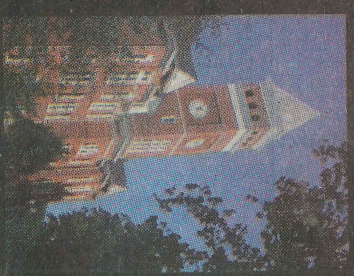


The Tiger Town Observer

Supporting the Constitution Since 1992



www.tigertownobserver.com



Clemson's Conservative Journal of News and Opinion

March 2008

Democrats Profit from Clemson Contributions

Cha-Ching! Apparently Clemson isn't as apathetic towards politics as we thought. Check inside to get the full scoop on who is profiting from faculty contributions. Also, find out who thinks Clemson is "On thin ice," and why.



The Tiger Town Observer

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Defining Conservatism

Staff Editorial

The following editorial reflects the opinions and beliefs of the staff of the Tiger Town Observer.

Many accusations seem to be flying about all over the political realm these days. Especially in this election season, the most interesting accusations are spewed at a questionably conservative candidate by an equally questionable one. In the midst of all of the mudslinging, however, it is becoming increasingly hard to find someone who will define conservatism outright, rather than simply accuse another for lacking a certain undefined conservative quality.

The Tiger Town Observer's staff hopes to alleviate this problem. As Clemson's conservative journal of news and opinion, it is very important to the staff to define what it means to be "conservative."

The biggest part of this desire flows from the disgust that is shared between the members of this staff due to the Republican party's inability to recognize true conservatism through their own politics. This is not to say that there were no true conservatives in the recent Republican Presidential primary. To be sure, there is still at least one in the race.

Now, however, it seems that Republicans are more interested in preventing the Democrats from taking control over the White House or the Congress than running on true conservative principles. This is not a Republican party that we wish to be a part of. A party based on reactionary politics, the "lesser of evils" idea, or the prevention of ideas rather than the promotion of conservative principles is no party that true conservatives wish to be a part of.

These principles flow from one key conservative ideal: economic liberty. If a

citizen does not have the right to the fruits of his labor, there is not much liberty left for any level of government to take. A person who invests part of their life into any job or activity in order to obtain that goal has a right to the fruits of that labor, and to take away those fruits is analogous to taking away the life of the person who achieved them.

This follows a key facet of the Declaration of Independence. All men have an unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that to secure those rights, governments are instituted amongst men not to grant those rights, but to protect them. A government that is in the business of taxing anyone to provide for the unfortunate is not a government that protects the right to life or the right to liberty. We have friends, family, and churches to provide for those who are less fortunate.

While conservative principles certainly start with economic liberty, they are not limited to this one aspect. Rather, they are all interrelated, with this primary principle at their core. States' rights and the proper use of the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution, individual property rights, protection of civil liberties, and a limited, constitutional, and democratic form of government are all cores of true conservative values.

As far as personal social liberty goes, there is absolutely no reason for asking the federal government (or the State governments) to protect certain morals, let alone seeking elected officials to do so for us. If our morals are worthy of being protected, they should naturally persist through any hardship that arises without the protection of government.

Furthermore, it flies in the face of common sense for our government to

protect our economic liberty while at the same time denying any social or civil liberties to its people. It is a fundamental premise of a limited constitutional government that this government not involve itself in the private lives of its citizens.

For example, the staff of this paper believes that it is not necessary for any level of government to define marriage in any terms. The government should let any two people enter into a contract for any purposes, living arrangements, power of attorney, and any other number of things. To let some people enter freely into contracts while restricting others from doing the same is far from conservative, and therefore far from being justified in a country that claims to be free.

Another crucial conservative value is the protection of all of our first-amendment rights, no matter what is being said, printed, assembled, worshiped, or petitioned. The particular issue that was discussed amongst our staff was whether or not it should be against the law to burn the American flag.

We believe that if the American flag truly represents freedom and liberty of all sorts, it must also represent the liberty of the American people to burn the flag if they chose, without ramifications from the government. If the freedom to burn the flag is taken away, then the flag no longer stands for freedom and should be burned. This is the ultimate test of liberty, and therefore a core conservative principle.

While certainly none of us would go out to Bowman Field and set fire to an American flag just for fun, a small handful of us agreed that we would consider it only if it were made illegal. This was almost the case a year and a half ago, when Senator Orrin Hatch proposed a Constitutional amendment making the

desecration of the American flag a punishable offense. The true conservatives on that vote in the Senate were the ones who voted against this amendment.

Arguably, this came up because we now live in a "post-9/11" world. Essentially, this means that legislators are quick to sacrifice freedoms for the sake of security. They've also been quick to send our military off to an unconstitutional, undeclared war.

Neither one of these can be considered truly conservative. Certainly, no one here would hesitate to go to war with a country such as England, Japan, Vietnam, or Iraq if one of those governments actually attacked or declared war on us. However, we feel that the reasons and the means that our government has for fighting terrorism are questionable at best.

Since 9/11, a huge government bureaucracy was formed (the Department of Homeland Security) that has been extremely ineffective. We have also started to have a large military presence in other countries without a required declaration of war. Besides, if we really wanted to get individual terrorists, it would be much more Constitutional and much more effective to issue letters of marque and reprisal on individuals.

This is the technique that our government followed several centuries ago when it still adhered to the Constitution. Since a pirate was not associated with any particular country, the Congress could Constitutionally put a bounty on a pirate's head, rather than invade a country that the pirate might have come from. The same

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Letters to the Editor

2008 Election

This is truly a sad time in American History. The whole world is buying into the Obama Fairy Tale and the Republicans have nominated an extremely old liberal. Ann Coulter was right when she said this is the worst set of candidates in her lifetime. I honestly have no one to believe in this cycle. I passionately want us to succeed and finish the job in Iraq but I cannot vote for John McCain. Well it looks like I will be writing in a candidate for the first time ever. God please shed your grace on America... Please.

- Mack Phillips

Clemson Lawsuit

Lawsuit Rocks Clemson University" please do a follow-up with this and along the way. What was the university's response, due in early February? Thanks.

- Chad Dawkins

Dear Observer,

Keep up the good work! You are the only paper in the Upstate that will go after stories like the Troutman lawsuit. Providing the full brief was a real service to citizens of South Carolina. Encouraged.

(Anonymous)

From the editor's desk

I regret to announce that our esteemed Editor-in-Chief, Ethn Gillespie has resigned. But on the upside, I am fortunate and honored to assume the position.

With this change comes a new era of the paper. As with every previous Editor, I have my own style of doing things, so in the months to come, you'll probably notice quite a few alterations. But I assure you, the quality of the paper will remain just as good, if not better.

For example, we have added a staff editorial this month, a column that will hopefully become a regular addition. This month it's about the true meaning of conservatism. Take special notice of it since it is The Observer's opinion of what it means to be conservative. To us, it's not such a fluff concept that people these days may have you believe.

On page 6, you'll read about the plight of

the Clemson Airsoft Team. Apparently, Clemson doesn't trust their students enough to handle anything that is "potentially dangerous," such as Airsoft guns. And if you want the truth, I've personally seen engineering students carrying around tools much more dangerous. Those protractions and T-squares are downright deadly! But I digress...

Also on center spread you'll find an update on the Clemson lawsuit, as well as some interesting information about political contributions from Clemson faculty.

I'm looking forward to continuing the legacy of The Tiger Town Observer, and as always appreciate feedback, especially, hate mail. Enjoy!

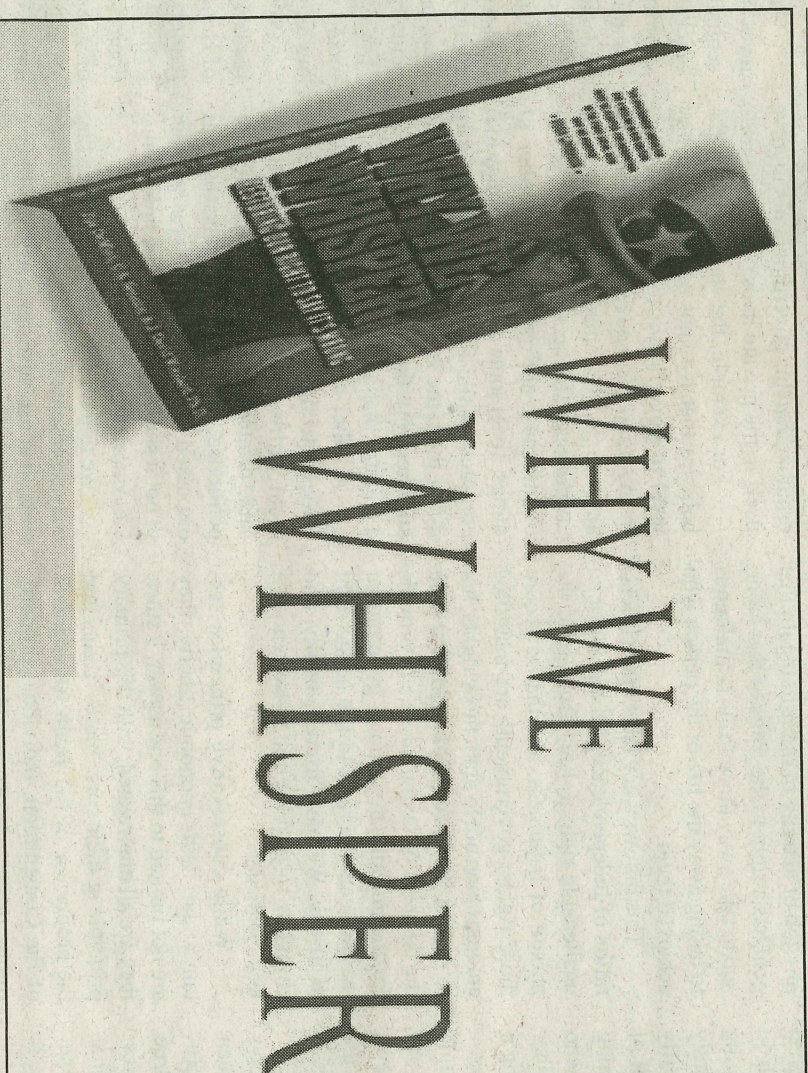
Amanda Carey

One on One with David Woodard

Amanda Carey
Editor-in-Chief

"As one whose career is rooted in the First Amendment, I know how government imposition can strip Americans of our precious freedom of speech. Big government liberalism and a decline in our culture must be stopped. For ammunition in the fight ahead, read Why We Whisper."

- Rush Limbaugh



Ask any political science major at Clemson who Dr. David Woodard is, and the most likely response you will get will be along the lines of "He's a great guy, but his classes are hard as hell!" He will even tell you himself that his political theory classes are not easy. However, what people may not realize is that not only is Dr. Woodard one of the few conservative professors on campus, he also has a two decade long friendship with U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, his co-author for their recent book, *Why We Whisper*.

According to Dr. Woodard, both men felt they were losing their freedom of speech, both here on campus and in Washington. For DeMint, it was felt in his 2004 campaign against Inez Tenebaum for the U.S. Senate seat. Through misconstrued quotes and partial information, DeMint's opponent claimed he wanted to raise the taxes 23 percent, and painted him as intolerant, anti-gay, and "un-American". For Dr. Woodard, his involvement in court cases around the country pertaining to gay rights led to him repeatedly being called "homophobe", and was even told by a colleague he was "ideologically incompatible" with the general values of the University when he applied for an on-campus administrative position.

Recently, I sat down with Dr. Woodard to discuss *Why We Whisper*, and the growing decline loss of traditional values in America.

AC: Can you first explain what you mean by the title of *Why We Whisper*?

DW: *Why We Whisper* is talking about those people who hold moral values, but either aren't given the chance to speak up, or fear the consequences of speaking out about those values. Political correctness is fatal for democracy, and that is what the Senator and I are fighting in our book.

AC: One of those values you mention often in the book is that of the traditional family unit.

Can you talk a little about how a stable family dynamic which we will define as a married man and woman in a healthy and committed relationship, benefits the nation as a whole?

DW: Marriage and family are a necessary institution in any society because they provide a framework for stability, a nurturing environment for children, and a care network for older and younger generations. They also provide a way to pass on shared values to future generations. From an economic standpoint, stable families benefit the nation because they generally lead to greater health and longevity, more education and income, and less poverty, among many other things.

AC: You actually comment on how the United States government actually discourages social responsibility. How so?

DW: The government subsidizes social responsibility every day, in areas like premarital sex, divorce, abortion, and pornography. Today, because of no-fault divorce laws, meaning two people can get a divorce without proof of infidelity, or violence,

etc. America's attitude toward divorce has completely changed. Divorce rates over the last decade have become higher and higher. As soon as courts started removing religious discussions and traditional values from public policy, the value of marriage was diminished, and society actually worked to remove the disgrace and of divorce. And, it's important to realize that divorces are expensive; not only in direct legal costs, but in costs to the public as well, based on things like higher use of public housing, increased bankruptcies, and juvenile delinquency. It's not just personal business. We all pay the cost for these things. But that's just one example.

AC: In the book, you ask the question, "Who decides what is right and wrong?" Who or what started the secular revolution and ultimately changed the way we determine what is socially acceptable?

DW: It's impossible to point out a specific date in time when America started replacing traditional views with secular philosophy. It was a gradual process. In court decisions, government mandates, and the rise of the

secular media, traditional values were deliberately being removed from public life, before most Americans even knew they were in a fight. The secularists figured out they could achieve their goals by manipulating opinion through media, academia, and the law school faculty. Just look at the 1962 court case we mention in chapter 3, in which the Supreme Court ruled against a New York school board that wanted to start every class with a small prayer. When teaching respect for God was banned from the classroom, it effectively rejected the traditional worldview, and replaced it with the secular progressive worldview. It's happening all over America. In this day and age, once the government endorses something as right, it's harder for individuals to speak out and say that it's wrong.

AC: What would be wrong if we turned into a secular culture? How would this country fail?

DW: The secular worldview is alien to the cultural values that gave birth to, and nourished, the American experience for 200 years. If we abandon them, we do so at our peril. We have some experience with secular

values, in Germany and Russia in the 20th century, but the experience with them and the outcome was not good. I think the most precise answer to your question is to recall the speech Ronald Reagan made on D-Day observances in France in 1984. "The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or the next. It was a deep knowledge - and pray God that we have not lost it..." Senator DeMint and I think we, as a nation, have lost the faith which Reagan described.

AC: You and the Senator devoted an entire chapter to universities, and higher education. It's true that campus activities and involvement really influence the values and beliefs of students. Can you give any instances where traditional beliefs were put to the test here, at Clemson?

DW: Sure. Just a few years ago, an incoming class of freshman was required to read the book, *Truth and Beauty: A Friendship*, by Ann Patchett. The book was about her relationship with another woman, Lucy Gealy. My objection was that the behavior of Lucy in the book, having sex with undergraduate students when she was a graduate assistant, and picking up men for overnight sexual relations, are in violation of the sexual harassment guidelines of Clemson University. Here you have the university circulating guidelines every fall on sexual harassment, and at the same time holding up the book as valuable literature that every freshman should read; a book whose storyline violated the very premises of the University's own guidelines. Suffice it to say that if a graduate assistant behaved the way Lucy did, he or she would be summarily dismissed. The question then: why require a book that depicts the very behavior you allegedly discourage?

Also, consider what Jim is fighting in Berkeley, California. The city government recently voted to evict the Marine recruit-

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The Real Solution to Global Warming

Adam Thompson
Staff Writer

The only people who deny any existence of climate change are those who have little to no understanding of science. Studies from a broad range of intellectual and political think tanks argue the effects and solutions to the crisis, but few fail to recognize the fact that in the past few years, the Earth has indeed warmed.

The end result, therefore, rests on how to deal with the problem. Leftists, elitist environmentalists, and statist scientists push for "now" solutions, brought forth through emergency consumption and production restrictions while completely disregarding the most effective force in American production – the free market.

On the other side altogether, no-nothing conservatives shun facts and continue to do little to prevent the potential outcomes of global warming. Though any economist will concede the point that pollution is a market failure, it seems the majority of Americans misconstrue this externality into the idea that the market can do little to solve the global warming problem. What an incorrect thought! If anything, non market driven, government intervention has done nothing but extend the climate change crisis.

Perhaps the greatest example of government environmental intervention lies in the automotive industry. For years, scientists and researchers have been trying to develop an alternative, cleaner burning fuel to oil based gasoline. Oil delivers a plethora

of problems including adverse effects to its harvest and transport, along with a foreign policy that has resulted in the deaths of over 3,000 Americans in Iraq.

To combat these issues, Congress has greatly encouraged the production of ethanol – the corn based gasoline substitute. According to The Economist, however, the focus on ethanol has resulted in the rising cost of food worldwide due to an increase in demand of grain. More specifically, "the rise in prices is also the self-inflicted result of America's reckless ethanol subsidies. This year, biofuels will take a third of America's maize harvest ... fill up an SUV's tank with ethanol and you have used enough maize to feed a person for a year." With the government's focus on impulsive do-gooder environmentalists, the United States has single-handedly contributed to world wide starvation. Take that, ONE campaign!

The depressing thought of the ethanol fiasco is how much more could have been accomplished had research been focused on a better technology. Remember, it is in the interest of auto manufacturers to reduce gasoline costs, increase mileage per gallon, and decrease harmful emissions. If Ford invented such a vehicle and sold it at an affordable price, virtually everyone would purchase one. Ford



does not need the government forcing them to increase fuel efficiency – it is in their best interest to do so. Look at the shift in the market share of automobiles away from the gas guzzling American cars to the fuel efficient Japanese ones. If anything, regulations harm, not help business.

Well intentioned environmental scare-mongers are destroying the rationality of the American people. Through the likes of Al Gore, Americans are led to believe that if they do nothing to stop the spread of global warming by reducing greenhouse emissions NOW, that the world will end TOMORROW. This cannot be farther from the truth. Sure, free market solutions take some time, but would one rather wait and truly fix a problem, or pass a decree (not unlike ethanol subsidies and support) and plunge the world into greater environmental distress?

Recently, a professor from Tier, Germany, gave a speech on the environmental effects of diesel fueled cars at Clemson. Apparently, Germany and various countries in the European Union have begun the promotion of diesel fuel as they produce less carbon emissions than their counterparts. What the

Conservative Rebellion

Sean Friend
Staff Writer

Conservatism seems to be in a rut right now. Two of the three remaining nominees for the Republican ticket appear to be so far out of step with the average citizen that many conservatives cannot vote for either one. First there is John McCain, who is strong on national defense issues but is more liberal on other issues such as illegal immigration, health care, and same-sex marriage. Mike Huckabee, the other nominee, seems to be more conservative, but it seems hard to vote for someone with limited experience in Washington.

While the conservative nominees seem to either be ignoring or defaming what I believe to be conservative values, those on the other side of the aisle are reaping in the benefits: votes. In most primaries there have been many more voters who participated in the Democratic primaries than those who voted in the Republican ones. This could be the result of a tighter, more interesting race for the Democratic nomination. Or it could symbolize a shift in what party most voters want to see in the White House.

The media has been eating these statistics up and reports often on how the country is looking for change. Luckily

most conservatives have some outspoken voices in support of our party and nominees, such as Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, and Sean Hannity. Or do we?

Rush Limbaugh stated in a recent broadcast that he was "thinking of voting for and endorsing Hillary." Has he lost his mind? Is the world going to burn up? Why would Rush, or any conservative support such a liberal candidate?

The answer is that he is just thinking ahead. The last question is in reference to something that not just Rush, but other conservative personalities have been encouraging: voting for the Democrat. The first time I heard this I nearly had a heart attack and did not think it was real. Sarcastic, an early April fool's joke, and painkillers were all things that initially came to mind.

But the more I thought about it, I realized that Rush is supporting another candidate as a way to catalyze an already growing sentiment: Conservative rebellion. Limbaugh and others are actually willing to support a liberal Democrat over a Republican. This is very understandable when one takes a step back and looks at the situation.

The things that conservatives deplore so much about Hillary are issues like illegal immigration, same-sex marriage, finance reform, health care, and taxation. If elected she would pass many laws to support these contra-conservative viewpoints. But how would McCain differ? If you look

at his record, he has supported many of the same things we criticize Clinton and Obama for supporting. The conservative figureheads know this as well and would rather see a liberal make those mistakes.

Let's think about this strategy for a second. First, look at the support of the Democrat party right now. Why are they so wildly popular? Their support has a positive correlation with anti-Bush sentiment and it has been steadily growing. In essence, electing a Democrat would provide us with a taste of what according to the media, we want: good liberalism. If illegal immigrants are going to be made citizens and not reprimanded for their actions, then it does not matter whether the Amnesty bill has a Republican signature or a Democrat signature on it. When taxes increase again, I would prefer to see a Democrat pass the bill rather than a Republican. Seeing Republicans go against their foundations is never a pleasurable sight for my, or an conservative's, eyes.

Ann Coulter also expressed this same sentiment in a recent interview on Hannity and Colmes. She too stated that she will vote for Clinton over McCain, her reasons being that Clinton is more conservative, a more qualified leader, and would be more reliable to defend the country.

Many conservative leaders are looking at this election as a whitewash and looking

forward to the next one in 2012. Many have actually already started looking for potential conservative contenders, such as Dr. Andy Harris, who won Maryland's first congressional district primary. This is of course, assuming McCain does not win the election in November.

Another thing many are looking forward to is winning back Congress and the Senate, which ultimately could nullify whoever the president is. President Bush has yet to officially endorse any national candidate, though he plans to help the Republican nominee, and has already begun to endorse Republicans at the state level. This provides more evidence that those who sit a little higher up are looking forward to the congressional races this time and ultimately the 2012 presidential election.

The conservative rebellion that we are seeing now is going to make the November election and the upcoming primaries more interesting as we see who the public decides is really the lesser of the two evils. Next time you get a desperate plea from a close friend in red just let them know that everything will be ok.

While the current candidates may seem to be cursing to all parties except their own there is always another election. One way I have learned to look at it is that nationally, this battle could be lost. But ultimately, one battle does not make up the whole war.

The Fight for Clemson Airsoft

Amanda Carey
Editor-in-Chief

There's nothing The Observer enjoys more than fighting for the rights of our student body. It's something we take pride in, and have done for many years on campus. Whether it's gun raffles, free speech zones, or anti-war rallies, we never turn down an opportunity to get under Barker's and the rest of the administration's skin. So, when we heard of the current predicament of the Clemson Airsoft Team, we once again were eager to offer our support and assistance.

For a year now, the Clemson Airsoft Team, which currently consists of 20 active members, has been a recognized club sport on campus. But for those who may not realize what Airsoft is, it can best be described as a combat sport similar to paintball in which team members simulate military war battles in order to complete a specified objective. The team competes in at least two events a year. They are also planning to host

their own airsoft tournament April 5th, an event that will draw fellow airsoft players from Georgia Tech, Kentucky State, University of Connecticut, and Newberry College.

However, in recent months, the team has been subject to injustices imposed upon them by the University, specifically concerning the storage of their equipment. According to Rule 30 of the Student Code of Conduct Handbook, "No student shall possess or use fire-

arms, explosive devices, or weapons of any kind. Such weapons may include, but are not limited to, guns, BB guns, air pistols, rifles, knives... martial art devices, and bows."

In accordance with this rule, the team was told by the University that no airsoft guns or other equipment could be stored in any facility on the University's campus, including cars. They were also told that even if they were allowed to keep their gear on campus, they would need a "non-student" to retrieve it, since no student can handle what is deemed by regulations as a "dangerous weapon".

Considering the nature of this rule, one would expect that storing equipment like that used by the airsoft team would be extremely difficult for



anyone. However, this is not entirely the case. Upon investigation, The Tiger Town Observer has learned that the University allows the Air Rifle Team and other similar clubs to store their equipment (including rifles and swords) on campus. This includes the basement of Holtzendorf Hall, where the Air Rifle Team is allowed to store rifles and maintain a shooting range.

This serious injustice is yet again

another example of Clemson displaying their own version of legality and illegality. According to federal and state law, airsoft guns are defined as nothing more than toy guns, and are easily recognizable because of the requirement of an orange tip on the muzzles of all guns. Also, according to the state of

South Carolina, airsoft guns are classified as replica firearms, and possession may only be regulated by the State Legislature.



Despite this, Clemson University officials have taken it upon themselves to classify these guns as weapons equal to firearms, and bans students from possession on campus.

Aside from all this, the primary issue at hand is the fact that the Clemson Airsoft Team is being denied the same privileges that are being granted to other club sports, because their equipment is being categorized as a dangerous firearm.

According to the team's Vice President, Eric Julian, "We [the team] are looking for equality as far as enforcing the rule goes. We're looking for respect from Clemson's administration, as well as from other clubs. And in terms of the state law regarding airsoft weapons, we also feel that Clemson is on thin ice with its regulations as to what you can and cannot possess on campus."

Julian, who has contacted numerous board members and President Barker concerning the matter, was sent only one

response from Chairman of the Board, Bill Hendrix, in which he cited Rule 30, with no mention of the privileges of the Air Rifle Team or the many other exceptions to the rule. The team recently also held a seminar regarding the legalities of Airsoft on campus, in which the board and numerous other officials

were invited.

According to Julian, none made an appearance.

The Tiger Town Observer, along with the Clemson

Airsoft Team is calling on Clemson to make the following changes: differentiation between firearms and sport shooting equipment under the Student Code of Conduct, allowing the possession of shooting equipment for recognized sporting purposes, more consistent and equitable enforcement of rules, and punishing reckless behavior while supporting safe and responsible activities. "Our goals are to get Airsoft recognized on campus as a real sport, and receive equal respect and privileges from the University," says Julian.

In light of the situation, it would be wise for Clemson to rethink their strategy in reference to Rule 30, and perhaps clear up any ambiguity that could result. Fairness and equality are two principles that were fundamental in the founding of our nation, and it is suggested that Clemson University re-examine those principles, and how they are applied to the student body.

Clemson Lawsuit Update

actual legal disputes. Thus, the court cannot attempt to correct a problem on its own initiative.

Second, provided that there is an actual case,

recently, The Tiger Town Observer reported on a lawsuit filed by former Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Eugene Troutman, against numerous University officials. The lawsuit cites that tuition increases since 2000 were beyond what was necessary, and \$80 million has been sitting as a hoard of unused money.

Since then, The Observer has learned some interesting new developments. Since the filing of the initial lawsuit on January 9, 2008, Clemson University did submit a response, in which they requested to move jurisdiction of the case from state to federal court. This can only be done if the case meets three different criteria.

First, under the Constitution, federal courts only exercise "judicial" powers, meaning that federal judges may interpret the law only through the resolution of

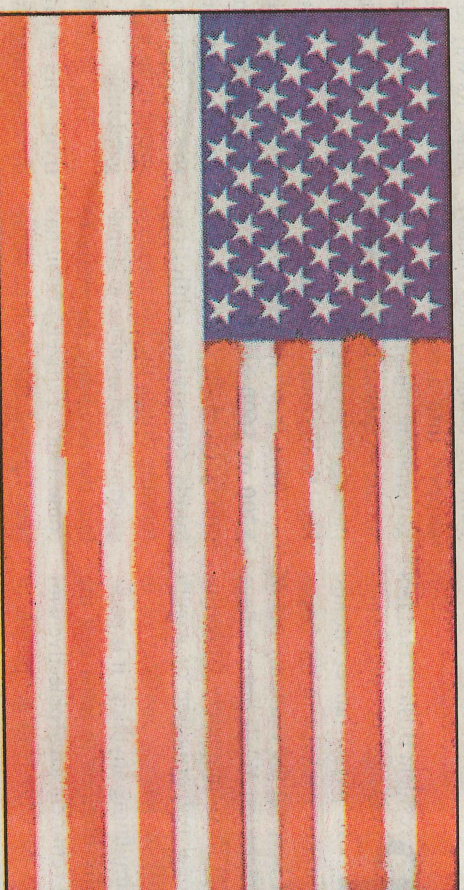


of dispute that the law in question (1st Amendment) was designed to address, in a federal and it must be something the court has the court case power (under the Constitution or federal law) also must be remedied.

In their response, Clemson cited a well known court case in their defense, a move to ask the that was obvious and anticipated. The court court for a case, named *Garetti v Ceballos*, involved a decision. an employee at the office of L.A. County District Attorney (Ceballos), and three the plain other employees, including Gil Garet, the tiff (Trout- District Attorney. In this suit, Ceballos al- man) must leged that the three defendants retaliated have been aggrieved, or legally harmed in

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Clemson Contributions



With the height of the 2008 presidential election in our midst, The Observer decided to provide our readers with a little something special to commemorate the occasion. Below is public information taken from opensecrets.org, showing a list of Clemson faculty members who have donated their hard earned money to different political campaigns. We feel it is important information, if for no other reason than because it's interesting to know who your professors and other faculty members support. We'll let you see for yourselves what the overall donating trend is, as far as political parties are concerned. So enjoy the information, and use it to call out your professor during class- they'll love it.

Contributor	Clemson Title	Date	Amount	Recipient
Erison, Michael	professor	3/31/2007	\$500	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Erison, Michael	professor	11/2/2007	\$500	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Gurtl, Douglas C.	Web programmer	9/25/2007	\$200	Ron Paul
Miller, Michael	Systems Programmer	7/15/2007	\$750	Dennis Kucinich
Miller, Michael	Systems Programmer	11/29/2007	\$200	Dennis Kucinich
Moise, Edwin	History professor	8/21/2006	\$500	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Murdoch, Janice	Dean	2/21/2007	\$2,250	Hillary Clinton
Murdoch, Janice	Dean	6/22/2007	\$1,000	Hillary Clinton
Murdoch, Janice	Dean	8/25/2007	\$1,000	Hillary Clinton
Murdoch, Janice	Dean	6/7/2007	\$250	Hillary Clinton
Shine, Ricki	Educator	1/3/2007	\$250	John Edwards
Shine, Ricki	Educator	3/30/2007	\$250	John Edwards
Spragins, John	professor	9/18/2007	\$200	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Tamura, Robert F.	professor	11/17/2007	\$250	Republican National Cmte.
Tamura, Robert F.	professor	4/6/2006	\$250	Republican National Cmte.
Thies, Mark	professor	2/7/2007	\$500	Tom Tancredo
Thies, Mark	professor	10/8/2006	\$210	Tom Tancredo
Varenhorst, Jeanine	Accountant	10/10/2006	\$500	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Varenhorst, Jeanine	Accountant	6/6/2007	\$250	Democratic Senatorial Cmte.
Winchel, Mark	professor	5/1/2007	\$500	Ron Paul
Woodard, David	professor	3/31/2006	\$250	Republican Party of South Carolina

Economic Stimulation

Brad F. Shaw
Staff Writer

President Bush and leaders in Congress have recently passed an economic stimulus package in the hopes of keeping the economy out of a recession. While many believe that this completely Constitutional redistribution of wealth will be largely ineffective in stimulating anything, it is painfully obvious to most that the government's real objective with this package is to get people to start smoking.

Under House Resolution 5140, almost everyone who received a paycheck in the past year will get at least \$300 from the government, while most will receive around \$600. For a regular middle-class worker, this is obviously too little, too late. Estimates of when the money would actually get into the hands of the people place the economic stimulus going in effect potentially as late as the fourth quarter of this year.

But since the purpose of the legislation was to stimulate the economy, it is reasonable

to assume that if the stimulus package won't reach anyone until the economy has already slipped into a recession, the government must have intended for the recipients of the stimulus package to involve themselves in legal, habit-forming drugs.

This way, after the initial \$300 or \$600 has been spent on cigarettes, alcohol, or other goods containing addiction-forming drugs, the bad habits it generated will continue to stimulate the economy for years to come. Once a citizen's habit has been formed, they will continue to put their own money into the economy for these goods.

Likewise, an emphasis will also be placed on using this money for state-run gambling rings known as "education lotteries." While these are not as sure-fire of an addiction as drugs, they are habit-forming nonetheless, and any habit that will subsist after the money from the economic stimulus has vanished from a citizen's wallet will benefit the economy.

Not only that, but in the case of state-run lotteries, the government will continue to reap the benefits of the inadequacies of

its citizens. Only now, the money from the federal government will make its way to the states.

However, aside from state education lotteries, only legal and taxable drugs or gambling were a target of this legislation. Our government has shown that the only drugs it will allow are drugs it can control. Therefore, any recipient of free money from the government should only spend it on legal drugs or legal gambling.

The great fiscal conservatives who railroaded the bill through Congress and the White House, most notably Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and George W. Bush, obviously can't say flat-out that they intend for people to use this money to form bad, yet economically advantageous habits. Since the government spent a large part of the 90's chasing cigarette companies, it would seem hypocritical for them to be straightforward about the real goals of this bill.

The government has already shown that it does not care for the personal well-being of its citizens. Instead, leaders in Washington frequently put the interests of the economy or

even of other countries above the interests of the people who vote them into office. For example, border guards from the United States' border with Mexico were taken to Iraq to help with security there.

Another example is war itself. The leaders in Washington have adopted a "War is Peace" attitude which holds that the more war there is in the world and the more bases the American military has in other countries, the more the economy is benefited from the continual production of and ultimate destruction of products. American companies have made a killing off of the "War" on Terror, and if that's at the cost of a few American lives, then that is a cost our administration, like the Inner Party, is justified in taking.

The economic stimulus package is also an example that the government has set for its citizens on good financial practices. Rather than reigning in spending, our government would much rather live beyond its

means. The government is starting to make good financial sense, just like most American citizens who are willing to jump into debt for a flashy new car or a house without the financial security to pay it off.

After all, the government controls the money supply. Now that fiscal conservatives like George Bush have run the national debt up to almost \$10 trillion, the Federal Reserve can just have that \$10 trillion printed. Once the money is printed to pay off that debt, the infallible government should be able to find a way to keep inflation down. After all, if they can print money out of thin air, then they should be able to do whatever they want to with it.

Now that this sound money is in circulation in the American economy, the government can go back to spending money, protecting its citizens from themselves, and catering to special interests. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it.

So You Think You're A Conservative

Jessica Armentrout
Staff Writer

A few of the renowned, extreme yet attention-receiving conservative "talk-show heads" have spent the day's since Super Tuesday telling the world that Hillary is more conservative than John McCain is in almost every way. Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter have been firing shots on their own Web sites (and in my media outlet they can force their opinion in) that McCain would be worse (more liberal) than Hillary.

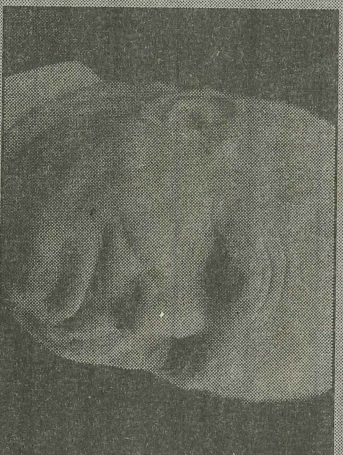
But worse than that? Both cite his less-than-perfect record on issues and the fact that he would be worse on immigration, providing amnesty for all illegal immigrants (he has backed off that position a bit for the time), and the fact that he wants to shut down Guantanamo and end the water-boarding of terrorists... who would then be entitled to criminal trials in a United States court with full rights. You know he was a P.O.W. right? His constant citing of this fact is a bit John Kerry-esque.

There is more. I recommend Googling the McCain-Feingold legislation, McCain/Alito, and McCain/stein cells. He has bought into the "global warming" fad as well. Yes, his voting record is over 80% in line with the Republican party over his career but he is from

Arizona, one of the most conservative states in the nation. What he believes will play well nationally would not have helped him to be re-elected in that particular state.

What has the Republican Party done to itself now? Coulter says it's the "move of a desperate party" to nominate such a man, and Limbaugh just claimed, among the other things, that he's helping McCain by having him because McCain's voting base is not Limbaugh's conservative following. Nothing that anyone points out about McCain's liberal record is inaccurate.

It's true that McCain isn't the only Republican candidate left in the race, but the other choices aren't much better. No candidate will ever be perfect, but it is terrible that the conservative base of the Republican party could not see that the values they truly hold dear were considerably more present in Mitt Romney than Huckabee. However, the conservative (read, Christian) vote was split between Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee. Conservative Christians, for all their usual good sense, seem to have



become so distracted by the fact that Huckabee was a born-again Christian that they overlooked every flaw he had. The voters who paid enough attention to the real issues and overcame their prejudice against Romney voted for him.

All of this said and considered, the choice for President will most likely be between McCain and Hillary/Obama... most likely Obama. The two issues McCain differs from either of them on are healthcare, and Iraq/national security. He wins in both categories

because he does not want socialized health care, and the Muslims and communists of the world may actually fear him a bit because of his hard stances on national security. As elections approach, North Korea, Russia and Iran have noticeably toned down their threatening rhetoric a bit. They want a democrat in office more than the ACLU and welfare recipients. Everyone knows Americans vote Republican when they realize there is something to fear. The next four years are very crucial, and I worry about the disaster any of these choices would be.

Socialized healthcare would be the biggest,

but not the first, step toward the destruction of our constitutional values of small government. We are not promised the right to healthcare and the government does not have the best track record for accomplishing anything in a cost-effective, practical way that actually works.

On Iraq/national security, I believe that the threat of Iran is real (so thank God for Israel). Vladimir Putin is crazy and so is Kim Jong-il. The damage that could be done with a president who is not vigilant and does not seriously consider these threats, could be irreparable. Even with his anti-war rhetoric, Ron Paul would not neglect impending disaster and he would not be afraid to use necessary force for our protection. Even crazy people knew that.

There's also the matter of the Supreme Court. I don't know who McCain's nominees would be but I believe they would be better than anyone Hillary or Obama would choose. That is another decision this next president will probably make that will have long-term consequences.

So, be a rebel if you want. Stand on your principles if you would like and don't vote for someone who does not represent you. You are certainly entitled to a little rebellion. The idealist in me would love to do so, but the realist in me will probably pull the lever for McCain, just to ensure that it won't be the last time I am able to do so.



date), but everyone is guilty, including me, of hoping just a bit too much for something we cannot totally manipulate to magically configure to our exact specifications.

It's our nature, really. We are hopeful people. We like to think about the best possible outcome for every situation. It's just too depressing to think about how it could all go wrong at any time. Some people do though. We call them "pessimists," or some synonym, but then those people are usually single too.

The ones who are willing to constantly be in a mediocre relationship that "could" be great are partially driven by a desperate need to not be single. Those who are willing to settle are never going to find "great" because they will stop looking sometime before it has a chance to be found. I know I have wasted a lot of time looking at what "could" work out instead of what would work out. I hate to think of who or what I missed while holding out for a mere chance. But if I were stronger, time would never be wasted on those who just maintained that status, as I continually hopped for more and better things to come.

Nothing is ever everything if "could" be. What you "could" be isn't what you are. As I said, I "could" be a lot of things, but I'm not. I "could" have a lot of things, but I don't. Don't get me wrong, I am not advocating giving up or not trying to

maximize your potential in all aspects of your life, but why wait for someone else? Why wait for another person to define what is good in your life and what makes it worthwhile?

Think about how you choose your friendships. I know I didn't find my best friend because I thought after six months that she "could" be a great friend; after six months, she was a great friend. You know how long it takes for you to know if something or someone is worth the fight. It could take more time for you, but it most likely takes less. Deep down, you probably know that. Pushing on beyond reality for something you already know is not going to happen will rarely propel you toward your goal; in this case, a great relationship.

Next time, instead of "we could be so great together," how about "we are so great together"?

Have any questions for The Crush? Not ready to settle for that less-than-great relationship? Tell us! observer@elemson.com.

Jessica Armentrout
Relationship Expert

The most recent bogus excuse I have heard lately for sticking with a significant other for any decent amount of time and expending huge amounts of energy for a relationship is,

"We could be so great together." There are a lot of things that "could" happen. Ron Paul "could" be president, I "could" have a 4.0 this semester, and I "could" have had a date for Valentine's Day. The one thing each item has in common: it's likely not going to happen. All "could" or "could not" situations are not beyond our control (see the GPA and maybe the

Quote of the Month

"I believe in change, yes I do. But I believe in cash even more."

-Nick Gillespie,
former Editor-in-Chief of Reason Magazine



The Inevitable Failure of Democracy

Michael Schnibben
Staff Writer

Until very recent times, intellectual and cultural elites across the Western World have sneered at the notion of democracy; indeed great philosophers from Plato to Aristotle to Aquinas and more recently Machiavelli, Hobbes and Nietzsche, to name a few, were suspicious of this particular form of government. The collective opinions of these influential thinkers and many more over the course of history are neatly condensed into the rather caustic aristocratic proverb: "Democracy is like boiling a chicken... the scum rises to the top." While this snobbish quip is incredibly offensive to our modern egalitarian sentiments, it is not entirely without merit; if closely examined through the lens of history, logic and sociology, we find that democratic governments contain the seeds of their own destruction in their very constitutions.

In order to avoid ignorant and unnecessary criticism, I believe it is imperative to explain the difference between democracies and republics before proceeding any further. While modern people use the term "democracy" to describe any form of elected, representative government, this word actually has a far more narrow definition. In democracies, such as Ancient Athens, governments are elected by the entire citizen body, to whom suffrage is granted without distinction; along with Ancient Athens and an assortment of other Greek city-states, virtually all elected governments existing in the world today could be characterized as democracies. Republics, on the other hand, are far more limited, often restricting suffrage to those belonging to a certain social class or possessing a certain income level; examples of republican societies can be seen in medieval Venice, Patrician Rome, and the early United States.

Clearly, the difference between democracies and republics lie not in the fact that governments are voted in, but who has the right to vote; in republics, suffrage is determined not by birth or citizenship, but by one's contribution to society. For many societies, military service and personal risk it carries was deemed a suitable exchange for the privilege to participate in the political life of the state. In much of Ancient Greece, where elected government was first developed, the electorate was synonymous with the army; during this time there were no professional armies, meaning that each soldier was expected to supply his own armor, weapons and rations. This was quite an expense which, in some cases, excluded the majority of male citizens from participation in war; as a result these people were also denied suffrage, ensuring that the middle and upper classes retained firm control over the state.

vention and extended suffrage to all male citizens; this event took place not because of a class struggle or egalitarian impulses on the part of the aristocracy, but rather because these lower class men formed the backbone of the Athenian military. As opposed to relying on their army like most other Greek cities, the Athenians sought security from their fleet in the decades after their fateful encounters with Persia. Unlike the expensive armor worn by those who served in the phalanx, rowing a ship in the navy required no expense on the part of the sailor; this development opened the political arena to poor men and finally gave their voices a chance to be heard. As the "Athenian Empire" advanced in power, territory and wealth, it became clear to the outside observer that state policy was increasingly dominated by the short-sighted concerns of the urban mob.

Tragedy Strikes at NIU

Amanda Carey
Editor-in-chief

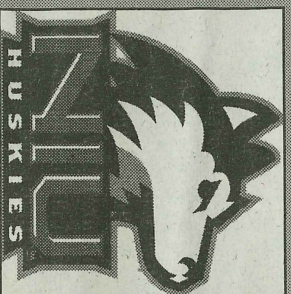
On Thursday, February 14, a gunman dressed in black stormed into a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University, killing five and wounding 16 in a matter of seconds. Then, he turned the gun on himself. According to school authorities, the gunman, who has since been identified as Steven Kazmierczak was a 27 year old sociology grad student with no police record, and no history of violence. He was even involved in student government, and made the Dean's list in 2006.

A total of 22 people were shot, and six were killed. Four females and two males, including the shooter died; four at the scene, and two later in the hospital. All five victims were undergraduates students.

The shooting occurred at approximately 3:06 p.m. at Cole Hall, a central point in the DeKalb, Ill. campus. Kazmierczak fired an estimated 50 shots with a shotgun and three handguns. The shotgun was smuggled in the hallway using a guitar case, and the handguns were hidden in his coat. However, no apparent motive has been found yet.

At 3:20 p.m., the first alert was posted on the NIU website reading, "There has been a report of a possible gunman on campus. Get to a safe area and take precautions until given the all clear. Avoid the King Commons and all buildings in that vicinity."

Questions have been brought up about a possible link between this shooting, and threats that were made recently at the University. The school was closed for a day in December due to a threat



written on a woman's restroom that said, "things will change most hastily" in the last few days of the semester. But so far there has been no hard evidence linking that incident to the shooting, which was described as being similar to the Virginia Tech's.

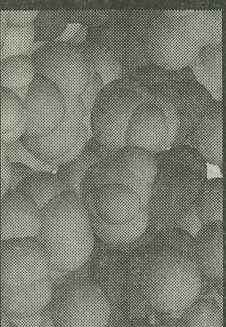
Police believe this to be a random act, and know of no other threats. According to NIU President John G. Peters, "...this was a different kind of act, that we don't

think there was any warning. It seemed spontaneous."

However, last Thursday, a week before the shooting, another written threat was reported to police. But it is still unsure whether the threat made in December and the one recorded last week were made by the gunman. Police and university officials have so far declined to comment on this matter.

The class instructor, Joseph Peterson, a 26 year old graduate student was shot in the arm, but is expecting to recover. According to Peterson, a tall white man dressed in dark clothing entered the hall about 40 feet away from him and "just started firing away". When the gunman ran out of ammunition in his shotgun, Peterson said, he "pulled out a handgun and began shooting at me". He chased out the instructor, who escaped out the door. Peterson had never seen him before.

The 25,000 student campus was closed Friday through Tuesday, February 16, with most students going home. However, the overall sentiment was, even though they're leaving now, they will be back, and they applauded the university for their quick response.



See "Democracy"

page 11

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In order to prevent the government from falling victim to such rabble-rousers and the groundlings who support them, the United States was founded as a republic; this will become painfully obvious to anyone who cares to study the original language of the constitution, which restricted suffrage to the propertied classes for exactly this reason. This restriction did not represent a moral judgment on the part of the Founding Fathers towards the poor; but simply recognition of reality: people who live a hand to mouth existence are incapable of processing the long-term ramifications of policies that they support; for them, the only thing that matters is putting food on the table NOW, paying the bills NOW. Aside from this point, such desperate people are also extremely susceptible to silver-tongued charlatans who promise them instant material benefit while it is true that the lower classes no longer clamor for war; they nonetheless

"Conservative" from
Page 3

principle should apply today to terrorists. Since they aren't acting on the orders of a government, like an army would, it does not make sense for the United States to take military action against a country in this case.

As far as our military goes, it's probably time that we started listening to George Washington's advice. "Trade with all, alliances with none." There is no more conservative action than listening to our first President and father of our country.

Historically, conservatives have always been elected to

end wars. After World War II, a conservative has been elected on promise of ending war, be it with Korea, Vietnam, or the Soviet Union.

It seems, however, it is Republicans that keep our country involved in those unpopular wars.

This is the main contributing factor to the recent confusion between "conservative" and "Republican" and why so many people can not differentiate between the two. Today, many Republicans brand themselves "conservative" but wish to keep our military presence across the globe.

Even if there was a Constitutional imperative to impose democracies on other governments, we simply can not fund our

current level of operation while the value of the dollar plummets and our economy sinks due to our government's questionable financial practices. These are simply not conservative values.

While these have all just scratched the surface of what it means to be conservative, hopefully we will find common ground and the true conservative movement doesn't have to settle for the likes of Mitt Romney, John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Rudy Giuliani. If this happens, expect to see more of the same. These people are nothing more than big-government Republicans who call themselves "conservative" while wrapping themselves in the flag and carrying a cross.

"Democracy" from
page 10

seek another kind of plunder: the taxes of their social betters. Modern welfare programs are to the modern poor what war was to their ancient counterparts: a chance for quick and easy gain at the expense of someone else. Of course, as history has shown us, those who put forward such magnanimous programs do so as a front for more insidious purposes with the full but unwitting support of those who, in the short term, benefit from them.

The fall of the American Republic and its subsequent metamorphosis into

"Whisper" from
page 4

ing office from their downtown location, even going so far as to actually encourage the intimidation and insulting of the Marines by a group called Code Pink. This is another obvious case of government-sponsored advocacy of the secular worldview, while trying to intimidate those with traditional views. The Berkeley behavioral shows that zany politically correct notions are not just on campuses, but in the culture as well.

AC: In another chapter, you cite a 2006 Pew Research poll that shows many Americans still hold traditional beliefs but aren't expressing these beliefs for fear of social alienation. What do you say to people who want to speak but haven't found their voices?

DW: I would say that the best way to preserve speech is to exercise it. We are engaged in a great debate, even a culture war, about America. The loud-

est megaphones are by the intense minority. By remaining silent we surrender to hostile values that will imprison us and our children. That is why Jim DeMint and I wrote the book.

AC: What is the solution? What steps does this nation need to take in order to turn back to traditional values and what steps can we take as individuals?

DW: The most important thing Americans can do is to become more informed and engaged in the war of worldviews, and then vote for officials that reflect traditional values. Another thing they can do is demand the right to be separate from America's national secular religion. Expanding school choice is a great place to start. Parents should not be forced to send their children to secular, government-controlled schools. On a national level, it's necessary for major reforms to be made to the ju-

"Climate" from
page 5

government failed to realize, however, was that diesel cars emit more noxious pollutants, which end up harming the environment more than regular fuel. Oops!

Another problem with governmental intervention in dealing with climate change rests on one of the limitations of government – it only affects a select group of people. In other words, no matter how many restrictions the United States places on its factories, no matter how many rivers it cleans, no matter how little greenhouse gases Americans emit, its laws will do little to effect the laws of China. China is in the process of industrialization and is growing to be a new force to reckon with in all fields of politics. Sadly enough, they are also one of the top polluters in the world. Where is it the United States' role to say, "Sorry China. Stop growing, you're killing our planet?" China has their eye on the prize – money, industry, power: a process not unlike America in the 1800s.

Joint nation treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol may make leaders think positively about reducing greenhouse gases, but in the long run, it does little to encourage real solutions. On the other hand, think of the market. What if someone invented a motor that produced power from static electricity found in the air? What if someone figured out a way to reduce production costs by going green? The possibilities are endless, and feed of government intervention and restriction, may just be possible. Inventions of the sort would be desired by individuals and business all throughout the world and would thus provide a global solution to the climate change crisis.

The answer to global warming does not rest on more government, but rather less government. Sure, the market fails sometimes, but government intervention fails all of the time. In the long run, we all want to live on a planet that is as clean as it could possibly be. Little matches the beauty of the mountains in the fall, or the beach on a warm summer day. It sure would be a shame to lose it.

"Lawsuit" from
page 8

According to the Ceballos, he was informed that a sheriff might have lied in a search warrant affidavit that had been filed as evidence in a murder case. After investigating the issue, he issued a memorandum reporting the falsification, and suggested the case be dismissed.

Ceballos alleged that the three defendants retaliated against him on several occasions for his submission of the memorandum, by asking him to transfer to another branch or to accept being re-assigned to filing misdemeanors, not being allowed to work on future murder cases, and also in denying him a promotion.

Garretti and the other two defendants claimed they were immune from liability, and the district court found no protected 1st Amendment speech interest in the

memorandum because Ceballos wrote it in a purely job-related capacity; not as a citizen. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision, saying the memorandum was entitled to free speech protection because it was a matter of public concern.

Clemson University is using the fact that Trouman's protest of what he saw to be serious mismanagement of finances, isn't protected under the 1st Amendment because he was acting within his job capacity of Secretary.

If taken to federal court, a judge will be responsible for resolving the matter. Also, Clemson University is attempting to move the court proceedings from Richland County, where the lawsuit was filed, to the Greenville/Pickens area. Additional documents are expected to be filed by February 28, and more updates will be available at that time.

The Observer's Fast Forward

Volume 17, Issue 2



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