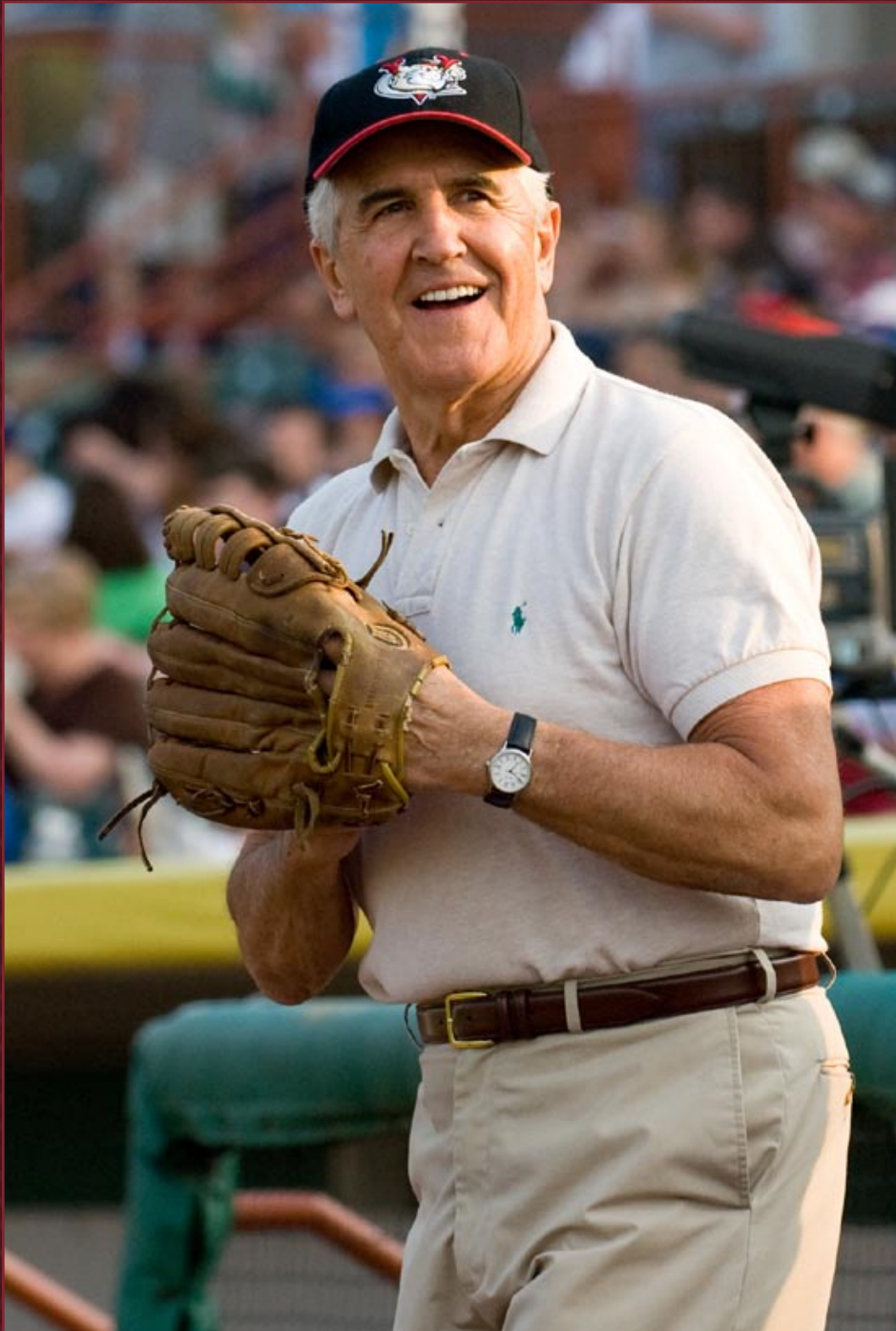


The Record

New York's Republican



Joe Bruno

The legendary New York State Senate Majority Leader speaks out about the importance of a new Republican resurgence in New York and the benefits of being politically active.

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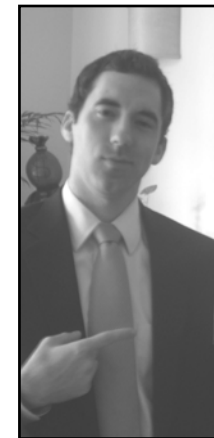
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Around the City...

Commentary from the Editor



Dollar Man, or McCain with renewed focus on fiscal responsibility.

With inexperienced Barack releasing his trillion dollar economic plan and Hillary believing that she is entitled to our paychecks, the framing of this election is highly in favor of McCain.

However, and I cannot stress this enough, we need to unite behind our candidate. This is going to be a very tough fight and if you feel as I do, you're chomping on the bit ready to fight for the Presidency. Don't listen to those yapping pundits about the doom and gloom of a McCain presidency. As Vivien notes on page 12, and Newt Gingrich stated at CPAC, would we rather have someone in office that we disagree with 90% of the time or 20% of the time?

This fight is going to require activism of unprecedented measures and NY State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno states the case in this issue for everyone

to get involved in politics. Joe Bruno has been a great friend of the Club and we are excited to have him getting involved with *The Record*. As we continue to grow, we deeply appreciate our Republican leaders teaming up with us. Joe Bruno has done a tremendous amount for the State of New York and also for the Republican Party here in the State.

Rick Brownell and Anthony Genovese write about two different subjects this month but they are intrinsically linked. Anthony explores the Republican's internal debates about the identity of our Party, noticing that most recent 2nd place finishers in the Republican Presidential Primary have come back to win the nomination on their 2nd try. We at *The Record* overwhelmingly agree that Mitt Romney is a viable future candidate. Given that he was the only candidate with competent knowledge and interaction with the global economy, he is the candidate of the future. As China continues to rise and geopolitical confrontations around the globe become increasingly dominated by economics, and not military might, we will need leadership to guide us through these future economic confrontations.

Rick Brownell explores China's development and the international attitude towards their rise. One option not often discussed is the role of the United States ensuring that China integrates smoothly into the established free-market global economic system, which is not dominated by a single entity. The United States and

China can be great partners but the rush to condemn them as enemies seems a little premature. Yes there is cause to be cautious but there are ways to be cautious, prepared, and constructive at the same time. However, the general media's sensationalized rush of judging China does sell a lot of magazines.

Also covered in this issue is the subprime mortgage disaster. Matt Bucklin retroactively analyzes the situation. He also digs up that "subprime" was actually the word of the year.

From our international correspondents we get opinion about Facebook's role in consumer lobbying and also a natural energy update from Germany; a viable topic since Germany and the United States sit first and third in the world for solar power.

And for anyone who missed our Super Tuesday Social, you really missed quite an event. Over 130 people attended along with over a dozen media outlets with scales ranging from local to international. Anyone who wanted to be interviewed could be; and a lot of new faces found their way in the door; realizing that there are actually a really large number of Republicans here in New York City. To stay updated on current events just check out our website at www.nyyrc.com or send an email to events@nyyrc.com.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with *The Record* in any capacity or wish to advertise please send an email to publications@nyyrc.com. Have a great month!

- Kellen Giuda

The Record is a monthly Republican news, analysis, and lifestyle magazine. The articles published in *The Record* are written by members of the New York Young Republican Club or by persons approved by the NYYRC Publications Committee.

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The Voice of Joe Bruno

By New York State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno

It is an honor to be headlining the second new edition of The Record. The improvements to the publication highlight the deepening commitment to formulating and circulating the Republican message for the next generation of our party's leaders. The inception of a magazine of this quality, with its stalwart devotion to Republican issues and goals, fills a gap that has existed for far too long in Manhattan. The progression of The Record from newsletter to full-color magazine is truly indicative of the innovation and forward thinking that is sure to bring new life to the Grand Ole Party.

Equally telling of the commitment and energy of the latest generation of Republicans is the fervent involvement in campaigns. Whether a local race on the Upper East Side or in the battle for the White House, the youthful vigor brought to these races has proven instrumental in getting quality Republicans elected. The NYYRC has a tradition of being accommodating in dispatching its membership to volunteer in areas throughout our entire state – underscoring the true dedication of a local group to the larger GOP effort.

The benefits of involvement are manifold. Playing an active role in the political process enables you to cultivate skills that could not be taught in any classroom. The first-hand education can, and will, provide you with the impetus and determination to assume a role and lead us into tomorrow. The enthusiasm you bring to that end certainly comforts me in knowing that our Nation will undoubtedly be in good hands when the next wave of leaders take on positions of influence.

It's critically important for our party to survive and prosper, especially in New York State. Republicans bring values to the table that provides our society with balance, results and accountability in government. It will be up to your generation to make certain that these values are understood, protected, and continuously conveyed to the public.

I am proud to say that the Republican Party has long been known for their commitment to reducing crime and fighting to keep us safe. Now, more than ever, New Yorkers realize the importance of electing individuals that will keep them safe from dangers both home and abroad. Throughout Governor Pataki's tenure, New York State was able to reduce the crime rate significantly by keeping violent criminals behind bars. Unfortunately, the efforts of the new administration have run counter to our efforts. In fact, Spitzer's first year in office boasts a marked increase in the rate of parole for violent criminals. Nearly all of the 225 murderers and kidnappers who became eligible for parole in 2007 were granted release from prison and now, again, live among us with little or no supervision. If

that weren't astounding enough, there's a measure in the Governor's current budget that would claim to reduce medical costs by allowing the release of inmates from prison hospitals. Personally, it is unconscionable to think of jeopardizing the safety of our citizens to free up funds. I've not met a crime victim who would disagree. While Democrats are notoriously soft on crime, be assured that fighting to keep the most violent of felons behind bars will remain at the top of the Senate Majority's agenda.

In addition to fighting to preserve your safety, our Republican conference in the Senate has and will continue to ensure the health and growth of our economy. Although the Federal interest rates have been cut, some economic advisors caution consumers of a potential economic slowdown. Instead of the over-regulation and over-taxation advocated by the Democrats that actually drives businesses out of this state, I will continue to oppose any of those



Senator Bruno discusses the importance of strengthening current law and stopping the increase in parole for dangerous felons.

measures in favor of alternatives conducive to maintaining and attracting business to New York.

Public safety and economic development are two core Republican issues that are drowning in the rising Democratic tide. Education and healthcare can easily be added to that list as, if you recall, Governor Spitzer proposed to cut over \$300 million in healthcare from 2007's State Budget. The Senate Majority was successful in meeting that challenge last year and was able to restore many of those healthcare cuts. Once again, you can continue to count on us to be there, front and center, advocating for these issues.

Moving forward in 2008 however, may be difficult given the contentious environment that exists in Albany. While some of the Executive's programs sound appetizing to the masses, it is just

not possible for Government to supply all things to all people. The tendency of the liberal Democrats to over-tax and over-spend in pursuit of this impossible aspiration is in vain – and it only results in overburdening the taxpayers of this great state. A vibrant two-party system is the best mechanism to ensure a balance of power. It goes against our American belief system for one party to make the decisions that affect all members of society. A dynamic democracy like ours requires healthy debate between competing philosophies with a consensus reached through compromise. Mr. Spitzer's first year proved, time and again, that he did not prefer compromise. In fact, he pledged to take control from the Republicans in the Senate and to lead Democrats to victory. This is something we cannot and will not allow to happen. Not only is this philosophy fundamentally wrong, but his quest for single party rule must be met and turned back.

As the last bastion of Republican power in an increasingly blue state, the Senate Majority has an awesome responsibility in maintaining that balance of power. While at times others may disagree with the Governor, we are often the only ones courageous enough to publicly stand up for what is right. This November, we look forward to the people of this state joining us in doing just that. The electorate is fed up with high taxes, unresponsive government and broken promises. We will continue to fight against these offenses, but first we must all fight to ensure the continuation of the Republican Majority in the Senate. I am counting on you to spread our message because the importance of having dedicated Republicans to support our candidates has never been more critical.

As Majority Leader, it's my duty to set an aggressive and innovative agenda that will benefit the entire geographic area of the Empire State and its inherent diversity. Although a daunting task at times, I am honored and humbled to serve the people of New York. I know it cannot be done alone, without the other fine men and women in the State Senate. These leaders – your representatives – possess the willpower, and backbone to articulate the principles of what is right and what is good in our society. They are an effective voice for the people and communities they serve. The future public servants must cultivate these same qualities in order to emulate the great leaders of our past and our present. It's important to stay informed of the issues and developments in government, to volunteer your time to help other able and like-minded individuals get elected and above all, work hard for what you believe in.

If you decide to pursue a career in public service, any experience is valuable and will help you on your way down this fulfilling path. Never underestimate the benefits of an open and honest dialogue either. As it did for me, the Young Republican Club provides invaluable resources – distinguished speakers, forums to debate the issues and valuable volunteer opportunities. As you follow along in your careers and families, your vision will deepen and you will see even more profoundly why the values of the GOP are the right values.

We have a unique ability in this country to forge our own destiny. I know you believe in this as I do and that you want to serve New York and America by involving yourself in the process. I commend your commitment to make for a better New York and a better America. Keep at it. Working together, we will make all our lives happier, more productive and prosperous. □

- Joseph L. Bruno (R-C, Rensselaer) represents the 43rd Senate District in upstate New York. A former President of the Young Republicans, Senator Bruno currently serves as Majority Leader and Temporary President of the Senate as well as Chairman of the Rules Committee and an ex officio member of all Senate standing committees and statutory commissions.

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The China Card

By Richard Brownell

Unless you haven't had a chance to read a single business, political, or cultural publication in the last ten years, you're probably aware that China is a growing world power. So much ink has been spilled over the Chinese coming-out party in world affairs that it begs the question, why write yet more about it? What can be said that hasn't been said already about adapting to this coming change in the international scene? Well, plenty.

When it comes to speculating about America's foreign policy choices with regard to China, there are two reasons why it's impossible to beat a dead horse. In general, our foreign policy tends to be reactionary - we don't see the speeding train until it is already bearing down on us. In specific, we have possessed a disturbing knack for misunderstanding China ever since we half-heartedly tried to manipulate the outcome of the Chinese civil war in the late 1940s. In the sixty years that have passed since Mao Zedong's communists seized power, the U.S. has misread China on numerous occasions. We underestimated their resolute support of North Korea in 1950 and almost tumbled into a third world war against communist Eurasia because of our shortsightedness. We overstated their clout with the Vietnamese when Richard Nixon approached Mao for help in extricating the U.S. from the jungles of Southeast Asia in the early 1970s. And in recent years, we have consistently fumbled in our relations with the world's most populous nation as it grows into an economic and military powerhouse with the muscle to influence the international order.

Getting smart about China, however, does not mean subscribing to the gloom-and-doom scenarios of that country supplanting the United States as the preeminent world power. In developing the triangular diplomacy that lead to an easing of tensions between the U.S., the Soviet Union, and China in the 1970s,

Nixon and Henry Kissinger proved that international relations does not have to be a zero-sum game. The rise of China does not necessarily mean that the U.S. has to falter. Instead of developing policies that preserve our power at the expense of theirs, we need to recognize the positive effect a vigorous Chinese economy can have for America. If for no other reason than to bolster our own economy and national security, China's growing role in the community of nations should be encouraged, so long as their interests remain peaceful.

Peace cannot be guaranteed, however, by any nation that is spending 19 percent of its GDP on defense. Pointing hundreds of missiles at Taiwan, shooting satellites out of orbit, and stealthily tracking American naval vessels by submarine make China's case for entry into the international economic order a risky proposition. Working to maintain and strengthen international trade agreements and alliances that make up the system in which China wants to be a part can reduce that risk. In short, the message America needs to send is that we can do business with China if China will do business with us.



Simply because China is rapidly growing does not mean they cannot be a welcomed addition to the global economy...as long as they are welcomed.

The recent controversy over the Yuan is a good example. The Chinese government had artificially devalued the Yuan to create an advantage in international trade and currency markets. The U.S. government protested against this practice to no avail, and began to threaten tough

trade sanctions that would ultimately harm both countries. Cooler heads have prevailed now that is clear that China needs to allow the Yuan to naturally appreciate on the open market if it is to prevent inflation and the creation of asset bubbles intrinsic to an overheating economy.

Throughout history nations have risen and maintained power not by adapting to an existing system, but by creating a system of favorable rules that forced other nations to adapt. The United States changed this rule because after World War II we created a system that did not favor ourselves but instead favored all nations that adhered to free market capitalism. As a consequence, there is a widely vested interest that reaches



Development banks are a common sight as China's infrastructure rapidly expands.

beyond our borders in maintaining that order because it has expanded wealth like never before in history. China wants to be a part of that and it should be allowed the opportunity. The sheer size of its market alone makes it a substantial presence in the world economy. That is not something for America to fear because we can benefit from its market as well.

It is hard to know what China's intentions are beyond getting rich and powerful. They do not seem to be interested in exporting communist revolutions like the former Soviet Union. And with good reason; look what that did for Russia. The debate over military strength in the twenty-first century among major powers may be academic in any case. In the coming years, the major nations of the world will gain strength not through force, but through economic prowess. That is a contest that both the United States and the People's Republic of China are well suited for, and we should welcome the challenge. □

Richard Brownell, a columnist for the Patriot Post at www.patriotpost.us, is currently writing a book on the Cold War for Gale Cengage Learning.

With Senator John McCain's big wins on February 5th, Super Tuesday and his winnings on February 12th, the Potomac Primary it's all but certain, "Mack is back." This comes to the dismay of many conservatives within the Republican Party, but for those who know Republican political history, it's not a shocker. In 1976 Republicans were poised with a similar choice, solid conservative Ronald Reagan or moderate Republican Gerald Ford. Republicans, in the end went the way they stereotypically do, with the guy who's next in line and Ford went on to lose to Jimmy Carter. In 2008 Republicans were given the option between the conservative Mitt Romney and the moderate John McCain and in the end, like in '76 Republicans choose the next guy in line, John McCain.

The question we need to ask though, was Mitt Romney the real conservative candidate? Putting aside the minutiae of candidates' records, an article in itself, exit polls indicate he carried conservative voters in almost every primary he was a major contender. And his campaign surely thought he was; the Romney team campaigned vociferously that John McCain was just too liberal for the GOP. So why did he lose? Similar to 1976 when Senator Jesse Helms attempted a "Draft Buckley" movement at the National Convention in an effort to block the nomination of Ronald Reagan for President, the 2008 Republican primary was not without its conservative spoilers. Enter Fred Thompson and Mike Huckabee.

Both were the only serious contenders, other than Mitt Romney to the conservative mantle. Fred Thompson appealed to traditional conservatives, very much like Mitt Romney. Mike Huckabee largely appealed to the social conservative wing of the Republican Party. The continued presence of these two candidates in the campaign made it impossible for Mitt Romney to

The Embattled Party's Internal Debates

By Anthony Genovese

establish himself early on as the main conservative candidate. For Mitt Romney to win the nomination he needed to firmly establish himself as the main choice for conservatives. This was mission impossible as long as Thompson and Huckabee remained in the race. To be sure, candidates Rudy Giuliani and John McCain spoke about their conservative credentials continuously, but this for them was an exercise in futility as most exit polls confirm, conservatives were not buying what they were peddling.

There are main differences between the primary of 1976



Mitt Romney, like many Republican Presidential Primary winners, came in second place his first time around.

and the primary of 2008. This time around we are not looking at a brokered convention. But the main difference is foreign policy. In 1976 the conservative underdog contender Ronald Reagan was skillfully calling Gerald Ford out on his foreign policy faux pas that enraged conservatives. Reagan assailed Ford for failing to do more to assist South Vietnam in 1975, for signing the Helsinki Accords, and for Ford's negotiations with Panama to hand over the Panama Canal. In 2008 Mitt Romney did little to attack John McCain's shortcomings in the realm of foreign policy. While the media may lead one to believe John McCain is impenetrable on foreign affairs, much like in 1976 there are issues conservatives have with John McCain regarding foreign policy. Mitt Romney did little to point out McCain's opposition to water boarding for high target terrorists, his support for closing down Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention center and moving them to American facilities and his lack of opposition to the Clinton/Cohen defense hackings in the second half of the 1990s. Romney's failure to bring to light these issues may have cost him the nomination. Some conservatives, even moderates may have been disposed towards Romney, but McCain's strength foreign policy wise, as many exit polls show, won them over. Had Mitt Romney pointed out John McCain's foreign policy divergences in conjunction with his domestic deviations, Mitt Romney could have won the nomination.

In the end the main lesson the Republican Primary of 1976 has for the Republican Primary of 2008 is that of the strength and value of the party's conservative principles. In choosing the next guy in line, although not the most conservative, Republicans lost the White House in 1976. But those conservative principles ended up becoming a major political and cultural force in the next election when Ronald Reagan won landslide, cross party victories. Mitt Romney may have lost the nomination, but men like him and even Fred Thompson and Mike Huckabee did a great service to our party by forcing a discussion and a debate on who is the real conservative. John McCain may not be the most conservative, but in the end the Maverick will win the nomination only by claiming to be. □

Budget Clash: Upstate/Downstate Differences are Obvious as the Mayor and the Governor Clash Over Funding for 2008

In January, both Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Governor Eliot Spitzer released their budgets. Although these officials are often allies, they clashed on their budget plans for the State and the City of New York. The Mayor, an Independent, publicly expressed disapproval with the Democrat Governor's executive budget, particularly with expected state aid that has not been forthcoming.

The statutory deadline for the state budget is April 1st, though in the past, negotiations have been extended due to discord between the different branches of government. Given Spitzer's reluctance to compromise with the Legislature on an array of issues during his first year in office, a delay in the budget process will hardly come as a surprise this year. The City's new fiscal year begins three months after the State's. The City needs certainty in its fiscal projections, and so a late state budget would create unneeded confusion and delay.

Although the Mayor released his budget in advance of the Governor, he took into consideration a predicted decrease in state aid. This, coupled with the projected fall in revenue due to a slight economic downturn, led to a frugal budget plan that limits City spending to \$58.5 billion. Bloomberg's tightened measures include a cut in funding to police officers, reduced overtime for city employees and the closure of some homeless shelters for single adults.

Unfortunately, City schools were hit the hardest and will be forced to eliminate or reduce several important programs including weekend tutoring, ESL teachers and standardized testing. While he trimmed spending in every agency by 5%, the Mayor also vowed to fight for a \$400 property tax rebate and a 7% cut in the tax rate. Even though the state budget delivers a net increase in state aid, it doesn't compensate for the amount of growth that has taken place in New York City this past year, and so a shortfall is likely.

The two leaders stopped short of trading political swipes. Bloomberg even tried

to defend the shortsightedness of the Governor's budget by saying he lives in a "different world" in Albany - not entirely true as the two men are in fact neighbors on Manhattans' Upper East Side. The differences between upstate and the city, in terms of mentality and needs have historically caused problems, especially fiscally.

In defense of his discontent with the amount of money provided to the City from



Eliot Spitzer presents the 2008-2009 New York State Budget.

the State, Bloomberg pointed to the city's "problems of success" that include overcrowding and worn out infrastructure. He questioned the validity of the Governor's argument that New York City should, this year, reciprocate for the State's bailout of the City during the economically bad times of the 1970s, to enable current efforts aimed at upstate revitalization to get underway.

While the mayor maintains a good relationship with the Governor, he is also allied with the Republican Senate Majority and is counting on their support, and the support of the Democrat-led Assembly's New York City delegation to help him get more aid from the State's budget. We will continue to monitor this year's version of the perennial upstate-downstate dispute and wish the Mayor well in resolving it for the City. □

Before & After

By Matthew Bucklin

*Commentary on
regulation, economy and the
markets...*

How We Got Here

Over 300,000 families will lose their home in the next 18 months. The fear of economic and social repercussions has got politicians talking about a bailout and regulations to prevent another identical disaster. But first we must point fingers.

In 2001, Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve, faced a deep economic recession. To save our economy he decided that everyone was going to buy a house. Under his control was the power to push interest rates next to nothing, making it essentially free to borrow money. This made it easier for homeowners to get a mortgage and developers to build. His plan worked, but too well. The economy was back on track as early as 2003, growing at 5%, and with the Fed Funds rate at 1%, the real estate sector boomed. Greenspan saved America from a deep recession in the early part of the decade but made a major mistake by keeping interest rates at these low levels until mid-2004. Subprime mortgage lending grew exponentially and the housing market boomed out of control. Greenspan's other mistake, in 2002, when faced with the bubble question said, "the government would never try to predict and prevent a bubble but would take every measure to soften its collapse." This sent a clear signal to all investors to recklessly build knowing the government would provide a safety net.

Although they also suffer, Banks are also to blame. Mortgage lenders used to be constrained by the money they had available, so they made cautious lending decisions. But now with the use of credit derivatives, banks are able to loan almost infinitely by packaging and swapping ownership of debt. The lenders now bundle up home mortgages and use the mortgage payments to create an interest-bearing bond called a Mortgage Backed Security. The bond is then sold to return-hungry investors and the proceeds can then be used to give more mortgages. The money flowed endlessly with little regard for the loaner's ability to repay.

None of this would be possible without the third culprit, investors. The real estate market is just like any other investment bubble that eventually blows up. After the tech collapse in the 90s, returns in the stock market were dismal and real estate became a solid place to put money. The returns were also sky high, in many markets more than doubling in a five-year period. In Miami real estate increased in value by 149%, in Las Vegas by 119%, and in Phoenix by 103%. Investors are like cannon balls on the deck of a ship, as the ship rocks with the waves the cannon balls begin to roll across the deck and increase the rocking of the ship: sometimes that ship sinks.

What We Do Now

Politicians like to figure out who is to blame but economists like to figure out how to fix it.

The bailout, as many investors may have been expecting, will surely come. Americans are going to pay for this mess in one of two ways. First option is the bailout, the government can buy up delinquent mortgages and prevent a large number of defaults, this will probably delay an inevitable recession and Americans will pay higher taxes in the future. The second option is to allow the markets to flush out and send our economy into a recession now. Neither option is going to be good but the consequences must be considered. A bailout causes a dangerous precedent and the problem of moral hazard. Future investors will take on higher levels of risk knowing our government will pay for any mistakes. This safety net creates endless market inefficiencies by messing with market mechanisms that regulate investment decision-making in a world of risk.

Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and access to credit (at a market price), are all fundamental rights as an American. Most likely, politicians are going to suggest regulating the subprime market by taking away the access to credit for those riskier loaners. Unfortunately this will only keep poorer Americans further away from achieving the American dream. □

Subprime*

- * The American Dialect Society named "Subprime" the 2007 word of the year.
- * Word of the Year runners-up include "Facebook," "Googleganger," "waterboarding"
- * Society began choosing words of the year in 1990 for fun

Related Statistics

- * During 2007, nearly 1.3 million U.S. housing properties were subject to foreclosure activity, up 79% versus 2006.
- * The overall U.S. homeownership rate increased from 64 percent in 1994 (about where it was since 1980) to a peak in 2004 with an all time high of 69.2 percent.
- * Between 1997 and 2006, American home prices increased by 124%.
- * The securitized share of subprime mortgages (i.e., those passed to third-party investors) increased from 54% in 2001, to 75% in 2006.
- * As of February 14, 2008 financial institutions had recognized subprime-related losses or write-downs exceeding U.S. \$145 billion.

New
York
News

Molly Casey

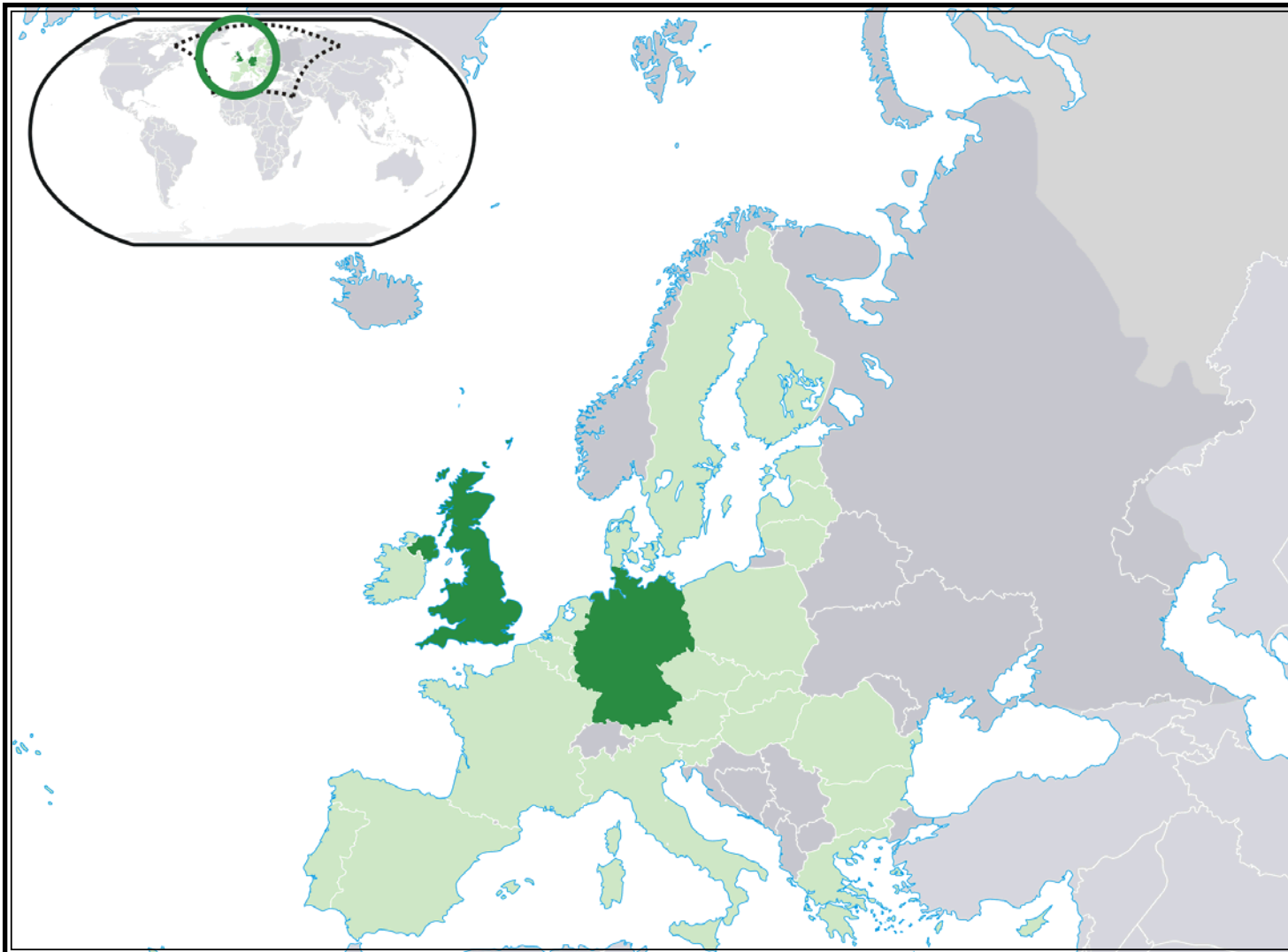
International

Political Commentary from around the Globe each month. Local issues reported by local participants.

Reporters:

United Kingdom, Nitesh Palana: Nitesh is in his 20s and is a London based lobbyist. He is involved with the British Conservative Party, the main center-right political party in the UK, and has had experience in both campaigning in general elections and advising the Party on Trade and Industry.

Germany, Mischa Hecker: Mischa is President of the Capital City Section of the Young Professionals of the Free Democratic Party of Germany.



Facebook's Growing Political Might

Nitesh Palana, London

In the early years of this century, as internet access became more widespread and blogging became increasingly popular, the nature of political communication and involvement extensively modernized. Although, internet access was quite prevalent prior to the new millennium, political parties and political campaign groups tended to mainly use websites and e-mail lists for e-communication with people that were interested in the cause and wanted more information. Political and campaign blogging has encouraged more people get involved and to express their views and comments, made communication faster, and strengthened the democratic process; in the UK, even

Government Ministers have their own blogs.

Blogging has progressed over the last decade into social networking. Social networking sites allow individuals to publicize as much or as little information about themselves, their views and comments, and their preferences. Facebook not only allows people to list their likes and dislikes, including their political party preferences and campaigns that they support, but it also allows group to be set up for each issue, campaign or view; for example, there is currently a group called "Stop Hillary Clinton: One Million Strong AGAINST Hillary", with 788,906 global members and "Petition for Extra UK Bank Holiday" (Public Holiday) has 1,619 members. This vast amount of information, if properly harnessed, is far more sophisticated than the electoral system in any country.

One of the main benefits of Facebook is the access to a wide audience and to measure the effectiveness of using it as a campaign tool, it should be litmus tested against a commercial environment. Information about individuals on Facebook obviously has high commercial value for businesses, but it is also used by consumers to lobby businesses. Last year, Facebook campaigns were widely considered responsible for commercial decisions by two multinational companies, HSBC and Cadburys.

In August 2007, the National Union of Students (NUS) launched a campaign against HSBC's decision to charge graduates interest on their bank overdrafts as soon as they left university. The bank's previous policy was to gradually reduce the £1500 (\$2922) interest-free overdraft over time. The NUS Facebook campaign, called "Stop the Great HSBC Graduate Rip-Off!!!Global", managed to attract over 5,000 members. HSBC admitted that "like any service orientated business we are not too big to listen to the needs of our customers" and changed their policy - as well as refunding every graduate that had been charged interest.

August 2007 also witnessed the chocolate and confectionary company, Cadbury Schweppes, re-launch a chocolate called "Wispa". The chocolate was originally launched in 1981 and was seen as one of the UK icons of the 80s; however, in 2003, the chocolate was discontinued after declining sales. Several Facebook campaigns, mainly established by students and one claiming a peak membership of 6750, were thought to be the main reason for Cadbury's decision.

These high profile campaigns showed a number of things, individuals grouped by social networks sites can act as a powerful lobbying force; businesses are willing to listen to their customer; and, although election turnout may be decreasing in the UK and political apathy is high, people participate when they have the ability to easily express their opinion. In the UK, political parties and political campaign groups have started to use Facebook, but mainly to support candidates and organise invitations to events.

One of the reoccurring issues in British politics has been how to engage young people with politics, last year the Government even lowered the age that people can stand for election from 21 to 18. Facebook has shown that young people are interested in issues, but only when they see it affects them and if they can easily do something about it; for example, join a group. A solution to engaging with younger people may be to use new innovative ways like Facebook and campaigning on issues instead of parties; it is easy to understand why people are turned-off by politics if issues and campaigns are associated with politicians. □

Europe, Stay Out of Our Way

Mischa Hecker, Germany

The Green Party, which in Germany, unlike in the USA, is an established part of the five-party system highly advocates nature conservancy which is an important topic in German politics. But the character of the debate has changed in the last 20 years. In the 1980's the fear of nuclear fallout led to strong opposition of nuclear plants. But since global warming is on everyone's mind the debate is changing. It is said that a global warming above 36 °F brings enormous risks for a lot of animal and plant species to become extinct. The economic damages resulting from global warming are said to be between 5% and 20% of the world GDP. So there is no question we need to reduce the discharge of greenhouse gases. The best way for that is to develop and advancing new technologies like



A solar field in Amstein, Germany.

the fuel cell, wind farms or solar cells. These so called renewable energies are very popular in Germany but are only able to cover about 20% of the energy needed.

In addition some renewable energy sources have a cynical touch, for example bio-diesel, which is created from burning grains. Is it right to start uprooting forests to produce grain for fuel while more than 20,000 people per day die of starvation? But nevertheless, recently there is European legislation, which effects Germany, to mix gas with bio-diesel. This greatly interferes with Germany's vigorous programs to promote and execute its own successful and rapidly growing sustainable energy programs.

While Germany is the worlds leading solar energy user (the United States is 3rd behind Japan) with over 2,300 megawatts and growing, solar power is still not yet a practical competitive source of energy. Until renewable energy, like solar cells, are competitive with coal and oil we should be using nuclear plants. While solar power will become competitive in the near future, it will not be nearly enough to slow down climate change. We must look to nuclear power for the present not only for our economic welfare but also for the future of the environment we live in. □

CALENDAR

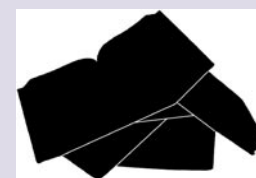
There are many events each month around NYC. From political meetings, lectures, book signings, and social events, just watch www.nyyrc.com/calendar for all of them. If you wish to submit an event please contact publications@nyyrc.com.

				February 21	22	23
				NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹		
24	25	26	27	28	29	March 1
			MET REPUBLICAN CLUB: 7:00PM- 8:30PM Guest Speaker: John A. Catsimatidis who is exploring a run for NYC Mayor. Free for members and non-members. www.metclubnyc.org		WNRC²: 6:30pm--- The WNRC Young Professionals invites you to Leap Into Spring...Open Bar, full buffet, and music.	NYSYR LEADERSHIP CONF.: Fri, Sat, Sun Feb. 29-Mar. 2
WNRC²: Feb 4. 6-8pm. First Monday Reception...an ideal time to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to introduce friends and colleagues to our beautiful clubhouse...and just enjoy a warm and festive get-together. Members / Non-Members No Charge.	3	4	NYYRC MONTHLY SOCIAL LOCATION TBD.	5	6	7
			QYRC: On March 5th, come join the Queens County Young Republicans at our next Cocktail Party benefiting Bobbi and the Strays and honoring Michael Ricatto of Better Leadership America and Republican Mayoral Candidate John Catsimatidis. For \$35 per person, you will support two great organizations, meet area young Republicans and get involved with the Queens GOP. For more information, visit www.qcyr.org or email RichAlicea at alicea@qcyr.org	8		The Leadership Conference and Spring Board Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Albany Medical Center. info@nyyrc.com
9	10	11	12	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27		
		NYYRC²: The NYYRC's Publications Committee will be holding its meeting from 7pm-8:30pm. If you are interested in writing, management, graphic design, or any other facet of the publication industry, email publications@nyyrc.com for location and more information.		NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹		

¹ The New York Young Republican Club holds their monthly meetings every third Thursday of every month at the Women's National Republican Club Headquarters @ 3 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10001. www.nyyrc.com

² The Women's National Republican Club holds all their events at their headquarters located @ 3 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10001. Please see www.wnrc.org for more information on all events.

For more information about any events listed here please contact publications@nyyrc.com.



BOOK REVIEW | Real Change

Book/Movie/Art Review offers you the latest thoughts, inspirations and trends with a Republican bend

From the World that Fails to the World that Works By Newt Gingrich

Change is in the air. Well if it's not in the air it surely is on the television. One cannot watch a minute of political news coverage without hearing the word, "CHANGE." It's in the spirit of the season that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich wrote his book *Real Change*. The co-author of the *Contract of America* has been working with the non-partisan policy group he created called *American Solutions for Winning the Future* and his book represents this organization's efforts. While Newt didn't make a foray into the crowded Republican primary, it remains to be seen if he won't in 2012. If he does *Real Change* surely is a great way to start the 2012 campaign.

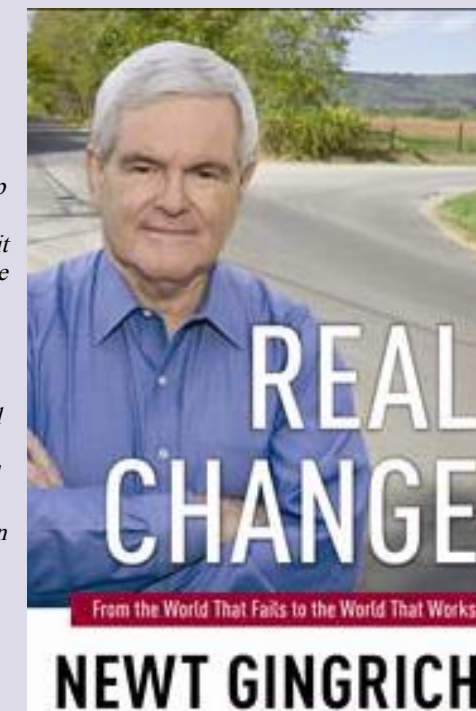
The book makes some simple and clear assertions. First, America needs change, second real change is possible, third real change won't come from the world that fails (government, bureaucracies, unions, etc.) and fourth Americans are actually united in their political opinion. The last being quite controversial since pundits constantly decry the Red and Blue divide. In actuality Mr. Gingrich shows and proves his assertion of American political unity with a series of polls that show overwhelming consensus amongst Americas on a myriad of cultural, economic and political issues.

Mr. Gingrich gives various solid and sound examples of the world that fails: Michigan and Detroit's economic and educational crisis, the response at all levels of government to Hurricane Katrina, the entrenched interests of unions and bureaucracies in the face of the interest of the American people and quite poignantly the war in Iraq. He also shows how both parties, Democrat and Republican, have both failed the American people and are currently unable to work for real change. He does conclude, however that the Republican party is more in line with the traditional values of the majority of Americans, but he does a great job in showing how the Republican party's mentality of a minority party that must play along has made them unable and ineffective in working for the change they should champion.

But the former Speaker of the House does not write off America. He articulates how each party can change for *Real Change* by pointing to the examples of the Thatcher revolution in Britain and the Sarkozy revolution recently in France. He contends that both are important lessons for America's political parties on how to work for real change both within their party and for their country. Mr. Gingrich does not exclude the everyday American citizen from this mission he articulates the importance of citizen leaders at every level of American infrastructure.

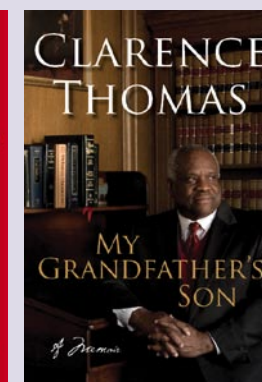
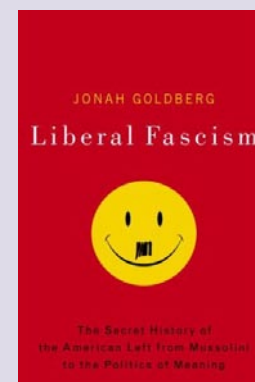
And for all you policy wonks, the book is full of all those juicy details that the beltway crowd loves to chomp on. The last part of his book outlines and details almost every pertinent issue of American politics; immigration, economics, social security, healthcare, energy and the environment. In one of his best chapters in this section Mr. Gingrich writes on the importance of public awareness of judicial tyranny and the necessity on the part of American people to combat judicial supremacy. All in all, *Real Change* is not a bad read, in fact it's a must read! Especially if you want to orientate yourself with one the Republican Party's 2012 presidential candidates.

- John Hilp



Past Book Reviews...

- Liberal Fascism
By Jonah Goldberg
- My Grandfather's Son
By Clarence Thomas
- Do As I Say, Not as I Do
By Peter Schweizer
- Sabotage
By Rowan Scarborough



Conservative book writer Ann Coulter recently sent shock waves across America with her declaration that if John McCain were to win the Republican nomination she would campaign for Hillary Clinton. This was very disturbing to me and I'm sure many others as I for one love Ann Coulter's books and articles. To me, she speaks the truth. She does not scat around - she slams right into home plate each and every time. Granted she tends to exaggerate to dramatically claim the moment so that the demented and jaded listeners (generally liberals) will hopefully get the point. It doesn't hurt book sales either. I like to think of it as dry, acidic and just what the doctor ordered to this unnaturally sweet politically correct culture that has hatched from the mainstream media and has driven common sense, decency, patriotism and morality right into the gutter.

It goes without saying that Coulter is despised by many because of her laser sharp wit and straightforward comments. I have a singing teacher for example who calls her a nasty and wretched woman. I asked him if he has ever read any of Ann Coulter's work. No he said, only read about her. Now I ask you the reader, how can anyone have such an opinion about somebody that they have never even read?

Coulter's statements are just one example of how this presidential election is turning into a feverishly fascinating series of events that are so riveting and exciting they have replaced reality

Ann Coulter &...Billary?

Is This a Match to Last? Doubtful.

television. We have a candidate (Huckabee) who refuses to give up running even though there is no chance of him winning. We have the first woman running for President who has been running for so long that it looks like she has abandoned her New York State senatorial job completely. Even more extraordinary is that we now have the first African American (Barack Hussein Obama) running for President who is magically beating her highness, Hillary state for state on cotton candy comments that have no substance, no policy and no record for foundation. Not to mention we have a former POW from the Vietnam War who is considered to be just as liberal as the two democratic candidates - and he is the slam-dunk winner for the Republican Party!

Now fast forward to the recent CPAC with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich warning that Republicans face a "catastrophic" election this year unless the GOP changes course. Gingrich pointed out that on Super Tuesday, 14.6 million voters took part in the Democratic races, compared to 8.3 million Republicans.

"As a citizen, I would rather have a President McCain that we fight with 20 percent of the time, than a President Clinton or a President Obama that we fight with 90 percent of the time."



Ann Coulter has become one of the loudest opinions on the GOP circuit.

But he warned: "If we run a traditional consultant-dominated tactical Republican campaign, like we've seen in the last eight years, we will be defeated this fall, and we will be having a CPAC meeting next year talking about how we rebuild for the future with either President Obama or President Clinton in charge."

Ann Coulter this week explained her statement about campaigning for Hillary Clinton on Fox News:

Ann: "Hillary Clinton would be more conservative than John McCain on illegal immigration I think on terrorism if there is a terrorist attack um both B. Hussein Obama and John McCain in the event of a terrorist attack will go take a tour of Mecca..."

Fox News Commentator: "But will you - you said you'd vote for Hillary - you said you'd vote for Hillary over McCain."

Ann: "I'm making no commitments on B. Hussein Obama but -"

Fox News Commentator: "Ah - see you're hedging - you're hedging!"

Ann: "But at least B. Hussein Obama would probably just be a Jimmy Carter and four years we'd pick up seats. With McCain will get the same policies - would probably lose a lot of seats in the house and the senate, in the mid term election, we'll lose a lot of seats in 2012 then they get President B. Hussein Obama in there and he has a massive majority in the House and Senate."

So we have Ann Coulter declaring on Fox News that she will campaign for Hillary Clinton if John McCain gets the Republican nomination. Well it's pretty much in the bag for McCain, so has anybody seen Coulter stumping for Billary yet? (Billary as in Bill and Hillary - the inseparable political machine that keeps going and going and going).

I am here to ask why is Ann Coulter, a Conservative that I adore reading, hustling for Hillary Clinton, a socialist under the guise of "Democrat"?

On Fox News "Your World Cavuto on Feb. 1, 2008 the following conversation ensued:

Commentator: "Now Moveon.org we hear, Ann, has just endorsed Barack Obama"

Coulter: "Yes, and their 2nd choice is John McCain!" (She laughs)

Commentator: "So if it were Barack Obama challenging John McCain..."

Coulter: "I would vote for the Devil over John McCain thus my claim that I would vote for Hillary over John McCain. I still think Hillary is a very creepy person, is very dangerous for the nation and her policies would be exactly the same as John McCain but Republicans would fight her and they won't fight John McCain - but Republicans will be blamed for John McCain - we won't be blamed for her. Either way Hillary, Obama, John McCain get 4 ROTTEN years and either it's going to be followed by Republicans coming back or its going to be followed by 30 years of Democratic governance."

My take on all of this back and forth banter is that even though John McCain is not a staunch conservative he is a bona fide Republican. To unite our party we need to court Mr. McCain, not condemn him. I understand that Ann Coulter along with Rush Limbaugh, Mark Levin, and others all are upset with John McCain's liberal record. Unfortunately this is now what we have to deal with and the best future hand is the hand that supports our party. Not the one that fractures into a thousand pieces that sets the path to Ann Coulter's projected 30 years of Democratic governance. □

- Vivien Lewis

Hope in Albania

By Alfred Pplumbi

Albania is a country with a painful history, but young conservatives like myself have a strong desire to control our nation's destiny. This is a dream that has never been realized. After centuries of bitter oppression under the Ottoman Turks and a brief window of freedom in the early 20th Century, Albania was ruled by one of the worst communist regimes in the world from 1945 until 1991. Enver Hoxha, a ruler preferred by Stalin, brutally crushed the opposition of those who rejected the Eastern bloc and wanted to adopt the American ideology of liberalism and democracy. Many bright intellectuals were killed, among them my 27-year-old uncle. For forty-five years we were not allowed to know where he was buried, and my grandmother and grandfather died without ever having the chance of visiting their son's grave.

When the Berlin Wall was broken, thanks to America, Britain, and some other Western European countries, our country stirred in the wind of changes. In 1990 many young conservatives from anti-Communist families organized a strike against the regime, requesting pluralism in Albania. The first pluralist party that was founded was the Democratic Party. All anticommunists who had so long opposed the communist system welcomed this party. All true conservatives families became members of this party.

Everybody hoped that the communists in Albania would lose political and economic influence, but Albanian dictator Ramiz Alija used KGB methods to appoint many people to the Democratic Party who had served the communists and the security services. In March 1992, the Democratic Party came to power and Sali Berisha, a well-known surgeon, was elected president. Berisha had been a low-level member of the Communist Party for 25 years.

Unfortunately the Democratic Party did not react strongly enough to the communist influence that remained in the government. It was a clear sign that true democracy in Albania was far away. In 1997 Albania went into economic collapse because many people lost their money in pyramid schemes. The Democratic Party was overthrown and the communists returned to power.

The communists imprisoned and mistreated many conservatives. In September 1998, Azem Hajdari, MP of the Democratic Party and the leader of the 1991 student movement, was killed. As leader of the Student Union in the University of Shkodra, I and numerous other young conservatives organized a strike against the government, demanding justice in Hajdari's murder. I was arrested and mistreated and threatened by the police in an attempt to end the strike, but even from prison I promised that the strike would continue.

Intervention by representatives of the OSCE and the Council of Europe led to my release when it became clear to them that my arrest was politically motivated and illegal. More than 100 students from all the Universities of Albania started a hunger strike, which led Pandeli Majko, the leader of the Socialist Party, to call on Berisha to meet our demands.

After the strike we made clear to Berisha that he needed to cooperate with us to bring the Democratic Party back to power and establish true democracy in Albania. We proposed the creation of a youth group to have a key role in the party to inject new ideas and young blood with no connections to the old communist system. However, the old time communists felt threatened by our involvement and immediately called on Berisha to reject our ideas. After this, the most capable young conservatives were expelled from the Democratic Party and the youth organization was weakened. The last elections in the youth Democratic Party forum took place in 2002, and I was elected as part of the 100-member general council. The general council must meet at least every six months, but we have not gathered since 2004.

The Democratic Party returned to power, but Berisha repeated the same mistakes as before. Men around him convinced him to appoint people with a communist background to the most important positions of his administration. We have identified young people in the administration whose relatives served in high positions during the

communist dictatorship. I will agree that some people were simply communists because they wanted to have the right to attend university or just to live a simple life.



The Albanian Parliament

However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other young conservatives in Albania, we cannot create a true democracy and establish a free enterprise system as long as we still have people in our government who were servants of a regime that committed terrible crimes against our country. Out of 140 MPs from all the political parties, at least 90 have been servants of the communist system.

Today, ex-communist bloc families lead the economic monopolies in our country, and the Democratic Party has not taken any measures against them. We young conservatives are fighting against these communists inside the Democratic Party, and we receive threats and pressure from many directions. This will not stop us from achieving our goal of a strong democracy and an efficient free enterprise system in our country. The suffering of the past from the evils of communism is the biggest motivation for us. We know better than anyone else the evil that communism brings because our families have suffered very much from it, and if we stop fighting, we are sure that it will grow again and become even stronger.

We look to our friends in the Young Republicans in America for support. Cooperation among the conservatives of the world is more important than ever to save the world from the return of communism and the threat of Islamic extremism. If we stick together, we can build a better, healthy, and secure world. □

Alfred Pplumbi is a member of the Youth Democratic Council of the Democratic Party in Albania and a member of the Chairmanship of Democratic Party Zone 40 in the Albania capital of Tirana. He holds an MA in International Relations.



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