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Freedom to Teach at Cornell

By ZACH NEWKIRK

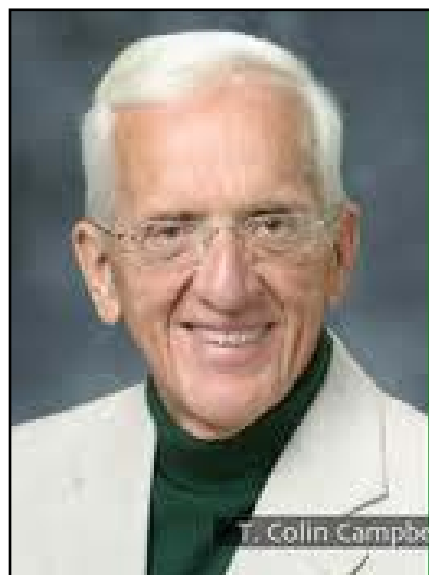
Residents of Ithaca woke up on August 4, 2011 to find an unusual letter to the editor in the Ithaca Journal. Two professors at Cornell University wrote claiming that their academic freedom had been infringed by the elimination of their courses.

The professors, T. Colin Campbell and Randy Wayne, claimed in their letter that “the elimination of our courses was performed without consulting us as instructors and with no explanation...We appealed the decisions only to find that the process was tightly controlled with no transparency. To this day, no reasons for the course cancellations have been given.”

The administration never wrote a response to the Ithaca Journal and the issue was buried over the last few months among other news items. Still, for a university that semi-religiously quotes its motto of “any person...any study,” any potential for a suppression of academic freedom is troubling. The stories of Campbell and Wayne seem foreign to many students’ academic and extracurricular experience. They involve the nefarious influence of corporations, top-down, authoritarian decisions and the bottom line: money.

The End of NS 200: Vegetarian Nutrition

T. Colin Campbell is one of the world’s leading researchers in the field of nutrition and author of The



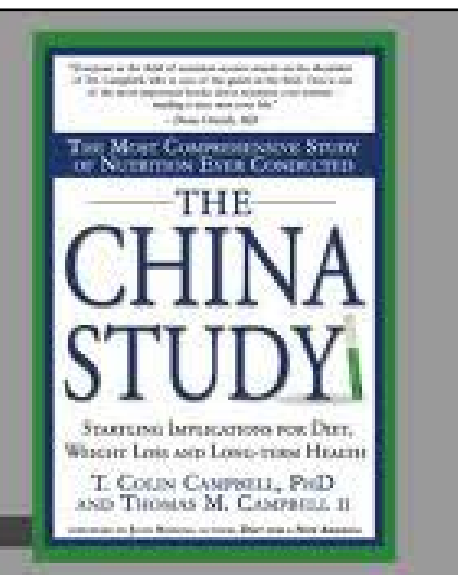
T. Colin Campbell

Professor T. Colin Campbell, author of The China Study. Source: vegsource.com

China Study. His course, Vegetarian Nutrition, was a three credit lecture in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the Division of Nutrition. In 2005, several students wished to take the course but could not find it in the course catalog. “I suddenly got an email from a couple students back on campus who wanted to sign up for the course and it wasn’t in the catalog and

I didn’t know what it was,” Campbell told the Cornell Progressive.

He approached the curriculum committee who informed him the division head, Cutberto Garza, made



the decision. “He’s a very powerful and influential consultant for the dairy industry – probably the most significant consultant maybe in the world,” Campbell explained.

The dairy industry, of course, has little to gain from the growing vegan movement, championed in The China Study. The results of years of study? “People who ate the most animal-

based foods got the most chronic disease ... People who ate the most plant-based foods were the healthiest and tended to avoid chronic disease.”

Meanwhile, Campbell continued to fight for his course, asking the former Dean of CALS, Susan Henry and the new Nutrition head, Patrick Stover, why his course had been taken out of the books. Campbell described Stover as having “an autocratic attitude” and refused to show him a

“Universities were constructed in a free society to be one place, at least, where you can have civil discourse without somebody controlling what you say.”

letter to the dean explaining why the course had been taken off the books.

“It was all a very secret, hush-hush kind of thing,” Campbell said. “I was never consulted!”

When asked for an interview

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Jon Stewart:

50% Disgruntled Liberal, 50% Modern American Man, 100% Hilarious

By ROXANA AMIRAHMADI

It was no surprise that Jon Stewart’s stand-up show in Barton Hall over parents’ weekend was a laugh-out-loud sensation on such a liberal college campus. As a passionate liberal and young adult I have always loved Stewart’s political commentary on The Daily Show, from imitating Donald Trump and poking fun at the rhetorical blunders of Republican presidential candidates Rick Perry and Herman Cain, to pointing out some of the more dire realities of the polarized political culture in Washington today. Stewart fearlessly expresses many liberals’ ideals that other commentators in mainstream media are too afraid to openly share, and he isn’t afraid to challenge conservative ideologies and political culture.

While the audience got to behold Stewart’s characteristic liberal flair when he candidly called Rick Perry “George Bush condensed in a 5 pound bag,” and compared President Obama’s impressive presidential victory over John McCain in 2008 to FDR losing the presidential race in 1940 to a guy named “Gaydolf Shitler,” it was refreshing to also hear jokes demonstrating his perspective as a man, father, husband, and non-practicing Jew, rather than simply as a disgruntled liberal.

I went to Jon Stewart’s Saturday show with one of my good friends, Osar. In many ways, Osar and I cannot be more ideologically different. I am a self-proclaimed social liberal from New Jersey, he is a socially conservative Texan. I have been following Jon Stewart’s show since sophomore year of high school,



Courtesy of Cornell Photography

he has never went out of his way to watch the Daily Show. Thus, it was not surprising that I was curious to hear his opinion on Jon Stewart’s performance at Cornell while sitting in such a noticeably liberal audience.

Osar, a junior Biology and Society major in the College of Arts and Sciences, generally enjoyed the

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EDITORIAL

The Halt of Progress in Egypt

By THE CORNELL PROGRESSIVE

In a move that threatens the entire legitimacy and stability of the Arab Spring, Egypt's Cabinet has offered a mass resignation in protest of the ruling military council. Egypt, one of the countries that was the driving force behind the pro-democracy protests that spread through the Middle East last year, has found itself back at square one. Thousands of people are again gathering in Cairo in protest of the government, only this time the military is at the heart of their complaints. Security forces controlled by the military government are proving as brutal as those who tried to repress the demonstrations against former President Mubarak's rule, as hundreds have been injured and at least twenty-two have died so far. These protests arose with growing concerns that the military was reluctant to hand over power to a civilian-elected government and would try to remain in power. Protestors fear that after all of their efforts in bringing democracy to Egypt and their hard-fought overthrow of the corrupt Mubarak government, they have simply changed the face of repression.

While the opposing sides don't agree on much, they do agree that the violent clashes will only destabilize and threaten peace in Egypt. With the protests already set in motion however, the military has little choice but to start preparing for elections if it wants to remain true to its insistence that it is only holding onto the government for the eventual representatives. Although it will take time to construct a fair and transparent

voting system, this process must be begun immediately if the government wants to stop the protestors.

The rest of the world doesn't need to let Egypt struggle with this alone though. Although the United Nations should absolutely not become involved militarily, it should reach out to the military government and offer to help set up and administrate the elections. It's in the global interest for Egypt to remain stable, and the U.S. could certainly use a strong democratic power besides Israel in the Middle East as an ally. Still, there is a fine line between how much the U.S. can intervene without infringing upon Egypt's self-determination or angering the rest of the Middle East. By gaining the cooperation of the rest of the UN, the United States would still be a vital player in the democratization of Egypt while not forcing all of its power down the throat of Egypt.

International backing by the UN would be extremely helpful in not only establishing the legitimacy of Egypt's new government, but also letting the current military government know that the rest of the world is watching and willing to support the spread of democracy. Hopefully once Egypt's elected government is on firmer footing, it can continue the expansion of social change and lead Egypt into further modernity. Women's rights and economic reform are two areas that are being left behind due to the political sentiment and protests that are sweeping the nation. Although political change is arguably the most important issue right now, progress

shouldn't be limited to only one social dimension. Egypt may be at a standstill right now, but the people are demanding change. This change will come, but it is up to the rest of the world to make sure that it doesn't result in brutal suppression of democracy or human rights. Egypt's people are ready for true progress, but they cannot achieve it alone.

CP

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Sarah Greenberg '13
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Layout

Susan Duan '13
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Treasurer

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Editors Emeriti

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Advisor

Edward Baptist, History

Founders

Thomas Leung '02, Tsee Yung Lee '02,
Tsee Yung Lee '02

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CUProgressive@gmail.com

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ON BOYCOTTING BIG BUSINESSES Jenna Behrendt

Occupy What?

It seems everywhere we look these days, something is being "occupied." But do we even know what the protestors are fighting for? Their goals are becoming more and more unintelligible. Originally they

protested against corporate greed and bankers on Wall Street. Now the "occupy" movement has spread like wild fire, and seems to address a number of issues from social inequality, corruption to even the "free Tibet" cause. However, by trying to extend to too many issues, the movement may be starting to lose momentum.

With so many different issues clamoring for attention, it appears that there is almost too much to even accomplish. I think almost all Americans, and many people around the world, agree that there is a need for change in the government and the financial district. This recession is not going to simply go away by itself. I admire the protestors' efforts;

they are at least taking some sort of action while the rest of us are simply watching through our TV screens in the safety of our living rooms. But I do not think that protesting alone will bring the progress we want either.

them, not consume their goods while simultaneously protesting against them. A typical participant in the "occupy" movement uses products from about 22 different companies on any given day, all while protesting.

Messages are sent through Facebook, text messages are exchanged through a variety of wireless networks, and meetings are made over coffee at Starbucks. If we don't stop supporting these companies that are exploiting us, how can we expect to see any change?

I would even posit that consumerism is a significant impetus to corporate greed and social inequality. Do you think that the workers in China who made your iPhone or your J Crew sweater for less than minimum wage have equal opportunities for upward mobility?

If we want to see change in the world, we have to be the ones to bring it. We cannot count on the government to provide

equality – it is something we need to change from the bottom-up. Imagine if we could change our lifestyles, if we could stop using items sold by big businesses; there would be no corporate greed or economic inequality because there would be no comparison between neighbors of who has the more luxurious or sought

“Do you think that the workers in China who made your iPhone or your J Crew sweater for less than minimum wage have equal opportunities for upward mobility?”

after car or TV. Instead of standing outside in the cold, the protestors should help their fellow Americans realize that we should be changing the way we think and behave as consumers on a day-to-day basis.

CP

ON ALCOHOL Kushagra Aniket

Coming to Terms with Underage Drinking

There is at least one undergrad, say 'A', under the age of 21 at Cornell who consumes alcoholic beverages willingly. I am not initially concerned with the questions of, "how many?" or "how much?" when it comes to underage drinking. But we must assume that 'A' does not consume alcohol by mistake, undue influence, coercion or otherwise. 'A' knows what he is drinking and drinks it voluntarily.

Secondly, there is a law that states that any person under the age of 21 is prohibited from consuming alcohol in New York. I am not worried whether the law is right or wrong. So, rather than posing a normative problem that can never be solved satisfactorily, my objective shall be to determine the feasibility of the law.

Thirdly, 'A', as a person of reasonable intelligence, is aware of the drinking law and understands that he is acting against its provisions.

Finally, there is a police officer, say 'P', whose duty is to stop 'A' from drinking.

Why does 'A' break the law in the first place? Suppose that there were no such law. Let X be the set of all actions that A can possibly engage in. How should A compare the available alternatives and make a choice? A rational agent makes choices with the primary objective of maximizing

payoffs derived from economic considerations, social expectations or ethical perspectives. In the absence of the drinking law, 'A' drinks because the total benefit derived from drinking outweighs its total cost.

Now suppose that the law comes into force. How will the law alter A's behavior? The imposition of a law influences individual behavior by limiting the choice set of the actions and opportunities available to

“The imposition of a law influences individual behavior by limiting the choice set of the actions and opportunities available to people.”

people. By prescribing a punishment for its violation, the law changes the incentives 'A' gets from drinking, thereby seeking to impact his choices and by extension, the final outcome that comes to prevail (Basu, 2011).

Now suppose the police officer ('P'), as a rational agent, will catch 'A' only if 'P' expects her superiors to catch her for not catching 'A'. If the loop ends with the agent 'E', it implies that 'E' punishes the person immediately subordinate to him for

dereliction of duty out of his sense of what is right or self-interest. So let us say that 'P' will catch 'A' for underage drinking; if not, the magistrate will rebuke 'P' for not catching 'A'; if not, the governor will suspend the magistrate for not punishing 'P' and if not, 'A' (and many others) will outvote the governor for not maintaining law and order. Laws can fail if they are unsuccessful in completing this circuit.

But here we see that 'A' drinks because it is in his self-interest to do so and simultaneously outvotes the governor for allowing him to do so. The paradox arises due to a conflict between A's personal satisfaction derived from drinking and his (and other's) welfare resulting from the operation of the law. If 'A' does not drink, everyone except 'A', including the police officer, magistrate and governor will be happy. But if he does drink, although 'A' will be happy, the other three players will remain safe only if they perform their obligations by punishing A.

In this respect, a law can be called valid if it is compatible with at least one agent's interest. Even laws that are regarded as unjust or oppressive do not lose their validity till the point they satisfy somebody's interest. But for a law to be effective, it must be consistent with every player's interest in complying with it. Clearly, by our

definition, the underage-drinking law is ineffective but not invalid.

So, why should we worry about making a valid law more effective? Laws derive their efficacy not only from deterrence but also from their reputation. If a government is reputed for making laws that are not obeyed, any new law passed by it may not be followed. So if the drinking law is blatantly violated, other laws on more important issues are likely to suffer the same fate. A law that is valid but poorly enforced is much more dangerous than an invalid law that is well implemented. So we should either repeal the law or make it more effective.

To make the law more effective, we must find ways to alter the payoff for 'A' in a manner that makes him choose not to drink. We can politely ask 'A' to stop drinking or try to convince him of the justness of the law, the dangers of alcoholism, and the benefits of abstinence. But alcohol education has only had inadequate success. Some other theoretically valid but extremely impractical remedies can be to arrest 'A' and destroy all knowledge about the techniques of manufacturing alcohol. But since these recommendations are not always feasible, we can infer that we must try something unprecedented

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Jonathan Yuan ON MORAL DECAY IN CHINESE SOCIETY

Implications of Chinese Historical Past Still Felt Today

“I was scared... If someone (else) was helping at that time, I would have done the same,” Lin responds as one of the 18 people infamous for walking by little Yueyue.

By now, the story of the two-year-old Chinese girl, Yueyue, is old news. Late in the afternoon of October 13th, 2011, Yueyue wandered into the streets in Foshan, Guangdong and was run over by two vehicles. She was subsequently ignored by at least 18 people passing by until a 57-year old rubbish scavenger, Chen Xianmei, rescued her. Eight days later, Yueyue passed away, succumbing to her injuries. This, indeed, is all old news.

What still lingers, however, is the borderline toxic reaction that has resulted from this piece of viral news. International news outlets, including even China’s own government-

“It is inaccurate and opportunist to blame the death of Yueyue solely as an indirect effect of the rapid economic development of China.”

controlled networks and newspapers, rightfully reprimanded the apathy and inaction of the passer-bys in the situation. However, the world also interpreted the situation as a direct result of the declining levels of morality in China.

What is striking is the tone with which news outlets have seemed to declare this statement exclusive to China, with articles titled, “Can Video of Yue Yue, A Toddler Left for Dead, Change China” (Fox News)

and “Yueyue Dies: Is This the little girl that finally made China care?” (The Daily Mail). Also noticeable is how the articles largely attribute the seeming moralist decline in China to its rapidly growing economy – an economy that, still growing at around 9-10% an economic quarter, fosters greed, corruption and most importantly individualism.

While I will not tackle the issue of whether or not a moral decline is largely exclusive to modern China, I will say that it is inaccurate and opportunist to blame the death of Yueyue solely as an indirect effect of the rapid economic development of China. In recent times, China has time and time again been blasted for the many repercussions that are accompanying its startling growth. Among them is what the Economist states as the “prolonged damaged to their [the Chinese] public morals.”

It must be made clear, however, that these declining morals are not a recent development in Chinese culture caused by its economic progress, but instead stem from China’s Communist political and cultural history – particularly with the Great Cultural Revolution.

The brainchild of Mao Zedong, the Chinese Cultural Revolution was a disastrous attempt in the 1960s and 1970s to transform Chinese society by imposing Maoist orthodoxy. Maoist-thought guided all activity in China, leading to the destruction and annihilation of all things bourgeoisie like education and traditional art and ideas. Ironically, during a time of great “purging of bourgeoisie” that led to the incomprehensible deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, morality was also stressed. Mao, in fact, devoted a chapter in his Little Red Book of quotations em-



Source: mizozo.com

phasizing the need of its citizens to be selfless, “with the interest of the masses at heart.”

Anyone who did not follow this principle of selflessness was deemed anti-Communist and therefore an anti-Mao Zedong outcast. This undoubtedly led to the superficial rising of an ultra-moral Chinese society under Mao, where nationalism was stressed under the idea of selflessly helping to advance Maoist ways. This, however, also planted the seeds of a two-faced Chinese society, one in which citizens held one set of values in the public sphere and an oftentimes-dissenting viewpoint in private. The realities of the Cultural Revolution, coupled with the self-sufficient economy the Great Leap Forward had proclaimed, were that they were complete flops. Instead of reforming Chinese society for the better, they led to economic and social catastrophes. Furthermore, it led to a society in which people felt that they needed to fend for themselves, mostly to avoid the anti-Communist purges they saw around them.

The ugly, suppressed Chinese

viewpoint was only brought to the forefront of Chinese society following the economic reform policies of Deng Xiaoping in the 1970s. With the sudden influx of opportunity in China, people began to fend for themselves in the prospect of wealth and riches instead of loyalty to the Communist party. Unfortunately, a decline in altruistic morality accompanied the obsession with personal gain in Chinese society, leading to a society that does not feel the need anymore to even appear “selfless” at the surface.

Yueyue’s story has galvanized the media, focusing their attention on the recent “decline in morality” in China. The attributing of this moral decay solely to China’s recent economic rise is wrong. The issue stems from behavior that inevitably developed from Mao’s reign. After all, Lin would not have stated that she was “scared” if Yueyue’s situation had occurred in Mao’s time – she would have been publicly deemed selfish instead of selfless.

CP

Roosevelt Island the Neighborhood, Not the Campus

By DIANA FOLLA

When my parents first came to this country they struggled to find somewhere in New York City that was both affordable and livable. They eventually settled on Roosevelt Island in 1991 and never left. Though initially turned off by its remote location and architectural design, they quickly changed their opinions and fell in love. Enchanted by its gorgeous views of Manhattan and the abundance of green space, they couldn’t think of a better place to raise a family. The neighborhood was incredibly diverse, ethnically and economically, and the tight-knit community was welcoming and comforting. It was quite the fortuitous circumstance, that in an attempt to start a new and better life in a different country, they stumbled upon beautiful, affordable Roosevelt Island.

This opportunity was the result of the efforts of Mayor John Lindsay, Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and the Urban Development Corporation in 1968. The development of Roosevelt Island, known as Welfare Island at the time, was a response to the flight of the middle class to the suburbs and the deteriorating inner city. A confluence of social issues, such as a lack of affordable housing, increasing automobile use, and urban decay, impelled many New Yorkers to escape to the suburbs. The loss of a large tax-paying population and the increasing disparity between socioeconomic classes exposed the exigency of providing affordable housing in New York City.

Roosevelt Island’s development was an innovative and controversial urban planning experiment. It was an attempt to create a planned community of affordable housing complex-

es for residents of various different backgrounds. The hope was for the island to become an attractive alternative to the suburbs and retain the middle class population. This would be done by providing affordable housing in an aesthetically pleasing environment close to Manhattan.

The island challenged previous notions of affordable housing. The architects of the master plan, Phillip Johnson and John Burgee, believed people of different races, ethnicities, and income levels could cohabitate the space harmoniously. The complexes allotted space for the elderly, disabled, low and moderate incomes, and higher incomes, as well. Additionally, the buildings were to house U.N. employees from all over the world. They wanted to build a community that brought together people of diverse backgrounds and gave them pride in where they lived.

From my experience growing up on Roosevelt Island, I believe that the experiment was a success. My family fit right in on the island, where our friends and neighbors were from all over the world and of different socioeconomic classes. Our neighborhood is rife with culture, evident in our many arts organizations and community events, like Roosevelt Island Day and Fall for the Arts. The Main Street WIRE, our local publication, reports the island’s happenings biweekly, including updates from groups like the Roosevelt Island Residents Association and others. Islanders are active in the community, as members of various organizations, volunteers at events, and participants in the political processes that affect the island. We are the community that Johnson and Burgee envisioned:

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ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM Zachary Newkirk

The Quiet Disappearance of Courses

Continued from page 1

by the Cornell Progressive, Stover wrote in an email “the issue you raise predates my administrative term,” though he seemed more engaged in an interview with the Cornell Daily Sun in 2009. “The decision to no longer offer the course was made for educational reasons and has absolutely nothing to do with the division’s alleged ties to the dairy industry,” Stover said then.

But Campbell believes it was just that.

“When I first started teaching this course I got a – I couldn’t describe it as threatening – letter but it was certainly a letter reminding me that supposedly I was representing a group that really wasn’t welcome on this campus,” he told the Cornell Progressive.

“I was not a friend of theirs. And they had their representatives on this campus.”

The dairy industry in particular – which, to Campbell, includes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – has given Cornell millions of dollars annually in research grants. For example, Cornell received nearly \$2.4 million in research from the USDA in late October of this year to study organic wheat. While organic wheat is a far cry from dairy, Campbell tied his experiences to the direction in which the country is headed in general.

“I know how corporate America has basically...almost total control of what the government does. And that kind of control and the institutions that are doing the controlling are the institutions that don’t particularly care for my message.” A cursory search for various dairy-related grants in the past several years reveal a strong trend. In May, 2010 Cornell received \$350,000 to study cows’ lactation and \$1 million in 2009 to study the effects of dairy in organic farms. While these grants are, of course, not negative for the university, to Campbell they were exemplary of the strong hold the dairy industry – inextricably tied to the USDA – has on the school.

“The fact of the matter is, the government is only an extension of the industry. It’s the industry controlling this,” he said. “The government people involved are basically lackeys, performing for the rights of the corporate world.”

The decision to end the course led to an online petition that has nearly 2,500 signatures by the end of October of this year. The course is taught online and is “doing fabulously well.” Though it could be ended like the in-person lecture, “it could cause one hell of a ruckus.”

Biology Restructuring’s Victim

Randy Wayne is an associate professor of plant biology, who

formerly taught the biology introductory course BIOG 1101 – a course deleted from the course catalog during the restructuring of biology in 2009 and 2010. The Biology Curriculum Transition Committee (BCTC) led the restructuring. To Wayne, the committee lacked transparency and had BIOG 1101 in its sights from nearly the beginning, citing one faculty member saying the course “is toast” at a department meeting.

“I concluded that there was a culture of silence and exclusion in the BCTC,” Wayne wrote in a letter

to set the research agenda. But I am saying to you that you should be aware that while facts are facts, science is not immune to the idols of the marketplace. Maintain a healthy skepticism about claims and counterclaims because how research is done and interpreted can be influenced by money.”

Wayne cites his own paycheck as evidence that he has been the “target of bullying in the workplace as a result of exercising my right and responsibility for academic freedom.” In 2010, he made around



Randy Wayne, associate professor of Plant Biology, outside Mann Library.

written to Dean of Faculty Bill Fry. “It is important to realize that I have more concern over the process than over the results.”

“I believe that BioG 1101 was deleted from the course roster in an unfair and unprofessional manner,” Wayne wrote to Dean Henry of CALS and Dean Peter LePage of the College of Arts and Sciences. Because Wayne had not received any notification on why the course would be eliminated, what data was gathered to come to that decision and who made the actual decision, he wrote to Fry that “without such a paper trail and time line, the possibility that the decision was arbitrary and capricious cannot be eliminated.”

Why BIOG 1101? With the administration’s silence, Wayne formed his own ideas on why the course had been eliminated. “It is possible that the soapbox upon which I stood in front of hundreds of students was removed because I teach my students to be thoughtful and have an active skepticism about the popular and lucrative trends in science and medicine, such as genetic testing for athletic performance and bipolar disorder,” he wrote to Fry.

“It is not impossible that BioG 1101 has paid a price for my way of thinking and teaching.”

For example, in one lecture on nutrition, Wayne’s slides contained the following disclaimer:

“Money is necessary to do research. I am not saying that there

\$63,500 over a nine-month period, or 64% of that of the average associate professor at one of Cornell’s contract colleges, which is \$100,000. “I claim that I was seen as a threat to the status quo because I rightly took advantage of my academic freedom with my open skepticism and questioning when it came to teaching and research,” he said.

Dean of Faculty Bill Fry reminded the Cornell Progressive that “there are always two sides to any issue.” He declined to speak in detail about the elimination of the courses but offered assurance that “there are processes for people in the university who feel they were being wronged.” Despite his assurances about the process and any sort of appeals, it is clear from Campbell and Wayne’s experiences that the procedure, at least for them, was ineffective.

Fry also declined to define academic freedom, saying “nobody here at Cornell wants to put really strict limits to our definition of academic freedom. I think it’s really really hard to define exactly what it is.”

A Broader Picture

In discussing the process with T. Colin Campbell, he explained that Cornell was far more open and transparent than a previous employer, Virginia Tech. “I’m as solid for Cornell as anybody on this campus.”

Still, his concern about Cornell’s process toward academic freedom was

genuine and far from the only one. In fact, many individuals see academic freedom declining as administrative staff increases as a growing trend in American universities.

“Today, we have a cadre of professional administrators,” Professor Benjamin Ginsberg said in an interview with Inside Higher Ed. “I called them deanlets to give emphasis to the difference. They either have no faculty background or they decided early in their careers that their talents lay elsewhere.”

Ginsberg, who taught at Cornell for twenty years and authored a government textbook with Professor Theodore Lowi, wrote *The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters*. In it, Ginsberg criticizes

“It is not impossible that Bio G 1110 has paid a price for my way of thinking and teaching”
– Prof. Randy Wayne

those legions of “deanlets” and “deanlings” that – because of their increasing size and influence – have trampled on the traditional responsibilities the faculty have in curriculum and personnel decisions.

He describes how the number of higher education administrators has grown by 85 percent and “associated professional staff” by 240 percent between 1975 and 2005. By contact, the faculty numbers have increased by a paltry 51 percent during that same time period.

To Campbell, this is a startling trend. “Universities were constructed in a free society to be one place, at least, where you can have civil discourse without somebody controlling what you say.”

For the spring of 2012, hundreds of faculty members will teach courses that seek to challenge students’ knowledge, shift their intellectual paradigms and introduce new ways of thinking. Subjects will range from anarchism to labor history to the mechanics of fluids. Cornell’s diversity of coursework is one of the most attractive aspects of the school.

But with at least two known courses eliminated in the last six years, can it sustain this level of intellectual diversity? Are there really outside, corporate forces at work, acting behind the wide gulf between the student and faculty and administration politics? Campbell and Wayne’s letter to the *Ithaca Journal* was a start to recognizing an important, underreported issue.

CP

Controlling Drinking

Continued from page 3

but viable.

One prescription that I propose is that Cornell should provide all students under the age of 21 with the option of accepting a token monthly sum as a “non-alcoholic recreation allowance.” Most people will readily accept this and those who don’t can be secretly marked as suspects for future reference. The allowance shall be given on the condition that those who accept it will sign a contract promising to refrain from consuming alcohol. The names of the signatories shall be public (say to the RAs). To be sure, the authorities have limited ways of ensuring that the students honor the contract and will invariably lose money in the process. But the amount lost would be smaller compared to the expenses incurred in catching all underage drinkers on campus and then instituting legal proceedings against them.

The token sum will have a threefold impact. Those who do not drink (and the University claims this to be a large section) shall be encouraged to continue obeying the law. Some of those who drink very rarely will be under an obligation to curb their transgressions because there is a strong body of evidence to show that people are more likely to respect an explicit contract rather than an impersonal law. If the heaviest drinkers accept the token, they are

likely to become the targets of social mockery. Surely, public censure can motivate some of the heaviest drinkers to moderate their drinking habits.

However, the large section of ‘moderate drinkers’ (by official figures 3 out of 5 persons) remains the most unpredictable. But if a moderate drinker is caught in the act, he can be charged for the violation of the New York State Law, Campus Code of Conduct as well as the contract the student entered into. Apart from legal prosecution, the token amount can then be recovered along with un-liquidated damages. Unlike the case of crimes where the only respite comes from the course of law, enforcing a simple contract is swift and easy. In case of a breach of the contract, the parties can simply opt for arbitration and settle the matters out of court. Moreover, if the authorities manage to catch even one underage drinker every month, they can recover almost all of their losses, and create a sound precedence.

And even if my plan fails, in the end we would have at least realized that the efficacy of a law depends on its ability to appeal to our immediate sense of rational interest. The problem of underage drinking requires us to indulge in innovative and bold policy-making but on the condition that our prescriptions must be compatible with the interests of all stakeholders.

CP

Why Liberals Are Capitalists

By IAN COHEN

Not too long ago, I had a discussion with a libertarian acquaintance of mine, in which I was told outright, “If you are a liberal, you are not a capitalist.” She was not kidding, either. She knew what she was talking about and was sticking to her guns. Upon hearing this, however, I could not believe my ears.

This might come as a shock to some of the more radical hippies out there that would disagree with what I am about to say. However, I find that in this particular political climate, it is worth saying, and it is worth taking to heart: liberals are purely capitalists. Contrary to what many of my fellow politicians on the opposite side of the aisle love to say, we liberals, not to be confused with our distant brethren, the far-leftists, are indeed capitalists and are proud of it. The fact that Ayn Rand’s libertarian utopianism doesn’t rev our engine doesn’t mean we’d happily elect president Hugo Chavez (in fact, we’d be much quicker sign a petition to bring Ron Paul to campus, if only for our own amusement).

I immediately thought to myself and then said, “Would you agree that without some government controls, there would be no ‘free market?’” Of course, the answer to this was yes. There is simply no way around that. You can argue for as small a government as you want but if it

doesn’t pave roads, if it doesn’t support a judiciary and rule of law, if it doesn’t provide collective security and education to the future labor force, I can guarantee you will not have much of a market to speak of. If you make this assumption, then it is fair to say that the main difference between conservatives and liberals (in economic terms) is the degree to which they wish for government to create protections in order to produce the best workings of the market.

Right-wingers generally like to co-opt Adam Smith, the philosophical father of capitalism, as their intellectual backing for a free market economy – after all, Smith was the first great proponent of market enterprise as the foundation of the wealth of a nation. There are, however, problems with the association they try to make: Smith wasn’t arguing for an unregulated market, but rather for a vision of nations that was not governed by the “mercantilism” of his age. In other words, he argued that the foundation for wealth was the productivity of the people as opposed to the gathered wealth of the monarch.

His theories on the efficiency of markets and the “invisible hand” admittedly required a set of situations that, both today and at the time, we often do not find to be the case: an open market in which anyone could enter or exit (hardly the case in our

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ON LIBERALS Ian Cohen

Liberals Are Capitalists! And Don’t Forget It!

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world of multinational corporations), no seller or buyer with power enough to control the market, no producer with pivotal private technology (Microsoft, anyone?), and perfect information in the hands of buyers and sellers. Smith would be very upset if he knew that his theories were exploited in the modern day to allow for the demonization of a consumer financial protection bureau – a government agency SPECIFICALLY proposed to correct the inequality of information in the marketplace between consumers and firms of financial products (an agency absolutely necessary in our world of fine print, teaser rate mortgages, collateralized debt obligations, credit default swaps, etc.). Smith was, in fact, not a big fan of corporations or financiers.

As former Enron manager Jim Alexander said to an audience of Yale students (in a class about capitalism, in fact), “In my experience, the ‘invisible hand’ is picking someone’s pocket, not creating value.” In other words, unregulated hyper-capitalism in the form that conservatives love to peddle is not as pretty as Smithian idealism would have us think – and

what’s more, Smith himself would probably agree with me.

In this way, early “progressive” liberal causes of reigning in the free market, such as antitrust laws, were meant to enhance market capitalism not impede it. These reforms were meant to increase competition, diminish the power of monopolies and oligopolies in the market, a problem that we have become increasingly more accustomed to and one that has arisen more rapidly due to Republican-driven deregulation in the last twenty five years. It was only after the passing of the Financial Services Modernization Act in 1999, a bill that deregulated the banking/financial services industry, did we find the emergence of the largest financial institutions ever in history, built through rampant merger and acquisition. The names are, without a doubt, all too familiar to us: Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup, etc. Similarly, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which deregulated telecommunications and media, led to our present day situation: concentration of media ownership, a kind of oligopoly of media companies. This list of companies, which control nearly all of our

media, also include ones we are familiar with: Viacom, CBS Corp, News Corp (owner of Fox News...), The Walt Disney Company, and Time Warner.

My libertarian friend’s argument, unfortunately, has not been fully answered. She quipped that “liberals believe in undermining hard work.” I could tell the direction in which her argument was heading: the welfare state, distortion of incentives, etc. Conservative talking points often attack the welfare state for its alleged ability to turn potentially productive members of society into dependents on the state. Unfortunately for us, this statement is somewhat supported by economic theory. The welfare state, however, requires a bit of holistic perspective. Ideally what such a system was meant to do was promote equality of opportunity – not an anti-capitalistic idea, by any stretch – and social insurance.

Sociological studies have shown that the so-called “welfare queens” that Ronald Reagan complained about in speeches, those who dramatically take advantage of the system at the expense of tax payers, do not exist; nonetheless, legitimate philosophical debates

CP

Preserving Roosevelt Island

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a diverse and unified neighborhood of residents who love and respect the island and each other.

In the past decade, the core character of our neighborhood has been threatened. When the fiscal crisis hit New York City in the 1970s much of the funding for Roosevelt Island’s development was cut. In order to avoid financial disaster, private investment was used to fund the rest of the development that took place in the last decade. The result was the privatization of an affordable housing complex, Eastwood, and the development of starkly contrasting, incongruous luxury condominiums. This became the first of many disappointing departures from the original plan and vision for the island.

The design of these condominiums and their placement segregates higher incomes and newcomers from other residents. The strong neighborhood unity with which I grew up has been reduced. The island has lost its small businesses, and in exchange, gained franchises like Starbucks and Duane Reade. The rapid population growth has not been accompanied by commensurate transportation initiatives, thus getting on and off the island has become a nightmare. Instead of improving transportation options, the island continues to be developed and gentrified. We are experiencing an increased cost of living, social

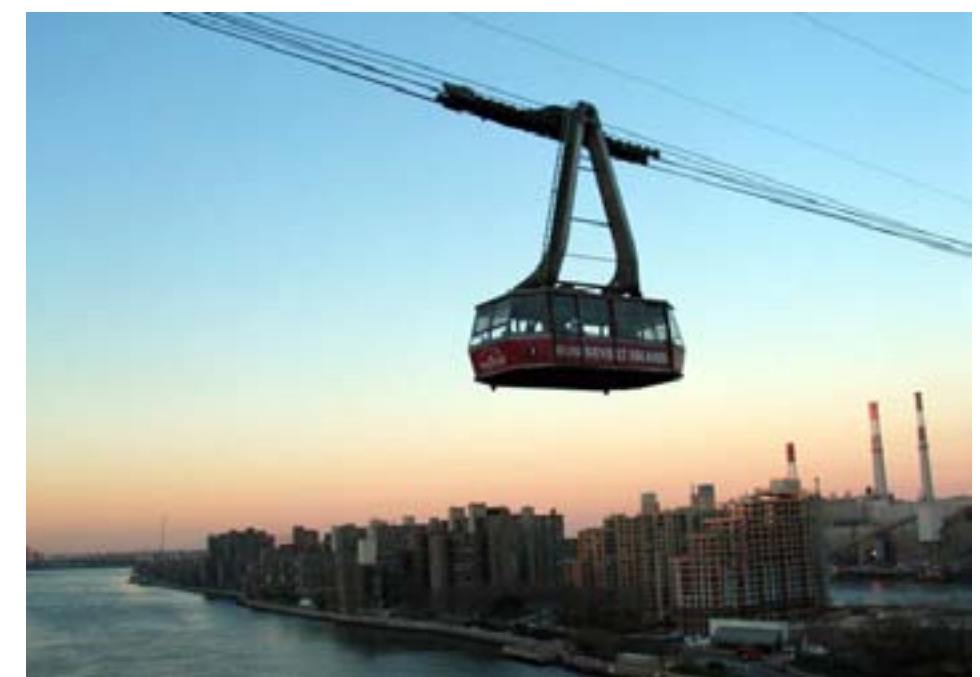
segregation, and a devitalized sense of community; Roosevelt Island is no longer the same neighborhood I grew up in.

Building a campus on Roosevelt Island will only exacerbate these serious issues. I vehemently oppose Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s decision to give away a residential community’s land, especially one that was founded on the principles of affordability and inclusivity. Currently, the island does not have the infrastructure to support the amount of people that would be moving in.

“Roosevelt Island must remain a welcoming neighborhood of diverse peoples; it must not become a glorified college dorm.”

This should be a priority before any construction begins in order to avoid what would be pervasive, harmful consequences.

Steps must also be taken to preserve the character of our community and protect current residents. The winning institutions should avoid repeating and perpetuating the same harmful effects resulting from the irresponsible, careless development of the luxury condominiums. As the demand for student housing increases,



Source: NewYorkCityWalk.com

residents should be protected from eviction and exorbitant rents. The institution should encourage community interaction and participation from its faculty and students. Instead of more franchises and expensive cafes, an emphasis should be placed on returning small businesses to the island. Roosevelt Island must remain a welcoming neighborhood of diverse peoples; it must not become a glorified college dorm.

I am a proud Cornell student and I believe in the university’s capacity to found an exceptional institution in New York City. However, I am foremost a lifelong Roosevelt Island resident who cares deeply

CP

Roxana Amirahmadi ON JON STEWART

A Successful Performance in Barton

Continued from page 1

show, especially since Jon Stewart poked fun at both sides of the political spectrum. “His jokes were relatively well-rounded; he talked about Democrats and Republicans, Jews and Christians, blacks, whites, Canadians, etc. He definitely drew more negative attention towards one or the other side of things, however, which I didn’t necessarily care for.”

“I feel like most of the most popular/entertaining comedians possess a left-leaning view, and I do not, so I expected some of my views to clash with his. I like how he spent time poking fun at both the Republican candidates and Obama but he was obviously far more critical of the Republicans. Some of his criticisms were certainly justified; others, it felt were merely for comedic effect.”

Additionally, Osar did not particularly enjoy Jon Stewart’s criticisms of the right wing’s objections to gay marriage. “I didn’t agree with some of his viewpoints, particularly those on marriage or religion. He spent a considerable

amount of time berating conservative viewpoints of marriage and he seemed to be critical of people who literally interpret only some portions of the Bible, but not others... The

“I didn’t agree with some of his viewpoints, particularly those on marriage or religion. He spent a considerable amount of time berating conservative viewpoints of marriage and he seemed to be critical of people who literally interpret only some portions of the Bible, but not others... The show changed my perception of Jon Stewart a bit.”

show changed my perception of Jon Stewart a bit. I didn’t know he was so liberal or outspoken in his viewpoints, having never seen The Daily Show With Jon Stewart before.”

Even though Stewart’s stand-up show in Barton did not involve the visual effects and side-comments from his correspondents that are typical of his Daily Show, many liberal students and loyal followers of his show still enjoyed his stand-up performance. Michael G. Mallon ‘14, a government major in the College of

Arts and Sciences and Information Media Director at WVBR radio station “loved the political talk, but... was glad to see some standard stand-up humor as well. It made for a really

think the stand-up show was lacking in political material. “I think the balance was just right. He brought the political elements of his television show into his stand-up, while adding some really funny apolitical bits to appeal to everyone, not just the people interested in politics and not just the Democrats.”

Stewart’s successful performance at Cornell satiated the politically aware, liberal Cornelian’s cravings for his brutally hilarious political wit, but also gave the audience a unique chance to enjoy his candid humor when reflecting on a vast array of personal topics - from his experiences as a non-practicing Jew raising his children in a Jewish-Catholic household, to his personal antics about experimenting with sex and drugs in college. Whether you were as enthusiastically liberal as Stewart himself or staunchly disagreed with him, Stewart’s performance certainly opened the gateway of dialogue about controversial political issues in a comfortable atmosphere of comic relief.

Even though Mallon loves Jon Stewart’s bold style of simply “telling it how it is,” he did not

CP

The LAST LAUGH



Herman Cain told a group of Occupy Wall Street protesters to go home, get a job, and get a life. That's the Republican version of hope and change, ladies and gentlemen.

-Jay Leno

Earlier this week, a protester at Occupy Wall Street proposed to his girlfriend. His exact words were, 'Will you occupy my parents' basement with me until I get a job?'

-Conan O'Brien

This Occupy Wall Street movement is not going away. They called yesterday for a general strike, for people to stay home from work and boycott any spending - otherwise known as what we're doing already.

- Bill Maher

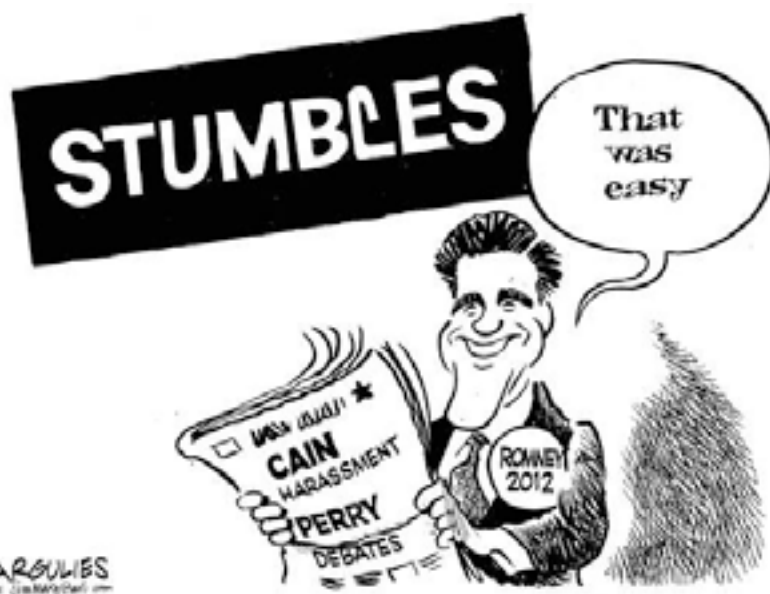


There's a fifth woman that claims to have had a problem with Herman Cain. If this keeps up, it seems very unlikely he will be president, although it seems more and more likely he will become governor of California.

-Jimmy Kimmel

As you know by now, a fourth woman has come forward and accused Herman Cain of sexual harassment. This woman gave the details, pretty graphic. She said that Herman Cain tried to put his hand up her. So now when Cain says he is reaching out to the American people, you know what he's reaching for.

- Jay Leno



Tomorrow is 11-11-11! Or as Rick Perry calls it: "11-11-Wait don't tell me, I will get this. I know there is a third one."

- Conan O'Brien

Big news from last night's Republican debate, you guys. It turns out George Bush was actually the smart Texas governor.

- Jimmy Fallon

What's the difference between Lindsay Lohan and Rick Perry? It only takes Lindsay four and a half hours to finish a sentence.

-Jay Leno

Personally, I hope he doesn't get out of the campaign. I need Rick Perry. I don't want to spend the next year trying to do jokes about Mitt Romney.

- Craig Ferguson

House Speaker John Boehner says President Obama should have clearly outlined his exact plans before bombing Libya. Apparently it's only Iraq where you don't have to do that.

- Jay Leno



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