

The Record

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November 2008



The Debate Over the GOP's Future

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News You Might Have Missed

Friday, November 14, 2008

CIA Chief Michael Hayden said intelligence reports suggest Usama Bin Laden is near completely isolated from Al-Qaeda and is putting most of his efforts into his own security. Hayden reminded the Atlantic Council that Al-Qaeda is still the single biggest threat to the United States and their influences have spread to other parts of the Middle East and Africa, although there is no new intelligence to suggest an imminent terrorist attack surrounding the Presidential election.

Thursday, November 13, 2008

In New York City, more than 10,000 supporters of gay marriage gathered outside of the Mormon temple near Lincoln Center on the Upper West Side of Manhattan to protest the Mormon Church's support for California's Proposition 8. Prop 8 is a referendum to change the constitution of California to ban same-sex marriage, which passed on November 4th by a margin of 52% to 48%. While Prop 8 was supported by a wide range of ethnicities and religions, the Mormon Church has been singled out by activists. Florida and Arizona also voted to ban same-sex marriage on Election Day.

Thursday, November 13, 2008

Worldwide, 58 countries have passed legislation to criminalize the spread of HIV and another 33 are now considering the law. In the U.S., 34 states have passed similar



legislation, and Canada and the U.K. have prosecuted individuals for spreading the virus. There are over 33 million people with HIV/AIDS in the world right now, with another 3 million infected each year. Human rights groups are concerned that this law could be used to imprison anyone with HIV/AIDS instead of criminalizing those that purposefully spread the virus as intended.

Wednesday,
November 12, 2008

Iran began test firing
their new long-range

surface-to-surface missiles near the border with Iraq. These new missiles have a range of 1,200 miles, use solid fuel, making them more accurate, and have the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad threatened to hit Israeli and American targets in the Middle East in retaliation for any attack on Iran.

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Oil prices closed below \$60 a barrel today on the NYMEX, down 60% from the high of \$145 a barrel this July. The decline is due to drastically lowered forecasts for global energy demand as the world faces an economic slowdown. Many traders predict oil prices to decline even further, in spite of OPEC cutting production and countries like Iran, Venezuela, and Russia stepping up the hostile rhetoric.

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced the deployment of 10 Iskander ballistic missiles and radar jamming equipment to their easternmost territory of Kaliningrad. Kaliningrad is small unconnected territory of Russia on the Baltic Sea boarding American NATO ally Poland. Russia says that this move is in response to US plans to install a missile defense shield and missile tracking radar equipment in Poland and the Czech Republic. The move comes one day after the US presidential elections. Russian President Medvedev also announced that he looks forward to working closely with the president-elect Barack Obama.



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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NEW YORK YOUNG REPUBLICANS

On Race, Religion, Region, and the Republican Party

By Jacob Daniel

When I decided to become an active Republican through the NYYRC in March of 2008, I did not get involved because Republicans were popular or influential in this area. Rather, I joined because I knew the time would be coming soon when the party could no longer ignore its sickly state, and that I and those like me, who cherish that heritage, tradition, and values of the Republican Party, would have the opportunity to restore its relevance and respect. Even those of us who did not foresee a good showing on November 4 were stunned by the degree of loss at the local and national levels.

Now is the time for introspection, and not parroting ready-made political answers. Many areas must be explored. But I have chosen to broadly focus on the above topics of race, religion, and region – not because they are easy subjects, but in the hope that my own personal experience and observations will aid in an unavoidable conversation required to improve the electoral standing of the Party.

I am an Indian-American who was raised in Texas. I am a Christian, whose family includes Orthodox, Catholic, and Evangelical churchgoers. And since college I have had to overcome a physical disability. I have experienced racism in its most physical forms as well as various prejudices' subtle ability to exclude. And contrary to what American liberals would like to portray as a solely White phenomenon, my experience has shown this, unfortunately, naturally occurs in any homogenous population.

The historical roots of what drove peoples into concentrating their political power in one party is beyond the scope of this article, but - North and South, East and West – the Republican Party is overwhelmingly White and some elements fanatically Christian. This is not necessarily bad news but it seems to me that it contributes to increasing explosions of vitriol coming from portions of our leadership and base, and that those explosions are appalling to the very populations we need for future electoral victory. Additionally, good politicians are having their career aspirations hamstrung by religious litmus tests.

The last straw that drove me to write this article was when Senator Kit Bond [R – Missouri] tried to energize a Sarah Palin rally by saying, “He [Obama] said, I’m tired of

these judges who want us to follow what the Founding Fathers said in the Constitution. I [Obama] want judges who have a heart, have an empathy for the teenage mom, the minority, the gay, the disabled...”. In Sen. Bond’s his world I embody two ignorable elements of America. Another personal affront was the infamous 2006 George Allen “macaca” welcome greeting to an Indian-American while campaigning in rural Virginia. Apparently our party does not have a zero tolerance policy for



this type of behavior, as both these people are still welcome in Republican circles. This could also explain why some Republican supporters felt comfortable engaging in hateful verbiage and acts that were seen on television, YouTube, and social network message threads during this election.

And though religious bigotry was silent, it was statistically palpable during the primaries. The candidacies of Mitt Romney and (to a less extent) Rudy Giuliani were impacted by this bigotry, particularly in the Deep South. Also, the outspoken dominance of religious thinking as opposed to

a more balanced approach, like that of Giuliani for example, hurts us nationally with women who otherwise support our agenda with regards to security and fiscal matters. Finally, the focus on specifically Christian social values is limiting our ability to reach people of other faiths who generally share similar cultural values and are conservative in other areas as well.

At this time no vote we can get is expendable. One clear demonstration was this year's handing over to the Democrats a Hispanic-Afro-American coalition by 1) neglecting Republican Hispanics and 2) not tactfully and respectfully dealing with border security and illegal immigration.

Despite these incidents, there is still hope. As a minority, I will let the reader in on a little "secret." Most minorities and people of other faiths would rather be Republican. The following letter from a friend, who most would not expect to be a Republican, is a good example of the harvest of voters available if we genuinely reach out to overlooked groups:

Hi Jacob,

Let me just start by saying that I will be voting Democratic this election-at least for the presidential ticket. I consider myself to be a Republican as do many Arabs, specifically, Muslim Arabs. In the first term of Bush, when he was running against Gore, the majority of the Muslim population endorsed Bush.

What attracts many Muslims and Arabs to the Republican Party is the position the Republican Party has on many of the social issues. Muslim Arabs in general share many of the "conservative" values with Republicans (i.e.-family values, abstinence, abortion, etc.) Many Arabs come from countries that have totalitarian governments. That makes the Republican's ideology about less government interference very attractive. We come from a culture that values hard work and achievement and looks down on entitlement. From an economic standpoint, if you look at Arab American/Muslim American demographics in this country, you see that they are more educated than the general public and you see a higher percentage of independent business owners who want less taxes. This is the Republican Party I grew up to know and admire (Pat Buchanan type of Republican.) Those Republicans that are affiliating Islam and Arabs with being anti American in my opinion are racist and uneducated individuals.

Of all state Republican parties, New York

should never have become a one tone party. We should instead be at the forefront of outreach to conservative minorities and women voters, demonstrating how to win in unionized states and how to balance the needs of the rationally religious, agnostic, and atheist. Instead since the late 1960s, we have allowed our party to become increasingly parochial, with a distinctively southern twang. Our unionized business climate is similar that of the Midwest. Our state and the Northeast at large is culturally similar to the West Coast. And like the West Coast our main growth areas have been the service sector and international trade.

It is no wonder then that our integration of Southern political conservatism has had a large part in rendering the Northeast Republican political machine immobile. In this bleak environment, NYYRC can thrive and help revive the party in New York and set an example of how to win in the Northeast. Our youthful energy, willingness to accept and reconcile diverse points of view, and ability to work with local think tanks like the Manhattan Institute will serve us well in building a 21st century party. As we move forward with policy development and implementation for NY Republicans, keep these 3 suggestions in mind:

- 1) Look for inspiration from our Dutch cultural heritage – Both in terms of tolerance and in ensuring every citizen has the ability to pursue their dreams.
- 2) Cast a wider net – Personal and organizational outreach to groups of people that you are not seeing enough of at club meetings.
- 3) Think in terms of counties and districts – The Democrats' 50 state strategy served them well. We have to understand the local voter better to win.

There is a lot at stake, but I am confident that a stronger party will emerge from our efforts.



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President's Column: Get Back to Winning!

Dear Fellow Young Republicans,

First and foremost, I want to take a moment to thank you. You took vast amounts of your precious personal time to make calls, walk the streets and donate money to Senator McCain and Governor Palin, as well as for our YR candidates: Bill Buran, John Chromczak, and Saul Farber. Once again, thank you.

More importantly, I need you to know that your efforts were not in vain. Let's look at the numbers: the New York Young Republican Club had 12 members in August of 2001. Today we have close to 800. In the heart of liberal New York City, we're the oldest, largest and most active Young Republican Club in the nation.

We had 3 YRs run for office, and in a not-so-friendly Republican year they held their own, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund very difficult campaigns to give New Yorkers a choice on the ballot. I salute them for their tireless effort and for putting themselves out there.

But the fight isn't over, the political war has just begun and I'm not talking Democrats vs. Republicans. I'm talking our fight for survival in New York State. We face the challenge of a lifetime, right here in New York. The loss of the Presidential Election, the New York State Senate Majority, and our Republican stronghold in Staten Island are just a few reasons why we need to come together.

Friends, we look to the future and you are a part of that future – A future that we must begin, today, together.

The NY YRC is steadfast in its commitment to our party, our ideals, our values. I ask you today to make a commitment to our party. Make a commitment to not allow this country to remain a "one party-in-power" system. Make a commitment to be a larger part of the organization that's going to hold the Democrats' feet to the fire and keep them honest over the next 2-4 years, statewide and nationally. Make a commitment to the New York Young Republican Club. Become a member,

become a committee member, just get more involved in anyway you can. The only way to fix a broken system is to get in and get your hands dirty.

It's like what the great Vince Lombardi said, "Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." And as you know, that man knew a little something about winning.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are here, we are NOT going away without a fight and I know that in order to get back to winning, we need to get back to basics. We need to get back to the days of Ronald Reagan, where a big tent, an open mind, and personal and fiscal responsibility were the cornerstones of the Grand Old Party. Now is the time to get involved.

Lynn Krogh

If you'd like to get involved in the NY YRC, join a committee! Email membership@nyyrc.com for more info.

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Grave Robbery in Germany

By Sirko Schulz

The death tax is claimed to be a fair tax. It would tax undeserved income and keep the heirs from losing ambition by simply handing over the wealth from one generation to the next. Everybody shall have his or her fair chance to make a fortune and everybody shall have the same chance. It is this cryptic understanding of offering everybody equal opportunities and therefore preventing people from having an advantage from the outset. An idea most easily realized in practice in a totalitarian system, since property is by far not the sole determinant of opportunities in later life.

The argumentation for the death tax is dual tracked, on the receiving as well as on the giving side. The most profane point concerning the deceased is: "You are dead." This comes down to the question of who you get your rights from: Do you inherit them by nature/god – whatever you may believe – or by government? In the latter case, the government might grant you to keep some of the things you have worked for while you are alive. But by death your property merges into some diffuse collective and your property falls back into government hands. Your will does not endure your existence. But if you believe in the free will – whatever way expressed – why question one's last will and testament? It would be rational to squander everything you own in the face of impending and immediate death since the government will push reset anyway. Is that the savings behavior that benefits a rational economy?

Furthermore the death tax charges additional property taxes, on wealth completely subjected to taxation when it first was earned. The deceased had paid income tax, capital gains tax and in some countries even a property tax on what he has earned in a lifetime. He probably did not work hard to have the government's hands on his property as soon as he

passes away. If taxation is legitimized theft, the death tax is grave robbery.

Furthermore we all lose generally from the idea of spreading wealth around. Instead, it harms the economy because it is a tax on the capital: no income or turnover is the base for the tax but the capital stock. Under the new law that the German coalition government is about to pass, you would have to pay an up to 50% death tax (be assured we Germans once again figured out a far more complicated model) if you inherit a company, house or stock. If you run the company for ten more years and the sum of salaries stays at least constant, the government gives you a discount. If not, it might be necessary to sell or close the business. In the case of inheriting a house, you can avoid paying the tax if you have personally lived in it for more than ten years. If not, and you do not have sufficient liquidity, you might have to sell the property to pay the taxes, no matter what the housing market looks like. That is not only spreading it around, but transferring wealth from private to government control.

Besides the proposed tax's regulative nonsense it is amazingly complicated. Armies of assessors and lawyers will fight over the worth of the heritage, which is why it has already earned the description as a stimulus package for this sector. All this for a tax that would contribute less than 1% to the total revenue from taxes seems to suggest it is only of symbolic politics: find something that feels like a solution and leaves the impression of social justice. It makes use of one of man's basest feelings, jealousy, for political gain. Austria and even Sweden and France have virtually abolished the death tax, but alas 70% of all literature written about taxes is in German and so we do our best to keep the lead.

American Populism

By Matthew Bucklin

If you want the answer, ask an economist...

There have been "multiple episodes of failed populist policies since the end of World War II. Yet new generations of leaders seemingly have not learned from history and continue to reach for populism's simplistic solutions. Arguably, in the process, they have made matters worse."

-Alan Greenspan

President-elect Barack Obama has wrongly been labeled a socialist, a Marxist, a Muslim and many other things along his path to the White House. One label that is much more accurate, but often never mentioned, is 'populist,' which is better suited considering his promise to "spread the wealth." Obama's enthusiastic, populist rhetoric was a powerful campaign weapon, especially after the beginning of the financial meltdown, but hopefully nothing more than empty campaign promises because history has shown us that populism continually fails to make anything better.

The definition of populism is, "a political philosophy that supports the rights and power of the people, usually in opposition of the privileged elite." Populism does not claim to be on the side of the left, right, or center of the political spectrum, but on the side of the people. Typically populist leaders motivate the working and lower-classes to oppose the upper class and promise the redistribution of wealth, land or income. Populism is more of a feeling than a set of concrete ideas or a philosophy on how to govern. There are no actual studies or philosophy books taught in populism or any empirical evidence that proves how their ideas make the situation better. Regardless, populism still exists in the hearts of those that are suffering in the face of disparity.

Latin America has been the testing ground for populism for almost a century, the same way Eastern Europe was the testing ground for communism. Populist leaders have plagued Latin American countries because of the enormous wealth gap, the largest in the world left over from the colonial era, and stagnated their economies. Hugo Chavez has epitomized Latin American populism with his hostile stance towards wealthy business owners and the U.S. His regime has been propped up by recent high oil prices but now that oil has dropped

dramatically, Venezuelans are going to realize they are now worse off than before Chavez stole property and expelled American corporations. Even after decades of populist leadership, most Latin Americans are no better off. Their economies have not grown, there is a persistent wealth gap, and they are still besieged with crime and corruption significantly more than North America.

Populism does more harm than good to any economy because it fails to protect property rights and individual liberties. The protection of private property, one of the most basic purposes of government, is essential to the creation of wealth. People need to know when they work hard and take risks their success will not be taken away. In a situation where the government cannot guarantee the protection of property, or indeed threatens it, people have little incentive to invest and conduct business. Populism actually promotes corruption instead of business, which only benefits the elite class that has the wealth and power to gain personal favors. It is ironic that the very political ideology that promises to decrease the wealth gap tends to increase it.

Karl Marx once advocated for a steep progressive income tax, essentially the same thing our president-elect has promised. Besides discouraging business, there are other unintended consequences to promising a substantial tax increase on the 5% of Americans that create wealth. Since Election Day the stock market has dropped almost 15%, wiping out trillions of dollars from the retirement accounts of the over two-thirds of Americans that keep money in the stock market. We can only hope Obama does not follow through with his populist ideas because history has taught us populism only makes the desperation worse for those ailing voters who brought it to power.

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Election Reflections

By Saul Farber

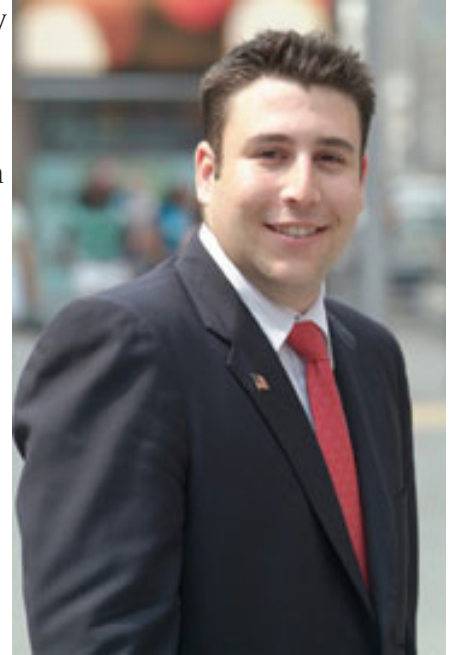
Over the past seven months I have had the unique and honorable opportunity to represent our Republican Party as a candidate for Assembly in midtown Manhattan. A 22 year old, recent graduate from New York University, I have found myself to be tremendously proud of a party that allowed me to run for office, in a district that has never seen an active Republican candidate in its history. This was a year where the deck was stacked against us: from the presidential administration right on down to the diminishing republican majority in the state senate. The county party leaders took a chance on me, and I felt it to be my responsibility to go above and beyond the typical GOP candidate in Manhattan.

I quickly got to work fundraising, putting together lists of potential staffers and working on a game plan. There was never a day that I didn't know I could rely on the Young Republicans and the County Committee for critical feedback, ground troops, and strategic direction. This made my job easier as I quickly learned how to use their specific niches to benefit our campaign.

It's a difficult time to be a Republican in New York City. It's a difficult time to be a Republican. Period, but I had support from folks of different political persuasions, throughout this campaign. We received an unprecedented amount of financial support and put an exceptional amount of time on the street for this election, ultimately forcing our opponent, Dick Gottfried, to campaign for the first time in his 38-year career. Republicans, Conservatives, Independents and Democrats came out and voted for me, their choice on the ballot, the change we desperately need on the West side, Chelsea, Clinton and Murray Hill. For that, the unwavering support, and for the steadfast belief in me, I am forever thankful for the independent thinkers in my district. I am humbled that my message did not fall on deaf ears, but the ears of those willing to give me a chance. I will continue to work to give my fellow neighbors a choice on the ballot and I will continue to serve my community as an independent voice for the people.

It is essential that each and every one of those that have supported me know that I am here for the long haul. I will continue to fight for a new and innovative vision for this community. It has been an honor to be the voice for so many who are frustrated with the dysfunction in Albany. I will continue to be here, as an advocate for so many who need a representative to stand up to the bureaucrats and power brokers in our State. We cannot predict the future, but we can continue to mount a strong alliance within the community, holding our elected officials accountable to each and every one of us.

This campaign has been the most rewarding experience of my life. People have come from all corners of the state and political aisle to support me, a feeling that is indescribable. I have learned a great deal walking the streets of my community, hearing the issues that face everyday New Yorkers. Their voice has been the fuel to my journey. The faith of so many that counted on me these past few months will continue to serve as the underlining factor to my purpose: to fight for what we believe in. Our party is in dire straits, and I urge each and every one of you to join me in re-establishing what it is to be a Republican. We must recognize the changing times, and embrace the notion of a Grand New Party. This is my mission, and I thank those who have allowed these goals and ideals to come to fruition.



What's Old Should be New Again

By William Palumbo

With the election of Barack Obama to America's highest office the short-term future of the Republican Party looks grave. They have squandered eight years in power -- albeit two of those years with a Democratically controlled Congress -- expanding the size of government and starting a war whose legitimacy is roundly questioned. Conservatism, the media proclaim, is in disarray. In light of these disastrous predictions, it is helpful to recall what led us down this ill-begotten path and how to correct our course.

In the last few decades the Republican Party has stood for competence, traditional values, and limited government. This advancement of ideology reached its apogee under President Reagan. The conservative movement conquered the party and then the nation to command bravely against the Soviets and enact policies to remedy a recession at home. It stressed personal responsibility alongside personal choice and thus encouraged temperance. There was no bust in the groundswell support for such successful policies, indeed it died only because our elected officials spoiled the recipe. Luckily it is not a specific set of legislation but an attitude and accompanying philosophy of governance; it can for this reason be brought up to date to meet today's challenges. Its core principle is limited government growing organically from a responsible people.

Why and how does this principle to limit government effect meeting our needs in the most efficient manner economically? It has worked well and will continue to work well because its counterpart -- that is limited government's counterpart -- is the free society and its subsequent free market economy. Yet too often we encourage both the government and the free market to destructively compete, encouraging collusion in the end. They each have relevant spheres to occupy and are best functioning when balanced. It's no secret which way the scales are currently tipped: "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

This is prescient advice. We need to educate the public on inevitable government encroachment on an intemperate electorate and on government directed destruction to free markets. Voluntary exchange is based on mutual gain and trade therefore benefits all parties. For this reason, free trade maximizes wealth generation. It hinders the creation of new wealth by

hindering freedom.

There are only two enemies of free trade: government and special interest groups (of which we all are potential individually); the government because it hinders government's growth and special interest groups because it is merely neutral to their benefits.

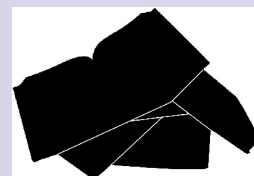
Make it clear how government can and should function by illuminating principle. Delineate between the law and the right thing to do. Put into the personal realm that which is personal and not related the legitimate functions of a government. Show how the free market leads the benefit of all at the detriment to the individual and not lead to, as other systems do, the other way around. These are appealing messages and they work in practice. Finally, make compromise only when confronted with an otherwise unbearable reality -- to wit and strategy the other arguments must be won.

"It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the federal government and those reserved to the states or to the people." These words of Reagan bespoke a profound understanding of government's threat to liberty. With Congress expanding government year after year even under an alleged conservative, there is no wonder conservatism's brand is in the trash. This is not the time to equivocate with compromises of convenience but the time instead to challenge our constituents to debate and in participating espouse convincing conservative arguments.

Now is the time for retrenchment. The Republican Party in disarray is ideal for conservatism to blossom and subsequently lead to popularity and election. In office we need men and women of both conservative conviction and esteem. Let's find us an intelligent, charismatic conservative leader with credentials to lead the party and elaborate our principles of limited government and personal responsibility. The alternate to redoubling our efforts is a fate much worse.

The Republican Party should seize on this set of conservative ideas that is morally and sensibly correct that and that also, largely through economic incentive, attracts the electorate. To keep America free we need these principles spoken to and reflected in our legislation. Bring back original recipe conservatism.

BOOK REVIEW



“Boomsday” Christopher Buckley
 By Jen Saunder

Christopher Buckley’s *“Boomsday”* is a timely satire about the impending social security funding shortfall that takes place as the first baby boomers begin collecting their benefits and young workers’ taxes must be raised exponentially to fund their retirement. The heroine, Cass, a young communications strategist, attracts a massive following on a blog where she rants about this injustice – and inadvertently leads scores of youth to protest the tax increases by taking it out on boomers on their home turf – the golf course.

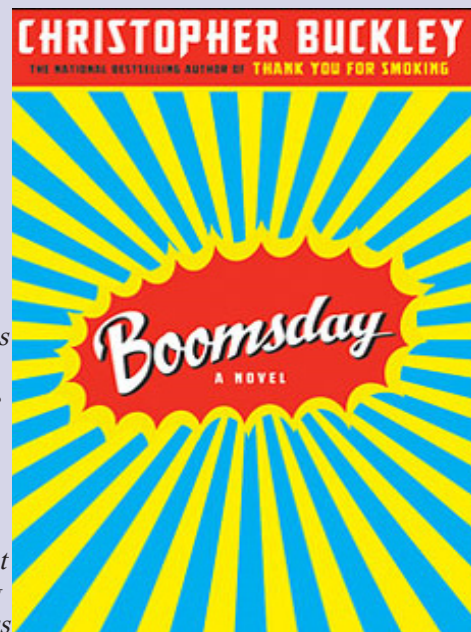
As she becomes a national sensation and a target of attacks from the President which only serve to further validate her cause, she proposes, in the spirit of Jonathon Swift’s *“A Modest Proposal,”* the idea that boomers, in exchange for some tax credits and other perks, commit suicide to save the country. Packaged as *“voluntary transitioning,”* the idea gains traction as youth anger builds against the *“wrinklies.”* As deals are cut with AARP-like groups in the form of flat screen TVs, *“Boomsday”* makes great mockery of politics as usual in Washington. (Again, this is a satire, so to those opposed to physician assisted suicide, you will be happy to know that no *“wrinklies”* actually *“voluntarily transition.”*)

Beyond the interesting portrayal of the communications cycle and politics as usual in Washington, and amidst humor, Buckley tackles the very real impending issue of funding for social security as the baby boom generation begins to retire and go on the dole. With Barack Obama in the White House and the Democrats in control of both the House and Senate come January 2009, this issue will become all the more pressing in light of new entitlements and automotive corporate welfare with which the Dems are likely to saddle our generation.

Another important aspect of *“Boomsday”* is the difficulty of gaining the interest of the young voter, and the even greater difficulty of counteracting the very powerful senior citizen voting bloc. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we strive to get our message out and do everything that we can to mobilize young voters. Without young voters we will not be able to make any meaningful progress on issues such as Social Security reform and Medicare.

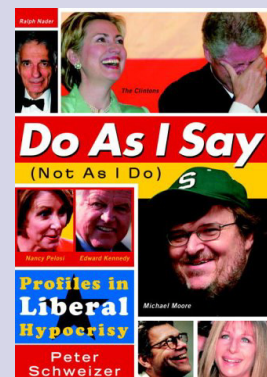
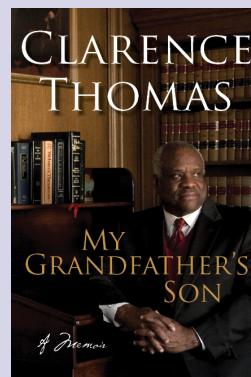
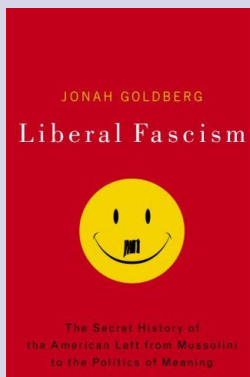
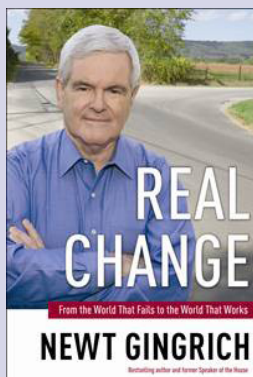
We are the future of the party, and it is important that we do everything that we can to make sure that our voices heard. The Web 2.0 tools that the Ron Paul and Obama campaigns utilized to their advantage can be used by us as well. Many young voters have a negative stereotype of young voters, but we can work to change that by actively engaging in social media and working to spread the word of our fiscally conservative beliefs on the internet. As party leaders gather to debate the future of the party, we need to stand up for our generation.

As the GOP regroups and rebuilds after a resounding national losses, now is the ideal time for us to shape party discourse. Like Cass in *“Boomsday,”* if we can start a movement online, we will have a voice.



Past Book Reviews...

- Real Change
By Newt Gingrich
- Liberal Fascism
By Jonah Goldberg
- My Grandfather’s Son
By Clarence Thomas
- Do As I Say, Not as I Do
By Peter Schweizer



Race	Region	Winner	Party	Results
President	National	Obama	Dem	53%
Senate	Maine	Collins	Rep	61%
Senate	New Hampshire	Shaheen	Dem	52%
Senate	Massachusetts	Kerry	Dem	66%
Senate	Rhode Island	Reed	Dem	73%
Senate	New Jersey	Lautenberg	Dem	56%
Senate	Delaware	Biden	Dem	65%
Senate	West Virginia	Rockefeller	Dem	64%
Senate	Virginia	Warner	Dem	65%
Senate	North Carolina	Hagan	Dem	53%
Senate	Kentucky	McConnell	Rep	53%
Senate	South Carolina	Graham	Rep	58%
Senate	Georgia			
Senate	Illinois	Durbin	Dem	68%
Senate	Michigan	Levin	Dem	63%
Senate	Alabama	Sessions	Rep	63%
Senate	Mississippi	Cochran	Rep	62%
Senate	Iowa	Harkin	Dem	63%
Senate	South Dakota	Johnson	Dem	62%
Senate	Nebraska	Johanns	Rep	58%
Senate	Kansas	Roberts	Rep	60%
Senate	Oklahoma	Inhofe	Rep	57%
Senate	Texas	Cornyn	Rep	55%
Senate	Montana	Baucus	Dem	73%
Senate	Wyoming	Enzi	Rep	76%
Senate	Colorado	Udall	Dem	53%
Senate	New Mexico	Udall	Dem	61%
Senate	Idaho	Risch	Rep	58%
Senate	Oregon	Merkley	Dem	49%
House	New York Dist #1	Bishop	Dem	58%
House	New York Dist #2	Isreal	Dem	66%
House	New York Dist #3	King	Rep	64%
House	New York Dist #4	McCarthy	Dem	64%
House	New York Dist #5	Ackerman	Dem	70%
House	New York Dist #7	Crowley	Dem	85%
House	New York Dist #8	Nadler	Dem	80%
House	New York Dist #10	Towns	Dem	94%
House	New York Dist #11	Clarke	Dem	92%
House	New York Dist #12	Velazquez	Dem	89%
House	New York Dist #13	McMahon	Dem	61%
House	New York Dist #14	Maloney	Dem	79%
House	New York Dist #15	Rangel	Dem	88%
House	New York Dist #16	Serrano	Dem	97%
House	New York Dist #17	Engel	Dem	79%
House	New York Dist #18	Lowey	Dem	68%
House	New York Dist #19	Hall	Dem	58%
House	New York Dist #20	Gillibrand	Dem	62%
House	New York Dist #21	Tonko	Dem	62%
House	New York Dist #22	Hickey	Dem	66%
House	New York Dist #23	McHugh	Rep	65%
House	New York Dist #24	Arcuri	Dem	51%
House	New York Dist #25	Maffei	Dem	55%
House	New York Dist #26	Lee	Rep	55%
House	New York Dist #27	Higgins	Dem	74%
House	New York Dist #28	Slaughter	Dem	78%
House	New York Dist #29	Massa	Dem	51%

2008 Social Issue State Ballot Results

by Stuart Atias

So much for consistency. If any definitive conclusions can be drawn at this stage of analysis of the 2008 General Elections, it may be that support for candidates and support for issues are not inextricably linked. To some conservative pundits and observers, the victory of Senator Barack Obama in the presidential election has signaled a hard turn to the left among the American electorate. Yet, if the results of several state ballot initiatives concerning social issues are any measure, then the turn may be construed as somewhat softer than they warn, or at the least can serve as a signal that Americans are merely spinning in a variety of directions on a variety of issues.

There were seven major social issue ballot initiatives for voters to consider, and the results were as varied as their subjects. Three dealt with gay marriage (successful), three addressed abortion restrictions (defeated) and one with physician assisted suicide (successful). While the margin of victory for Senator Obama (more than 8 million in the popular vote and 201 electoral votes) suggests broad support for his liberal ideological worldview, many who favored him over Senator John McCain did not line up neatly when it came to ballot initiatives and the issues relative to a liberal agenda. Similarly, in states that supported McCain, ballot measures traditionally associated with a conservative candidate failed as well.

The most glaring example is the California voters' overwhelming support for Obama, but rejection of gay marriage. President-elect Obama has declared his opposition to gay marriage as such, but will not support a constitutional amendment banning it and favors civil unions. While Obama took the state handily, California adopted Proposition 8, and amended its constitution to prohibit same sex marriage. Curiously, while 94% of African Americans supported Obama, anywhere from 70-80% (depending upon which poll one employs) of these same voters agreed with the Proposition 8 and another 51% supported the parental notification abortion initiative of Proposition 4 which was defeated

overall.

Florida is another case where the liberal candidate carried the vote but the social issue ballot measure prevailed. Although the narrow margin of 2% (a tad over 200,000 votes) was enough for Obama to succeed, nearly 5 million voters (62%) decisively propelled Florida's Amendment 2 upholding traditional marriage. Here too, Florida's African American community (and considerable Hispanic community) mirrored those of California in supporting Obama (94% and 57%, respectively), yet results on Amendment 2 were nearly identical (71% and 64%).

In South Dakota, a state carried by Senator McCain by 8 percentage points, Initiative 11 placing restrictions on most abortions failed by 10%. Only Arizona and Colorado followed the expected pattern of support for both candidate and issue, with Arizona, which became the first state to reject a gay marriage amendment in 2006, now joining 43 other states with either statutes or constitutions prohibiting gay marriage. Colorado, which supported Obama with a 9% margin of victory, overwhelmingly rejected its' Amendment 48 which proposed to define a human person at the moment of conception, thereby severely restricting (if not eliminating) abortion in nearly all cases by a landslide 73-27%.

In addition, the state of Washington, which supported Obama 58-41%, also adopted Issue 1000 legalizing physician assisted suicide by a nearly identical margin.

What does it all mean? Social scientists look



for patterns and trends in exit polls when attempting to gauge the social pulse of a nation, but at this point the lines on the map seem to be headed in various directions with few hard conclusions rising above the level of pure conjecture. Yes, the more observant white protestant vote fell in line with the Republican candidate, but the Catholic vote was divided evenly between Obama and McCain. Yes, the African American vote was overwhelmingly behind Obama, but decidedly less so on issues traditionally associated with conservative beliefs.

As mentioned above, one can only hypothesize about the totality of these results so perhaps there exists an undercurrent of thought regarding the issues of

gay marriage and abortion and it may be that the bigger stream flows back to an electorate that has grown weary of judicial activism vis-à-vis judges mandating gay marriage but is also reluctant about the criminalization of abortion and the possibility of sentencing women to jail. Or perhaps what we are witnessing is merely the inevitable shift which occurs when one party's dominance begins to wane. Finally, it might be argued that Americans have embraced the notion of "change" but, cannot conclude what that change should entail or how it is to be achieved.

Change for the sake of change; Americans are divided...for a change.

NYYRC - In The News

New York: the wrong town to be right
The Sydney Morning Herald, Oct. 17, 2008

McCain and the State Senate Fall, But a Young Republicans Party Must Go On
New York Observer – Nov. 5, 2008

Republicans Aim to Rebuild after a Bruising Election
New York Times, United States - Nov 9, 2008

Smiling Into the Tidal Wave: A Young Republican Challenges Gottfried
NY Observer – Nov 2, 2008

Tears of Joy Flow Across New York
New York Daily News, NY - Nov 5, 2008

Additional Election Night Television Coverage:
CNN American Morning
CNN – DL Hughley Breaks the News

Obama Coladas or Candy McCains? Where to Party on Election Night in N.Y.
Bloomberg – Nov. 3, 2008

Why Election Night was best spent in a crowd
MSNBC - Nov 6, 2008
After long campaign, young workers ask, what now?
Associated Press - Nov 7, 2008

City Republicans Gather For Somber Election Night Party
NY1, NY - Nov 5, 2008

A tough time to be a Young Republican
Metro NY – Nov 7, 2008

Expanding Government

By Andrew Voutsinas

The United States is quickly losing its reputation as the economic powerhouse of the world. Some have even said that this is the worst U.S. economy since the Great Depression. Times like this require our best and brightest to come up with new innovations that help grow the economy. Emerging Market Countries such as China, Brazil, and India have been showing a trend toward relaxing government control over its people. This has led to innovation, and hence unprecedented growth in these countries, and with it an increase status in the world economy. President-Elect Barack Obama's plans to raise taxes on the rich, raise business taxes, and increase government presence in health care, while maybe well intentioned, will take us in the opposite direction.

President-Elect Obama ran a campaign promising tax cuts to 95% of the American people. Keep in mind that about half of Americans don't even pay income tax so their tax cut is basically a government hand out paid for by those 5% who will see their taxes go up. Among these 5% of people are many who run businesses and create jobs. The emerging market countries are deregulating from communism and socialism and seeing growth. By taking from those who are working hard to make a better life and create to give to those who quite frankly are not we are doing a great disservice to everyone involved. Increasing the upper level tax bracket encourages those to work less since they will be taking home less and less of their additional salary. This leads to less opportunity for innovation to occur and stifles the creativity of our best and brightest. Giving handouts to those on the bottom end encourages them to work less as well. If they work more and consequently earn additional money, the handouts will be phased out and they too will end up with less for working more. This attempt to bring the top down and the bottom up might aim to make things equal but in the end it just makes society poorer and burdens the poorer more than the rich.

Then there is the issue of raising business taxes by lifting the tax cap for Social Security exemption. This will impact both businesses and employees. Who will pay for these taxes? In the end the 95% will, either by losing their jobs to layoffs or paying more for the goods and services these companies produce. The unintended consequence of this will be increased

unemployment and lower consumer spending. The United States already has the second highest business tax rate in the world. Increasing it in a time where many businesses are in trouble will make matters worse. The easiest cut to make for a struggling business is its people. Many who voted for Obama on the basis of hope and change will be changing their employment status and hoping for a job.

When people don't like the person who was elected president, a common threat heard is "I'm moving to Canada!" If Senator Obama's plans for healthcare come to fruition, our healthcare system might resemble the much maligned Canadian system. While I don't believe Obama plans to completely nationalize healthcare as some have charged, he does seem to want to increase government presence. He doesn't seem to want to say how he plans on paying for his program which would benefit many of those 47 million (including illegal immigrants) who are living in this country uninsured. It is very important that the government work to reduce this number but the way they do it is equally important. Obama's plan hopes to reduce the number of uninsured by as many as 26 million (good) but intends to do so without controlling costs, while adding significantly to government expenditures, and increasing the enrollment in Medicaid and other public plans (bad).

As Ronald Reagan famously said, "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem". All signs point to a significant increase in government presence over the next 4 years. Let's hope that President Obama realizes the damage his "amelioratory" policies can do in a down economy. Hopefully he realizes the folly of an unprecedented increase in government spending at a time this country owes more debt than ever before and simply doesn't have that kind of money to spend. Now it's our turn to root for hope and change.







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