected a more honest official for the position.

Of course, that would mean he actually cared about selecting someone who would put America before the Party—as he often calls on Republicans to do.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz has gone down her list of inane and outlandish accusations toward Republicans while speaking for the Democratic Party. She's accused Republicans of wanting to reinstate segregation and of waging "a war on women". More puzzlingly, she's railed against the GOP for wanting to make illegal immigration a crime. Hell, illegal immigration is, in fact, illegal. She's even attacked Republicans for not supporting the

Wisemen & Fools

Cornell had all kinds of departments that I didn't have much interest in. (That doesn't mean there was anything wrong with them; it's just that I didn't happen to have much interest in them.) There was domestic science, philosophy (the guys from this department were particularly inane), and there were the cultural things—music and so on. There were quite a few people I did enjoy talking to, of course. But it was hard to find enough of these guys to talk to, and there was all this other stuff which I thought was low-level baloney. And Ithaca was a small town...The weather wasn't really very good.

Richard Feynman
who left Cornell for Caltech

But what more oft in Nations grown corrupt,
And by their vices brought to servitude,
Than to love Bondage more than Liberty,

Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty.

John Milton
Samson Agonistes

If you engage in war against the United States, you are an enemy combatant. You have none of the civil liberties of the United States. You cannot go to court.

Newt Gingrich

CBS decided that their debate transcripts would be much more interesting if they used apostrophes to evoke Rick Perry's accent:
And I don't trust 'em. And we need to send clear messages. We need to do foreign aid completely different. I'm tellin' you, no dollar's goin' into those countries.

Rick Perry

Hey listen, you try concentrating with Mitt Romney smiling at you. That is one handsome dude!

Rick Perry

My reading of history

convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.

Thomas Jefferson

I have come to a resolution myself as I hope every good citizen will, never again to purchase any article of foreign manufacture which can be had of American make be the difference of price what it may.

Thomas Jefferson

The truth is that, in all our democracies, we've been too concerned about the identity of the new arrivals and not enough about the identity of the country receiving them.

Nicolas Sarkozy

I thought it was really shameful in talking about Barack Obama as not good on Israel. He has provided more security for the state of Israel than any other president.

Congresswoman

Jan Schakowsky

The government pretends to pay us—and we pretend to work.

Soviet Workers' Saying

I only have two regrets: I didn't shoot Henry Clay, and I didn't hang John C. Calhoun.

Andrew Jackson

To conclude, therefore, let no man out of a weak conceit of sobriety, or an ill-applied moderation, think or maintain, that a man can search too far or be too well studied in the book of God's word, or in the book of God's works; divinity or philosophy; but rather let men endeavour an endless progress or proficience in both.

Bacon

Advancement of Learning

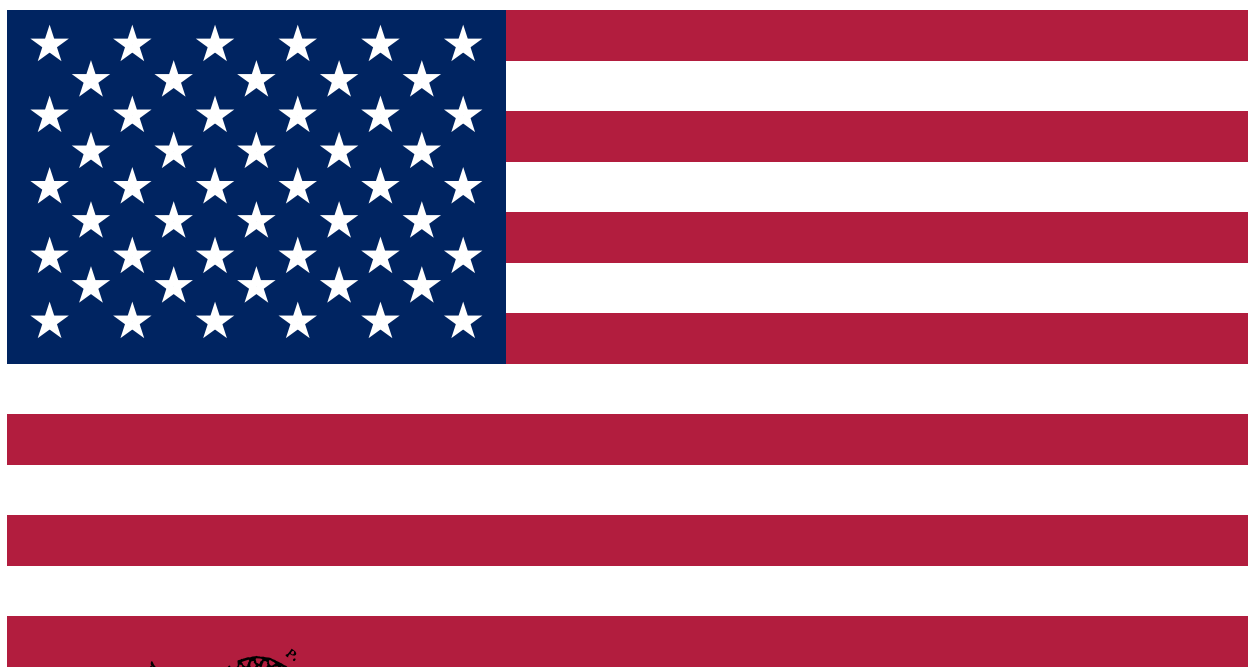
Change change change
change change change
change change change
change change change

Barack Obama

Visit our blog for breaking news and exclusive analysis:

cornellinsider.com

Count on the *Insider* for swift coverage of significant campus events.



Join the Review.

Come to GS 164, Mondays at 6:00 pm

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

