

# the HILSDALE forum

VOLUME V, ISSUE II

*It's beginning to look a lot like...*



# CHRISTMAS!

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its everthing you ever needed to know...and some things you didn't

## Ron Paul's Revolution: how one Libertarian on a mission may just change to the 2008 elections

by NATE ANDERSON &  
MARTIN KRAGEL III

In the Republican field, the whole first tier of candidates consists of a former actor who induces nothing short of lassitude, a flip-flopping Mormon, an aging author of disastrous campaign finance and immigration bills, and a pro-abortion, thrice married, gay defender whose red "R" after his name stands out like the scarlet letter. Room remains for someone—anyone!—who will stand for some true conservative ideals. The eccentric Congressman Ron Paul may meet that desperate longing. However, whether he will ever become someone voters take seriously is another question.

In a primary year characterized by lackluster performances by many of the top Republican candidates and the seemingly inevitability of Hillary Clinton on the Democratic side, Ron Paul has appeared as something of a breath of fresh air and a shot in the arm to the pervasive cynicism surrounding the current political season. His maverick stances, a mixture of libertarianism and Old Right conservatism, along with his candidness and his legions of loyal supporters have all contributed to this effect.

In fact, it has been his supporters that have contributed to Paul's rise in publicity, more than anything the candidate has done. The Ron Paul campaign best understood as the reverse of everything traditionally associated with campaigning. Instead of attempting to woo potential voters with promised handouts, those who identify with Paul on a wide-range of issues have flocked to him instead. Paul's whole race for the presidency thus far has been an example of spontaneous order, where the individual initiative of supporters as independent as the candidate has propelled him forward, especially via the use of the internet, which is becoming more and more important to modern electoral politics.

Paul is also raising big money, largely due to the independent efforts of his supporters. On November 5<sup>th</sup> alone, Paul's supporters donated over \$4 million in a so-called "money-bomb" organized outside the official campaign. The event generated large media attention and marked the biggest single day haul by any Republican thus far in the election. His supporters are planning a similar fundraising event for December 16, in honor of the 1773 "Boston Tea Party," to get 100,000 people to donate \$100 to the campaign that day for a total of \$10 million in a single day. At press time, the effort has garnered over 14,300 pledges. Paul is all ready on track to break his third

quarter totals of \$5.1 million. Additionally, Ron Paul's group on Meetup.com, a social network, has over 60,000 members in over a thousand individual groups nationwide and internationally, far surpassing that of any other candidate in either party.

To acquaint students with the fiercely ideological candidate, the College Republicans and Students for Ron Paul held "Who is Ron Paul?," an informational lecture in Phillips Auditorium, replete with YouTube videos and talks from student Alex Linebrink, Former Congressman Nick Smith and Economics professor Dr. Gary Wolfrum. All of the speakers well represented Dr. Paul's views on subjects ranging from the trade and budget deficits, to the oft-forgotten gold standard. Anyone expecting half-answers and contradictory statements about Dr. Paul's beliefs was presently supported. Unlike most politicians, Paul claims an unabashedly, ideological bedrock libertarianism; this translates for voters that his votes are consistent and his principles are much easier to explain.

Smith, who served with Paul in Congress, said that Paul was not afraid to take unpopular stands in favor of limited government and balancing the federal budget. He said that often he and Paul were part of only a few Republicans standing up to pressure from their leadership to vote on bills against their principles. Smith said he had contributed money to both the Ron Paul and John McCain campaigns, citing them as the most likely candidates to resist special interest groups and lobbyists demanding favors and handouts if they become president. Ron Paul does not accept money from lobbyists or special interest groups.

Dr. Wolfrum, who admitted before the lecture that he supports Mitt Romney for President, still has great admiration for the Dr. Paul's candidacy. "They tend to be more philosophical; they come from both the left and the right... It is conceivable that a person could win" by collecting so many diverse interests. Despite his comments, Dr. Wolfrum knows Mitt Romney much better and has no reservations about his choice. In reference to Ron Paul's enthusiastic following he replied that "he draws people who have strong preference; the intensity of preference for Ron Paul is higher than the other candidates."

Alex Linebrink, who helps lead Hillsdale

Christian officials worldwide call for a boycott against "The Golden Compass," a film they claim openly promotes atheism while disguising the Church as a political and religious dictatorship that "kidnaps" children.

At the age of 69, stuntman Evel Knievel passed away Friday after a long struggle with illness.

A recent Gallup poll shows that 58% of Republicans report being in "excellent" mental health, while only 38% of Democrats can say the same. Cheers to being sane.

The Filipino Veterans Equality Act of 2007, currently on the floor in the House of Representatives (760), seeks to give full veterans benefits to all Filipino veterans of World War II as well as their widows. This, after Democrats voted to cut U.S. veteran's benefits by thousands of dollars earlier this year.

Ice Breaker's new Pacs, have police worried that the candies may be confused for illegal substances. Yes, because small blue bags filled with white powder look nothing like drugs at all.

Sifting through the 5,000+ questions submitted via YouTube, CNN found it necessary to focus the latest Republican debate not on the hard-hitting issues of the economy and healthcare, but instead on the Confederate flag and the Bible.

Federal lawmakers are, once again, seeking to remove all junk food from school cafeterias nationwide in an attempt to keep America's little tykes from getting fat.

After allowing her children to name a classroom teddy bear, Mohammed, authorities sentence British teacher Gillian Gibbons to fifteen days in a notoriously overcrowded prison. Sudanese radicals have since taken to the streets, calling for the immediate execution of Gibbons.

On Sunday night The Spice Girls preformed together again for the first time since disbanding in the late 90s.

A Boston firefighter who claimed that he had found rope and a hate note now admits that he planted the evidence. However, according to the ACLU, he is still the victim.

Oprah Winfrey has joined Barack Obama on his campaign trail, promising visits to Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatens to cut off the United State's supply of crude oil should anyone question Sunday's vote over whether or not to make him president for life. (the measures did not pass)

In an attempt to capitalize on illegal immigration, one Los Angeles company is pitching a reality show entitled "Who Wants to Marry a U.S. Citizen?" to network executives. Thus far, they have enough contestants for six episodes.

After a whirlwind year, Ohio State University and Louisiana State University will take on one another in this year's BCS championship game. This selection comes after both West Virginia and Missouri lost Saturday

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*The Hillsdale Forum* is a student publication distributed four times throughout the school year.

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# The Corporation's Purpose

by DAVE WASMER

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) while it may sound like a trendy marketing buzzword, it is instead a very real ideological threat: since 2000, nearly \$18 million has been given in grants by the State Department for the promotion of corporate social responsibility strategies in companies from developing nations. Throughout the U.S., companies are scrambling to draw up CSR policies of their own, in an effort to keep a "socially responsible" image. But is this idea worthy of attention? Essentially, corporate social responsibility means a corporation has an ethical responsibility to "give back" to the community, in order to advance social and environmental causes. The idea is commonly associated with the environmentalist ideology, or progressive movements aimed at helping the poor and improving working conditions. The idea has good intentions, but a fundamentally flawed basis. The sole purpose for the existence of a corporation is to generate profit. Corporations are simply associations of individual shareholders who invest in the company and hire executives to manage it for them. Corporate social responsibility, however, says that it is the inherent responsibility of the

corporation to work towards larger social goals. That statement is flawed on face value alone. A corporation is an artificial legal body; it is inanimate, it has no will of its own, and therefore cannot bear any responsibilities. If CSR is to stand up to any scrutiny, the responsibility it speaks of must be intended to fall on the shoulders of the executive management, those best able to singly lead the company. The problem here is the purpose for which the executive is hired: to make a profit, not advance an ideological cause, however laudable the end result. Executives are free to donate money and lend support to these causes, if such time and efforts come out of their own pocket. To divert company resources to CSR policies in the pursuit of goals beyond mere profit is both irresponsible and unethical. The corporate executive is not the boss of the company - the shareholders are. He is their employee, their subordinate, and the shareholders have made their wishes perfectly clear. The executive is employed to maximize profit, and that is his first priority. If the shareholders intended to further social causes, they could do so privately and individually, via donations to charity or

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# FLAMING LIBERTY

EMILIA HUNEKE-BERGQUIST

While images of the American flag engulfed in flames typically conjures up thoughts of terrorism, rebels, and violence—students at the University of Maine can envision a better grade.

In, this, the latest example of liberal professionals talking liberties to the extreme, Associate Professor Paul Grosswiler openly offered extra credit to any student in his mass communications class who burned the flag, constitution, or got arrested while exhibiting free speech. His justification of such an offer? "It is not about the flag, it is about free expression."

As Grosswiler's tirade continued, he complained that free speech no longer existed in America because "the Republican administration has made it all but illegal." Rebekah McDade, a sophomore enrolled in the course, was the first to complain of bias in the classroom, thus, bringing the case into the media spotlight.

With this, Grosswiler joins the likes of Ward Churchill, Gene Nichol (president of William & Mary), and Mary Coleman (University of Michigan's president), who are all people of honor and distinction that have decided to take privilege beyond reality. It is seriously doubtful that, as they wrote the Constitution, our Forefathers allowed us said rights to that we may send our children to institutions that so blatantly flout them.

When did it become okay to burn the American flag, and not okay to for students at an anti-terrorism rally in San Francisco to step on printed images of the Hezbollah and Hamas flags?

Our country cannot afford the ideals of freedom of speech and equality to become disproportionate in importance. Placing one above another with do nothing but result in the continued downward spiral of the United States as a whole. May we always remember the importance of the Bill of Rights as an entire document, and put an immediate cease to the continued dissection of our core values and beliefs.

# Glory to the Goddesses:

*America's cultural journey from housewife to harlot, and why we were the catalysts*

by MATT COLE

Women are God's greatest creation. Unfortunately throughout the years the respect and praise these glorious beings deserve has slowly deteriorated, and women are now forced to tolerate the pathetic position in which society has placed them.

Do not misunderstand; I am certainly not suggesting we need another women's rights movement, on the contrary, I would argue the women's rights movement has single handily caused the most damage to the reputation of women. Women should not want to be like men, but rather we as a society must redefine what it means to be female so that once again being a woman can be a point of pride.

This cannot take place until men's perception of women changes. Far too many men see women only as sexual objects and personal maids, expecting them to be silent, dutiful and obedient. The way men speak of women behind closed doors is absolutely repulsive and their expectations are often unachievable.

Such demands have caused many women to degrade themselves, taking part in prostitution, pornography, pre-marital sex, and abusive relationships. Men have so tainted what a woman should be, that many females have begun to buy into this image, rationalizing the way men treat them.

As if men haven't put enough pressure

on women, the feminist culture has condemned women for wanting to be housewives and mothers, claiming such occupations are neither respectable nor demanding. I can not think of a nobler career. Caring for her husband and children, cooking, cleaning, and numerous other tasks are incredibly taxing, and I have nothing but admiration for such women willing to accept the



call, putting their aspirations aside and sacrificing for the family.

Although not all women are designed to be wives and mothers, which of course is completely okay, there is something special and prestigious about the domestic occupation, and women

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who dare to take on the challenge should be honored for their dedication and commitment to such a noble task.

Raising a child is an extremely important and difficult undertaking, and it is a full time job to be a good mother. Child rearing is taken far too lightly and

many of today's youth are lacking proper parenting. Preparing future generations to run our country is an incredibly dignified and vital profession.

Although the man is the head of the family, it is the woman who is the base and support of the family. A man can barely care for himself, let alone a family, and it is the strength of a woman that holds the family together. Although it tends to be men who hold the spotlight in society, every great man has an even greater woman lifting him up, and without her he would be nothing.

While men must be the breadwinners of the household and support the family financially, women have to support the emotional needs of the family, dealing with the trivial things of life. Cleaning spilled cheerios, washing dirty dishes, and listening to family member's bad day stories, often goes overlooked, but these are truly important deeds that should be acknowledged much more often.

Society must stop thinking of women as compliant servants, and begin to realize that in a relationship the woman is the complementary counterpart of man, rather than a burden to his image. While the book of Ephesians calls women to submit to their husbands, it also calls for men to love their wives as they love themselves. Therefore, men should cherish their wives, and although having the final say in decisions, men must recognize the equally valid contributions women can add to decision

making.

For all that women accomplish, men need to begin to recognize the amazing work they do. Furthermore, men should not expect women to do everything on their own. I honestly look forward to washing dishes side by side, being a good father to my children, cooking for a change, doing my fair share of housework, and of course showering my future wife with love, spoiling her every chance I get. Not viewing her as a trophy, but most certainly putting her on a pedestal, I will want everyone to know how amazing she is and how much I love her.

Women need to be acknowledged as the heavenly creatures they are. Men ought to respect a woman's mind and body at all times, both when they are with her and when they are with their friends. The



feminists need to allow women the freedom to feel comfortable taking up the call of being a mother and housewife, if they so choose. While it may be a long time before society removes women from the derogatory position they have placed them in, I would personally like to thank all of the women who have risen above our culture's pitiful standards, refusing to degrade themselves with man's biddings, and embracing their

womanhood. Let me be the first to acknowledge your greatness.



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## I think, therefore I vote Republican

~~Slavery.~~ ~~Holocaust.~~ ~~Abortion~~ **Two Down. One to Go**

**A patriot must be ready to defend his country against his government**

Edward Abbey

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# American Interest

by STEPHANI FRANCL

GUEST COLUMNIST

Americans do not fear political interest groups. They abound in our nation. Every citizen ought to have an interest in politics, and that they form groups to support their interests is nothing new. In fact, we encourage them. We proudly state, via bumper stickers, t-shirts, and email forwards, that we support the National Right to Life or the NRA or whatever other interest group with which we align. James Madison recognizes in Federalist 10 that such differences of view, what he calls factions, will indeed arise in a free country. "Liberty is to faction," he says, "what air is to fire, an aliment, without which it instantly expires."

While he acknowledges that they will exist, Madison believes the America would be a better place without factions. In fact, Madison defines factions as a negative thing. He calls them groups that "are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community." Factions are groups who want to move against individual rights or the community as a whole.

This is certainly not what we think of when we think of our token interest groups, be they conservative, liberal or otherwise. We buy into the ideals of our own interest groups because we identify with them on some personal, moral basis. Right-to-lifers believe, we hear so often, in the sanctity of human life; the ACLU advocates individual rights; the NRA defends our Second Amendment rights. Whether due to passion or reason, each person who supports these interest groups does so because they believe there is some positive reason for identifying with it, not an "adverse" reason.

Interest groups or factions come about as liberty and reason combine. In the American social contract, each citizen has the liberty and obligation to affect the local community and the society as a whole for the good. We do this most obviously in the voting booth where we get to choose our representatives. All we have to do is use our reason to form an opinion about how things in our community and society could be improved. Then we use our liberty to express that opinion in the voting booth. What could be easier? And why do we not all arrive at the same opinion? Do we not all want improvement and betterment?

It is on this point that the Founders surpassed all other political foundings. They understood the nature of man well enough to know that, as Dr. Bauman points out to his

Intro to Western Religion students, each of us is at fault at some point in our beliefs. We don't all agree because as fallen humans, our reason is imperfect. Madison writes, "As long as the reason of man continues fallible, and he is at liberty to exercise it, different opinions will be formed."

We live in a political system where men form different opinions, in turn forming various interest groups that then attempt to influence the governance of our nation for what they each deem is good. So what? Big deal.

Yes. Big deal. As we each buy into the ideas of our favorite interest groups, we must be wary of the faults in reason that may appear within each group. Even what we deem as the best of them may fail to do the best thing in a given situation.

Case in point: the Religious Right. Yes. I fear that the Religious Right may be unknowingly moving unsuspecting conservatives toward a more tyrannical regime.

In October, many of the Religious Right big wigs and leading presidential candidates got together in Washington DC for a summit. The conservative religious leaders laid out their priorities and their platform as members of the religious right. Presidential hopefuls attempted to persuade those highly influential religious leaders in attendance that their candidacy would uphold the moral planks of the platform better than any other candidacy.

Following the summit, The American Spectator reported that Dr. James Dobson, one of the key leaders of the religious right movement, was prepared to back presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee.

I learned this from a woman from my church who, after hearing about Dobson's supposed endorsement, immediately began encouraging all around her to look into Huckabee as "our candidate" for the 2008 election. I was skeptical and began to look into Huckabee as a candidate. Various articles about Huckabee indicated that perhaps he wasn't the "consistent conservative" he claimed to be. I was especially disheartened to read in John Fund's Oct. 26 Opinion Journal article. In it he sites Betsy Hagan, Huckabee's "No. 1 fan," who claimed, "he was pro-life and pro-gun, but otherwise a liberal [during his time as governor of Arkansas]."

Later that week I heard Dobson give a statement about the Spectator article. Dobson said that he did not intend to back Huckabee, but rather that he would not vote for a candidate who did not have a solid pro-life record. He stated that not all the Republican

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# the HILSDALE forum's guide to a Conservative Christmas

Everyone has been to a party that was utterly ruined after some dunce decided to bring up politics, and now that the holiday party season is upon us--it becomes all the more important to pick out token liberals from a distance. Need help? Well, take a look around:

## Republicans : Democrats

say "Merry Christmas"	say "Happy Holidays"
help the poor by giving \$50 to the Salvation Army	help the poor by giving \$50, one buck at a time, to panhandlers on the street
re-wrap the fruitcakes and send them to their in-laws	give their Republican friends fruitcake for Christmas
buy their kids guns for Christmas	refuse to buy guns, period. (which is why their kids pretend to shoot things with dolls)
make their children wait until Christmas morning to open gifts	let their kids open everything on Christmas Eve

And now something that everyone can enjoy...

- The Supreme Court ruled there cannot be a Nativity scene in Washington, D.C. this Christmas. This isn't for any religious or constitutional reason, they simply have not been able to find three wise men and a virgin in the nation's capitol. There was no problem however finding enough asses to fill the stable.
- This year, purchasing the twelve days of Christmas for your loved one will set you back \$78,100. The 4% increase over last year's price is blamed upon the rising costs of food as well as renegotiated wages.

### -HOT APPLE CIDER-

1 GALLON OF APPLE JUICE  
20 CLOVES  
AN ORANGE  
CINNAMON STICKS

BRING THE APPLE JUICE TO A BOIL WITH THE CLOVES AND ORANGE PEEL. BREW FOR 20 MINUTES. POUR CIDER AND GARNISH WITH CINNAMON STICK.

### -CANDY CANE BARK-

1 BOX OF CRUSHED CANDY CANES  
1 BAG OF MILK CHOCOLATE CHIPS  
1 BAG OF WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS  
MILK

MELT THE TWO BAGS OF CHIPS IN SEPARATE SAUCEPANS, THEN BLEND IN CANDY CANES. SPREAD THE MIXTURES OVER A GREASED COOKIE SHEET AND ALLOW TO COOL. BREAK AND EAT.

### -WINTER COCOA-

3 TABLESPOONS OF COCOA POWDER  
1/4 CUP SUGAR  
4 CUPS MILK  
1/4 TEASPOON VANILLA  
MINIATURE MARSHMALLOWS

BLEND COCOA AND SUGAR WHILE BRINGING MILK TO A BOIL—MIX TOGETHER, STIRRING UNTIL IT DISSOLVES. ADD VANILLA AND MARSHMALLOWS.

## the HILSDALE forum's Christmas Wishlist

- 1.) The Hilary Clinton nutcracker doll
- 2.) Disappearing Civil Liberties mug
- 3.) The Political Circus Coloring Book (+crayons)
- 4.) Axis of Evil finger puppets
- 5.) Ann Coulter talking action figure
- 6.) Round-Trip tickets to 2008 RNC in St. Paul/ Minneapolis
- 7.) Cash
- 8.) Fine Cigars and Liquor
- 9.) Conservative book club membership
- 10.) Family and Friends



# MITT ROMNEY: CONSERVATIVE OR CONTRIVED?

by CALVIN FREIBURGER

The main argument against Gov. Mitt Romney's bid for the Republican presidential nomination is the claim that Romney, like fellow Massachusetts presidential candidate John Kerry, is a political chameleon without core beliefs, a man who takes stands on polls rather than principle.

This critique stems from two primary factors: Romney's slick, "manufactured" public demeanor, and widely-publicized discrepancies between his past and current positions on prominent issues. Reactions to style may ultimately be subjective, but a partial look at Romney's record offers an invaluable guide to his politics.

Romney has never run as anything but

a conservative. On February 1, Politico.com's Jonathan Martin posted a pamphlet from the '94 Senate race in which Romney outlines (with the glaring exception of abortion) an unmistakably-conservative platform, including capital punishment, stricter qualifications for welfare, holding taxes down, tougher measures against illegal immigration, and school vouchers. As governor he advocated similar principles, as well as took a proactive role against same-sex marriage and, though still pro-choice, opposed efforts to expand emergency contraception and embryonic stem cell research.

What to make of all this? A few things factor in Romney's favor. Taken individually, each explanation is certainly possible, and his

overall record is solidly conservative. Also, though he is the son of former Michigan Gov. George Romney and onetime Senate candidate Lenore Romney, Mitt himself is a relative newcomer to politics, and it stands to reason that greater immersion within the Republican base has helped him reinforce conservative instincts and crystallize underdeveloped views. As Romney told Massachusetts Citizens for Life on May 10, "I am evidence that your work [...] bears fruit."

Most importantly, it's in the interest of any political movement to promote its ideas by embracing and rewarding conversion to those ideas. The purpose of debate is to win hearts and minds, after all, and it defies logic to shun new allies. Do any conservatives seriously wish Romney still supported abortion

or McCain-Feingold? Does the Right seriously want a deadline for when people are allowed to join the cause? There's a strong case to be made that Romney has earned the chance to at least prove his sincerity.

If our goal is a surefire, no-strings-attached conservative candidate, then the 2008 field is unquestionably a letdown. But if we examine the entirety of Mitt Romney's resume, and contrast it with his competitors, we'll see a veteran executive with impeccable personal morals, running on an ambitious conservative agenda. The Right could certainly do far worse.

## ROMNEY'S "FLIP-FLOPS"

### *Abortion*

Romney freely acknowledges a change in his position; during the August 7 primary debate, he said being pro-choice was the biggest mistake of his life, "That was just wrong." He now calls for the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* and expresses hope that American public opinion will someday support nationwide legal protection for the unborn. Romney attributes his past to a relative's death by illegal abortion and his conversion to a 2004 exhibit on the science behind embryonic stem cell research. It is easy to see how the power of each experience could influence one's perspective.

### *Campaign Finance Reform*

In 1994, Romney proposed campaign spending caps and abolishing PACs, and in 2002 suggested taxing 10% of candidates' private fundraising to fund public campaigns. But at the 2007 Conservative Political Action Conference, he vowed to, "I will fight to repeal McCain-Feingold," and on April 25, he wrote against the campaign finance law at Townhall.com.

### *Homosexuality*

In 1994 Romney suggested same-sex marriage be left to individual state decision, and infamously vowed to be a stronger defender of "gay rights" than Kennedy, but as governor he led the campaign against same-sex marriage. In his defense, recent years have seen a rash of court-imposed marriage redefinitions which threaten to undermine the laws of other states—a clear indication that marriage cannot merely be a state issue. Also, conservatives should welcome the opportunity to remind the public that equality for gay individuals is not synonymous with changing society's definition of marriage. Currently, Romney is the only top-tier candidate who supports the Federal Marriage Amendment.

### *Immigration*

In 1994 he promised tougher measures against illegal immigration than Kennedy, and as governor opposed in-state tuition and drivers' licenses for illegals. He also authorized Massachusetts State Police to arrest illegals (though his successor, Deval Patrick, revoked the order soon afterward). Today—Romney condemns amnesty and sanctuary cities while supporting a border fence, national IDs, and stricter employment verification.

INTEREST FROM PAGE 5  
candidates had pro-life records, but that he was not backing any one candidate for the 2008 election.

Dobson's statement encouraged me. I am proud to be a pro-life, pro-2<sup>nd</sup>-Amendment, pro-social responsibility, anti-gay marriage conservative. I have used my reason to determine that it is the right thing to be, and I can be a conservative because I have the liberty in this country to follow my reason. And I do not want a liberal who is merely in favor of guns and against abortion to be in the White House.

I want a President who understands the role of the President as outlined in the Constitution. I want a President who is unafraid to protect and live by the Constitution he swears to uphold. I want a President who embodies the cardinal virtues: temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice. I want a whole person to be President, not merely a one-issue person.

I am encouraged that Dobson is choosing not to endorse any one candidate. It shows that he does not want to merely make the choice for the thousands who would undoubtedly follow his lead. He wants the American political system to work the way it was designed to work: individuals evaluating a candidate as a whole and using their

reason to make what they believe is the best decision. Dobson's major values are life and the family, and while he is not afraid to point out candidates that stand against those, he will not make a decision for anyone else about which of the candidates should be voted into office. It is up to us to discern the good from the bad.

Publius says in the Federalist Papers that the cause of factions cannot be removed; they are "sown in the nature of man." We must live with the various interest groups attempting to win our favor. In fact, it's even a good thing that we must live with them. But it would be a mistake to determine our President based merely on the support of one interest group.

We live in a great nation. We have inherited it from great men. But we must be wary of the factions which, albeit with good morals and intentions, may lead us astray from viewing a candidate as a whole man. The candidate we vote into office in 2008 we will get lock, stock and barrel. May the best candidate win.

A 2007 graduate of Hillsdale College, Stephani Franci is now the Research Assistant to the President and can be reached at [sfranci@hillsdale.edu](mailto:sfranci@hillsdale.edu)

# Political Science & Economics:

## Why when it comes to big government, they go hand-in-hand

by BRIAN JOHNSTON

Today's "culture wars" focus largely on what role government has in regulating people's lives. Can the government force citizens to be moral? Or should we have as much freedom as possible? Will citizens, left on their own, make the right decisions? Both political science and economics address these questions, but neither can fully answer them. But perhaps we can draw from both.

Political science is more abstract than economics. It attempts to determine what justice is, how to have good government, and how to make the people wise and virtuous. Economics attempts to look at people in their everyday situations and studies their incentives to help them make good practical decisions. Thus, while political science often studies "what ought to be," economics looks at "the way things are."

Many people today who are conservative in the political sense believe in what Russell Kirk called a "transcendent moral order." They typically support outlawing substance abuse, pornography, gay marriage, and other such actions. The conservative view of economics holds that government's economic intervention through high taxes, income redistribution, and heavy regulation stifles economic progress rather than improving it. Mainstream conservatism today typically holds to these two philosophies. However, those who are libertarians apply the same limited government philosophy to morals as well, claiming that the government is ineffective in guiding people's moral decisions.

An understanding in economics in general and of libertarianism in particular is beneficial in determining whether the government should get involved in "legislating morality." Just as government cannot make financial decisions for people as well as people can themselves, perhaps government cannot help people determine what is moral, either.

Libertarian Murray Rothbard stated that forcing humans to be moral "would in reality deprive men of the very possibility of being moral. The concept 'morality' makes no sense unless the moral act is freely chosen."

Those who hold this libertarian view of morals do not necessarily believe that there are no moral standards. However, this view understands that human nature is flawed and that people's actions, not just in economics, but in morality, are based on incentives and choices. While many of the Founders recognized that slavery was immoral, they realized that immediate abolition and fiery rhetoric against slavery would split the Union, likely allowing slavery to flourish in the South much longer than it already did. Abraham Lincoln later realized this while trying to hold the Union together.

We can apply this to situations we face today. For example, a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage will not solve the issue of gay rights. In fact, it may cause more discord and severely divide our country. Outlawing substance abuse does not end substance abuse. In fact, it causes those who want such narcotics to buy them on the black market, where they are much more dangerous, and where violence is often used to solve disputes.

Thus, just as many dangerous government solutions to economic problems appear good on the surface, so attempts to regulate morals can have the same effect. However, one major flaw in the study of economics is the tendency to view people's actions from a purely economic perspective. People are not motivated only by their economic interests, and Marxism is an example of what can happen when we think along these lines. Even in America, the bureaucratic state has grown massively in the name of economic justice, but this has simply caused the fight over wealth to shift from the private to the public sector,

with enormous injustice as a result.

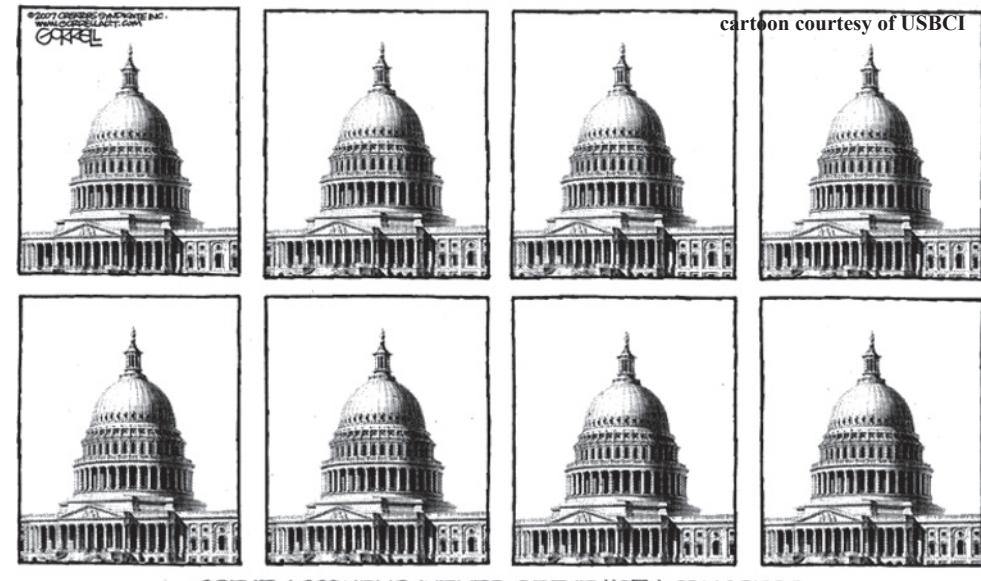
Basic economics teaches that people will continue to take actions as long as they become better off, while they will not take actions that will make themselves worse off. It would be nice to think that we will always think in such rational economic terms, but human nature being what it is, temporary passions will often distort our better judgment. It must be taken into account that people will not always act in their best interests, especially if they have bad intentions, but even if they have good ones.

This is especially important since our government has degenerated into mob rule. The Founders were afraid of pure democracy, and they established a representative republic that filters out the passions of the people, emphasizing deliberation and reason. Over time, the people have seen no reason why they should not have as much direct involvement in government as possible. Politicians are unable to resist this, and today the majority gets whatever it wants. This has led to employing short-term solutions with bad long-term consequences, such as minimum wage laws and "soaking the rich" through taxes.

Economics also teaches that people will cooperate because it is necessary for each person to make themselves better off, but this will

not totally prevent disputes from arising, not only between individuals, but between nations as well. In *Federalist 6*, Alexander Hamilton criticizes those who believe that "the spirit of commerce has a tendency to soften the manners of men, and to extinguish those inflammable humors which have so often kindled into wars.... Has commerce hitherto done any thing more than change the objects of war? Is not love of wealth as domineering and enterprising a passion as that of power or glory?" In *Federalist 7*, Hamilton observes "that there is nothing men differ so readily about as the payment of money."

Thus, an understanding of both political science and economics is beneficial for determining the proper role of government. Government should not be in the business of regulating private morality. Such measures may be appealing at first, but the long-term consequences could create a much worse situation. However, it is naïve to believe that economics will solve all our problems. The "sovereign consumer" cannot always be trusted to make the right decisions, and therefore it is necessary to have a government that will properly restrain people's harmful passions. It is therefore important for Americans to recognize the proper balance between the government and its citizens.



# the Government Should Regulate the Weather

(a satire)

by G. STOLYAROV II

I grow tired of chaotic, unpredictable, and wildly fluctuating weather conditions. Left to its own devices, the weather produces nothing but sustained inequality and frustration for all. Therefore, in accordance with the rising tide of public opinion in support of government-imposed climate controls, I would like to take an already popular idea one step further. I believe that the federal government should impose regulations on all weather within the boundaries of the United States under the following plan:

1. In accordance with the principle of universal equality, the temperature in all locations of the country will henceforth be made equal; the government will accomplish this by a massive redistribution of heat from warmer locations to cooler locations.

2. The temperature in all locations shall henceforth be fixed at 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Global warming and global cooling are to be entirely outlawed. If the weather refuses to cooperate with these requirements, fines will be imposed on it in proportion to its deviation from the legal temperature. These fines are expected to be sufficient to fund the remainder of the proposals outlined here.

3. Every location in the country will henceforth receive an equal amount of precipitation at precisely the same time during the day. No location shall be permitted to have more water than any other location, and any person shown to possess water in excess of the permitted quota will be fined \$5000 for every liter of water possessed.

4. All unfair and monopolistic combinations of weather, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, snowstorms, thunderstorms, warm spells, cool spells, and other apparent schemes of collusion among elements in the Earth's atmosphere are henceforth outlawed. By order of the federal courts, each of these weather combinations can be dissolved into smaller components that will be spread evenly throughout the country.

This plan is surely in accordance with our

ever-present drive for equal opportunity in all areas of life. Why should farmers in cooler regions deal with shorter growing seasons than farmers in warmer areas? Would it not be to our advantage to equalize growing seasons everywhere so as to achieve a level playing field?

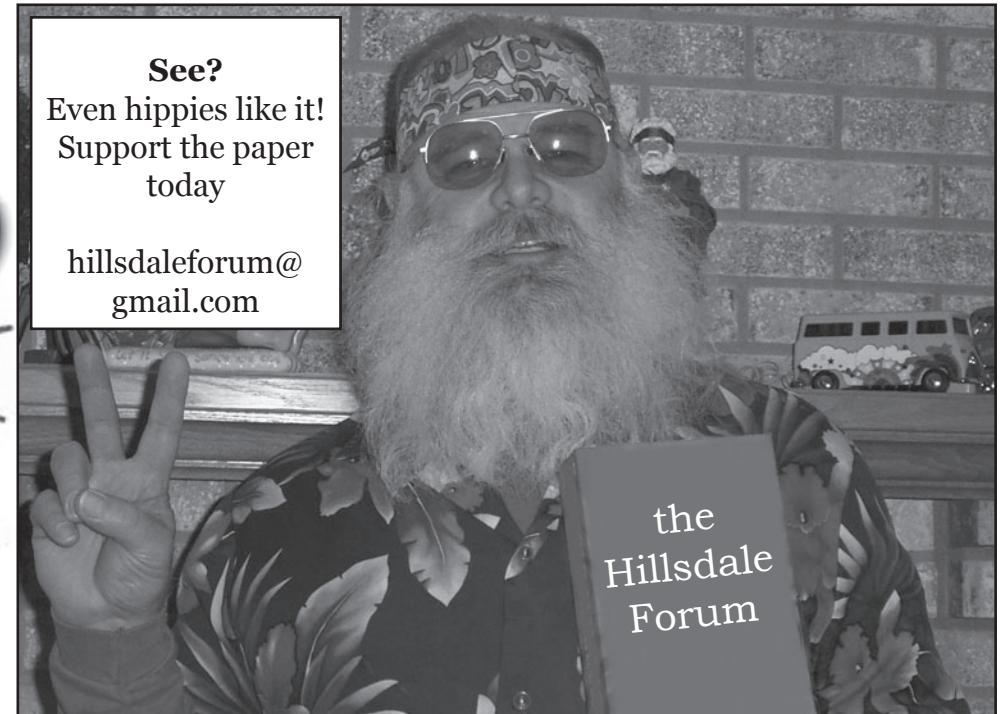
By equalizing the weather throughout the country, the government can give all individuals an identical physical environment to live and work in, therefore eliminating unfair advantages some people might receive by living in a climate which is more favorable to their development than others. If an Inuit in Alaska wishes to grow peaches or a Hawaiian seeks to open a sweater-selling shop in mid-July, they should be permitted to do so without experiencing discomforts or handicaps. The weather should not be allowed to discriminate against people based on characteristics such as geographical location and lack of foresight. If the weather persists in denying equal opportunity to all Americans, it shall, again, be fined.

Some might object to this proposal, contending that the government cannot violate natural laws, namely, the laws of physics and chemistry that determine weather patterns. Yet this objection is without merit, for past evidence has amply demonstrated that the government can and does attempt to violate natural laws: *the laws of economics, the laws of ethics, the laws of logic, the law of cause and effect, and the supreme law of the land, the U. S. Constitution.* Adding the laws of physics and chemistry to that list is fully in accord with the unlimited right of politicians to redefine the elements of external reality to suit their own ends.

In our noble efforts as a society to afford legally enforced equality to everything, we shall finally be rid of the ghastly climate inequality which plagues our country. Gone will be the days of climate-based oppression, where one class of individuals unfairly exploits advantageous weather opportunities at the expense of everybody else. Let us march on to a brighter tomorrow, under the auspices of benevolent leaders who will finally enable the weather to conform to the principles of social justice.

See?  
Even hippies like it!  
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today

hillsdaleforum@gmail.com



## -College Republican Corner-

by KATHERINE MONTGOMERY

Even though election season was relatively uneventful in Michigan this year, we must not forget that the Presidential election is less than a year away. On November 4th, 2008 Americans will elect the new leader of the free world. The Hillsdale College Republicans will be hard at work next fall, making sure that the GOP will be victorious over Hillary, Obama, or whomever else the Dems may throw our way.

In the mean time, we are trying our best to keep you educated throughout the primary season. We refuse to endorse any one candidate throughout the primary because we represent all Republicans here on campus. When contacted by the various campaigns, we alert our members of any opportunities we are offered. For example, we helped sponsor a "Who Is Ron Paul" event in coordination with Hillsdale College Students for Ron Paul and local Paul supporters. The Romney campaign has used our campus for phone booths, and we have informed our members of when the various candidates are visiting the greater Hillsdale area, such as when Senator John

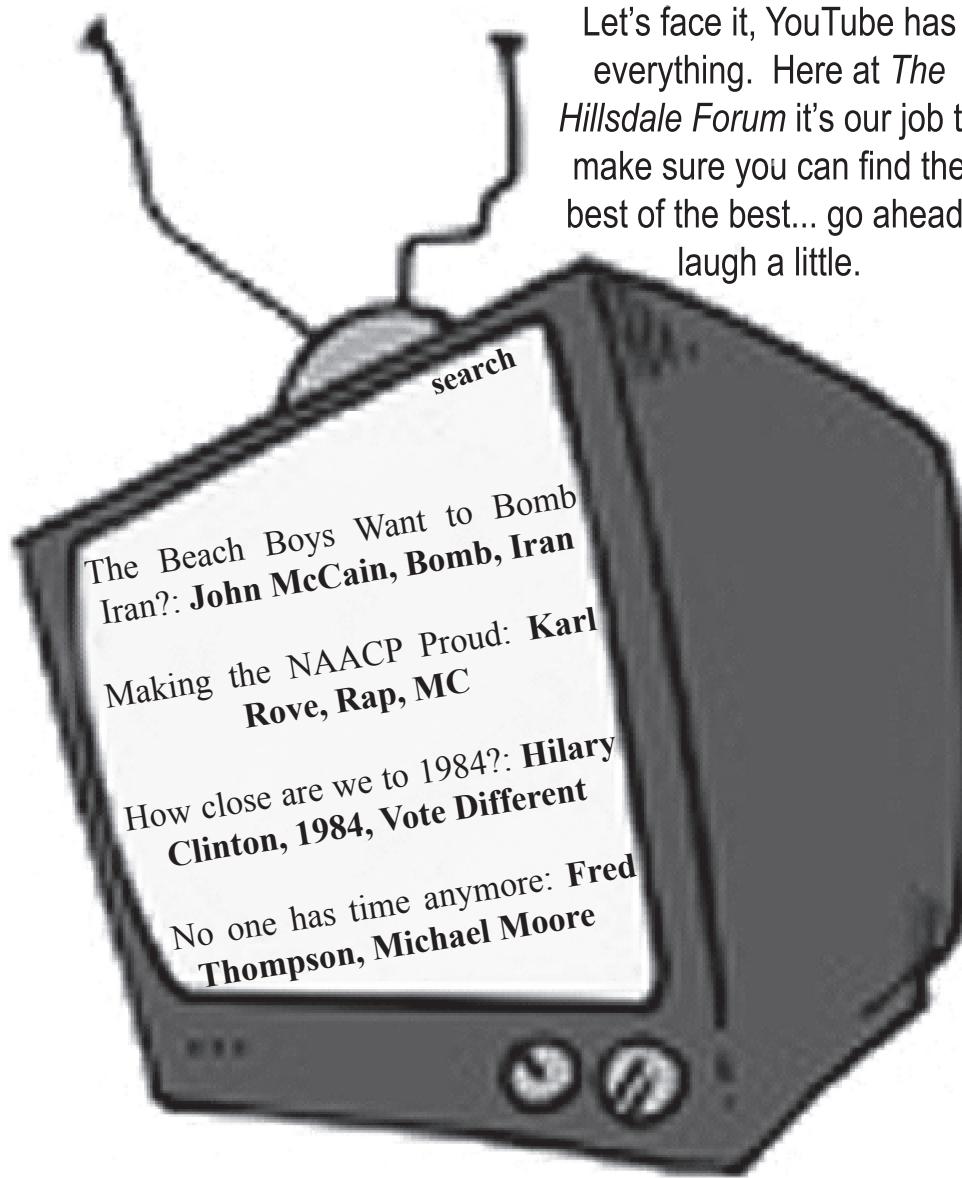
McCain was recently in Jackson.

Besides the primaries, there are many other methods of getting involved in conservative politics via the College Republicans. Recently, we met with the Hillsdale Republican Women and the Students For Life for a presentation on stem cell research. A support our troops event and conservative movie night are currently in the works, and will have occurred by the publication of this issue.

So what can you do? Get involved! Take a moment and send a quick email to [hillsdalegop@gmail.com](mailto:hillsdalegop@gmail.com) if you would like to receive regular emails concerning our upcoming events. Our executive board and leadership team are currently organizing t-shirt and fundraising committees, and we would love to get input from the entire student body.

We are already working on bringing new and exciting speakers to campus next semester, and would like to send a group of students to Washington D.C. for the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February. Now is the time to get involved, so you can fully enjoy all of the excitement that 2008 will bring!

## Found on YouTube:



Let's face it, YouTube has everything. Here at *The Hillsdale Forum* it's our job to make sure you can find the best of the best... go ahead, laugh a little.

### CSR FROM PAGE 2

lobbying interests, or express their desire publicly via a shareholder vote for certain policies. But for an executive to act unilaterally with the shareholder's investment to promote social causes would be an unethical breach of his contract. Yet, many modern companies widely advertise their CSR policies. It is perhaps a cheap way to gain credible PR and to appear as an "ethically responsible" corporation in an age when distrust of corporations extends to the very root of societal thought. The American people certainly seem to be falling for it, at least. The success of this ruse hints at a wider trend in the thought of society, one that threatens free markets. "It saves the environment!" or, "It will improve working conditions!" are rallying cries for ideas such as corporate social responsibility. Putting aside the effectiveness of CSR policies at achieving these ends, this justification for corporate social

responsibility boils down to an ends-justifying-means argument. Because the end result is well intentioned, the means to achieve such ends, even if it involves an unethical breach of contract, are thereby justified. This growing trend in public belief represents a dangerous threat to both free markets and freedom as a whole. The CSR ends-justifying-means argument is the mere tip of an iceberg. Below these visible policies is the whole realm of socialism. If the government says it can control the economy better than the market forces and private parties, than private property and freedom will be things of the past. CSR policies are tell-tale signs of steps towards this mindset, and ultimately, towards socialism. If this nation is to avoid such a trend, our society must be careful to give a wide berth to this dangerous idea, and let corporations stay true to their real purpose: to maximize shareholder profit.

## Some Must See Holiday Movies:

Never let it be just a boring night in with the family, curl up with cocoa and one of these holiday classics....

..... A Christmas Story \*

..... A Muppet Christmas Carol \*

..... White Christmas \*

..... Miracle on 34th Street \*

..... Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer & Frosty the Snowman \*

..... It's a Wonderful Life \*

..... The Santa Claus \*

..... Jingle All the Way

### RON PAUL FROM PAGE 2

Students for Ron Paul, attributes Ron Paul's success to a kind of group intelligence that sees in Ron Paul's campaign a vehicle for change, and also to the tireless efforts of Paul's supporters to promote their candidate. "The media is pushing everyone else; the people have to push Dr. Paul," said Linebrink.

Not surprisingly, the Students for Ron Paul now claims around 80 members, according to Linebrink. Linebrink credits the group's relative success to the fact that, in one sense, "Paul is as 'Hillsdalian' as they come. Hillsdale College is all about freedom from restriction by the federal government... This is exactly what Ron Paul wants to do - return power to the individual to choose for him or herself." Such a statement requires dispensing of the deeply traditional view of a government, capable of acting as a positive good. However, like many economics oriented students, distressed by today's Leviathan, he argues that "the expression of a

healthy society can only truly take place in a politic based on democracy and protecting of the unhampered free market that results from an allowance of absolute personal liberty."

Despite the fact that Hillsdale students are invariably ready to cry 'to hell with government,' at the mention of PC laws or tax increases, many have well-founded reservations about supporting Dr. Paul. The most notable aspect of Congressman's Smith's lecture was not what he had to say about Dr. Paul but the gaps in his description of the candidate. He made absolutely no mention of his foreign policy views. Dr. Paul stands as the only Republican candidate to vote against the Iraq War, and many conservatives interpret his Washingtonian rhetoric about foreign entanglements and dangerous alliances as a surefire way of emboldening Islamo-fascists.

Freshman Emily Birchmier said she supported Paul because "he is not only returning to the Republican Party roots of

limited government and fiscal freedom, but also to the Founding Father's vision for the country. He is the only candidate who is willing to restrict the government to upholding the Constitution. He is also one of the few politicians who is willing to put good economic sense over what makes sense politically." She said she intends to vote for him in the upcoming Republican Caucus in her home state of Iowa and will encourage her friends, family and neighbors to do likewise.

It remains to be seen whether Ron Paul actually has a chance of winning the Republican nomination, though pollster John Zogby said he could see Paul getting as much as "15-18%" in some primary states. However, regardless of whether or not he wins, Ron Paul is certainly making an impact in America by promoting renewed interest in the message of freedom.



## WHY 30 GRAMS OF FAT IS GOOD FOR THE POOR.

interventions like tariffs and trade barriers that keep the market from distributing food.

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Just ask June Arungo, a Nairobi college student who grew up in Kenya. June was one of 20,000 pitted against a group of American college students protesting globalization and the World Trade Organization.

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