

The Cornell Review

An Independent Publication

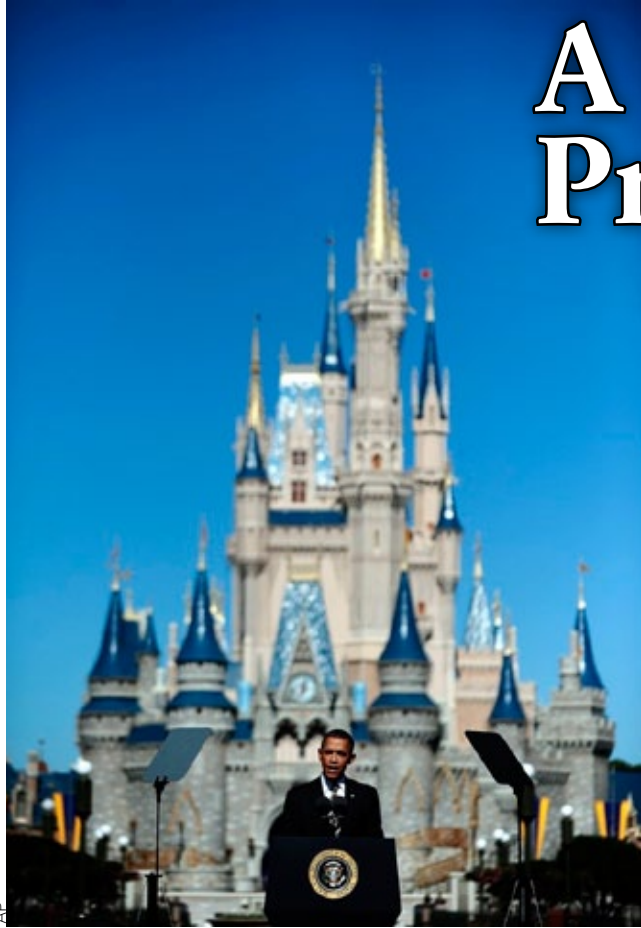
The Conservative Voice on Campus

“We Do Not Apologize.”

VOL. XXX, NO. VIII

BLOG cornellinsider.com SITE thecornellreview.com

March 11th, 2012



A Failed Presidency

BY RAJ KANNAPPAN

Don't vote for President Obama.

As a candidate, he promised “to be a President... who would ensure that [your] generation... had the same chances and the same opportunities that our parents gave us.” Thus, no fewer than 23.4 million 18-29 year-olds went to the ballot box in 2008, constituting the highest turnout of young voters in modern presidential history. Millennials formed about 18 percent of the electorate in 2008, and Obama won this group by an astounding 34 percentage points. Much

credit for this landslide goes to Obama's inspirational message of change that resonated with young voters, even those who thoroughly detested the rough-and-tumble world of politics.

Reality, however, has decimated into smithereens Obama's grand ideas. Joblessness among 18-29 year-olds is at its highest level since the end of World War II. Hidden behind January's much-touted employment numbers are many youth who have begrudgingly accepted temporary, part-time work or lost hope searching for work altogether. Once interpreted by youth as a promise to transform no less than the fabric and soul of the country, Obama's message has fallen flat—and remains lifeless in a critical time in America's history. In 2008, Obama

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No Human Being is Illegal. Only Illegals are Illegal.

BY FAUX MANCHU

When a person addresses concerns about illegal immigration, the conventional liberal response is “you don't know what being an immigrant is like.” Well too bad. I actually do know what being an immigrant is like. I know what being a *legal* immigrant is like. All the sympathies of liberal guilt go to the illegal immigrants, as if we, the legal ones, are no different than the “evil corporations”. You've probably heard already, but recently at Cornell, an illegal alien made \$10,000 based purely on this liberal guilt. Contrary to what you might think, Faux Manchu doesn't pass value judgments. He only states his opinions and presents the alternative perspectives that make some people despise him. Everyone has his own way of living, and I have mine. In the following, I will describe to you my experience as an immigrant, as well as how I manage to live and breathe without other people handing me money.

Before I go into the plight of legal immigration, let me give you brief background of my family history just so that the liberals don't say I'm just some guy who came from a rich “white background” without having a white face. My great-grandmother was a Manchurian noblewoman, but it meant nothing because her family declined due to the collapse of the empire, so she was no different from

anyone else on the streets. During the period before the communists committed the greatest genocide of human history, she and my great-grandfather started from scratch and accumulated some wealth with their hard work. Just when they thought everything was going well, the communists took over and confiscated all their properties. My great-grandfather and several of our relatives were killed in the process and my great-grandmother and her children lived under unimaginable pain and humiliation. She did not complain. She worked her hardest and laid the foundation for my family to finally climb up the social ladder (actually possible through hard work *even* under totalitarian regime. But hey, if you can blame it on Wall Street and plunder innocent people, why work hard?). Fifty years after her death, my father was eventually able to barely elevate our family to the middle class. When China's social environment became unbearable for my family and immigration became possible, we decided to move to the United States.

We were aware of the two ways one can get to America: the legal way and the illegal way. The legal way was obviously much more arduous than the illegal way. Unfortunately, none of my family members were “progressive” enough to commit crimes when the “rules weren't fair”. So my Dad did it the old

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Git on Board

The Review speaks to next year's SA President

ALFONSE MUGLIA / CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

LAUREL CONRAD / STAFF WRITER

Cornell Review: Congratulations on being the president-elect of the Student Assembly, as you are running unopposed in the ongoing elections. When did you first realize that you would be running unopposed?

Adam Gitlin: I first realized that I would be running unopposed last Monday when the petition materials to be on the ballot were due. I was really under the impression that I would have an opponent, and I was preparing a campaign.

CR: Last year you won by roughly 1300 votes, and now no one is running against you. Why do you think you have had this dominance?

Gitlin: I don't really know. Some people have theories, but I haven't been asking around much over the past week. I think it was a combination of factors that led to it.

CR: Has it sunk in yet that you're going to be president of the Student Assembly?

Gitlin: Yes and no. Natalie still is president, and she is doing a great job, so I still look up to her as the president of the Student Assembly, but there are definitely a lot more meetings. Also, I am enjoying speaking to a lot more students.

CR: Talking about Natalie, how was she as a leader? How do you plan to carry on the work she has done, and

are there any changes that need to be made?

Gitlin: I think she has done an excellent job. I think she has expanded the SA and brought it to a level it has never been at, ever. This is reflecting in the amount of tangible initiatives that the assembly under her direction has been working on across the board – from student health and student safety to gorge safety and working on the student efforts for the New York City Tech Campus. And to answer your second question, I plan to use a similar framework. We had Student Assembly tasks force for the first time this year. We grouped assembly members around a common idea. Those four were student health, student safety, communication and outreach, and student organizations. I plan to carry those over through the next year because they were very effective in galvanizing support for our initiatives.

CR: Last year when we talked, one of the biggest issues you brought up was student apathy, and you said how it would fall more on the Student Assembly to reach out to students than it did for students to actually come to you. How do you think that has changed over the last year, and what have you done to fix that?

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Gitlin

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Gitlin: A little after that conversation, I co-created— incidentally with Natalie—a new executive board position: the Vice President of Outreach. That position has been reaching out to student organizations on a regular basis, creating a schedule of events that Student Assembly members should attend, and making sure that SA members are consistently and adequately reaching out to their core constituencies. I think that has been a major new framework for the SA's outreach initiatives, and that is only going to continue and expand over the next year.

CR: Another thing we talked about last was opening the Cornell Campus Pub as a response to the administration addressing Greek drinking. Do you have any updates for us?

Gitlin: The pub's committee, which was an outgrowth of the Student Assembly ad-hoc late night programming committee is now a permanent committee. The Bear's Den opened its first event for the Super Bowl, as sort of a dry-run event (even though there was alcohol, so maybe that's not the best term). It was extremely successful. Hundreds of students came and it was amazing to see how the Ivy Room was transformed into this pub. There are three more pilot events over the course of the spring 2012 semester, and the plan is for it to open full time – four days a week – in the fall semester. We have these pilot programs to see what we need to work on once it is fully functioning.

CR: Have you run into any obstacles when opening this pub?

Gitlin: Acquiring a liquor license for the building takes time. That is something that we and the administration are working on. We're hoping that since Willard Straight Hall had a liquor license a couple of decades ago and that the precedent is there, that it will be a little faster than any other building.

CR: Let's take a step back, and talk about the election. How would you respond to criticisms that the student body wasn't given a choice in their leadership?

Gitlin: I would say that even though they didn't have the opportunity to choose the Student Assembly president, I am going to be working a lot over the next couple of months to speak to students and student organizations and to see what they really want some of the imitative of the Student Assembly to be.

CR: So although they didn't have

that opportunity, they will still have the opportunity to mold the agenda of the Student Assembly for the coming year.

CR: You say how you want to reach out to different clubs, and satisfy their needs for what they want the Student Assembly to do for them. It seems like the growing trend has been that this means giving clubs more money. Do you think there are other ways to integrate clubs and the community other than increasing their SAFC funding or byline funding?

Gitlin: I think there are other ways. When student organizations are going to the administration and saying that these are the issues for the community on campus, or they are presenting why they want a new center, programs, or initiatives that the SA can go with them and help articulate and stand for that need.

CR: Any examples of that happening this year?

Gitlin: The SA this year has been working a lot with the multicultural community on campus, and we're going to be working with the student leaders of the multicultural community and the minority community and in collaborating with the administration on their diversity initiatives.

CR: Speaking of diversity, what were your feelings on President Skorton's email on wanting to promote physical diversity between the student body, faculty, etc.?

Gitlin: I think it's great. It is a very important initiative the administration is taking on, and I think many student leaders in that community are happy about it. I don't know the extent yet of how we are going to collaborate with the administration and with other student leaders, so I can't say yet. But it was really exciting news, and I think that it is interesting to see how it is going to play out over the next year.

CR: Ivygate and Business Insider have been drawing some negative attention to the SA elections [with regard to the petition signing fraud] and I was wondering if you have a comment. Do you think the integrity of the elections has been compromised?

Gitlin: I can't speak to any specifics regarding that situation because I'm not on the Elections Committee of the SA, since I am still technically running in the race. I think there are a lot of great candidates in the race. Some of the elections are the most contested that they have ever been in SA history. We're going to see a lot of great candidates elected.

In that regard, I think we're going to have a great SA come out of it. There were some issues, but I think they are behind us and the rest of the election will run smoothly.

CR: Do you think it was handled appropriately by the SA Elections Committee?

Gitlin: I don't know the full details of the discussions. I only read what everyone else was reading, because I was not allowed to hear that information, so I don't have a comment about it honestly.

CR: Last year, when we asked you about your catch phrase Git-Some, you mentioned John Mueller as being the one who helped come up with it. John is now running for Executive Vice President. Do you have any thoughts on that race, considering there are three very qualified people running? How will this race affect the future of the Student Assembly?

Gitlin: The two people who don't win still have the opportunity to be on the Student Assembly because they are simultaneously running for the at-large position. I think they are very qualified candidates, and I think they will all bring different perspectives and initiatives to the table.

CR: Are you afraid that you and some of the EVP candidates might be too similar. [Geoffrey] Block is also an ILRie in Greek Life, John is a good friend of yours, and Jay [Lee] is a big proponent for minority issues on campus, like you.

Gitlin: I'm not concerned of that. First of all, they all have some different opinions and outlooks than I do, but there is also the entire Student Assembly. Everyone on the SA is a vocal student and they represent their communities. I don't think there will be a lack of diversity of opinion, and we have individual positions meant to represent different constituencies. They are specifically designated to represent their individual communities, in addition to the whole student body.

CR: Some of these minority groups were the only groups to receive increases in byline funding this year, as byline funding is becoming more and more for people who need money rather than for organizations whose resources are used by the entire community. Do you have any thoughts on that, and how some students don't use those resources but pay toward the work they do?

Gitlin: I can't speak on behalf of the Appropriations Committee but how I see the philosophy of that committee is for a student activity fee that advances the

needs of the student body as a whole. I understand that not necessarily every dollar allocated to a student organization is utilized by every single student in some way, but I think when you look at it from a more macro scale, it has the potential to affect the entire student body. For example, when a group like ALANA receives more funding, there is the potential for the entire student body to be enriched by the culture and programming that the organization and its umbrella organizations bring to the table. I think that there are opportunities that a lot of students don't know about. They can benefit from the student activity fee in ways that they don't necessarily know.

CR: How do you feel the Student Assembly is responsible for educating students on these opportunities?

Gitlin: I think our role is very important, and we are working on ways to expand our way of communicating with the student body. For example, as of this semester, for the first time ever, the Student Assembly can email the student body once a month. For the month of February, we sent out a survey regarding Big Red Bikes – a recently funded byline organization. We sent out a survey to see the feedback of students regarding that organization. We're working on [communication], but it's a constantly improving process.

CR: Our last question is in regards to the NYC Tech Campus. A lot has been said about the positives that this will bring to the student body, but there is a group – Students for Justice in Palestine – who are saying that we should be rethinking our partnership with Technion for some of the work they do in arms creation. How would you respond to the fact that there are a large yet futile number of undergraduate students who are against this partnership.

Gitlin: From what I understand and from a lot of the statements from the University, the sole intent of the creation of the University in New York City is academic, societal, and technological. I truly believe that this will continue to be the intent of the partnership. This will be for the good of our country and the world.

CR: Thank you for your time, and good luck the rest of the semester. Enjoy.

Gitlin: Thank you.

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The Cornell Review

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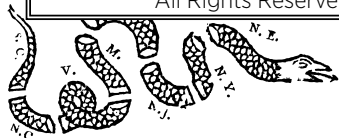
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The Cornell Review meets regularly on Mondays at 6:00 pm in GS 162. E-mail messages should be sent to cornellreview@cornell.edu

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Costly Apathy

BY MICHAEL ALAN

There hasn't been much talk of the Student Assembly elections that just wrapped up. In fact, voters didn't even have a choice when it came to the most powerful position in the body, as Adam Gitlin '13 ran for the presidency unopposed. Melissa Lukasiewicz '14, one of the candidates that won the position of Arts and Sciences representative, was found to have committed blatant voter fraud just a few weeks ago.

These elections went unnoticed because most students don't really care about the SA. But you should have been paying attention, as these kids are in charge of spending your money. The mandatory Student Activity Fee of \$229 per student generates roughly \$3 million in revenue that the SA has responsibility for. The vast majority of student groups split up only about a third of this money and apply for it through the Student Assembly Finance Commission, whose problems deserve their own editorial.

Why is the system so screwed up? Quite simply, it's because you don't keep the SA accountable.

The rest is given to twenty nine other "byline funded" organizations, which are supposed to "directly and primarily serve/benefit the entire undergraduate Cornell community." Some of the events put on by byline funded organizations include:

"Sexploration," a lecture about anal sex given by pornographic film director Tristan Taormino. About \$3,500 in your Student Activity Fee money was spent.

A party commemorating the 1969 violent take over of Willard Straight Hall by leftist students brandishing assault rifles.

The \$15,000 party at "Club RPCC," which was put on by the byline funded Class Councils.

"Filthy/Gorgeous," a sex themed party held on campus each year. While the event costs nearly \$30,000 to put on, organizers receive enough outside sponsorship—sex toy company Fleshjack is chipping in this year and the event even has its own "official lube"—to keep your cost to only about \$13,000.

Organizations that, according to your elected representatives, "directly [benefit] the entire undergraduate Cornell community," include race-specific groups like the African Latino Asian Native American Students Programming Board and gender-specific groups like the Women's Resource Center. I won-

der if they missed anybody there...

Why is the system so screwed up? Quite simply, it's because you don't keep the SA accountable. When failed Executive Vice President candidate Geoff Block '14 (because of SA election rules, Block was still able to win one of the at-large seats despite losing the EVP race) spoke to the Cornell Republicans, he said that while he wasn't necessarily in favor of increasing the Student Activity Fee, he had voted to do it "because it was going to pass anyway." This is how the guy with the guts to speak to a room full of



You paid for this event because your representatives think it "benefits the entire Cornell undergraduate community." Angry yet?

curmudgeonly Republicans thinks; imagine how twisted the minds of his colleagues are.

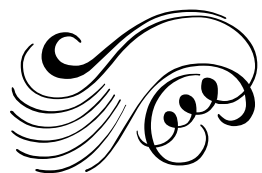
But as cringeworthy as student government is, it is still a shame that so little importance is placed on the SA elections. This year, both Gitlin brothers (that is, the two that weren't too busy running the *Stun*) ran unopposed for SA positions. Last year, Natalie Raps '12 cruised to the presidency by running on a platform of using Student Activity Fee money to expand the Blue Light program (yes, really, that was her platform . . . needless to say, her campaign's rap video was pretty good).

If college students today aren't getting angry when the student government is wasting tens of thousands of their dollars, are they going to get angry at a federal government that's wasting trillions of their dollars? Probably not. If we don't curb this epidemic of apathy now, we're certainly going to be doomed later.

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Presidency

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was a not-yet-one-term Senator who waxed sentimental generalities instead of strong policy proposals. With prudence and skepticism, youth should have refused Obama's cajoling then. They should especially reject it now, when the specter of even more troubling days lies ahead.

Obama readily accepted the votes of youth pining for a contemporary Jack Kennedy, but he has done little to assure them that their future looks brighter. Obama didn't cause America's economic and budget problems. But his policies have undoubtedly worsened them.

The most recent Congressional Budget Office report projects that unemployment will climb to nearly 9% by election time, refuting claims of robust recovery from the administration. The overall youth unemployment rate is currently 17.4%. And 23.2 percent of 16-19 year-olds in the labor force does not have jobs. Well-established is the fact that an extended period of inactivity during early adulthood risks making these individuals unemployable, even in the distant future. Young people generally provide cheaper labor than older workers. However, older, more experienced workers who can't find higher-paying jobs

are replacing youth in many entry-level positions. Additionally, in 2011, due to an increasingly depressing economy, 85 percent of graduates moved back home after college. For those who did secure employment, the median graduating income fell more than 10 percent.

Arguably even more destructive, average graduating student debt has reached a record-breaking \$26,300. Student loan debt has rapidly surpassed credit card debt at more than \$1 trillion. Student loans, much like the floundering housing market, revolved around a poorly regulated government-sponsored institution: Sallie Mae. Lenient lending standards and easily-accessible, government-backed credit sparked a sustained and rapid increase in tuition prices. But, by ensuring the provision of higher levels of federally backed student loans, the White House has essentially incentivized continued tuition increases, worsening the state of higher education.

Students should worry dearly. This election, after all, seems to have greater implications for them than is typical. According to a Harvard Institute of Politics poll, just 32% of 18-29 year-olds approve of Obama's handling of the economy. Most indicative of the contours of youth opinion, however, is that at the time of his January 2009 inauguration, Obama's general

approval rating among youth was 75%, but today it has fallen to 55%.

Many youth have come around to recognizing the pitfalls of continued government expansion. In spite of these numbers, Obama has stubbornly continued on the path of spending tax-payer dollars aimlessly, demanding more debt-ceiling increases, and, by avoiding the politically painful issue of entitlement reform, kicking the can down the road.

If we truly want to confront the country's core problems, here's what we should do instead:

1) Reform the tax code by instituting low, stable rates and phasing out loopholes and deductions that primarily benefit the well-off;

2) Reduce regulatory uncertainty for employers by repealing the health care law, whose regulations have already pressured businesses into increasing the average annual premium for family coverage by 9% in the last year; and

3) Reduce the severity of the debt crisis by actually dealing with our long-term unfunded liabilities, thereby preventing our entitlement programs from going bankrupt and putting America on a path to pay off its debt.

Republicans have bought into these ideas, and with the support of voters in November, will make a more serious effort than the President to implement these policies.

Obama has failed students. Yet, in November, after he officially began his reelection campaign, he penned a vote-buying charade of an op-ed in college newspapers around the country, merely calling for lower tuition and more loan forgiveness instead of proposing a serious plan. Further, only when his reelection began to appear threatened did Obama put forth a youth jobs initiative—that too, one marauding as substantive policy under the pretense of providing “career enhancements” and “job shadowing opportunities.” Obama's primary goal now is not to help students. Instead, his top priority is to endear uninformed young Americans in the hopes of once again securing crucial votes through clever promises and short-term bribes.

After doing little for students and their future over the past three years, Obama is coming after their vote. They shouldn't give it to him. A vote for Obama is no longer a recipe for change. It's an assurance for more of the same: historic economic hardship and an erosion of global confidence in America's stewardship.

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“Who are we?” and the Indian World-Order

KUSHAGRA ANIKET
STAFF WRITER

Platonic Squabbles

One of the primary objectives of politics is to answer the question of identity. “Who are we?” is a question that has confounded the minds of many, particularly since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The genesis of religious extremism in contemporary history also lies in the failure to resolve the crisis of identity, to answer the paramount question of our times. From the coast of East Timor to the snow-clad Alps, people have come to realize that the wrong response to the question can mean a bullet in one's head. However, without an explicit, clear answer to this question, no people can ever relate with their past or hope to progress in the future.

Indians have had their share of problems while grappling with the question of identity. Identity is a function of one's mindset. “As one thinks, so shall one be,” goes the proverb. But the Indian mind remains confused. It is tortured by the horror of perceiving itself in the mirror. The result is the present dysfunctional perceptual mismatch that propels a great civilization to a state of inertia and sabotages its endeavor to emerge as a global power.

Why? What is it that the Indians lack? The answer, I will argue, is the fact that Indians have

not been brought up with a clear concept of identity.

In most countries of the world, the first idea that is drilled into the mind of the child is his identity. Identity defines the parameters within which the individual functions. No agent can act decisively without being conscious of himself, his powers and weaknesses, his rights and obligations. Otherwise, there shall be total paralysis. So, one must either confront this question or perish. But ask an average Indian about

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While states have political boundaries, civilizations can only have symbolic boundaries. A civilization has its own elusive identity so that it cannot be controlled entirely by the state machinery or confined within the borders of a political society.
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his identity, after much persuasion, he will reply that he possesses an Indian passport. Is that what we understand by Indian identity? Is it right for a civilization that has endured for five millennia to rely on a perishable piece of paper to certify its existence? Certainly not.

Identities are born when people understand their relation with their past. Whether we like it or not, we cannot disown or deny our history. It is impossible to reverse the flow of time. Every Indian enjoys an equal claim over the composite culture and tradition of his civilization

and of entire humanity. No other civilization in the world embraces the extraordinary diversity of language, topography, climate, religion and culture as India does. Thus, the challenge of defining India as something more than the sum of its contradictions is immense but critical.

It is essential to understand that India is a civilizational entity, rather than a nation of present political boundaries. Therefore, the Vishnu Purana (II.3.1) defines India in extremely broad terms: “Whatever is

north of the ocean and south of the mountains is Bharata (India)”. However, all foreign travellers who visited the land recognized a fundamental civilizational entity called India. Macro Polo (1254-1324), who travelled extensively in Asia, observed that “India the Greater” extended from Cape Comorin to the coast of Mekran and included 13 great kingdoms. “India the Lesser” ranged from the province of Vietnam to the Krishna Delta.

While states have political boundaries, civilizations can only have symbolic boundaries. A civilization

has its own elusive identity so that it cannot be controlled entirely by the state machinery or confined within the borders of a political society. When civilizations spread, they tend to bypass the fault lines between political societies. Therefore, Marco Polo used the term “Greater India” to refer to the historical diffusion of Indian culture marked by the spread of Buddhism to Tibet, China and Central Asia via the Silk Route and the adoption of indigenous customs by the Indianized states of South Asia.

But despite sharing common cultural attributes, these countries remained politically independent from each other because in the case of Greater India, the travels of merchants, Brahmins and Buddhist monks contributed to the spread of the Indian culture rather than political conquest. The expansion of the Indian standard of civilization cannot be ascribed to the military superiority of India vis-à-vis its neighbors. Military defeat has been historically associated with a perceived inadequacy of cultural development or inferiority of civilization. Had the cultural influences in the region been alloyed with coercion, there would have been instances of humiliation, resistance and ultimately retaliation against foreign intrusion. None of these happened in South East Asia and the Chola invasion of Indonesia in 1025 CE remains the sole instance of a military

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Arguing with Democrats

ANDRE GARDINER
STAFF WRITER

Last week the Cornell Republicans, Democrats, and Libertarians held a lengthy drinking competition and social get-together to promote bipartisanship. While I think the latter goal may have been a failure, there was a good amount of inebriated political discourse. I thought I would take this opportunity to elaborate on a few of the discussions we had.

Minimum Wage v. EITC: Putting aside the very philosophical and efficiency basis of minimum wage, it is increasingly clear that these laws do not actually help the poor. The minimum wage, for example, fails by most studies to reach those below and around the poverty line. About 70% of those directly impacted by the minimum wage were 150% or more above the poverty line. Similarly, a study by Oxford University found that efforts by the British government to raise the minimum wage worked against skill development. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), on the other hand, is a much more efficient program. Not only is it better suited to supplement the incomes of those below the poverty line, it does not have the same impact on labor force participation as the minimum wage does. The EITC is credited for much of the success of the early 1990s in labor participation among the poor, especially single mothers. While the EITC is not a universal solution to poverty, it is certainly more effective than pet Democrat measures such as the minimum wage and food stamps.

Corporate Taxes: I have had countless arguments with Democrats over whether or not corporates pay their fair share of taxes. Democrats have repeatedly called for higher effective tax rates on US corporations through loophole reduction and the establishment of a corporate alternative minimum tax (AMT). While one hopes that the President's plan will be designed more effectively than the personal AMT, estimates put the revenue loss of repealing the AMT higher than repealing the personal tax code, it moves the country in the wrong direction. The tax foundation did a review of various corporate effective tax rate studies and found that US had an effective rate of 27.9%. While this is lower than the statutory rate of 35%, it is still significantly higher than the 20.3% rate of other nations. Similarly, a 2005 CBO study found that US corporate tax code discourages capital investment while encouraging companies to hold their assets overseas. As the world becomes increasingly

competitive, we can't allow our tax code to be uncompetitive and complex. Eliminating deductions and lowering rates would save billions every year. Lowering it even further and switching to a territorial system would drastically increase investment into the United States, which in turn would help spur economic growth.

2012 Election: It seems that whenever Democrats are losing the policy discussion they like talking about the Republican primary process. Yes, we all know that the Republican Presidential field is weak, but that does not mean that President Obama can start sending out invitations for his inaugural ball. Over the last several years President Obama has alienated vast sections of the American populace and driven his negatives through the roof. Similarly, he has presented few credible plans on how to cut the deficit or deal with core economic issues like the price of gasoline. Similarly, the President (as leader of his party) is likely to lose the Senate. In this upcoming election he will be fighting to retain the seats gained by the Democrat party in 2006. These include seats like Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, West Virginia, and others that will be difficult to retain. On the other hand, of the 10 Senate seats Republicans will fight to retain, only Scott Brown's seat in Massachusetts is at risk. So for all of you Democrats who check Intrade every morning to see the President's chance of winning, you might want to at least wait until the Republicans choose a candidate. This time in 2008, most thought we would see a Romney/Clinton contest.

On another note, I have conducted the first-ever Occupy Cornell Republican Presidential candidate opinion poll. By a wide majority, 66% of voters choose Ron Paul as their Republican candidate of choice. Mitt Romney came in 2nd with a third of the vote. It should be noted that only 3 people voted.

Occupy Response to my Poll Question: "Can you please delete this post?! Thanks!"

My Response: "I put up this poll on behalf of an official Cornell University news source. Feel free to take it up with the Review."

For those in need of a laugh, please join the Occupy Cornell Facebook page; they could use the members.

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Illegal Immigrants

Continued from the first page

fashion way and got some job offers. However, we were rejected by the US government a total of three times because the Clinton administration apparently did not value skilled immigrants who were not likely to live off welfare and vote Democrat like those who walked over the border. But we were persistent. Eventually we were able to move to America in 2003.

If you immigrate legally with a visa, it will eventually expire. You will have to prove to America that your skills are valuable to the country if you want to stay. This is certainly a criterion that is not required for illegal immigration. My family did not complain. We strived to be perfect and earned our permanent residency fair and square after six years of hard work with absolutely no handouts from the government.

"It seems that it is universally agreed upon that college education is now no longer a privilege but a right."

The screening process was brutal, but what was more heartrending was the fact that we had to see all the illegal aliens walking on the streets and having the time of their lives while we lived in the horror of uncertainty. We could have been sent back to China if there was anything that was not perfect, but these people can just take advantage of America's generosity and benevolence without paying back anything. One might think that we are stupid for following the rules, but I imagine the mental burden of going against one's principles would be too much for us to deal with had we chosen to live in this country as illegal aliens.

I admit our way is probably outdated in this progressive world. In today's society, one can simply create a "good cause" by playing the victim and he is sure to garner massive support from various forms of media. For pity points, the illegal Cornellian claimed that the reason he is illegal was that his family was scammed. Unless you came to America by paying a human trafficking snakehead, I highly doubt you would get scammed: if you are honestly offered a job, the legal paperwork has to be in order (especially important for Asian countries) before you can even board the airplane. Even if we take a step back and accept that there might have been some very unusual circumstances with his status, he and his family members were physically in America in 2001, weren't they? In more than 10 years of time, they did not try to correct the supposed

mistake? The United States is not very forceful to illegal immigrants if they are already in the country. There are various ways you can get on the legal track and become a citizen. Again, I'm not here to debunk or judge anything. My point is that he could've chosen a better story for the self-victimization that is required for the liberal "good causes" in today's society. He was, however, clever in using the testimonials from his professors commenting on his personality, because personality is all that matters in sensationalist liberal endeavors. Like I said earlier, I have no problem with people who have different values and I certainly have nothing against the man for what he did. He did what he had to do in order to draw out the liberal guilt in his favor and I applaud him for his accomplishment.

There was a *Sun* article a couple of days ago raising the awareness of his endeavor. As expected, the comment section resembled that of the *Huffington Post* in that it was filled with enormous support from the liberals who were eager to wear their

hypocrisy on their sleeves. However, one person posted an opinion that was different from the rest, and massive ad hominem attacks against the person ensued. I'm sure this is nothing new to most of you, but I was interested in the foundations of the liberal posters' arguments. Many posters alluded to the fact that the illegal Cornellian had to work to cover his tuition because he received no financial aid due to his immigration status, and thus he is an inspiration to us all. Others used the cliché "the system is broken" on college education. All these comments were based on the notion of entitlement. It seems that it is universally agreed upon that college education is now no longer a privilege but a right. It is not acceptable when a person has to work for his higher education because everybody is entitled to financial aid. In the past generations (and in most parts of the world today), taking jobs while at school to cover tuition costs was commonplace and receiving financial aid was rare. However in today's American society, these things somehow are viewed as unbearable challenges one has to face. I certainly have no time and energy to argue with someone whose beliefs are rooted to this version of the social norm, because it is futile. But I can't help but to wonder: has society really evolved into something too advanced, progressive and illogical for me to understand, or are we simply becoming weaker and need excuses for our cowardice?

—Faux Manchu



COLONEL CORNELL: NEW DIVERSITY GOALS



HEAR YE, HEAR YE. LET US COMMENCE WITH THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE COLONEL CORNELL SUPERFRIENDS. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME.

ZAMBONI DAVE: ZAMBONIUS DAVIDUM

SEGWAY KID: WILLIAM WAGNER.

[UPON HEARING THE GUMBLING OF HIS SUPERFRIENDS]

FINE..."SEGWAY KID"

[EVERYONE IS HAPPY.]

"ANDY WHITE": WELL MY ACTUAL NAME IS...[GETS A DEATH STARE FROM THE COLONEL]...ANDY WHITE

ZOMBIFIED MARK TWAIN: WHAT'S WITH THE HOOLABLABBAH AND THE HOPSKIDILEEDEE NOWADAYS?

ZAMBONI DAVE: WE'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT...NEXT!

NERVOUS PREMED KID: UM, GUYS, I'M JUST AN INTERN, SO...

COLONEL CORNELL: HOW MANY TIMES, LAD, DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? YOU ARE A "SIDEKICK"...A SIDEKICK...NOT AN "INTERN!" IN MY DAY, WE HAD INDENTURED SERVANTS, NOT "INTERNS"

[COLONEL CORNELL GLANCES AT THE SUPERFRIENDS ROSTER.]

COLONEL CORNELL: DAMN IT...WHERE IS "LEX LIBERTARIAN"?

THE MYSTIC ORIENT: OH, WE HAD TO KICK THAT GUY OUT BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T STOP SMOKING REEFERS IN THE MEETING ROOM...

ANDY WHITE: BUT MYSTIC ORIENT, IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO SMOKE THAT OPIUM PIPE OF YOURS...

THE MYSTIC ORIENT: IT IS A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY IN MY CULTURE!

COLONEL CORNELL: MEN OF THE ROUND, LET US COMMENCE OUR MEETING. THE FIRST ITEM ON OUR AGENDA IS THE UNIVERSITY'S RECENT BRASH

COMMITMENT TO "INCREASING DIVERSITY!"

[MULTIPLE GASPS ARE HEARD.]

ANDY WHITE: BESIDES THE UNIVERSITY'S RACIAL QUOTA AGENDA, THERE ARE SOME UNUSUAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE NEW STATUTE.

COLONEL CORNELL: GO ON, LAD.

ANDY WHITE: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, THEY WANT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS.

ZAMBONI DAVE: WHAT?

ANDY WHITE: THE UNIVERSITY VOWS, BY 2017, TO INCREASE THE LEFT-HANDED STUDENT POPULATION TO BE 50% OF THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION. THIS IS TO ENSURE "EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION TO THE UNDERREPRESENTED DEXTERITY-CHALLENGED MINORITY!"

MARK TWAIN: NO LEFT-HANDED SUMBITCH GONNA WRITE ON MY CHALKBOARD!

MYSTIC ORIENT: ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE NEW PROPOSITION, THERE WILL ALSO BE DIVERSITY GUARDS IN EACH LECTURE HALL TO MAKE SURE THAT STUDENTS DO NOT SELF-SEGREGATE WHEN THEY SIT DOWN. THIS WILL "ENSURE ACCURATE COMINGLING OF THE POPULATION AND STIMULATE CAMPUS DIALOGUE!"

[FAINT SLAPSTICK BASS RIFFS ARE HEARD]

JERRY SEINFELD [PANTOMIMING]: WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH "DIVERSITY" ANYWAY? I MEAN, SERIOUSLY FOLKS, PEOPLE SAY NOWADAYS, "HE IS VERY DIVERSE!" BUT DIVERSE COMPARED TO WHAT? HE'S A SINGLE PERSON. IT'S COMPARATIVE! YOU NEED MORE THAN ONE THING TO BE DIVERSE...TO! AS IN, "THAT CROWD IS SO DIVERSE!"

SEGWAY KID: THE UNIVERSITY ALSO NOW CONSIDERS THE TERM "GREEK LIFE" OFFENSIVE AND WOULD PREFER THE TERM "POST-DIASPORA HELLENIC-DESCENDED PARA-AEGEAN GRECIAN-AMERICAN LIFE!"

ANDY WHITE: SPEAKING OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISES, THE UNIVERSITY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE ENDOWMENT OVERREPRESENTS FAT-CAT WALL STREET DEBT INSTRUMENTS, SO TO INCREASE DIVERSITY IT WILL REALLOCATE 78% OF INVESTMENTS INTO TOXIC THIRD-WORLD ASSETS.

ZAMBONI DAVE: NERVOUS PREMED KID, WILL YOU STOP STUDYING FOR ORGO AND PAY ATTENTION?

[AN UNKNOWN MAN ENTERS THE ROOM.]

UNKNOWN MAN: I AM THE UNIVERSITY-APPOINTED DIVERSITY INSPECTOR. PLEASE CALL ME DIVERSITY DAVE. I MEAN NO HARM. I ONLY SEEK TO MAKE CORNELL A MORE ACCEPTING AND TOLERANT ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT YOUR DEPARTMENT OR ORGANIZATION DOES NOT MEET OUR UNIVERSITY-MANDATED RACIO-ETHNIC HOMOGENEITY GUIDELINES, AS OUTLINED IN MICHELLE OBAMA'S PRINCETON HONORS THESIS. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING BUDGET CUTS IMMEDIATELY.

ZAMBONI DAVE: NOOOOOOOO!
[ATTACKS DIVERSITY DAVE]

NERVOUS PREMED KID [STILL STUDYING FOR ORGO]:
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ZAMBONI BRO?

ZAMBONI DAVE: DIVERSITY DAVE IS MY BROTHER-MY

IDENTICAL TWIN. WE WERE SEPARATED AT BIRTH. I WAS RAISED BY CORNELLIANS; HE WAS RAISED BY GEORGE SOROS.

COLONEL CORNELL: 'TIS A DAMN SHAME HE COULD NOT BE SAVED.

ZAMBONI DAVE: I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SHOWCASE MY POWERS. I CAN TRANSFORM INTO ANY ONE OF MY PAST COSTUMES. [ZAMBONI DAVE PROCEEDS TO CHANGE INTO A KNIGHT, COMPLETE WITH IRON CHAIN MAIL, A GILDED HELM, AND A STEEL BROADSWORD.]

DIVERSITY DAVE: UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENGLISH ARE OVERREPRESENTED HERE. TRY ANOTHER COSTUME, OR I WILL FINE YOUR DEPARTMENT.

[ZAMBONI DAVE TRANSFORMS INTO HIS POPE PIUS XII COSTUME, COMPLETE WITH A MITRE, STAFF, AND PASCAL ROBES.]

DIVERSITY DAVE: NICE TRY, BUT ITALIANS ARE ALSO OVERREPRESENTED AT CORNELL. DON'T WORRY, YOUR BUDGET CUT WILL BE REALLOCATED TO THE DIVERSITY ENRICHMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM (DERP).

[EXIT DIVERSITY DAVE.]

NERVOUS PREMED KID: YOUR FAMILY IS SO DIVERSE, BRO.



Santorum v. Sex

BY KIRK SIGMON

Right on the Law

Rick Santorum is concerned about the sex you're having, and it's very likely going to lose us an election.

Santorum has recently claimed that the case *Griswold v. Connecticut* was wrongly decided. *Griswold* was a case that held unconstitutional a state prohibition on the sale of contraceptives. In essence, the case read into the Fourth Amendment a "right to privacy" -- a right that protects Americans from unnecessary governmental intrusion into their personal affairs such as their sex lives. In simpler terms, *Griswold* held that the government could not violate the privacy of citizens without a really good reason for doing so.

Conservatives have struggled with *Griswold* for quite some time. On one hand, *Griswold* protects citizens' privacy from a paternalistic government. On the other hand, it has set the stage for *Roe*, *Casey*, and

other pro-abortion cases. Santorum has seemingly taken the position that *Griswold* should be abolished in order to allow religious states to ban contraceptives, which would set the stage for states to eventually ban abortion. From some sort of end-justifies-the-means perspective, this back-end approach is a good thing for even occasional social conservatives, who have very little traction against the Supreme Court's rather unyielding ruling upholding the right to have an abortion in *Casey*. I suppose one could even empathize with Santorum's implicit desire to help bring more children into the world.

The problem with Santorum's approach is that a candidate that takes on sex is going to lose an election. Sex is popular. Rick Santorum is not so popular. When Santorum takes on sex by implying that it should occur only for procreation, sex will win. While a small part of the conservative base with strict socially conservative viewpoints may empathize with Santorum's absolutist view on



contraceptives, Santorum's arguments will likely not gain traction with Independents or Democrats, who almost unquestionably like sex more than they like social conservatism that kowtows to Catholicism. The idea that a sweater-vest-wearing president would purport to peer into the bedroom window of every home in America in order to promote the traditional nuclear family can and will scare votes away from the Republican ticket.

We are experiencing a radical change in conservatism today. Burkean conservatism is struggling, and libertarian conservatism is beginning to take hold. Social

conservatism may command the religious vote, but churches are dying and religious adherents are becoming more liberalized in their social views. The answer to these trends is not to obstinately cling to social conservatism and exclude those who cannot stomach it: it is to adopt big-tent conservative values that will weather the storm of a general election. Taking away one of America's most popular secret pastimes is not the path to victory.

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Obamacare: Equal "Protection" Under the Law

JUSTIN DIGENARO
STAFF WRITER

The President and Democrats are sexist. From the recent decision in which employers are now compelled to provide birth control only to female employees as a component of their health insurance, it is clear that President Obama and his administration are not only anti-men, but are willing to systematically deny men their rights. Some have framed this as an issue of public health, or religious liberty, but it is actually about something more. This is an issue of equal protection under the law and the God-given right of each man to condoms.

Some of you might think the right to condoms sounds like a ridiculous concept. You might think proponents are just single males who want the subsidized opportunity to engage in risky, emotionless, rampant, sexual encounters without the slightest bit of consequences (easy Rush Limbaugh). You might think condom costs are not very high, and thus not worthy of being covered. However, under the Obama administration definition of "preventative care", none of these factors matter because this is exactly the "right" which the Obama administration has now endowed to women.

A Georgetown University law student by the name of Fluke (who is neither a 'slut' nor 'prostitute') testified before an unofficial assembly of democrats, citing several reasons for why she believes birth control serves both a preventative and

such as ovarian cysts and irregular menstrual cycles provide clear medical benefits for women. Because they are exceedingly expensive when purchased out of pocket, Fluke argued they should be covered through the mandated insurance plans purchased by employers.

But don't condoms also serve a similar medical function? In fact, as far as preventative care, the argument could be made that condoms do more to promote health in a national sense than birth control. Preventing the spread of STDs and AIDS is one of the most cost efficient and healthy preventative measures a person can take. Why shouldn't men's sexual preventative care be covered? Why isn't the financial strain on men's wallets to ensure healthy genitals equally as unjust and worthy of government protection?

Some women's rights advocates have also acknowledged that there is a more important point of principle at work here. The pill allows women to take control of their life. It allows women to be the final say over when they get pregnant. I could not agree more. One function of birth control is to provide a woman with more autonomy over her body. With mandated coverage from employer insurance, the woman is essentially demanding financial support for the ability to control when she becomes a parent.

But why don't men have the same right to take control of their body's reproductive system? Why is a woman entitled to a mandate ensuring her right to a pregnancy choice, but a man is not entitled to an equal

form of pregnancy choice protection? Why are men put at a disadvantage because there is only one form of contraception of which they can utilize on their own?

At this point, you might fall into one of two categories. If you have been persuaded by the argument, then at least you are consistent in your view of the government's role in preventative health. If you believe that the government has this role to play but do not believe condoms should be covered, then you may be searching in your head to come up with distinctions for why one should be covered and not the other. Both provide health benefits; whether they are addressing ovarian cysts, inhibiting the spread of STDs, or preventing pregnancies. Both also embody an individual's right to determine when they become a parent. But I will save you from the task of attempting to distinguish between the two, because it doesn't really matter. This debate has little to actually do with contraception. The true point lies in a third view. We should be asking ourselves "Why are we even having this conversation in the first place?"

The government should not be in the business of defining what constitutes "men's preventative care" for all Americans, or mandating coverage based on that definition. It is absurd to think of the government mandating condom coverage under its definition of "men's health", yet that is the very authority being exercised with the mandate of birth control. Issues such as this only arise in a world with Obamacare. When the

government has determined personal health to be a collective issue, the healthy or unhealthy decisions of each individual become the business and purview of government regulation. What constitutes "women's health", "preventative care", and all of these terms that were once defined by the individual, now must be debated and determined in the public forum. Now, Rush Limbaugh's definition of "women's preventative care" holds just as much weight over a woman's medical coverage as her own definition. One person, one vote. Thomas Jefferson warned us that "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have." I wonder whether all the supporters of Obamacare will still support the law when Republicans hold the reins of power in the health bureaucracy. I wonder if they will still support it when it's Republicans making the health decisions for each American.

I have no problem with birth control. It's a good thing. I also acknowledge the additional health benefits that the birth control pill provides. But if a woman does not have the money to pay for her birth control, then she should do what we currently expect of men. There is no right to contraception. If a responsible man wants to have non-conceiving sex but he cannot afford condoms, he does not go to the government and demand that someone else pay for it. He has two choices: Either he engages in the risky behavior anyway, or he doesn't have sex. Testifying before Congress claiming you need condom contraceptive coverage to protect your sexual health would be ridiculous, or in the words of President Obama, "courageous."

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PETA in the Bedroom

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NEWS EDITOR

A Fortnight of Follies

Bird flu, swine flu, malaria, HIV/AIDS, dehydration, starvation, pertussis. These are the diseases that come to the fore of my mind when I hear the word “epidemic.” PETA, though, has chosen to take on another disease it claims is sweeping the world.

Now that PETA’s in the equation, you’re probably thinking more along the lines of mad cow, hoof-and-mouth disease, e. coli, or salmonella. Well, if you are, you are still wrong. PETA is has in fact set its sights on BWVAKTBOOM. Nope, that’s not a typo. BWVAKTBOOM.

Never heard of it? That’s because it is a marketing ploy PETA has devised to promote vegan lifestyles. The acronym stands for “Boyfriend Went Vegan and Knocked the Bottom Out of Me,” and, according to PETA, it describes the phenomenon that occurs when, after becoming vegan, men experience “a dramatic increase in their wang power and sexual stamina.” Yes, these are actual words taken from an actual PETA webpage (bwwaktboom.com).

The website also offers “helpful tips” for women who want to have “safe sex” with a vegan man. These include installing a hydration system in their headboards (because they’ll lose so much water), buying sex helmets, and wearing protective eye gear. (“Protect your corneas from his turbocharged loads with OSHA-approved goggles,” PETA’s site warns.)

Now, in my humble opinion, this all seems a little off-course from PETA’s professed mission of stopping the mistreatment of animals. It seems a bit far-fetched to think that creating some over-sexualized image of the vegan man who acts like “a tantric porn star” is going to bring any animals home from the pound or the slaughterhouse any time soon.

In addition to being an ineffective response to animal abuse, PETA’s new ad campaign is patently offensive. And not because of all the sex. While I think it’s quite ridiculous for PETA to take such a (literally) provocative approach to animal rights advocacy, the main problem with the ad campaign is its treatment of women.

I only say this about, well, almost never, but the feminists are right. The ad campaign portrays women in quite a bad light. Several of the videos associated with the ads depict women with sex-related injuries, allegedly from their recently-veg-anized boyfriends. One particularly



jarring ad starts off by showing a limping, visibly disoriented woman wearing a neck brace and clutching a coat around herself. A man’s voice (in fact the voice of comedian Kevin Nealon) dramatically narrates as she hobbles down the street.

viewers find out that this woman has just been having a rough time in bed since her boyfriend went vegan. (He’s shown sealing a hole they made in his bedroom wall, and we find out that she’s wearing only underwear under her coat, and has just

has crossed a line. Their ads deliberately create scenes of apparent domestic violence, only to later show that everything was just fine because, after all, the women’s injuries were for the sake of a good time with their overly-virile male companions.

This mockery trivializes the plight of actual domestic violence and sexual assault victims, many of whom have actually suffered injury from unwanted encounters with aggressive partners.

Even as a supposedly liberal organization, PETA has managed to be less sensitive to women’s issues than Rick Santorum, and I think we can all agree that should count as a failure.

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If you didn’t know what you were watching, you would think it was a PSA about battered women or rape victims.

For the first few seconds, if you didn’t know what you were watching, you would think it was a PSA about battered women or rape victims. As the ad goes on, though,

gone out to buy him a bag of vegetables.) The video is 73% disliked on YouTube.

I’m all for having a sense of humor, but it seems that, here, PETA

Skorton: No Longer Any Person, Any Study

KARIM LAKHANI
STAFF WRITER

Coffee with Karim



I am all for diversity. I agree with those who say that learning in a more diverse environment better prepares students to be successful in an increasingly global market. I’ve had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the world over the last year; it has been an adventure – meeting people of different cultures and learning different customs.

That said, I don’t believe it is justified to use affirmative action measures to push an agenda of diversity that tries to improve the student and faculty populations of certain races at the expense of others. President Skorton, in his February 15 letter to the Cornell Community, outlined his new diversity goals that do just that.

There are several things wrong with Skorton’s agenda. First, it discriminates against qualified individuals who are not guilty of discrimination. At the end of his email, Skorton writes: “Collectively, as a university community, we must value diversity and inclusion and reject both active and passive discrimination.” Unfortunately, Skorton’s agenda simply reinforces discriminatory practices as it gives unfair advantages to individuals because of a happenstance of birth.

Secondly, and more importantly for the future of the university, it completely neglects the focus on finding the smartest, most capable students and faculty. I am not saying that certain races are more or less capable than others; I am simply saying that Skorton’s focus is too much on an individual’s race and too little on his or her academic credentials. Undoubtedly, President Skorton’s

actions will generate a more diverse Cornell community, but one that is less qualified and less deserving than this prestigious university has the potential to attract.

Cornell continues to attract the best and brightest because the students at this school *are* the best and the brightest. Forgoing individual merit for diversity will create a community focused not on excellence, but on fulfilling a quota, and this will lead to the downfall of Cornell’s illustrious reputation.

Under President Skorton, Cornell’s motto has become: “I would found an institution where *any person* can find instruction in any study,” unless you happen to be white and don’t improve Cornell’s diversity.

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Student Assembly candidates discuss their promises

LAUREL CONRAD
STAFF WRITER

Student Assembly candidates gathered to discuss their platforms in Mallott Hall Tuesday. Students who ran for positions of president, executive vice president, undesignated, LGBTQ, international, and minority, and women's issues at-large brought up key campus issues and how they would address them.

Safety was mentioned as a top priority by Adam Gitlin, who is running unopposed for SA president. One response to safety concerns is increasing funding for the late-night transportation service, BLUE Late Night Shuttle Van.

To address issues of alcohol safety, Gitlin's platform includes support for Cayuga's Watchers and the new campus pub. Gitlin emphasized the Cayuga's Watchers as way to promote safety and mental health. This program responds to issues of alcohol safety and awareness through means of peer monitoring and medical amnesty. He also expressed hope to make the campus pub more sustainable and a viable option for a late-night campus activity.

Executive vice-president candidates Geoffery Block and John Mueller emphasized improving the organization of the Student Assembly.

Block wanted to improve accountability of representatives by publishing records that track which meetings representatives attend. He

also supported strengthening the SA mentorship program. Mueller hopes to make the Student Assembly more open and accessible to students by promoting an environment in which students feel comfortable to contact him with ideas.

Another issue, the need to represent the diverse body of Cornell students, was brought up by a number of candidates.

International representative winner Enrico Bonatti depicted how barriers must be broken so that international students can successfully come together with the rest of the community.

Wei Yang, who also ran for the position of international representative, proposed a potential solution to this problem. She would integrate international students with the rest of the student body by providing international students with a mentor from a different background. This mentor would be available for advice and encouragement.

Running uncontested for the new position of Women's Issues Liaison was Narda Terrones. She described how she will be a voice for all women, both traditional and nontraditional.

Issues of campus safety, accountability, mental health, and uniting a diverse campus will continue to be hot topics next year.

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Miss Represented

KATIE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Ladies' Liberty

Though I didn't watch the Academy Awards, I did garner some information about them here and there. One comment that struck me in particular was from *The Talk*, and was about Angelina Jolie's already-infamous dress. The women on the talk show praised Angie on her wardrobe choice because "it was masculine; it showed she had power." Admittedly, there are many reasons why people believe Angelina Jolie is powerful. She's rich, famous, and beautiful. But masculine? That's a new adjective. I didn't think anyone in their right mind could see Angelina Jolie as anything but all-woman. After all, who didn't see her leg in that slit?

The red carpet was chock-full of other examples of women dressed as though they could not afford enough fabric to cover their bodies. Perhaps they thought they could have power over men because they would be overcome with lust, but that shouldn't be the sort of power women want. Frankly, it isn't power at all. Contrary to making themselves seem more admirable, they're objectifying themselves as sex symbols, valuable only for their bodies and not for their minds, personalities, or even acting talent (assuming they have any).

In elementary school, an equal number of girls and boys want to be president of the United States, but by middle school, the girls' numbers drop dramatically, and it is more likely that their role models become tabloid magazine regulars. As Oscar Wilde said, "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about," but why is a bad reputation so desired?

It all comes back to the media. Thousands of social experiments show that observing behavior makes the observers more likely to exhibit that behavior themselves. We are absolutely inundated with television shows, movies, advertisements, and songs that propagate unacceptable behavior toward women, such as violence and verbal abuse. If you have seen the Dolce & Gabbana ads that seem to be selling gang rape rather than shoes, or attempted to follow

the impossibly twisted lust triangles on *Glee*, or listened to pretty much any rap song, you know what I mean.

Women are systematically disrespected, and on the whole, it's not only accepted, it's encouraged. Not only by men, but by women! Songs like Rihanna's "S&M"—don't try to tell me it's solely about her "relationship with the media"—frequently top the charts. Young girls sing along to Nicki Minaj and are applauded for it. Girls wear shorter skirts and lower-cut tops to get guys' attention, following in the steps of their favorite characters on *Gossip Girl* or *Pretty Little Liars*. While I am certainly not victim-blaming in circumstances of rape, it seems to me highly improbable that the reason for wearing immodest clothing is altogether devoid of the desire to attract attention to one's body. There's nothing wrong with being confident and unashamed, but why are our bodies the things women display most prominently? Surely we know we have more valuable attributes, but that is what most television programs, movies, and songs focus on: women and girls of all ages as sex objects. Immersed as we are with the concept of women as valuable only for their bodies and not their talent and intellect, is it any wonder that some girls' aspirations have, to put it in extreme terms, plummeted from presidency to pornography?

Currently, there is no happy medium in how the media views women. Some blame the media; some blame the women. It is a chicken-and-the-egg argument. Since no one is really sure how it began, no one is really sure how to end it, but some women are trying. After the release of the documentary "Miss Representation" at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011, the issue is being discussed more than ever.

Ladies in the Network of Enlightened Women and around the world are speaking out against the misrepresentation of women in the media, and you can join—value your minds and those of our role models, and keep it classy, Cornell.

For more information on this topic, check out www.misrepresentation.org or the NeW Facebook page. Katie Johnson is a freshman in the College of Arts & Sciences and can be reached at kij5@cornell.edu.

they fail to address the fact that the success of the Technion in numerous industries – from medicine to military arms – expands far beyond Israel's borders. Many countries, including the United States, has benefitted from the research conducted at the Technion. Therefore, suggesting that students should "boycott Israel" is a clear, purposeful misinterpretation of academic institutions and why they exist.

When Grossman raised this viewpoint at the forum, his diverse opinion was seemingly overlooked.

The last point that captivated me in Professor Grossman's piece was his

work that they do, few with ties to the Institution have come forward until now. Professor Grossman is not the only Cornell faculty member that has worked or studied at the Technion. Hopefully, others will follow his example.

Grossman also makes a compelling argument when discussing the nature of the boycott and the overall tone of the group's discussion forum last Thursday evening:

"While there are many things that have to be said about the Israel-Arab conflict, my main problem at this forum was the fact that the boycott was described as "institutional and not personal."

"I do not see how one can boycott an institution without boycotting its people. One may say that the goal of boycotting Israel is so important that it justifies the effect on the people, but one cannot simply say that it is not against the people."

Students for Justice in Palestine have tried to link the research that the Technion conducts to happenings in the Israel-Arab conflict; however,

CORNELLINSIDER.com

Cornell Professor Criticizes Boycott of Israel

Posted by Alfonse Muglia

William A. Jacobson of Legal Insurrection posted a guest piece this morning from Cornell physics Professor Yuval Grossman commenting on the growing boycott movement by Cornell's Students for Justice in Palestine. Professor Grossman, who worked at the Technion until 2007, spoke out against the efforts made by members of the Cornell community as "an attempt to make Israel illegitimate."

"I feel that the boycott is an attempt to make Israel illegitimate. It is not a peaceful move, but a move that is aimed at destroying Israel's academic institutions. If people are trying to work for peace, they should not boycott the Israeli academia."

Professor Grossman's piece is interesting for many reasons. Foremost, it marks one of the first public remarks from a Cornell professor with previous connections to the Technion since the pro-Palestine group launched their petition last month in opposition to our partnership with the Israeli institute. While many have stood up for the Technion and the



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India

Continued from page 4

confrontation between Indian and other South Asian rulers.

Indians did not embark on a civilizing mission to colonize South East Asia, as there is no evidence to show that the millennium-long cultural exchanges among the member-states involved large-scale migration, invasion or colonization of people. In fact, the rulers who founded these empires invited ritual specialists as priests and advisors from reputable centers of learning all over the subcontinent. Thus the Indianized kingdoms of the region

assumed Indian religious, cultural and economic practices without significant inputs from Indian rulers themselves.

Unlike the Confucian world-order that was premised on the hegemonic position of China vis-à-vis other states, the member states of the Indian world-order interacted on terms determined by their relative power rather than the presumed ascendancy of one state. While invoking a common set of Sanskrit concepts in their diplomatic intercourse, the countries in South Asia constructed their relations on the basis of mutual tolerance and non-aggression.

A degree of cultural affinity, apart from geographical proximity, would have been required to moderate political rivalries and ensure commitment to shared norms. The philological meaning of the word 'nation' indicates origin or descent. A nation can be defined as the collectivity of persons who have the same ethnic origin and, in general, possess a common ancestry. Although every ethnic extraction known to humanity found its way into the subcontinent, the gene pool of the Indian people remained surprisingly stable over the centuries.

Amidst centuries of war, migration and political disruption, India

has strived to uphold the continuity in its identity—an unprecedented incident in world's history. Today the inhabitants of the subcontinent must acknowledge the fact that they had common ancestors, irrespective of what their present caste, creed, color or culture happens to be. Particularly speaking, all religious communities of the South-East Asia international society must recognize a common Indian ancestry as the only guarantee for peaceful coexistence.

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



Wisewomen & Fools

For decades now we have talked about the glass ceiling women once faced, and to a certain extent still do. But I am more worried about the glass box that liberal feminists have placed women and “women’s issues” in, all tied up with a pretty pink bow. That glass box is all about keeping women and “women’s issues” firmly in their place on the left side of the political spectrum.

Laura Brod, hotair.com

I refuse the compliment that I think like a man. Thought has no sex; one either thinks or one does not.

Clare Boothe Luce

No good deed goes unpunished.

Clare Boothe Luce

If you complain of neglect of Education in sons, what shall I say with regard to daughters, who every day experience the want of it? With regard to the Education of my own children, I find myself soon out of my depth, destitute and deficient in every part of

Education. I most sincerely wish that some more liberal plan might be laid and executed for the Benefit of the rising Generation, and that our new Constitution may be distinguished for encouraging Learning and Virtue. If we mean to have Heroes, Statesmen and Philosophers, we should have learned women. The world perhaps would laugh at me and accuse me of vanity, But you I know have a mind too enlarged and liberal to disregard the Sentiment. If much depends as is allowed upon the early education of youth and the first principles which are instill’d take the deepest root, great benefit must arise from literary accomplishments in women.

Abigail Adams to John

I’m a fan of George Bush...I think he had a conviction, personal principles that required him to answer to someone else when he went to bed at night. Not to the state and not to himself. I don’t see the same kind of reverence in some of our other recent presidents.

Barack Obama included. Bill Clinton included. That gives me comfort as a citizen, knowing that my president is going to bed answering to a higher power.

S.E. Cupp

I don’t believe in a higher power of any kind. No deity whatsoever.

S.E. Cupp

Thank you Satan.

Rachel Maddow

I’m sorry the civility police now have an opening to demonize the entire Right based on one radio comment—because it’s the progressive Left in this country that has viciously and systematically slimed female conservatives for their beliefs.

Michelle Malkin

Barack is one of the smartest men we will see in our lifetime.

Michelle Obama

I do not believe it is the function of the judiciary to step in and change the

law because the times have changed. I do well understand the difference between legislating and judging. As a judge, it is not my function to develop public policy.

Sandra Day O’Connor

We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity. We weren’t punctilious about locating and punishing only Hitler and his top officers. We carpet-bombed German cities; we killed civilians. That’s war. And this is war.

Ann Coulter

I’m more of a man than any liberal.

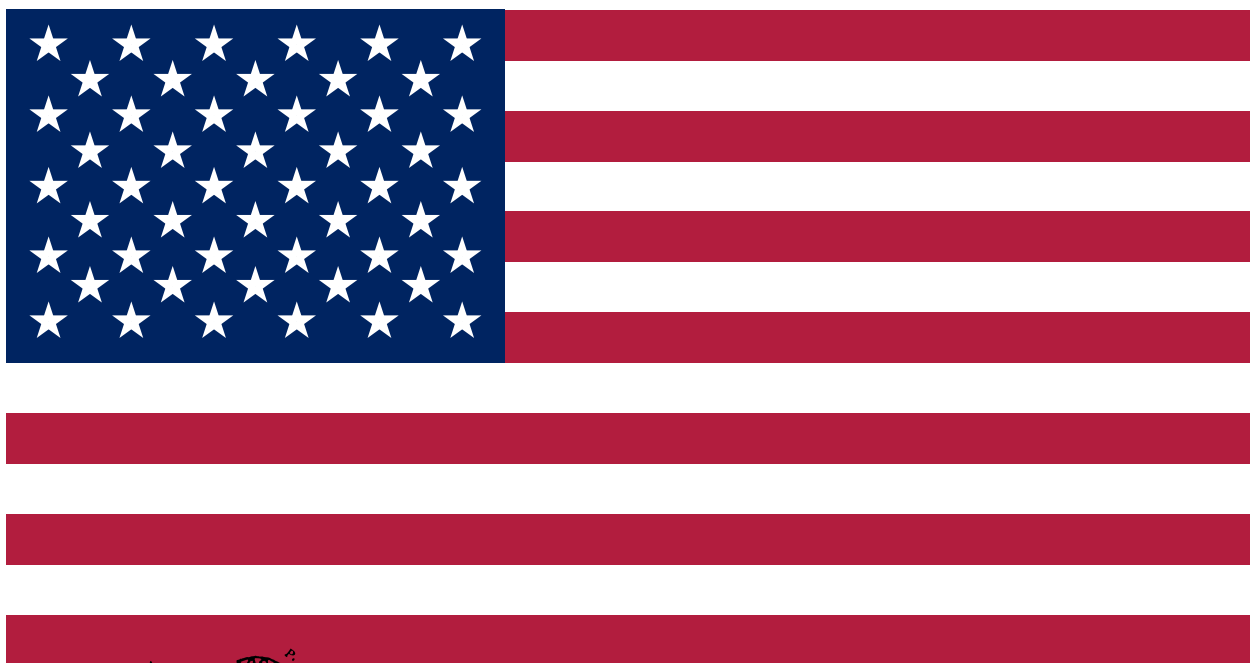
Ann Coulter

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

Barack Obama
(not a woman... but hardly a man)

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