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A Challenge to Romney

LUCAS POLICASTRO
CHIEF EDITOR

The earliest election I remember is 2000, when I was in fourth grade. At school, we read “TIME for Kids”, a version of the magazine specially written with absolutely no scruples about liberal bias, since children don’t know better. Brainwashing at its best. The “Bush/Gore” cover was particularly memorable: a high-resolution photo of Bush’s face, every pore and follicle visible—alongside Gore’s face, exhaustively airbrushed until the skin was an odd green hue.

Running for President isn’t what it used to be. The Republican nominee faces a massive, irate Leviathan of progressivist hubris which has caused tens of millions of voters to develop a Pavlovian aversion to all things conservative. Facts, and the philosophy of freedom from government, have

little meaning to those who have been conditioned to associate Republicans with greed and “unfair” policy. Some of these people are actually intelligent and realize that Obama is a fraudulent sycophant, but the Republican primary process has only reinforced their view that a Republican alternative would still lead to a morally compromised Presidency. If Mitt Romney is to be the nominee, he absolutely must show America that his conservative principles are not just an aristocrat’s façade.

I am not trying to suggest that they are. But if I had to vote for Romney today, it would

hardly be a satisfying experience. I suspect even most long-time Romney supporters do not anticipate being uplifted with a cardiac flutter of patriotism upon pushing the “CAST VOTE” button. Some trust him, but few appreciate him as a conservative soul.

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Healthcare Chickens Come Home to Roost

ROBERTO MATOS
STAFF WRITER

The Clarion Call

Freedom and Free Societies hosted senior editor for the *American Spectator* and *Fox News* contributor John Fund who offered a “Visitor’s Guide to an Alien Planet: Washington, D.C.”, on Wednesday, March 28th.

Fund delved into the saga of Obamacare: its conception, its legislative construction, and its political ramifications. He also highlighted the “utter [political] disaster” which the Obama administration will likely suffer in the wake of the poor litigatory performance of its Solicitor General during the Supreme Court’s oral arguments. An unfavorable ruling could render damage to the President’s reelection effort.

Having been exposed to Washington’s peculiarities, and as a tireless opponent of its profligate pork barrel spending, bloated earmarks, and lack of transparency in Congress, Fund was uniquely qualified to set forth a vividly descriptive testimony.

Using Obama’s approach to his health care legislation as an example, Fund’s thesis was that we often overlearn past lessons, failing to perceive the nuances of the present. Remembering the fiasco which plagued the Clinton administration in 1993-94, when it pressed Congress to pass a universal healthcare plan but failed to even bring legislation up for a vote, Obama attacked from a different angle. He thereby

made a series of fateful decisions for his presidency:

First, he sought to buy off the insurance and pharmaceutical companies, not wanting to provoke them like the Clintons, by pushing for an individual mandate, which would see a slew (millions) of previously uninsured citizens rush under the umbrella of private insurance as new customers. Since the Administration could not afford to combat the fleet of lobbying interests, the companies would need to be moved to embrace the mandate.

Second, he capitulated to the advice of his White House staff by allowing Congress to write the legislation. This was a critical error which resulted in grafted reform which only accommodated the status quo, and gave way to a painfully disorganized, frenzied, sloppy, and bloated process—“an only barely comprehensible behemoth”; a jumbled mess.

Next, Obama actually thought public opinion didn’t matter, just as Congress took popular sentiment for granted, resulting in the “shelacking” of the 2010 midterms.

Fourth, the legislation was not a result of careful, deliberative thought, but rather rushed and panicked consideration in the wake of an outcry of public disapproval. Little time was granted to read the bill prior to vote, as Nancy Pelosi insisted that Congress “pass the bill to learn what is in it.”

Fifth, Obama started too early, wanting to pass the legislation by September. His public relations campaign began in earnest, almost

immediately after the Stimulus Package was passed. And so, for an entire year, the issue diverted the congressional attention from restoring jobs and the economy, only awakening vehement and widespread reaction against him. He crippled his base of political capital and galvanized his opponents.

Lastly, Pelosi thought a Constitutional objection could hardly be contemplated. Fund noted that the hurried process caused the writers to overlook the inclusion of a *severability* clause, which might have at least allowed for the survival of much of the law if the individual mandate were struck down. This was due to “sheer incompetence”, according to a Fund source, and may be the undoing of the entire law.

The oral arguments seemed to signal what will be the demise of Obamacare, and, by extension, the political undoing of its maker. The Solicitor General was confronted with relentlessly pointed questions from the Conservative justices. Justice Kennedy, supposed swing vote, exhibited sharp skepticism. The court asked for “some limit to federal power”, some “discernible and definable point at which Congress could not regulate the economy.” By all accounts, no real limiting factor for Congressional power under the Commerce Clause was articulated.

A shift in the tone of predictions set in throughout the week. To the surprise of legal analysts and most liberals, the court appeared inclined to strike down the mandate.

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Copy-Right

KIRK SIGMON
STAFF WRITER

Right on the Law

It’s time for the Right to acknowledge that the copyright system is broken and do something about it. To do otherwise would be to participate in the wanton destruction of the explicit text of the Constitution.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution, known as the “Copyright Clause,” states that Congress has the power to “promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.” Understanding “Science” to mean (at the time) things including literary works and understanding “Authors” to mean content creators, we can clearly see an intent by the Founders to allow the creation of copyright—that is, federally granted monopolies over certain works to incentivize creation and to reward creators for their efforts. This idea isn’t terribly controversial, and only the most radical of anti-copyright mavens would argue that the government shouldn’t provide at least some minimal form of copyright protection.

There’s a bigger debate, though, that has been raging in the law of copyright for some time: the definition of “limited Times.” A normal American citizen would read “limited Times” to mean that Congress must place time limits on

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Copy-Right

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the duration of copyright, but this has been anything but the case in the last decade. Through various retroactive extensions of copyright duration (most recently the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, known pejoratively as the “Mickey Mouse Protection Act”), Congress has continued to extend the duration of pre-existing copyrights to the point where copyright protection is virtually unlimited. Thus, Disney has no reason to worry about Mickey Mouse becoming public domain—with a little bit of lobbying muscle and a well-drafted copyright extension statute in Congress, Mickey will always be copyrighted under American law. The Supreme Court recently up-

we are to assume that the Copyright Clause exists to encourage authors to create works, there is no point in retroactively rewarding authors for works they have already made and profited from. Authors (especially authors still owning copyrights from as early as 1923) did not reasonably rely on future copyright term extensions when creating their works—they relied on existing copyright law and the anticipation that their works would eventually go into the hands of the public. If we assume that copyright extensions help protect the additional investments authors make in their works after they are created (such as the Disney company making Mickey even more of an American icon through aggressive advertising), the extensions of copyright *may* be justified, but not for the duration

there work, this does not justify granting an author an absolute monopoly over that work—and subsequent derivative works—for unlimited amounts of time.

The Right has been pretty quiet about the problems with copyright, and it’s about time we spoke up. Just like how Congress has overextended its interpretation of the Commerce Clause to justify the individual mandate of Obamacare, Congress has overextended its interpretation of the Copyright Clause to justify giving select intellectual property holders preferential treatment over the American public.

Congress’ abuses are only getting worse. This year, in a case called *Golan v. Holder*, the Supreme Court upheld Congress’ act of taking works from the public domain—that is, works owned by everyone in America that could be freely read, copied, and enjoyed—and re-copying them in order to appease foreign companies and copyright holders. This kind of behavior should scare the pants off of any strong conservative: when Congress

begins taking control of private intellectual property and monopolizing it or giving it to favored individuals, big government is truly in control.

Copyright is not a bad thing. Infinite copyright is. The copyright system itself is a complex balancing act between the interests and incentives of authors and the needs and enjoyment of the public. Where this delicate balance is skewed decidedly in the favor of authors with powerful lobbyists, the public suffers, and big government becomes bigger. It is not and has never been the job of the American government to subsidize and protect the profitability of Disney, and to do otherwise is to weaken capitalism. And it’s time that the Right begins to make that argument, no matter how much it hurts our wallets.

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“Congress has overextended its interpretation of the Copyright Clause to justify giving select intellectual property holders preferential treatment over the American public.”

held this behavior in the case *Eldred v. Ashcroft*, where the Court basically said that any imaginary time limit on copyright suffices as long as copyright does not explicitly last “forever.”

This Congressional practice is a clear affront to the idea of “limited Times” in the Copyright Clause. If

they are given, and certainly not in light of the fact that many icons such as Mickey Mouse have become icons *because of* the public’s love for them and not merely because of the marketing actions of Disney. Finally, even if we accept the nebulous argument that there is some moral right of an author towards

Is Free Speech Free?

KATIE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Ladies’ Liberty

Two relatively important events occurred in my life in the past two weeks. The first was that I went on a mission trip to Guatemala. The second was that my computer broke.

I’m sort of joking. I wish I were joking about how the loss of my beloved laptop was life-altering enough to even be worthy of mentioning in the same context as working on a school for poor children. But when I have papers to write and a project looming, not to mention trip photographs to post online, the problem seems even worse than usual for a college student, which is already pretty bad.

More seriously though, both having my computer break and going to Guatemala have affected my daily life by making me more conscious, and thus more careful, about what I say. When in Guatemala, that was because I was speaking Spanish, and most of the time I didn’t know how to phrase what I wanted to communicate. And without a

computer, it is a lot less easy to use Facebook to complain about everything. Good thing I have a column for that.

I also became inspired to watch my words after observing public figures who have not been doing so recently. I know I’m a bit late in the game talking about Rush Limbaugh, so I won’t say much about the whole controversy surrounding him. Less widely-publicized was a comment by another radio personality, by the name of Randi Rhodes, who quipped that conservative women don’t deserve ovaries. Well now, that seems like taking the “reproductive rights” debate to the opposite extreme, doesn’t it? People have the right to choose not to reproduce, but they don’t get to choose if they want to reproduce? As a part of a club (Network of Enlightened Women) whose focus is on conservative values morally rather than politically (officially, anyway, though I confess to veering into that territory myself on more than one occasion), I value humanity just as much as I value liberty. Of course I believe in individual freedoms, and the freedom of speech is

a big deal: it’s what makes diversity of opinion and newspapers like this one possible. But there are some caveats. For instance, “clear and present danger.” While I wouldn’t say that telling women they should have their organs cut off is a legitimate threat, I think remarks like that one, along with calling Hillary Clinton a whore (another zinger courtesy of Ms. Rhodes), are not the purpose of freedom of speech. It is evident that these types of comments are not limited to a certain political party, either by the person who says them or by their addressees (though it is interesting that the liberal media chooses to highlight some comments more than others, which is why you didn’t hear about Randi’s). I would like to see a non-partisan effort to focus on real issues rather than the value (or lack of value) of a particular person.

I haven’t found mud-slinging campaigns to be particularly successful. I don’t know about you, but when I’m choosing a candidate for president, I don’t want to hear about what the other candidates have done wrong in the past; I want to hear about what this candidate is going to do right in the future.

Then again, I’m not a campaign manager, so what do I know?

But I am a person with feelings and some experience on this world.

I don’t know much, but I like to read the work of people who knew a lot. Jean-Jacques Rousseau defined freedom as the liberty to obey the laws one sets for oneself. It sounds paradoxical, since it means you have the freedom to set no rules for yourself, or, conversely, dictate an etiquette all your own. Maybe it also seems paradoxical to write for a conservative newspaper at a liberal university without offending anyone, but I set the rule for myself that I won’t put anything in print that I don’t want coming back to me later.

All this reminds me of a scene in the movie *Doubt*, where a priest relates the story of a gossiping woman. He told her to remove and scatter the feathers of a pillow. When she tried to collect them again, she couldn’t. That’s how our words are. We can’t take them back once they’ve been said. If they do come back to us, it won’t be of our own volition.

You never know who is listening, but you should know that someone is definitely listening. Definitely God, and possibly someone less forgiving. So enjoy your freedom, but think before you speak, and keep it classy, Cornell.

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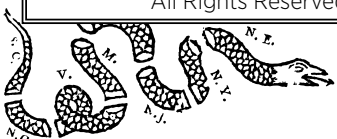
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The Cornell Review meets regularly on Mondays at 6:00 pm in GS 162.

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Byline Waste

BY MICHAEL ALAN

In the editorial that appeared in the last edition of the Review, I lamented the apathy on campus towards student government elections and happenings. Our attention, I argued, was warranted because of the Student Assembly's control over the Student Activity Fee, which currently stands at \$229 per undergraduate student. While the Student Assembly Finance Commission is responsible for allocating about \$85 per student of this money and funds

Meanwhile, Cornell Athletics receives \$10 per student to fund free undergraduate admission to most Cornell sporting events (except men's ice hockey . . . you know, the one Cornell team people actually want to go watch).

These two organizations' byline funding allocations stand out to me because they take money from every student to give away free passes to events that not every student is going to attend. I think I went to one non-hockey sporting event in my entire

the Student Assembly's way of saying to you that "you don't know what activities your money should be spent on, so we'll do it for you."

If students got all or at least some of their \$229 back, the allocation of funding to events and activities would be much more efficient. We could get a big name for Slope Day and, if the demand for the concert was there, students would be willing to pay a substantial ticket price. To give another example, the thousands of Asian and Asian American students could choose to allocate their money to the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Union, which was actually denied byline funding last year and now has to go through yet another layer of bureaucracy, the African Latino Asian Native American Students Programming Board's Umbrella Programming Fund, to get their small share of the \$229 each student shells out for activities.

The problems with the Student Activity Fee and its allocation are complicated and far too numerous to be laid out in one editorial (seriously, did the Cornell EMS really need that brand new \$28,000 Chevy Tahoe?), but that's my point. These kids on the Student Assembly are supposed to be our elected representatives and yet we almost

If students got all or at least some of their \$229 back, the allocation of funding to events and activities would be much more efficient.

the vast majority of student organizations on campus, the rest of the SAF money goes to just twenty nine organizations.

Before I get into lambasting the Student Assembly for what I see as incredibly wasteful spending of students' money, I'll at least give them credit for their transparency. All of the information I list below is available online on the assembly's website, although I don't think I heard much about any of this from our representatives in the run up to the last election.

First off, the most egregious offender - the Slope Day Programming Board. The Slope Day Programming Board receives a whopping \$18 per student, the most of any byline funded organization that isn't the SAFC. The SDPB gets significantly more funding than both the Concert Commission (\$12/student) and the Programming Board (\$7.50/student), two organizations that do what the SDPB does (namely, bring talent to campus and hold events like concerts or comedy shows) but for more than just one day a year.

Despite the praise of the SDPB's "strong leadership" in the Student Assembly's byline funding report and suggestions in both the report and the SDPB's request for funding that this large budget will enable them to bring better talent to Slope Day, the SDPB faced embarrassment ahead of this year's Slope Day as it was reportedly rejected by more than one artist this year and has resorted to making D-list pop "star" Taio Cruz the headliner.

time at Cornell, a men's basketball game in my freshman year. I don't think I'm alone there. And I know more than one student that won't be attending the Slope Day concert either because it's simply not their thing or because they're disappointed by the fact that, despite all of the hype about big name stars, we're stuck this year with "that guy that sings that Dynamite song."



"He's only gonna break, break your heart": The Slope Day concert featuring D-list pop singer Taio Cruz is costing undergraduates nearly \$250,000 and, no, you can't get your money back.

Despite my disappointment with this year's lineup, I'll very likely still go to the concert on Slope Day. But why does everyone that won't be going have to subsidize my attendance? The activity fee is basically

completely neglect to hold them accountable. And now, it seems, we're paying for it.

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The Review welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Long, gaseous letters that seem to go on forever are best suited for publication in the *Cornell Daily Sun*. The Review requests that all letters to the editor be limited to 350 words. Please send all questions, comments, and concerns to cornellreview@cornell.edu.



Most notably, CNN commentator Jeff Tobin declared that the law was doomed, that the entire issue had been a “train wreck” and “plane wreck” for the administration, and that the individual mandate is in serious jeopardy. These terms remind

Although Justice Kennedy is thought of as a swing vote, he his voting record shows a commitment to maintaining the architecture of Federalism, “the mark of his jurisprudence”. A far likelier swing vote for the mandate would have been

a poor policy choice, a single-payer system would have been Constitutional, added Fund.

Political analysts like James Carville assert that the demise of the bill by the Court might help liberals energize their base and deprive the GOP of its most persuasive campaign issue. Fund disagrees. After all, what will Obama have to show for in 2012 if his signature legislative accomplishment is struck down? “Very little.” In 2012, voters will ask “what did you do? What do you have to show for?” The question of Obama’s competence will take center stage, not the qualification of the GOP candidate. Fund noted that public opinions polls have consistently shown

that not even half of Americans think he deserves reelection, and that his approval ratings have been stuck in the 40s. Fund mentioned Obama’s kindness as a person, but lamented at his inexperience, his being prone to mistakes, and the magnitude of his healthcare fiasco.

Finally, with amusement, he noted how, until very recently, Obama has scarcely mentioned his own legislation. Ironically, he is eager to escape the looming specter of his very own signature feat.

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Fund alluded to what can be interpreted as the eulogy of Obamacare: the General’s sentimental interpretation of liberty as defined by one’s right to be free from the anxiety of being uninsured when ill.

Fund of the Clinton failure. Fund alluded to what can be interpreted as the eulogy of Obamacare: the General’s sentimental interpretation of liberty as defined by one’s right to be free from the anxiety of being uninsured when ill. By “stepping away from the question of legality” the Solicitor General very bizarrely veered entirely outside of the scope of legal deliberation. The Court is likely to seek to define the limit of the Congress’ regulatory authority by striking down the law, says Fund.

Roberts, who would not want the already controversial Court to appear hyper-partisan in the wake of *Citizens United* and *Bush v. Gore* in another 5-4 conservative vote.

“Obama was caught up fighting the last war,” remarked Fund. He wanted his own version of the bill, but ended up convinced that he had to trust the Congress to spearhead the effort—a terrible mistake. This will go down as the largest legislative fiasco in D.C. in years, though it could have been avoided. Although



An Agenda for National Security:

Why should India ally with the US?

KUSHAGRA ANIKET
STAFF WRITER

Platonic Squabbles

Just as people, countries seek to gain and retain power. Foreign policy is the primary instrument by which countries pursue their national interest. In the pursuit of global dominance, allies cooperate while enemies compete for power. Therefore, building a strong coalition, acquiring access to power and destabilizing rival nations are central to the ethics of international politics. An effective foreign policy doctrine for any country is to achieve and sustain a preponderant position in the international power structure.

American hegemony in world politics goes back to the Allied victory in the First World War (1914-18), if not earlier. Even during the Cold War, the Americans managed to gain a significant edge over the Soviets. After the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, US emerged as the sole superpower, enjoying unprecedented military dominance, economic power and political clout. Moreover, the western alliance also won the war of ideology as market democracy and capitalism proved to be better than Soviet communism. Even with the decline of the US power in relative terms, the country remains an unparalleled soft power.

The US retains its remarkable ability to influence the behavior of competing and lesser powers by deploying cultural resources.

According to the *World Economic Outlook* (September 2011) published by the IMF, India is the third largest country in the world in terms of GDP adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity. The growth and robustness of the Indian economy has profound implications for international governance, global balance of power and the stability of Asia. India is also the second most populous country in the world. Moreover, India after 2015 will be strategically placed to reap a demographic dividend with a young population of median age 29.

Today, it has been recognized that India has the potential to be a great power given its enduring civilization, democratic institutions, economic growth, geographical size, strategic location and educated population. However, the people as a whole lack the mindset to be a superpower. In fact, some influential Left-wing analysts blatantly advocate that India should never attempt to be a superpower. For decades, India has acted as a mere moral commentator on the world scene, without exercising its power and influence. But today, it aspires to be a permanent veto-wielding member in a restructured UN Security Council. To achieve this, India needs to adopt a rational and responsible national security

doctrine that integrates the requirements of defense, development and diplomacy into one coherent whole.

During the cold war, the country followed a policy of non-alignment by trying to keep away from the rival military alliances led by the two superpowers. However, Indian foreign policy displayed an unmistakable pro-Soviet tilt. For instance, in 1956, when Britain attacked Egypt over the Suez Canal issue, India led the world protest against the invasion. But in the same year when the USSR invaded Hungary, India did not join its public condemnation. Although India was never a signatory to either the Central Treaty Organization or the Warsaw Pact, India had to sign a 20-year Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union to counter the US-China-Pakistan axis during the Bangladesh war of 1971.

Since the end of the cold war, India has remained friendless in a hostile international environment. It does not have a single ally that would be ready to stand by it in critical times. India cannot ally with China because the two countries are competing for access to global

markets and political influence. It is extremely unreasonable to expect that the two neighboring Asian giants shall ever find concurrence on issues of international importance.

Many countries in the world today resent China’s appearance on the global stage as an economic powerhouse and its policies of expansionism and intrusion. They also fear the massive trade deficits they have with the PRC. Chinese trade and investment threaten the West’s interests in Africa and South Asia. So, while India cannot ally with China, China’s enemies seek to build better relations with India. For instance, India and Mongolia have a two millennia long history of cultural interaction. Buddhism was transmitted to Mongolia by Indian monks almost two millennia and to this date, Buddhists form the single largest religious denomination in Mongolia. It is, thus, imperative that Indians learn to capitalize on their

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THE RAGE PAGE

Student Stupidity, Scientific Sham

BY FAUX MANCHU

Pothead Cornellians want to legalize pot by justifying it with science. They also want to organize a new club on campus around the idea. This is nothing new or exciting coming from a breeding ground of liberal rats majoring in liberal arts. However, the description in this poster presents a deeper problem: The deliberate misuse and abuse of science by the left.

For decades, the left has been known for using obscure charts and graphs as “facts” in place of well reasoned arguments. When liberals spread their propaganda, they use the “science is on our side so we must be right” model. There are usually three steps involved. First, they lead everyone into the assumption that scientific studies are inherently politically neutral. This supposedly eliminates the suspicion of the liberals’ ulterior motives in their political agenda and puts them on baseless, yet superior moral ground. Second, they place selective emphasis on the studies that support their claim and completely ignore those that contradict it. Third, they stifle any voice of dissent by either alluding to the illusion that they are “trained in science” and their opponents are not, or by maliciously accusing the opponents of being a “science-hating Fox News viewer”. Because the liberals take on such an aggressive tone when they back up their arguments with supposedly scientific findings, an average person with a real job is unlikely to engage in a

fruitless argument with them, creating the illusion that the liberals convinced others with their strong scientific supports. This is far from the truth. What granted the liberals the apparent victory is their intimidation and obnoxious attitude, not logic and reason.

Take the message in this poster for example. The poster claims that there is not any scientific study that supports marijuana’s damage to the human brain and marijuana is illegal because the government is trying to fool you. This is a moronic claim resulting from ideological selective attention. It would have been acceptable if they said the research on the harmful effects of marijuana had been somewhat ambiguous, but saying that there is absolutely no study that shows they exist is absolutely laughable. This is a perfect example of the liberals’ denial of evidence that does not support their agenda.

A bigger problem beyond this specific poster is that there is a liberal monopoly on science in this country. Whenever the liberals promote their agenda, they use the supposedly “scientific” evidence to “prove” their legitimacy. Anyone who holds a different view is labeled as being anti-science and therefore, ignorant. For example, one can easily question the existence of anthropogenic global warming with the same questioning style present in the marijuana poster, stating that there is no real evidence that humans caused global warming. But guess what? The liberals will immediately get defensive and start showing you “studies” that can prove that you are wrong and stupid. However, once you get through the ad hominem attacks and their supposedly impressive jargons, you’ll understand why these bike riding socialists who barely graduated with a liberal arts degree are actually the ones who do not understand science.

How many times have you heard that man-made global warming has been “proven” by scientists? Chances are those who made the claims don’t know what being

Romney

Continued from the front

Romney can still connect. Flip-flops aside, right now Romney talks the talk—but talk is baseless unless we can watch it flow from within. What is his problem? It’s not personality: nobody is born so cold that they appear permanently insincere or patronizing. Romney faces these issues, I believe, because he is personally struggling with his image, or equivalently, his wealth. He knows that in this day and age, it is embarrassing for a super-wealthy politician to step into the spotlight and humbly ask to be elected king of the world, especially against super-duper-populist Obama.

Romney attempts to compensate by trying too hard to convey only the parts of himself which he deems relevant to leadership and management. He does not know how to portray himself as an average American, so he chooses not to accept the risk inherent in emptying his heart out. He probably regrets that people are unable to see him as his friends and family do. He might be telling himself that those who are judgmental of his wealth are out of line; that he shouldn’t need to prove himself. He does.

The money is not the problem; it is the source of the problem.

proven means. Before they throw at you what they consider as fancy words such as “scientific method”, they are the ones who should retake a middle school science class. First of all, most scientific studies don’t prove anything. Only after rigorous, controlled experimentation can one say that X causes Y with a certain amount of confidence. The results of the studies have to be reproducible. To conclusively show that AGW is occurring, you have to find a good number of planets similar to Earth. Then you need to put the same number of people and other organisms on each. Have the people on some of the planets live as we do now and have some of them live as cavemen for several million years. After controlling for all the other potential variables, if the planets with the most greenhouse emissions all exhibit global warming, then we can conclude that AGW happens. You may argue that this experimentation is impossible, and the only thing we can do now is look at historical trends on Earth. Before we go any further, I’d like to point out that once you go from controlled experimentation to looking at historical trends, the rigorosity and validity of your research is already decreased by quite a lot. You can pretty much say good-bye to “proving” anything, regardless of how prolific you are at pulling out graphs and charts of the trends out of your rear end. When you look at reconstructed historical climate data, you might find some trends. However, nothing is controlled, and

Americans will look past Romney’s wealth in a second (though the media never will) if they are offered a view of his heart. Wealth balance is a personal matter, and we cannot fault the rich for remaining rich. The Presidency, however, leaves no room for personal matters. There is no question that Romney can do a little bit more to show his sincerity and to confirm that he pays no heed to Mammon.

To this end, I would like to offer a somewhat radical, yet largely symbolic challenge to Mitt Romney. Of the ways Mitt might help himself, consider this an extreme. The bulk of Romney’s fortune exists in blind trusts whose purpose is to generate income, from which his charitable contributions are made. By transferring a sizeable portion of his investment portfolio into his family’s Tyler Charitable Foundation, Romney can commit those funds to a good purpose. This move would not affect his sons, who possess a separate trust. With this transfer, Romney would not be significantly worse off, but he will signal that he is ready to begin a phase of his life which is not focused on enjoying the fruits of his life’s work, but on serving the American people.

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LET'S BE BLUNT, IT'S GOOD.

The claim that marijuana kills brain cells is based on a speculative report dating back a quarter of a century that has never been supported by any scientific study. None of the medical tests currently used to detect brain damage in humans have found harm from marijuana, even from long term high-dose use. For more information visit clubbik.com/marijuana


Don't let the government fool you

Interested in the idea of a club for drug policy reform on campus? Contact cornell.legalize@gmail.com for information about effects, policies, goals, and positions.

This was posted in a dorm bathroom. Stay on those drugs, kids!

you can always focus on parts that support your preconceived claims. The so-called “studies” of global warming are not rigorous by modern scientific standards, yet proponents take them as eco-revelations, lobbying for the passage of economically deleterious national policy. Liberals turn a blind eye to the fact that these studies are practically meaningless, using them as facts to “educate” their opponents, whom they consider ignorant.

Despite falling in love with pseudoscientific studies, liberals have no problem espousing full-blown scientism when it comes to things they find unpalatable. Screaming that religions are not scientific is the most pleasurable form of self-aggrandizement to atheists after the Communist Manifesto. The Bible is an unproven account, therefore it has no value and must be rejected. Why, then, are the non-reproducible, casual coincidences in reconstructed weather trends enough evidence to prove an apparent causation in global warming? Neither was ever rigorously tested scientifically, but for some reason one is a fact and the other is a tale. Before you assume that I am an easily-offended Christian, I can tell for sure you that I am not affiliated with any religion. As you may know, I am merely a Heathen Chineese (a direct result of being born into a communist regime where religion is against the law) and have no strong feelings toward any religion.

Please turn to page 9 

Colonel



Cornell

"It's the highest rank in the Ivy League!"

no 5: The D.&R.P. Dilemma

RECAP:

COLONEL CORNELL, A JADED CONSERVATIVE SUPERHERO WHO PROTECTED CORNELL FROM LIBERALISM IN THE LATE 1800S (BUT WAS FROZEN IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE BY HIS ARCH-NEMESIS PRIVATEER PRINCETON), IS UNFROZEN IN LATE 2011, ONLY TO FIND HIS UNIVERSITY TAKEN OVER BY A PROGRESSIVIST AGENDA.

THE COLONEL JOINS FORCES WITH SECRET CONSERVATIVE/LYNAH RINK ICE TRUCK DRIVER ZAMBONI DAVE AND FINDS A SIDEKICK: A NERVOUS PREMED HELPING THE COLONEL TO BOOST HIS RÉSUMÉ.

IN THE LAST ISSUE, THE LONG-LOST-BROTHER OF ZAMBONI DAVE-DIVERSITY DAVE-SUES COLONEL CORNELL FOR DIVERSITY VIOLATIONS AND RECOMMENDS HIM TO THE DIVERSITY ENRICHMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM (D.E.R.P.).

DIVERSITY MAGISTRATE: ORDER IN THE COURTROOM! THE CASE OF ZAMBONI DAVE V. DIVERSITY DAVE IS NOW IN SESSION. DEFENSE - LET US HEAR YOUR OPENING STATEMENTS.

ZAMBONI DAVE: UM, THIS ISN'T A COURTROOM; IT'S URIS HALL. AND YOU'RE NOT JUDGES; YOU'RE SELF-RIGHTEOUS APOLOGISTS WHO SOMEHOW HAVE BEEN

ELECTED TO STEER THE COURSE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN ORDER TO MOST PLEASE YOUR LIBERAL SELF-SATISFACTION AT THE EXPENSE OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE INSTITUTION. AND YOU'RE NOW TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENACTING JUSTICE. CLEVERLY, YOU CALL IT "SOCIAL JUSTICE" SO THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR CAUSE IS LEGITIMATE. THE DEFENSE RESTS.



DIVERSITY MAGISTRATE: PROSECUTION – YOUR STATEMENT PLEASE.

DIVERSITY DAVE: FOR TOO LONG, CORNELL HAS BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MAJORITY [APPLAUSE]. DESPITE THE FACT THAT CORNELL NOW HAS A 40% UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY POPULATION (URMP), WE'RE STILL NOT HAPPY! OUR URMP IS SO HIGH THAT THE CORNELL POPULATION DOES NOT EVEN REFLECT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH TO SATISFY OUR GUILT FOR INEQUALITY IN ACADEMIA. IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO FEEL THIS WAY. FURTHERMORE, WE MUST INCREASE OUR GLOBAL EDUCATION EFFORTS. FOR WHENEVER ANYONE SAYS THE WORLD "GLOBAL," IT'S ALWAYS FOR A GOOD CAUSE. WE SHOULD DISPLACE MORE OF OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE EVEN ILLEGAL ALIENS (WE ROMANTICALLY CALL THEM DREAMERS)! WITH THE DIVERSITY ENRICHMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM AND THE BOLSTER THE UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATION – ALSO KNOWN AS DERP AND BURP – WE WILL SUCCEED! THE PROSECUTION RESTS.

DIVERSITY MAGISTRATE: DEFENSE, PLEASE CALL YOUR FIRST WITNESS.

ZAMBONI DAVE: THE DEFENSE CALLS COLONEL CORNELL TO THE STAND.

[THE COLONEL TAKES THE STAND.]

ZAMBONI DAVE: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU LOVE CORNELL?

COLONEL CORNELL: WHY OF COURSE I DO, LAD.

ZAMBONI DAVE: AND CAN YOU IMAGINE A CORNELL

WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BE ACCEPTED WITH THEIR ETHNICITY GIVEN MORE WEIGHT THAN THEIR ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

COLONEL CORNELL: 'TWOULDN'T BE CORNELL ANY MORE.

ZAMBONI DAVE: THE DEFENSE RESTS.

DIVERSITY MAGISTRATE: PROSECUTION, BEGIN YOUR QUESTIONING.

DIVERSITY DAVE: COLONEL, IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR LITTLE "SUPERHERO GANG" IS UNDER DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE DERP AND BURP?

COLONEL CORNELL: LAD, WHEN YOU BURP, YOU'RE EXPOSED TO SAY "EXCUSE ME." 'TIS AN ETIQUETTE YOUR GENERATION SEEMS TO LACK.

DIVERSITY DAVE: BURP, YOU UNINFORMED HEATHEN, IS AN ACRONYM FOR BOLSTER THE UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATION, WHICH IS CORNELL'S NEW SPRING 2012 MANDATE. SIMPLY PUT, YOUR "SUPERFRIENDS" DO NOT CONTAIN ENOUGH UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES. WE CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO BE CORNELL'S RESIDENT PROTECTOR UNLESS YOU ADJUST THE RACIAL COMPOSITION OF YOUR SIDEKICKS. THE PROSECUTION RESTS.

DIVERSITY MAGISTRATE: I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. COLONEL CORNELL, I STRIP YOU OF YOUR TITLE AND RANK. I ORDER YOU TO REPEAT YOUR FOUR YEARS AT CORNELL IF YOU EVER WANT YOUR TITLE AND CORNELL DEGREE AGAIN. YOU WILL MAJOR IN INEQUALITY AND MINOR IN FEMINIST AND GENDER STUDIES.

[MULTIPLE GASPS ARE HEARD FROM THE DEFENSE. THE COLONEL FAINTS.]

HOW WILL COLONEL CORNELL REGAIN HIS HONOR? IS THERE ANY HOPE LEFT FOR CORNELL? WILL THE COLONEL BOARD UP THE CORNELLCAVE, MOVE TO CAYUGA HEIGHTS, AND BECOME A CHRONIC GOLFER? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

GR



The Return of Jim Crow?

Liberal Overreactions to Voter ID Laws and Other Trivialities

LUCIA RAFANELLI
NEWS EDITOR

A Fortnight of Follies

There has been a good deal of national controversy lately regarding proposed laws changing voting requirements in some states. These laws range from requiring voters to present ID at their polling places, to allowing students to vote only in their districts of permanent residence (i.e. not always where they go to school), to disenfranchising fel-

We should of course defend to the death the right to vote, but I fail to see an indication anywhere in our constitution or national laws that we must defend a right to decide five minutes before an election that you might care enough about politics to press a button or pull a lever and be immediately admitted to the polls without any previous documentation of your identity or residence.

Clinton went on to say that efforts to disenfranchise convicted felons in Florida were simply undertaken, "[b]ecause most of [the felons] in

It takes about 30 seconds to register to vote by absentee ballot; and if you, as a student, are not willing to put in that time to make sure you have a voice in your government, I won't be shedding any tears if you don't vote in the next election.

ons (a practice which is already established in some places in the country—California, for example).

In my book, most of these laws are relatively benign. After all, voting requirements vary from state to state, and they always have. Different states have different residency requirements, and different rules about how far in advance voters must register, whether they must register with a political party to vote in certain elections, and how they must verify their identities at the polls. Most of the laws currently being considered across the country are simply an extension of this long-running state of affairs.

But according to a recent Campus Progress article about these new voting regulations, they are in fact cause for not only concern, but outright panic. And unfortunately, Campus Progress's writers are not the only ones banging this drum. At the organization's national conference last summer, none other than Bill Clinton alleged the existence of a "disciplined, passionate, and determined effort of Republican governors and legislators to keep most of you [students] from voting..." This was in response to efforts to... not reinstate the poll tax, not raise the voting age, not require onerous paperwork completion before registration, but to...end same-day registration in some states. Clinton's reaction, it seems, was quite extreme.

Florida were African Americans and Hispanics that would tend to vote for Democrats."

Campus Progress, too, resorted to this mudslinging strategy. Rather than simply presenting reasoned arguments against the Republican position, they felt the need to accuse Republicans of mounting a determined attack on voting rights, even going so far as to say, "these laws hinder voting rights in a manner not seen since the era of Jim Crow laws enacted in the South to

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Who will be Romney's VP?

KARIM LAKHANI
TREASURER

Coffee with Karim



If John McCain had an actual shot at becoming President of the United States, he lost it completely when he chose Sarah Palin as his running mate. Sure, her young, hockey-mom mentality and strong Christian values helped aid McCain's moderate and old impression, but once the American people heard her speak and answer questions, it was apparent she was not fit for such a high office.

There is no question that Mitt Romney, after sweeping primaries in Maryland, D.C., and Wisconsin, is clearly on track to win the nomination. Rather, the question now is who gives him the best chance at defeating President Obama in November?

Just like McCain in 2008, Romney is a moderate who is in need of a strong conservative to help excite the core of the Republican base that he will need while campaigning. But, will Romney make the same mistake in choosing an inexperienced and detrimental running mate?

The rumored Vice President short list is extensive. Let's first tackle some of the defeated Republican candidates. Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul are clearly too old and unwilling to even be considered for the position. Rick Santorum is unmistakably not an option, as he may be too Right and believes that Republicans are better off voting in four more years of Obama than having Romney as President. Jon Huntsman, who I personally like a lot, does not help Romney as he is simply another moderate. Michelle Bachmann, who may help excite the Right wing, resembles McCain's pick in Sarah

Palin too much to be considered a viable option for Vice President. That leaves Perry and Cain, who have shown they can appeal to the core of the base and areas that Romney lacks; Perry could help tremendously with the Southern vote and Cain with the African American vote.

It seems that after each endorsement Romney receives, the media begins to inquire about the possibility of that individual becoming his running mate. These include: Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina, Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey, Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, and Governor Jeb Bush of Florida.

Governor Haley would help Romney with the South, the woman vote, and would not be as detrimental as Representative Bachmann. Governor Jeb Bush is well respected, but it is unlikely the nation is ready to see the name "Bush" appear on a ticket anytime soon.

Senator Rubio seems like an excellent choice. He is a Tea Party favorite and could help the GOP bring in the Latino vote, something they have always given them difficulties. However, I believe he has too much baggage. He is a first time Senator and the controversy regarding his origin (exiles) is only the tip of the iceberg. If he is elevated to the big leagues, he will be expected to answer questions regarding his origin and questions about illegal immigration that I don't believe he is ready to face.

That leaves two of my favorite choices: Representative Ryan and Governor Christie. They are well-spoken and smart, and they are favorites in the Republican Party. There is no doubt they would make exceptional candidates for Vice President, but the real question is if

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Zimmerman Indicted on Second Degree Murder Charge

ZACH DELLÉ
STAFF WRITER

Zimmerman has been arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Murder. Whether Zimmerman is innocent or guilty, and it seems like everyone has an opinion, we can all expect riots will result from this case because nobody will be happy. I can't even get into the specifics of the case. I won't even jump into blatant media race-baiting (thanks NBC) or the New Black Panther Party's \$10,000 Dead or Alive Bounty. I'm not even going to comment on the alleged armed Neo-Nazi patrols currently patrolling suburban Sanford, ready and waiting to exploit a potential race riot to perpetuate their violence and hate. Instead, I simply want to take a moment to reflect on the irony of the term "justice."

In this country its hard to measure what "justice" really means. Does it ever really even exist? Or Is

it just an ongoing historical white-folk inside joke?

This public swell of anger is not present simply because an unarmed teenage boy was killed. People are mad because justice is a lie and the law is systemically racist. Every aspect of the legal system is designed to target and entrap blacks, not to protect them. From the unionized thugs that assault and detain them without cause to the detectives that secretly investigate and pester them with unnecessary surveillance to the cloaked old white men that decide their fates, there never was a System of Justice for minorities, women, or the poor. Between mandatory minimums, plea bargains, "profiled surveillance," Three Strike laws, Stop-and-Frisk, and now Obama's targeted assassinations, what was equal justice under the law ever supposed to mean?

Throwing Zimmerman in prison solves nothing. He may have been protecting himself, he may have

provoked an assault; regardless, the law is still racist. Racial discrimination still permeates every aspect of our legal justice system. Even if federal anti-Stand Your Ground legislation were somehow to be instated, blacks would still be disproportionately abused and forced into state-sanctioned slavery. Discussing the merits of this case is not half as valuable as questioning whether prison is even an effective means of rehabilitating inmates or even keeping society safe.

Liberals want to turn this tragedy into a case against Stand Your Ground and basic gun rights. What liberals don't understand is that Stand Your Ground is one of the most necessary, valuable basic legal rights. Amongst conservatives, it is commonly accepted that gun ownership is a necessary and common good. Keeping civilians armed is necessary to protect the Bill of Rights from tyranny. Ideally this is your legal right to protect yourself and your property from any illegal aggressive intrusion. This means if anyone breaks into your home at three in the morning (even the the police possibly searching the wrong property, which happens pretty often with more than the 100 major DEA raid operations per day in 2011), you are fully entitled to protect yourself and your home by any means necessary. There is no room for this kind of legal Self-Defense of 4th Amendment Rights in Patriot Act America.

Media race-baiting is a common statist tactic used to disarm civilian populations. Fear can be exploited to pursue a common "good." When California Governor Ronald Reagan

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Pot

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What offends me is not the leftists' disdain for religion, but their disdain for logic and reason.

Finally, there is a fundamental question that needs to be addressed: Why do we consider science the impartial arbitrator in partisan or ideological disputes in the first place? The idea of science may be impartial, but science itself is practiced by human beings. There are numerous examples in the history of science that demonstrate that science can be strongly opinionated. For example, during the period of European Imperialism, scientific Darwinism was also once considered legitimately scientific. Does this mean it was free of personal opinions and biases? As long as experiments and observations are conducted by people, there is no reason to believe that they are free from influence of ideological inclinations of the researchers. When a liberal references a scientific study, he is not inviting a neutral voice. He is merely citing another liberal who agrees with everything he says. When I ask a liberal to consider this question, he usually just makes a snarky comment that it's typical for conservatives to deny everything scientific and refuse to give it any serious thoughts. The discussion usually ends with him being the last guy to have used sarcasm, marking him the winner of the argument by today's standards for discussion among college students. Maybe it's true that all you need to do to win an argument these days is to be repugnant.



Noah Kantro

Jim Crow

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disenfranchise blacks after Reconstruction in the late 1800s."

It is true that some of these proposed laws are a bit onerous, and I would personally oppose some of them—for instance, those that would require not just identification, but a passport or birth certificate, for admission to the polls. (These documents are not terribly easy to obtain and often cost small but not insignificant amounts of money.)

Many of the laws, though, simply amount to states using their constitutionally granted authority to decide how and when their citizens should register to vote. This does not mean mass exclusion from the polls, it does not mean race-based discrimination, and it *certainly* does not mean setting into motion *anything like* what happened in the Jim Crow era.

Further, to insinuate this is not only to unduly insult (rather than engage in intellectual exchange) conservatives, but it is also highly offensive to the memories of the

hundreds of American blacks who suffered through the racist policies of Jim Crow—to all those who lost friends and loved ones to lynching, to all those who had their newly-granted civil rights almost completely stripped, to those who endured laughable education standards and segregated train rides, and to those who died because there were no black doctors available at the precise moments they were in need of help, this comparison is disrespectful to the nth degree.

Frankly, anyone who thinks that today's society resembles the Jim Crow era in any real sense could probably use with a good history lesson.

Now, one final note before I leave you: I *want* students to vote. I wish they were more engaged in politics and more aware of political issues. This is why I write for the *Review*. But I *don't* think that requiring them to register a few months ahead of time, or to vote in their district of permanent residence (rather than where they go to school) is an unreasonable obstacle to them exercising their rights to suffrage.

In my home state, at least, it takes about 30 seconds to register to vote by absentee ballot; and if you, as a student, are not willing to put in *that* time to make sure you have a voice in *your* government, I won't be

shedding any tears if you don't vote in the next election.

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Trayvon

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banned publicly carrying assault weapons, it was a political ploy to undermine neighborhood watchman Huey Newton of the Black Panthers. Since Governor Reagan banned assault weapons in California, the vast majority of weapons charges prosecutions have been urban minorities, even though it is common knowledge that all races own guns. These people can be branded violent criminals for life simply for harboring an unloaded firearm even once, something most Americans would consider a basic right of existence.

Now I am hearing buzz that there is pressure mounting on US Attorney General Eric Holder to charge Zimmerman with a hate crime. Am I the only one that thinks it would be a little hypocritical of Holder charge anyone with a hate crime? After all, is he not equally guilty for his

defense of the Guantanamo practices of systematically selecting brown-skinned Muslim males (foreign and American) to be lawfully kidnapped, tortured, and killed based on nothing more than their racial profile, without any evidence presented to the public purview? Many of these people were completely innocent. Many of them will never be seen again. Maybe some of these people have bad friends, but what have we become? This is what happens in a country with a government that believes it has the responsibility to violently regulate personal association while simultaneously prosecuting thought-crime in the name of Justice.

Welcome to Obama's America. Basic Rights are now privileges the government can suspend. There is no free speech. You can protest, but expect to be arrested and possibly strip-searched (thanks SCOTUS). Your social media is constantly

monitored, dissidence recorded. There is no freedom of religion when Obamacare is forcing your church to pay for employee contraception. There is no private property, your phones are tapped and your e-mail is read. There are no trials and no due process. The media decides whose guilty, groups of men in secret rooms determine your fate. Both are accountable to no one. If people were

half as upset about the assassination of Abdulrahman al-Alaki as they were about Trayvon's murder investigation taking more than a week, we might actually be getting somewhere as a movement for Justice.

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Noah Kantro

Africana Center Protests Trayvon Martin Killing Everything Is About Race Now

NOAH KANTRO
NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

In the month since the first pictures of the deceased 17 year old Trayvon Martin at age 13 began making their way onto local airwaves, coverage of his death during an altercation with Sanford, Florida neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman has grown into a continuous and national stream of speculation, reporting "errors", and protests that has been covered ad nauseum by all media sources.

This maelstrom reached Cornell with—what else?—a rally on Ho Plaza. In remembrance and in a call for justice for Martin, the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, and Black Students United, marched down from the Africana Library on North Campus to Ho Plaza, where several students and faculty spoke about their opinions on the case. *The Review* was there to capture these speakers' opinions.

For the most part, the speakers seem to believe that Zimmerman went out with the intention of killing, and that he specifically targeted African-Americans. "Mr. Zimmerman had a gun. What did he intend to do with that gun? Who was he looking for? You. Who was he looking for? Young people," preached former Ujamaa director Kenneth Glover to the majority African-American audience. He later blamed the killing on, "A mentality, that says that the vast majority of you sitting in this audience...if you were walking down the street...you would be dead too. If you were walking down the street with that hoodie on

you would be dead if you happened to be a black person. You would be shot whether you were gay, whether you straight, whether you were male, whether you were female...

because the mentality that was in George Zimmerman's mind...equated the identity of the person with criminality so therefore he had the right to kill him! And the police cosigned it, and they're still cosigning it by the fact though... that they didn't take the time to investigate because it was assumed that Mr. George Zimmerman was justified in consciously killing and taking Trayvon's life."

Africana Studies Professor Emeritus Dr. James Turner supported this interpretation that the suspicion of a neighborhood watchman whose community, according to the Miami Herald suffered eight burglaries, nine thefts, and one shooting in the previous year alone was due solely to Martin's skin color, reasoning that, "His life was purposefully taken with no justified reason...Zimmerman made a conclusion about his seeing Trayvon that was based on no objective concrete evidence

having nothing to do with what Trayvon Martin was actually doing, but having to do with notions of the mind of Zimmerman about who Trayvon Martin was." He pondered,



Noah Kantro

"Was Trayvon Martin shot because of his hoodie, or was he shot because he was black inside that hoodie?"

Both Turner and Glover saw parallels between this case, in which a Hispanic neighborhood watchman shot a black teen after a nighttime struggle, and the murder of Emmett Till, a 14 year old who was tortured and murdered in 1950s Mississippi for whistling at a white woman. Doctor Turner related his desire to, "Make the Trayvon Martin case to your time and generation what

the Emmett Till case was to our time and generation." Referring to the mentality previously described, Glover believes, "The same mentality that killed Trayvon is the same mentality that assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King. It is the same mentality that killed Emmett Till."

The speakers also seem to have come to the conclusion that George Zimmermans's story is false. Zimmerman claimed that Martin approached him and started the physical altercation, a story which the police at the time believed was sup-

ported by the physical evidence. Dr. Turner said, "What we know is, If Zimmerman had not put that 9mm gun in his waist, Trayvon Martin would be alive today." However, if what Zimmerman and eyewitnesses who saw Martin on top of Zimmerman say is true, it could very well be that without the gun it would have been Zimmerman who ended up dead and Trayvon Martin on trial for second-degree murder. Would it then have then been an issue of

Continued at right

India

Continued from page 4

past. Similarly, India must cultivate closer commercial ties with Taiwan and South Korea as a part of its Look East Policy.

But India has repeatedly demonstrated its inability to lead a coalition of other developing countries to create a multipolar world. The only alliance that India can then, look forward to is one of strategic partnership with the US.

As the renowned Harvard political theorist Samuel Huntington foretold in his *Clash of Civilizations*, non-Western countries are today entering into different alliances to promote their internal development and acquire more power. The G-20, G-77, ASEAN and OPEC are some of the international political blocs remarkable for promoting cooperation among non-Western countries. However, the most prominent of them is Confucian-Arab nexus. The alliance between Confucian and Arab states derives its strength from their internal cohesiveness imposed by strong socio-political ideologies- Communism and Islam. Although Chinese government faces threat from groups and communities within its borders, China's internal security is assured to a great extent. Similarly, despite the political turmoil caused by the Arab Spring, there has been a resurgence of radical Islam across revolutionary movements. Today, the West must come to terms with the prospect of a Confucian-Arab nexus posing a significant challenge to Western values and interests.

This is clearly evident from China's close relations with West Asian countries. China has maintained strong relations with Pakistan since its inception. China and Pakistan

share a tacit understanding on the issue of Kashmir. After the Indo-Pak war of 1947-48, Pakistan transferred the disputed territory of Aksai Chin in Kashmir to China that it had earlier occupied. Moreover, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is no country in the world that is willing to support India's claims over Kashmir.

PRC has not only supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue but has also provided military and technical assistance to Pakistan's nuclear program. China is Pakistan's largest supplier of arms and its third largest trading partner. China has also signed a free trade agreement with Pakistan and invested in its developmental projects. Since the Sino-Indian war of 1962, Pakistan has supported China's claim to sovereignty over Tibet, Xinjiang and Taiwan. Pakistan perceives China not only as a counterweight to India in the region but also to NATO in Afghanistan. Pakistan also serves as a conduit to China's influence in the Middle East.

China's trade and military relations with Iran are also at odds with US foreign policy. While China views Iran as a stable oil and gas exporter, Iran relies on China's veto power to protect it from US-led action in the UNSC. China has also repeatedly refused to impose arms embargo against Iran and abstained from voting on UN sanctions against Iran. Above all, it has engaged in a clandestine nuclear agreement with Iran, assisting its nuclear reactors with technology and supplies. On the other hand, India, which has enjoyed a historical affinity with Iran for centuries, voted against it in the International Atomic Agency in 2005.

If not for US support, Pakistan can collapse and succumb to

balkanization in a matter of months. The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border is largely out of the control of Islamabad. Similarly, the provinces of Sind and Baluchistan have witnessed a resurgence of insurgency and separatism in recent years. A US disgruntled by Pakistan's covert support to Taliban can easily find allies in the Baloch rebels. Moreover, the Baloch nationalists can be positioned as a counter-force against the spread of Al-Qaeda extremism amongst ethnic Pashtuns of the region. An independent Baluchistan can serve US geopolitical interests by providing direct access to the oil lanes of the Persian Gulf.

Pakistan's covert support for terrorism need not surprise any one. What is more surprising is that countries in their war against terror, attempt to win over a failed state on their side. Pakistani leaders have publicly admitted that past governments deliberately nurtured terror groups to achieve short-term tactical goals. The fact that Osama-bin-Laden was found in Abbottabad, just blocks away from the Pakistani Military Academy is enough evidence for this. The CIA chief even went on record to say that involving the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence in the mission to kill Osama could jeopardize the operation. Terrorism is a primary national security concern for India. Many perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attack are believed to be sheltered in Pakistan. Today, for the first time we have enough intelligence with our agencies to prove the alleged links between Al-Qaeda and Pakistani security forces. Therefore, to contain the future growth and expansion of radical extremism, US must seek the support of India as an ally against terror.

What can the US do for India? It is only the US that can legitimize

India's possession of nuclear weapons. While India refused to sign the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), it declared a No First Use nuclear policy after its nuclear tests in 1998. However, this policy is not only detrimental to India's military interests, it is also irrational. If India is confronted by the prospect of a nuclear attack, it will not be able to attack the aggressor in defense. China also pays nominal allegiance to the No First Use Policy. However, many observers question the credibility of the NFU policy advocated by China-a country whose first Chairman wanted mankind to be dead, if not red. Today India's nuclear policy must be guided by "no first use against non-nuclear weapons states", while reserving the right to carry out preemptive strikes. This position is strikingly similar to NATO's policy on the use of nuclear weapons.

Thus, the unprecedented convergence of interests between India and the US can provide a historic opportunity for both the countries to come together. In a potential war between the "West and the rest", the US must set its strategy right and chose its allies carefully. An Indo-US alliance owes its potency to its secrecy. If India openly allies with the US, Pakistan shall be left with no option but to seek China's aid and the stage shall be set for large-scale military confrontation. It would be suicidal for India to make its pact with the US apparent. Thus, whenever India chooses to ally with the US, it must do so tacitly. A sense of reciprocity between the two countries shall prove enough to deter their common enemies.

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Romney's VP

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they would actually agree to join the tickets. Both hold impressive positions, one as Chairman of the House Budget Committee and the other as Governor of a large state, which they may not be willing to drop for an election against a strong incumbent.

More detrimental is the fact that Romney has already made this election tremendously negative. Ryan and Christie have bright futures in the party and they may not be willing to give up their ambitions to join a negative campaign that could potentially ruin their reputations.

It was John Adams who said it best when talking about becoming

the country's first Vice President: "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." Though the position is often overshadowed by the Presidency, it plays an imperative role during the election. Romney lacks the ability to excite the core of the Republican Party, but their excitement will be

the only weapon capable of defeating President Obama. Can Romney convince a heavy hitter like Representative Ryan or Governor Christie to join him on the ticket, or will we see a repeat of the 2008 election?

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national importance? One that our commander-in-chief believes requires national soul searching? One that the Reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson would feel the need to hold rallies for? One that NBC News would feel compelled to edit audio recordings of in order to make the killer sound racist? Then again, would the real events have become a national story had Zimmerman's race been accurately reported as Hispanic rather than white? Would this issue be the leading story of every local news report in the country if

the shooter's name had been Jorge Zimmerman?

Glover demanded, "We have to look at that mentality that says, 'Black? Criminal. Latino? Criminal.'" Is he asking this of Hispanic shooter George Zimmerman? His statement, "The question that we have to look at in regards to Trayvon Martin...is that mentality that says you can use any means possible, whether it's violence, whether it's lies, whatever you want to do in order to disrupt, to kill, and to hurt black people," makes clear the focus of his anger.

For a national comparison, the week the news of Martin's death

became a national issue, Jose Carranza, an illegal immigrant from Peru, was sentenced to 155 years in prison for his role in the sexual assault and execution of three college-aged black friends in Newark, New Jersey. Nary a peep was heard from the national media. Al Sharpton held not a single rally. Or perhaps the murder of 85 year old grandmother Nancy Strait, which occurred the day before Carranza was sentenced? She was raped and beaten to death during a home invasion. Her WWII veteran husband of 65 years was shot in the face with a BB gun and remains on life support. African-American Tyrone Woodfork has

been charged with the killing. No media outcry. If our president's maternal grandmother was still alive, might she look anything like Nancy Strait? Two days later, Obama himself was in Chicago for a campaign fundraiser. That weekend, there were 49 shootings in Chicago. Ten people died. At the time, Rev. Sharpton was in Missouri, fighting to maintain the status quo in which voting in national elections requires showing fewer IDs than does buying a pack of cigarettes.

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