

The New York Young Republican Club



The Oldest Young Republican Club
in the Country

Est. 1911

THE RECORD

Volume III, Issue 1

January 2007

Welcome to the NYYRC Record! With our new layout, and our spruced-up categories, we aspire to be the voice of you, Young Republicans. We will give you the latest information about our club events as well as local and national issues most relevant to you.

The Record is a reflection of our members. Your involvement is essential for the growth of our Club. We are eager to hear from you. Email us at publications@nyyrc.com.

See you at the Club meetings!

-- Kellen and Val

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The Challenge and Promise of the Year Ahead

By Richard Brownell

2006 was a humbling year for Republicans. We lost the Governor's race in an embarrassing landslide. We lost the Comptroller's race to an ethically challenged man who has since agreed to resign from office. Democrats managed to chisel away at our State Senate majority and pick off a few more House seats from our state Republican caucus. Despite a slate of well-qualified candidates in this most recent election, Manhattan Island remains a Democratic stronghold with not a single Republican office-holder to be found.

So what do we do now? How do we move forward against what seem to be insurmountable odds and wedge our way into the public debate? There is no shortage of ideas and advice about how to spread the Republican message and get a good Republican elected in this town. Parties and forums held up and down Manhattan Island are filled with opinions and strategies about getting more Republicans into City Hall and getting more Republicans from downstate into the state legislature. However, we're not going to talk our way into a larger Republican caucus in New York State. We can only become a stronger party by engaging the uninitiated and demonstrating full-throated support for our candidates. That's where groups like our very own New York Young Republican Club come in.

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Denial of the Soul and the Loss of Freedom

By Daniel Greene

On January 2nd, *The New York Times* featured an article entitled "Free Will: Now You Have It, Now You Don't." It was an examination on the prevailing views of scientists on the essence of human consciousness.

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Denial...
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The question of free will, its nature and purpose, is one that has preoccupied philosophers, theologians and scientists for hundreds of years. How we think of free will, or more broadly, how we think of human nature, has significant political, economic and cultural implications.

Today, a significant front in the culture war waging within America is how we define free will because it will determine how we hope to fulfill our human potentials through our democratic institutions.

Within most of Western Civilization, the notion that every person is embodied with a non-physical entity called a

“...how we define free will...will determine how we hope to fulfill our human potentials...”

soul has been the most dominant theory explaining the source of free will. This conveniently fits well with the Judeo-Christian belief that the soul is a gift and reflection of God. This is the basis for American

democracy. According to the Declaration of Independence, humans are created from a higher power, therefore are free moral agents who are endowed with natural rights so they can remain free to make moral choices to pursue happiness.

Rene Descartes, the father of modern philosophy, is famous for his quote, “I think, therefore I am.” His statement captures the self-evident nature of human consciousness. But if people are indeed endowed with a soul, how does an immaterial entity interact with a material body?

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The Challenge and Promise
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Over the years, this Club has been successful in recruiting new members because we have actively engaged the citizens of Manhattan. We have vigorously supported qualified Republican candidates, and we have stirred debate and discussion about issues of great importance to our party and our city. This year, the challenge before us will be to recruit more young professionals to our cause, as well as build up our own resources and help in targeting local candidates for the State Senate, Assembly, and House elections in 2008.

We will soon begin a round of targeted mailing to young Republicans in Manhattan who are sympathetic to our cause, and invite them to join the Club. We will continue to invite dynamics and challenging speakers to our meetings so that our members will learn about the issues that impact their lives. We will also be offering a Leadership Institute seminar here in New York to educate ourselves on time-tested campaign and recruiting techniques guaranteed to grow our membership and get Republicans elected to public office.

These are the programs and initiatives that will grow our organization

and allow us to play a meaningful role in strengthening the Republican Party in Manhattan and across the state. They have worked for us in the past, and they will work for us again this year. Armchair strategists will offer complex ideas about what it takes to win races, and they’ll quote obscure elections statistics to back up their theories. However, there is no magic formula to getting Republicans elected here or anywhere. We have to educate ourselves and the public on the issues, and we have to go out into the streets and recruit like-minded individual one at a time. It’s as simple as that.

The coming year has started with New York City Republicans in a tight spot, but it does not have to end that way. As we have always done in challenging times, the New York Young Republican Club will continue to reach out into areas where few before us have dared to tread. There are many young people dissatisfied with the hold that Democrats have on this town, and they want to do something. We will find these people, and we will bring them along with us. As our Club grows, so does the Republican Party. As the party grows, so does the power to create change. □

Richard Brownell is President of the New York Young Republican Club.

YRNF Fall Event

By Lynn Krogh

After a long campaign season, where many of us took part in the Young Republican National Federation (YRNF)'s "1000:One" program and the New York State YR Strike Force initiative, and many more traveled outside to help coordinate volunteer efforts locally and nationally, the YR's were ready for a much-needed break.

The weekend after Election Day was the perfect time for the fall board meeting of the YRNF, and YR's had plenty to talk about in 2006, with the losses dealt us earlier.

The venue was an exciting one - Louisville, Ky. YR's from New York State that took advantage of the opportunity include myself, Sharlene Santercole, Craig Schwartz, Kimberly Morella, Jason Weingartner, Mike Swaner, Kerry Picket, Ryan Casna, Suzanne Mizewski, Alex Nowak, and Lisa Predovich.

Home to Churchill Downs and bluegrass, the Louisville Cardinals and Kentucky Wildcats, Louisville welcomed us with open arms. We attended a fantastic dinner on Friday night, at the Frazier International History Museum. Food and company were great, and people geared up for an exciting evening. It continued with parties held by the

Georgia Federation of YR's and the Indian Young Republicans.

Saturday morning opened with the YRNF Fall Board Meeting at the Brown Hotel, where accommodations surpassed all expectations. At noon, YR's headed for Churchill Downs and a 4 p.m. running of the "Young Republican National Federation Stakes." Lunch was held on Millionaire's Row, buffet style, where YR's enjoyed a bird's eye view of the track. Winning or losing, YR's ended up "on top," at the close of the afternoon.

The evening kicked off with dinner in the Seelbach Hotel's Grand Ballroom, a beautiful venue with an old-world feel, allowing YR's to socialize and break bread in a great atmosphere. The festivities continued that evening with a party held by the New York State Young Republicans. YR's certainly enjoyed themselves throughout the weekend and we thank the Louisville YR's for their hospitality and friendship.

The next YRNF meeting will be held in New Orleans, L.A., the weekend of March 8-11. The Astor Crowne Plaza is the central location for the weekend and the YR's are encouraged to contact NYSYR National Committeewoman, Sharlene Santercole for more information. Email her at natcomwoman@nysyr.us.

Lynn Krogh is the Vice President of the Club

WATCHDOG

12 Blue, 1 Red

Eminent domain since the landmark Supreme Court case *Kelo v. City of New London* has been one large firestorm after another. Here

in New York City this is evident by the public outcry over three very large projects (The Columbia University expansion, the Atlantic Yards development, and the new

Mets stadium) in which the government will potentially use force to remove citizens from the property they own, and then sell the land to private developers. The right of property ownership (a civil right under the 5th Amendment) is a necessity for a nation to remain free from government oppression. Eminent domain infringes on this right in a frightfully severe way. In 2006 there were three votes for bill HR 4772 that would:

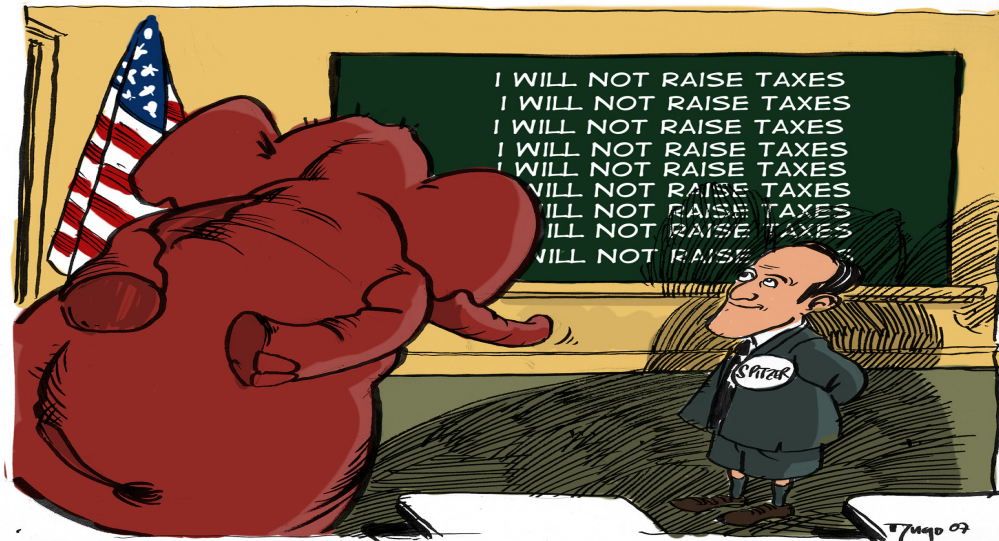
"Ensure access to federal courts for those challenging government attempts to take their property under eminent domain. It would allow private landowners who wish to challenge a state or local government's 'taking' of their land to file a claim directly with a federal court."

Every single elected New York City U.S. Representative, voted against this bill except the lone Republican, Rep. Vito Fossella.

Currently, all civil rights cases can be brought directly to federal court, except 5th amendment cases. Apparently our Democrat reps care more about the wallets of developers and future tax revenue than the rights of the people who voted them into office.

Luckily, the measure passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 231-181, the majority of Republicans voting "yea", and the majority of Democrats voting "nay".

So which party is "big government" and which protects the individual liberties of the American people? -KG



Cartoon by Diego Otero

“...Cheney, of course, who always wants to kill.”

-Chris Matthews, MSNBC Anchor, "Hardball", on Bush's troop "surge"



Calendar

January 17, 2007
 NYYRC General
 Meeting - Union League
 Club, 38 E. 17th St. 7pm.

January 22, 2007
 Voting Machine
 Demonstration - NYC
 Board of Elections,
 Medgar Evans College,
 1650 Bedford Ave,
 Brooklyn, 5-9pm

January 23, 2007
 Voting machine hearing
 - NYC Board of Elec-
 tions, 42 Broadway 6th
 Fl., 4pm

January 23, 2007
 Peggy Noonan v. Ted
 Sorensen, Marble
 Collegiate Church, 5th
 Ave @ 29th Street,
 7:15pm. State of the
 Union to follow, RSVP.

January 31, 2007
 Federalist Society Panel:
 Property Rights Post-
 Kelo. Reception @ 6pm,
 Discussion @7pm. 70
 Main St., Mineola NY
 516-248-8300

February 14, 2007
 NYYRC General
 Meeting - Union League
 Club, 38 E. 17th St. 7pm.

Contact Us

If you have any
 comments, inquiries
 about events, or
 wish to contribute
 to the Record,
 please contact us at
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 com

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Although Descartes theory failed to explain the mind-body connection, the notion of the soul remained intact because it best explained human experience. And like the will of the Judeo-Christian God, people were comfortable with its spiritual nature being a mystery.

The theory of the soul became challenged during the 19th and early 20th century with the rise of evolutionary biology and psychology. The soul became supplanted with the notion that human beings are merely highly sophisticated meat machines and our behavior is far more deterministic than we think. No longer do people need to bear the full burden of responsibility to explain their actions. A person is an alcoholic not because of a personal vice but because their family or race is genetically predisposed to the disorder. We select our mates not from an independent decision making process but from the hard wiring of our genetic code and the subconscious messages inscribed in our minds by our parents.

The present day movement to explain human consciousness and free will has been led by geneticists, neural biologists, psychoanalysts, and computer scientists. Despite all of the advances in science and research, no one has come any further than Descartes to fully explain the existence of human consciousness and free will.

As a result, the inability of scientists to isolate the "free will gene" has caused many of them to question the existence of free will. In the *Times* article, several of the scientists called free will a "perception." According to them, we're free only because we

think we're free. Free will is an "illusion" because it is the body's best way to fulfill its determinist obligations.

How is all of this relevant to America's culture war?

This past August, Senator Chuck Schumer tried to pass federal legislation to regulate the rent-to-own industry. This is an industry, which caters mainly to low-income consumers with poor credit who cannot outright afford a major appliance or furniture but can make regular payments within a lease agreement.

He released a survey, which allegedly found that rent to own businesses are promoting deceitful lease agreements, which charge exorbitant interest rates to unsuspecting consumers. The Brookings Institute also released a survey that found that rent-to-own businesses are preying on the most vulnerable members of our society.

For the moment, let's leave open the question as to whether the rent-to-own industry is really more predatory than the typical business, however, this perception of the industry can only have momentum if you believe that the consumers are "victims" because they are not responsible for choosing to utilize the industry's services. If you believe that individuals are incapable of exercising genuine free will then it makes perfect sense that an industry could exploit a someone's inability to control themselves, thus requiring the government intervention.

This is one example, but other issues such as smoking, education, trans fat in foods, and war, all hinge on what we think is the basis for how we except moral responsibility for our decisions and to what extent we need government to protect us from our presumed deterministic ways. □

The Simple Stuff

By Vivien E. Lewis

I find myself more and more drawn to directing the remote to the Time Warner Classics channel and gazing sweetly at the lovely old world just a few decades ago that has now disappeared – leaving no traces behind with the exception of these old movies that I tenderly watch at very late hours of the night. Family gatherings at the dinner table with prayer, people wearing hats, dressing beautifully out of respect for every occasion, cheerful and happy-

go-lucky personalities, men who stand up when a lady enters the room... people who have consideration for one another.

What I'm trying to say is that I miss patriotism and respect for our family, our country and God. I miss seeing and hearing all that goes with it. But unfortunately it does not stop there. Wherever I turn I hear people saying nasty things about our country. People seem to take for granted the vast and rich heritage that our forefathers fought so gallantly for. This is just a column of tears falling for the righteous. □