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Portland State University. Student Publications Board

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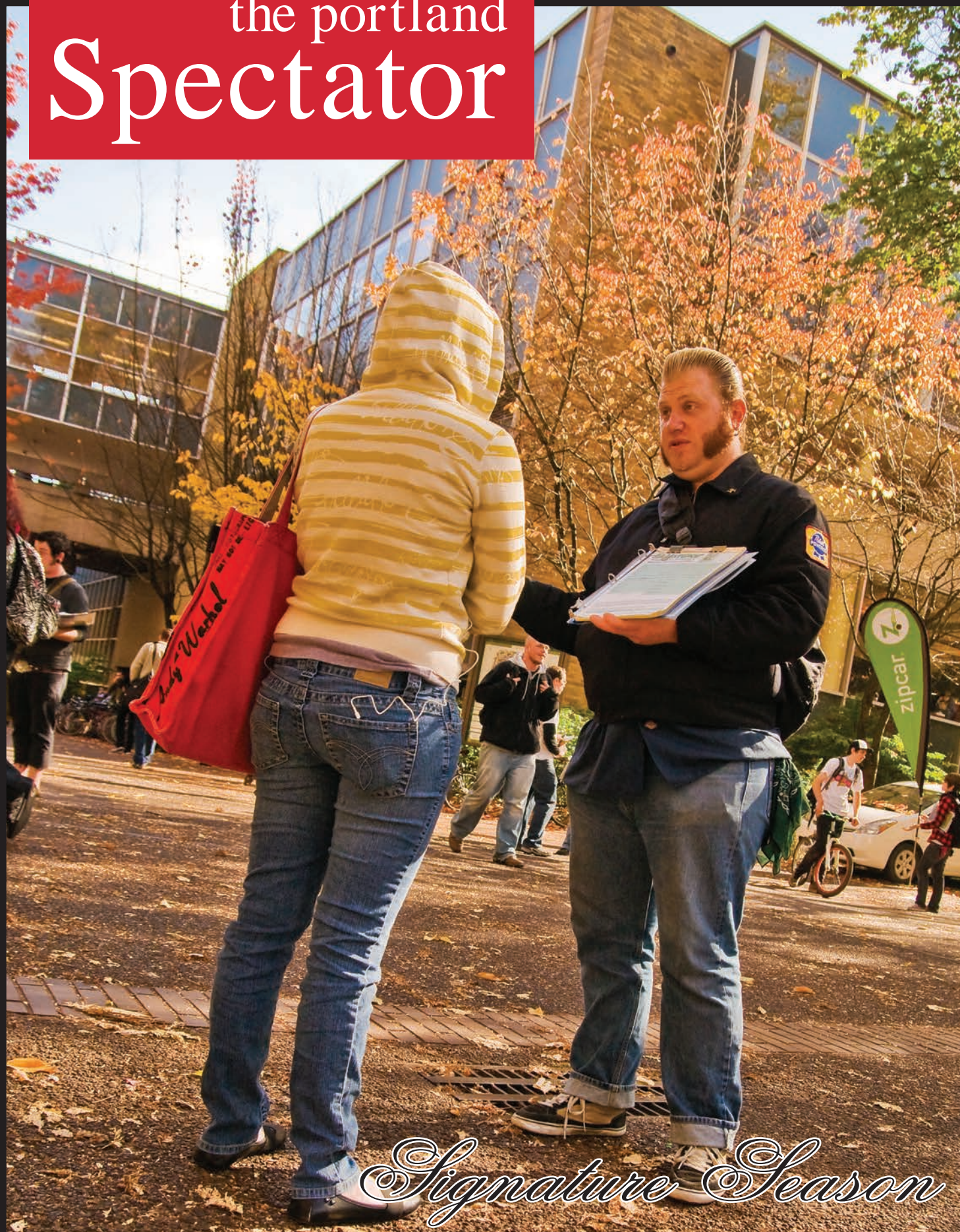
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# the portland Spectator



*Signature Season*

# the portland Spectator

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## *About the Publication:*

The Portland Spectator was started in 2000 by a group of conservative students. Since its formation, The Spectator has strived to provide an independant viewpoint on a very liberal campus.

This year's staff has taken a vested interest in improving the publication. This year The Spectator has several new columns as well as a new approach to using our voice on campus.

In May of 2008 The Portland Spectator decided to re-do their Mission Statement to become more in-line with our current political beliefs.

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

The Portland Spectator believes that the academic environment should be an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent conservative arguments to be heard.

The current environment of political correctness, political fundamentalism and mob mentality stifles genuine political debate. We encourage the expression of diverse ideology to promote thought-provoking discussions.

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## Letter from the Editor,

*Another election year, another massive battle between the 'left' and the 'right'. As much as I may hate the political game that is played in this country - exploiting of people's fears of race, gender and economics - I have to admit that I am proud of some of the landmarks reached this year.*

*In 1920, women earned the right to vote. Less than one lifetime later, women now have the possibility of holding the highest office in this nation. In 1865, slaves were freed in our country, and although it took longer, African Americans now have the possibility of holding the highest office in this nation as well.*

*This victory for minorities in our country is both a rose and a thorn. It is a rose in that our country has evolved and grown to allow such a feat. It has triumphed over adversity, and has held stock in the belief that we are all created equal. It is because of these convictions that such landmark moments have been made possible.*

*The thorn of the situation is that there is so much room for improvement. I see a country divided, and not necessarily just on the issues. As a part of the next generation of decision makers for this country, I find this very disheartening. Although we've striven for 'real politics', we have not yet achieved them. My definition of 'real politics' is when people truly ignore the superficial aspects of a candidate and actually focus on what positions they hold on the issues. We haven't reached that.*

*Perhaps I hold too many of the values of the "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" era, but I believe that we as a nation and as individuals can say, "I won't listen to your smears, but I'll listen to your politics."*

*As I've said, this election year has been a landmark event, but we have more to achieve. In a nation as capable of greatness as ours, we should strive to achieve more than just the standard in politics. We should achieve greatness.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sarah J. Christensen  
Editor in Chief, Portland Spectator*

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lights, Camera, Action!

Student television media is back at PSU. PSU-TV, formerly known as Viking Vision, is set to debut this month. The program, set in a news magazine format, will broadcast simultaneously online and on closed circuit televisions across campus. The program itself will focus on events taking place across campus that affect its members; students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

"We are really excited about where we can take this," said John Miller, Co-coordinator of PSU-TV.

"There are so many events and great stories happening at any given time on campus, that it just seems a great way to keep students well informed and in touch with what is going on."

"We are always willing to bring in new members that would like to gain experience in reporting, camera work, and the film editing process," added Sean Simonet, Audio Technician for PSU-TV.

To get involved or to submit a story idea, contact PSU-TV by email at: [psutelevision@gmail.com](mailto:psutelevision@gmail.com) or visit them on the web at: [www.myspace.com/psutv](http://www.myspace.com/psutv).

## Get Some Culture from PSU Choir

As we move into the colder months, the PSU chamber choir is holding three concerts around town. On November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm they will be at St. Mary's Academy located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Market, followed by a concert on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm at the Old Church on 11<sup>th</sup> and Market. All choirs will have a joint concert at the First Congregational Church located at 11<sup>th</sup> and Park on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00pm

Earn experience, credits, and a skill for life by volunteering with the Portland Spectator.

We are currently searching for volunteers in the following positions:

- \* Writers
- \*Designers
- \*Photographers
- \*Distributers
- \*Marketing
- \*Web Development
- \*Advertising
- \*Ad Design
- \*Editing
- \*And Much More!


If you are interested, come down to our office in the SMSU SB-29 for an application.

You can also call us at 503.725.9795 or e-mail us at [spectate@pdx.edu](mailto:spectate@pdx.edu).

Rebecca Rudaaitz can be reached at [spectate@pdx.edu](mailto:spectate@pdx.edu)

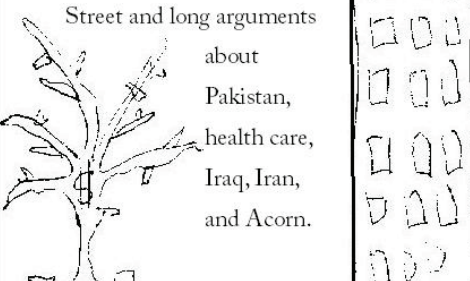
## Adventures of... The Libertarian Pacifist

Greetings.

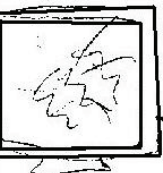


My fellow Libertarian Pacifists, the race to the white house has been long... long and futile...

We have seen the Money Tree stripped of it's leaves this fall. We have seen the bail out of Wall Street and long arguments about Pakistan, health care, Iraq, Iran, and Acorn.



The TV has been resounding with debates and scandal!




The internet is ripe with speculation

The election is here, and my friends, once more we must accept that the office shall go to a Democrat or a Republican.

But all is not lost!


Halloween, to has come with time! and so my dear patriots, I tell you this:



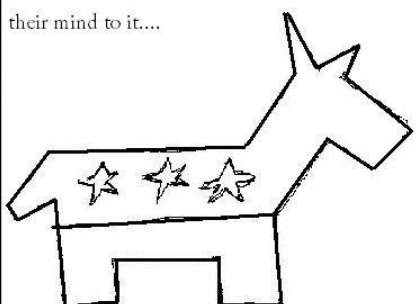
Give me Candy or I will chase you with my spiffy watergun!

MHAHAHAHA  
Hahahaha.....

The time has come to cast your ballot. The epic choice that will determine your country's fate



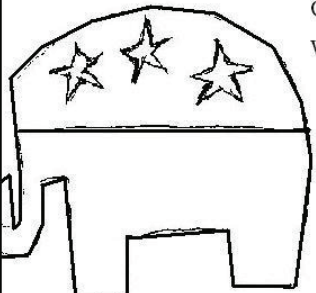
So whether you vote for the donkey, and like all politicians, we know they can be real mules when they put their mind to it....



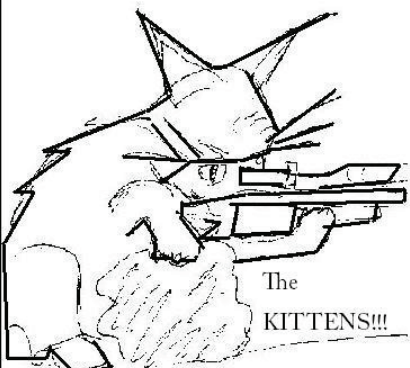
Or whether for the elephants, which really is a silly embelm for a party that wants smaller governments.....

Remember!

Go Vote!



If you won't do it for your country, then, please, do it for the Kittens!



The KITTENS!!!



I sat at home all day today. I ate cold mashed potatoes out of a plastic cup. I ambled from room to room to give myself the illusion of occupation. The only thing that saved my day from becoming a complete and utter waste of time literally walked right under my nose.

Leaning my head against my living room window, I noticed a steady stream of portly, unshaven men and - on rare occasion - portly, unshaven women ambling towards Laurelhurst Park. They were clad in a mish-mash of medieval clothing and brandished swords no doubt forged in the fires of a ToysRUs factory. Curious, and with nothing better to do than e-mail my roommate transvestite porn, I pursued the group.

I made my way through the trees and emerged in to a hazy meadow. And behold if there wasn't a battle already taking place! Plastic swung wildly, small balls (that I later learned were "spells") struck opponents, freezing them to their mark. Immediately following the battles refreshments like Mountain Dew and Flaming Hot Doritos were served. A warrior's bounty!

Someone explained to me that this highly organized nerdery

"They were clad in  
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medieval clothing  
and brandished  
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forged in the fires of  
a Toys'R'Us  
factory."

is known as L.A.R.P., or Live Action Role Playing. In other words, gamers can take to the streets, employing their vast combat experience acquired through hours of arduous gaming and turn the virtual into reality. I was courteously invited to join in, but seeing level 60 necromancers and highly skilled knights among their numbers, I decided to save myself the embarrassment of certain defeat.

When I got back to my apartment, before I did my e-mailing, I contemplated this encounter. As students we have a good opportunity to try new things. Whether it be something so noble as battling a worthy adversary with foam weapons or attending some event that you would normally pass over, just get out and do something. Or, who knows, you might end up sitting around in your boxers contemplating why you shouldn't eat that last mash just because it fell into your belly button.



# From the mind of Kelly

by Kelly Welch

## *The Accidental Feminist:* Why the Women's Movement Shouldn't Fear Sarah Palin

She's not the type of woman with whom most feminists might identify. She holds firm to her Pro-Life stance, most notably, and has some harsh things to say about liberals (a group with strong feminist representation). She would never call herself a feminist due to the term's connotations that contradict her political positions.

But, semantics aside, Sarah Palin has a place in the Women's Movement, and she probably doesn't even know it. Aside from giving the movement a prominent figure to rally against (thus unifying them), Governor Palin embodies a significant amount of feminism, though she dare not admit it. News agencies have applauded her since the announcement of her Vice Presidential nomination for merely "looking more like a woman", as she prefers to wear dress suits instead of pants like Hillary Clinton.

There is much to say about the juxtaposition of Palin and Clinton in the 2008 election season. Clinton has presented herself with few shades of gray in her public figure. Either one can be a politician, or one can be a woman. She downplayed her femininity on a consistent basis, and due to the age of her daughter, Chelsea, her maternal side seemed more distant and abstract.

Palin, however, has fantastically represented both sides of this duality; a balance few politicians who happen to be women have ever managed. Her motherhood is clear and present, her youngest child being only six months old, and her marriage seems more satisfied than in the Clinton household. Palin is confident and ambitious without overstepping into masculinity. Exhibiting power and assertiveness in a traditionally male role while maintaining her maternal (and otherwise womanly) side is the dip in the pool America's toes need to begin stomaching the idea that feminism isn't inherently evil, masculine, or even liberal.

Perhaps the biggest credit that can be paid to Palin (or maybe it really is due to her running mate and party for selecting her during this election) is the sustained dialog Americans have had about women in politics. A strong voice is emerging that says not to vote for a woman just because she would want to advance the cause of women. This continues the theme that would have died as Clinton finally was eliminated from the primaries, and it surely is a discussion that is worth continuing. It is disappointing that the public seems averse to discussing the issue of women in politics unless there is a clear represen-

tative present. However, if a female representative is necessary, then this opportunity is too golden to pass up.

Palin draws criticism for being a woman who has power, thanks to the movement that preceded her, without paying homage to it or supporting it. However, feminism does not mandate the mindset of the women it hopes to liberate. A woman who isn't afraid to say the contrary of the dominant paradigm is exactly what the feminist movement purports to prioritize. Being a feminist does not mandate your support for reproductive rights. One demographic that often gets neglected is the part of the population that is both pro-choice on the level of keeping government out of our private lives, yet still fundamentally anti-abortion due to deeply held moral beliefs.

Feminists cringe at the idea of Palin taking power on a national level, and perhaps they have plenty to criticize. But feminists also need to recognize that Palin standing as a national figurehead is very likely a promotion of feminism in society. It is an admirable goal to empower women, and expect women to empower themselves. But, at the same time, it is unrealistic to assume that all women will interpret strength in the same way. Empowerment can come from giving birth and managing a household, as well as from serving one's country. Governor Palin does both.

It would be best if Americans could ignore the physical characteristics of their candidates as they go to the polls this November. Ignore that John McCain blinks a lot. Ignore Joe Biden's weird hair. Ignore that Barack Obama doesn't look like the other people we've put on our money. And ignore that Sarah Palin is a girl. Because, deep down, these people are policymakers and their ideologies stem more from the party they stand with and the people they want to represent than their chromosomal make-up. One day a woman will run for something and no one will stop and pause at the shock of the Fairer Sex taking power. But, until then, maybe feminists could stop taking such a narrow-minded perspective of Sarah Palin while advocating that we, as a society, think more broadly. 7

# Freedom Divided: *Understanding Political Orientation*

by Matthew Keenen

When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, as the first Republican president, the Union was torn apart. As most Americans know, the mainstream reason for this schism was indeed slavery. The ideals of the Republican party in those days, in particular regarding civil issues, would be hard to compare to the Grand Old Party John McCain represents. The influential German historian Leopold Van Ranke argued that history should be told as it really happened. Implicit within this point of view is an objective analysis of the facts. Historians often claim that "context, context, context is to history as location, location, location is to business. This is very appropriate when considering political orientation, and in particular a political spectrum. People often incorporate their cultural bias, something inherently hard not to do, into interpreting the culture, history, or politics of another country. Like the metaphor "you can never step into the same river twice", history is often similarly dynamic. What's conservative in one country can often be more point of view in another. This tion is contingent on time and tell the story the way it really required.

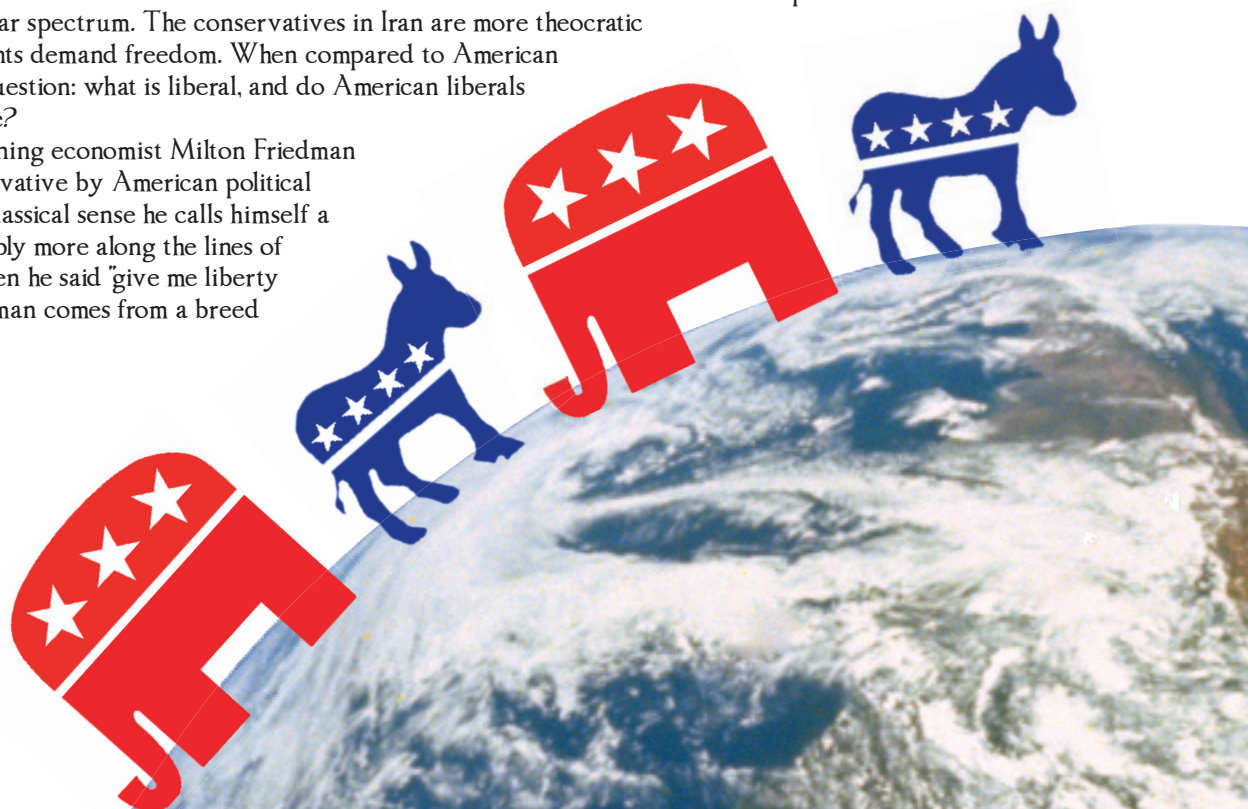
From a historical perspective, Lincoln's party to the values W. Bush or John McCain simply because the parties but because the abolition of issue than gay marriage, and responding to vastly differ- This is a good example of how inequities. But location is also a speaking, Americans use the to classify political beliefs. This and liberals clearly on the conservatives clearly on the ever, do not follow this way example, has several national cal parties aligned along a linear spectrum. The conservatives in Iran are more theocratic while the liberal college students demand freedom. When compared to American political ideology, it begs the question: what is liberal, and do American liberals really know what they believe?

The famous Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman would be considered a conservative by American political spectrum standards, but in a classical sense he calls himself a liberal. His beliefs were probably more along the lines of what Patrick Henry meant when he said "give me liberty or give me death. Milton Friedman comes from a breed

*What's **conservative** in one country can often be more closely related to the **liberal** point of view in another. This is because the political spectrum is contingent on **time** and **location**.*

is because political orientation, and in order to happened, objectivity is

tive, comparing Abraham represented by George would be absurd. Not have different opinions, slavery was a far different public opinion in 1860 was ent conditions than today. time creates comparison large contributor. Generally left-right political spectrum spectrum places Democrats left and Republicans and right. Many countries, how- of thinking. Iran, for politi-



of economists that value freedom above all else. In his book *Capitalism and Freedom*, he explains the reciprocal relationship that capitalism and freedom have. This comes from a long generation, starting with Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, of what is commonly referred to as neo-classical economics. Free trade, free society, limited government, and individualism are the foundations of this liberal view. Freedom, encouraged by cultural pluralism and the wild frontier, is a belief that founded the United States as a culture. An ideology that America has absorbed great costs to protect. An ideology that seems to be split

between two parties that have lost touch with reality. Stereotypically, Democrats seem to be socially liberal but prefer the populist and protectionist policies against free trade, while Republicans tend to oppose gay marriage and cling to their guns and religion. Some go so far to say the two parties represent the battle between equality and freedom. The sharp contrast between these two parties not only illuminates their ignorance, but also highlights their confused support base.

Calling a Democrat or a Republican liberal is clearly an inappropriate use of the word as the classical thinkers defined it. The contributing factors to this skewed political spectrum are many, but the

simple act of applying it over such a large country (location) and historical context of different political beliefs (time) can explain some of this phenomenon. For example, people of a lower socio-economic status in Texas may vote for McCain because he protects gun laws, opposes abortion, and goes to church. Wealthy Texans might like McCain because he wants to keep taxes low, and supports free trade and limited government. Factory workers in Ohio will support Barack Obama because he promises to give them jobs. Oregonians, on the other hand, may support Barack Obama because he supports social welfare

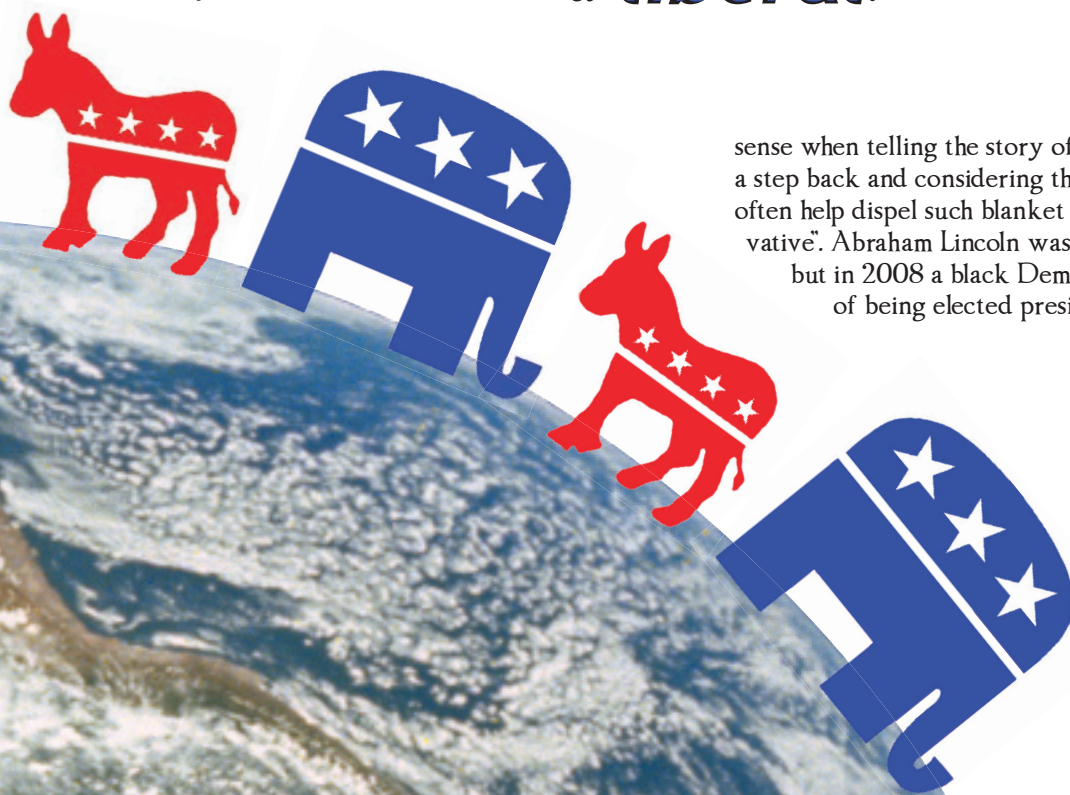
programs like health care, is pro-choice, and wants to tax wealthy oil companies that pollute the environment. But don't forget those Oregonians (like me) that believe in a free society while simultaneously supporting a free market and limited government. So which group of Americans is liberal and which one is conservative? "Liberal" is not easily applied to any of these groups, and neither are taboo words like "socialist". Calling a free market Republican a liberal is almost as bad as calling a member of the National Socialist German Workers Party (NAZI) a liberal.

Thinking outside the box is often a hard thing to do. The United States is not a homogenous culture, and this makes political polarization confusing. Placing such a rigid linear spectrum over all political beliefs makes little

sense when telling the story of how it really happens. Taking a step back and considering the context of the situation will often help dispel such blanket terms like "liberal" and "conservative". Abraham Lincoln was a radical Republican in 1860,

but in 2008 a black Democrat has more than a fair chance of being elected president.

*Calling a  
free market  
Republican a liberal is  
almost as bad as calling  
a member of the  
National Socialist  
German Workers  
Party (NAZI)  
a liberal.*



# Q & A with Charles Lewis

## Candidate for Portland City Council

Content has been edited for clarity and size.

### Biographical Information:

Across the street from his non-profit organization Ethos, Charles Lewis prepares for a busy day in the routine life of campaigning for Portland City Council.

Lewis, age 36, is married and is the father of his three-and-half-month old baby girl. Lewis grew up on a farm near Missoula, Montana, but eventually came to Portland for his undergraduate studies at the University of Portland. After graduating in 1994, he joined the Peace Corp. in northern Congo where he helped drill eight wells that brought fresh drinking water to about a thousand villagers. After coming back, Lewis helped direct the fundraising for the Martin Luther King statue that's in front of the Oregon Convention Center.

"We raised about \$300,000 in six months and completed the fundraising for the very first statue of Dr. King on a street also named after him in the entire United States," says Lewis.

Lewis then served as a legislative assistant before receiving a full ride scholarship to Harvard. After obtaining his Master's degree in Public Policy, Lewis set off to start his non-profit organization, Ethos, and a small business later on



TESSIE: What were the accomplishments with Ethos?

LEWIS: When I graduated, I flew back home to Portland and slept on a friend's couch and started up my non-profit Ethos on my credit card and started with three volunteers and some donated classroom space at the University of Portland. We had 10 kids the first class period, and then the next session we had 75 kids, and then 150 kids, and then it just took off. Last year we had 78 staff members on our payroll with a budget of about a million dollars and we brought music education back to about 2,200 kids. We're expanding. We started up over 120 after school education programs in Portland and were expanding into rural parts of Oregon. Ethos, has twice been selected as one of the top 50 school arts programs in the entire United States by the President's Commission of the Arts and Humanities. We first started the programmatic offerings in 1999.

TESSIE: What main ideas set you apart from Amanda Fritz?

LEWIS: There are a number of them actually. She's a good candidate. One of the big disagreements was on a bridge for the Colombia River Crossing. She was against it. I would have voted for it. She says that she believes that prostitution free zones are unconstitutional and ineffective. She said that on the Willamette weekly endorsement interview which is on the web. I absolutely disagree and I think that we as a community have the responsibility to say that shouldn't be allowed. Specifically it's on 82nd and I live near 82nd in East Portland and I see what happens when kids who are going to school are harassed by would-be 'Johns' and pimps. The least we could do is to say that type of activity shouldn't be allowed. We need to have more opportunities to get people out of the trade. We

need to aggressively target Johns and pimps and throw them in jail but I think that just saying "it's not constitutional" it's never been thrown out at all for 15 years and I think that's just a bad way to look at the situation.

I am also very much in favor of Commissioner Leonard's bio-fuels mandate that said we should use bio-diesel in all of our fuel. Amanda said that she wants to revisit it. I think that it not only helps us get off dependence on foreign oil but it helps us create good relationships with farmers around the state of Oregon and I am a farm boy myself. I see that when we go to the state legislature with something we need for Portland, I see the automatic reaction is just because you're from Portland we're going to vote against it. We really need to create better relationships in rural parts of Oregon and I think this is a really great way to do it.

TESSIE: Can you provide specifics on how you would plan to create more jobs and support small businesses?

LEWIS: In addition to starting up Ethos, my wife and I started up the Portland Duck Tours. It's the amphibious bus that drove around town on land and water and it promoted tourism. With that business, we took on a second mortgage in order to do it but we created five jobs with that business. That's what small businesses need: access to capital, and it doesn't have to be in very large amounts. I was at a coffee shop in South East and I had one business owner (who had like ten employees already) say that if he could just get \$30,000 in a loan, then he could create three new jobs. For me, it's all about giving small business owners access to capital. Mayor Potter added about one million dollars to this last budget. We should be adding millions and millions of dollars to this small business loan program. What we see is that, over the years, city council has funded huge corporations. The Freightliner on Swan Island for example, we gave them millions of dollars on tax credits and tax abatements in order to keep them here in Portland. As soon as the credits ran out a few years ago they shipped nine-hundred jobs to the East coast, and so we lost those jobs. I found out last week that now they are closing out the entire plant and we'll lose another nine-hundred jobs immediately in a couple of months. By 2010, we're going to lose another 1100 jobs and that would not have happened if we would have invested in small businesses directly. So, if we're talking about creating jobs, that's where we need to do it. Small businesses give us a broad, even economic base that can withstand any economic storm.

TESSIE: What do you view as the boundaries of what the council should or should not be involved in?

LEWIS: I believe if there is a need that we can address locally that goes towards community livability, then we should take a close look at the situation and potentially do something. For example, the Portland Children's Investment fund is a levy that has helped bring after school activities and mentor programs to 16,000 kids for several years. It was something presented out of Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office and has been fabulously successful. It's helped thousands of kids in Portland and I have been for it and support of it since the very beginning. Up until about a month and a half ago or so, Amanda has been against it, and it's on about five different spots on her website where she explains that the county should deal with it and not the city.

Low income underserved kids are really being hit hard and we need to step up and take care of them. According to resolution A, many years ago it was decided to split up the duties between county, state, and city- funding afterschool programs like this is probably something we shouldn't be doing but I don't care what the resolution says in that circumstance. If there's a low income kid that we can keep out of trouble or keep out of jail and keep off the streets, then I'm going to do it. 20 percent of the people in Portland live in poverty and if we can create jobs for people to help better our educational system, to help our schools, then I think we should do it. When kids are getting in trouble for vandalizing, that's something that affects all of us as a community and we should try and give those kids positive activities that keep them off the streets and keep people out of trouble.

TESSIE: How would you make a difference as part of the council?

LEWIS: I would bring a perspective as someone who's created jobs in Portland and as someone who's run a business, as

someone who has met payroll and done some great things with very limited money, and I'll bring a sense of innovation and creativity to the Portland City Council to tackle some of the bigger issues we're going to be facing in the future, especially during these financial times. That is a big way I would make a difference. I would also bring a perspective of someone who grew up in poverty and then went on to get a full ride scholarship at Harvard University but came back to my community to give back and to make a difference.

TESSIE: What is your message to PSU?

LEWIS: Students and faculty at PSU have been great partners in a lot of activities I've done in the past. Several of our first volunteers at Ethos were PSU students and they helped us create this incredible organization that has formed as a critical need for underserved kids. I'm grateful for that and the help and support from the past. I hope they'll join our efforts in the campaign as we strive to make sure that everybody is given the opportunity to succeed here in Portland.

## *NATIONAL DECREASE IN HIGHER ED. FUNDING REFLECTED AT PSU*

by Lane Thompson

With the national economy tanking, most voters are more worried about building savings accounts than investing tax dollars in higher education. But with thousands of people retuning to college in order to have a fighting chance in an increasingly scary job market, the state of universities is a real concern.

In Oregon, state funding for higher education has dropped 25% in the last ten years. For everyone involved in the public university system, this has had a serious impact. More and more instructors are being hired on as contingent faculty, with little or no chance of ever being granted tenure; professors on the tenure track are strapped for time and hounded for grant money; and students are struggling to pay for larger and larger classes.

According to Portland State University's Office of Academic Affairs website, adjunct professorships are different from the tenure track in the following ways: working hours of .5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) or below; a six month to two year contract, no required research to be completed during contract period, and no PHD required. Fixed track professors get paid \$747 per credit hour, which translates into an average of \$14,000 per year. Today, 48% of all faculty members hold part-time appointments nationwide quite a difference from 1975 when only 30% were under part-time contracts.

Instructors hired under a fixed term, or adjunct contract, at Portland State University have risen 222% since 1994. In that same time, PSU admissions have risen by 75%. This means that not only are class sizes increasing every year, but that fewer and fewer are being taught by professors with a career-long contract.

Okay, numbers aside, how does it look on the ground? For professors pursuing, or considering pursuing, tenure track positions, it means competing for scarce resources instead of focusing on students. As assistant professor of education, Andy Job, puts it, "I purposely made the choice to not be tenure track so I don't have to worry about research, publishing or obtaining grant money. Being fixed-term allows me to focus on what I love and do best,

and that is teaching and advising students. So the requirements outside of teaching made me stay away from the tenure track, but not from being a professor.

There are some down sides to being an adjunct instructor as well. According to Julia Getchell, executive director of the American Association of University Professors, bigger class sizes and more required credit hours per year means that contingent faculty have fewer opportunities to build relationships with students: "how can you have office hours if you don't have an office?" Another concern of Julia's is the role of academic freedom in fixed term professor's teaching styles. She worries that adjunct faculty members, who have less job security than their tenured counterparts, may be hesitant to broach controversial topics. As she sees it, "If you are worried about not being rehired next term, or next year, you're not going to rock the boat."

While most Portland State students don't know which of their professors have tenure and which do not, the drop in state and federal funding is apparent to all. The amount of money that students pay per credit hour at PSU is set by the state legislature, so as Julia Getchell explains "They (Portland State University administration) don't have control over what tuition is, but they can decide how many people are paying it." As senior John Miller puts it, "It's all about the dollar." He does not feel that he is getting his money's worth out of PSU, "I don't even have to think about that one."

While the current situation is dismal, people on all levels are taking action. Students, from the ASPSU (Associated Students of Portland State University) to the OSA (Oregon Student Association) have taken action ranging from staging protests at the state legislature in Salem, to sitting down to discuss hard issues with the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. Teachers, both in the faculty senate and with the help of the AAUP are negotiating to receive the best possible contracts. Even state and national politicians such as Kurt Schrader and Barack Obama are addressing issues of higher-ed funding.

In an increasingly global job market, a bachelor's degree is hardly enough to compete. For students attending public university, state and federal politics have a huge affect on the ability to attain any degree. As the United States economy drives more and more adults back into institutions of higher education, we have to keep asking: where does this money come from, and where is it going?

# Pursuing Sustainability at Portland State

By Mikel McDaniel

Portland State University was recently gifted a \$25 million grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation to enhance its research and education in the field of sustainability. Part of the requirements for this grant include a dollar-for-dollar contribution to the project from the University's own private fundraising, bringing the total investment up to \$50 million, all committed to improving sustainability. As this is the largest donation in the history of the University, Portland State's new President Wim Wiewel has had a number of spotlights pointed in his direction lately; and as the president and his staff debate what specifically is to be done with the money, it will be well worth our while to consider what exactly sustainability is.

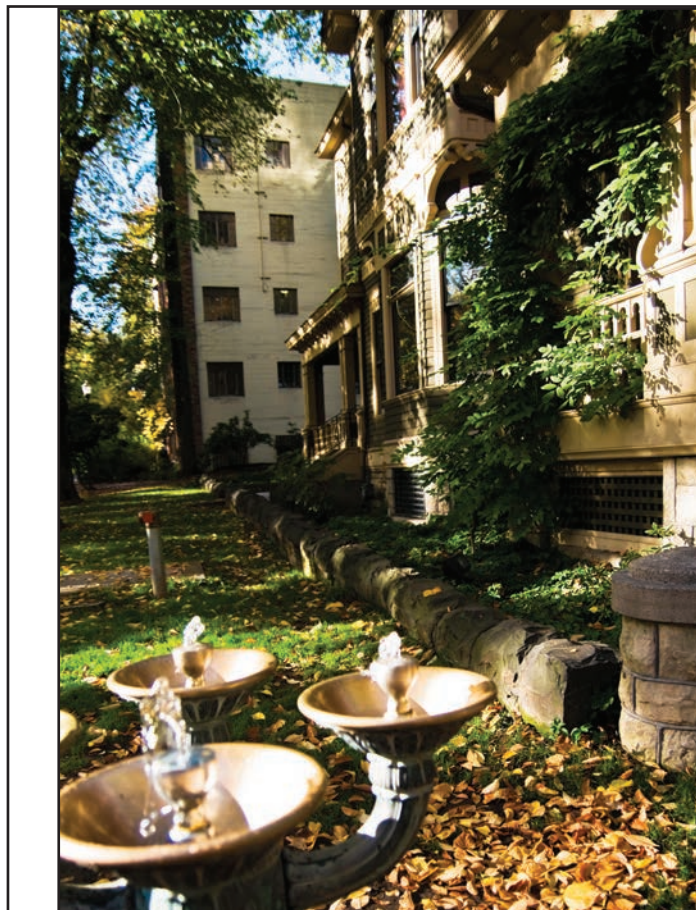
The terms "Portland State University" and "sustainability" are already frequent bedfellows. The university incorporates perspectives on sustainability in many of its academic programs, and

even offers a minor in both Sustainability and Sustainable Urban Development. PSU's website, flaunting its commitment to sustainability, offers a definition of the term: "Sustainability means meeting the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present without compromising the similar needs of

future generations. This description is not too dissimilar from many others from organizations around the world, including the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), of which Portland State University is a member: "AASHE defines sustainability in an inclusive way,

encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations.

These and other definitions indicate that sustainability, whatever else it may be, is not just a simple repackaging of environmentalism. PSU's definition mentions economic concerns, and both above definitions refer to social needs. Environmental science is a well established academic field, encompassing chemistry, climatology, biology, and a smattering of other scientific disciplines. Similarly, economics has developed very empirical and mathematically sound methodologies over the centuries, resulting in the highly technical field we encounter today. It is



Public fountains bubble on a cool October afternoon in front of the Simon Benson House alumni and visitor center.

in this third concern of sustainability, social needs, or "social justice", that we find very little definition, and thus the greatest danger of encountering hucksters, charlatans, and misguided romantics.

Certainly such a generous sum of money will attract more than a few suspect proposals from every quarter of the academic community. Scientists and scholars alike may find themselves straining the definitions of their disciplines in order that they may appear to be much more likely applicants for the new funding. But nowhere will wriggle-room be more easily secured than by appeals to issues of social concern. The social sciences are relatively young and have, since birth, been struggling to achieve coherent definition; despite many courageous efforts, however, they remain largely dominated by activism and ideology.

In November of 2007, two prominent sustainability activists, Kathleen Kerr of the University of Delaware and Keith Edwards of Macalester College, gave a presentation at the "Tools for Social Justice" conference in Kansas City, Missouri. In this presentation, Kerr and Edwards make the interesting case that the common associations between sustainability and such things as the environment, science, and technology are actually "myths" that they purport

to debunk. Instead, they offer a list of primarily social issues that are supposed to be closer to the genuine concern of sustainability. Responding to this list in a column published in *Inside Higher Ed*, Peter Wood remarks: "The list is almost whimsical. Why is 'fair trade' a social justice issue bearing on sustainability, but not free trade, which has

edly partisan. This is not entirely a fault, for political considerations are certainly not irrelevant to environmental quality or economic stability. Social change can represent the tangible means by which the valuable insights of science and theory can find implementation. It would be no use for us to discover how to reduce our consumption of fossil

can be far more damaging than indecision.

Portland State University is well on its way to becoming a world beacon of research and innovation in the field of sustainability. Not only will communities be looking to the Rose City for ideas to help them in their own sustainable projects, but PSU will be a major player in defining for the



People pass through the park blocks while canvassers for Children's International attempt to get donations from Portland State University students on October 21.

lifted billions of humans out of deep poverty? Why 'domestic partnerships' but not stable heterosexual two-parent families? Why 'multicultural competence' but not literacy and arithmetic that offer people a chance to wider (sic) their intellectual horizons? For that matter, why 'water rights' and not mineral rights?"

Sustainability very frequently adopts political agendas, and all too often those agendas are point-

fuels or how to encourage prosperity among starving nations if we have no practical tools for realizing these discoveries. Unfortunately, this simple acknowledgment often ignites consuming political enthusiasm, sometimes bordering on radicalism, that shuns any sober, reflective consideration of the facts as too stagnant, and prefers instead any action supported by good intentions. But a well-intentioned mistake

world just what sustainability is: what it means and what it can do. The great obstacle now will be navigating the sometimes narrow channels of sincere and professional work that stand to be done in the field, without knocking headlong into the banks of political dogma and radical idealism.

# Abortion and Roe v. Wade

by  
Keith Moore

When John McCain selected Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate, we found out many things about her. She's a gun-totin' hockey mom. She has a nice family. She was once the mayor of a small town no one's ever heard of and she opposes abortion. Of all the things we've found out about Governor Palin, it seems as if this last tidbit is the most important to the "women's rights" portion of her opposition, because they bring it up incessantly. I've read dozens of articles opposing Palin that bring up her stance on abortion, and when this comes up, inevitably, the case of *Roe v. Wade* is brought into the discussion. However, despite it having become almost a household term, there seems to be a strange disconnect between the way in which people understand *Roe v. Wade* and what its actual effect is. It may surprise many, but for being represented as the landmark legal basis for all the rights women enjoy, especially the right to an abortion, it is no such thing.

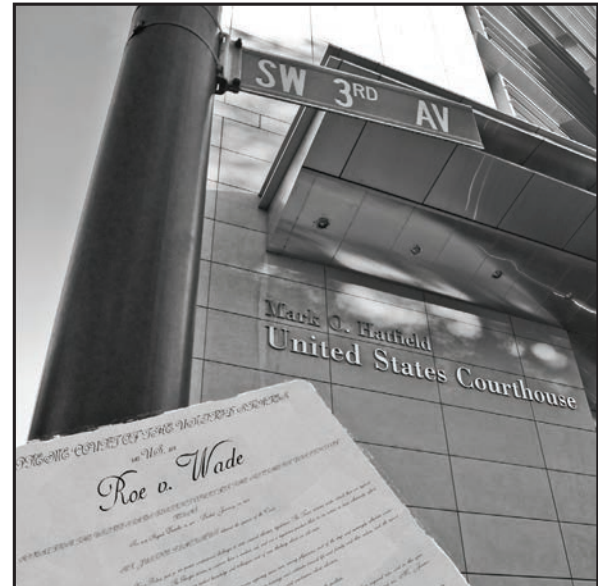
The late Professor John Hart Ely, in the 1973 issue of the *Yale Law Journal*, commented that *Roe v. Wade* "is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be". He is hardly the only one to have said this; Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe asserted that, "One of the most curious things about *Roe* is that, behind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found". And Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, quoted in a June 1993 issue of the *New York Times*, criticized *Roe* as short-circuiting a democratic movement towards making abortion more readily available. It seems as if all sides agree that *Roe v. Wade* was not and is not a well-founded decision; yet, as previously noted, the loudest advocates for women's rights treat this flawed decision as if it were the keystone of the rights of women without which women would be trapped in the kitchen barefoot and pregnant.

If all that stands between freedom and "domestic slavery" for women is a flawed interpretation of the law, these women's rights groups ought to start their search for a better foundation pretty quickly: as most anyone can tell you, building your house on the sand isn't very wise. Is it truly honest to treat *Roe* as the foundation of all rights that women enjoy? I do not believe that the rights of women are as fragile as these women's rights organizations, which tend to focus entirely on the "right" to an abortion, would have us believe, and I would further say that this fragility proves that there is no basis upon which to conclude that the repeal of *Roe* would be a repeal of women's rights.

I give a little more credit to the Nineteenth Amendment, an initiative founded on the democratic process (instead of judicial fiat) that is vastly more secure. After all, the way our country is set up, a woman with the vote has the power to pass laws securing rights, again by the democratic process. Which brings me to my second point about *Roe*: it ultimately deprives women (and everyone else) of the same right that the Nineteenth Amendment secures. No, it doesn't prevent women from voting, but it

declares an entire segment of law off-limits to the power of the vote.

I know a person, for example, who has commented that abortion is absolutely a last resort because of the



unbelievable pain (emotional and physical) involved. We may differ on the appropriateness of abortion, but the real point is that every person in America could agree that laws should be enacted that make abortion a legal last resort and it would mean nothing. The entire nation could support parental notification, spousal notification, counseling, limiting public funds for the poor to obtain abortions and every last one of those things is not in the hands of the voters, but in the hands of the courts. The courts that, under the aegis of *Roe*, have declared their sole right to strike down any law that infringes upon the text of the 1973 decision or any subsequent decisions that have clarified or altered the way that the decision works. This seems to give us some inkling of what *Roe* actually does: it's a wall that shuts out democratic determination of abortion's status, legality, and limitations. So if *Roe* does not protect women but it does shut women out of the right to use their votes to determine abortion's boundaries, does this not argue that overturning the decision might, incredibly, be a good thing instead of the monumental evil we are to believe it is?

I believe that the final and most damning indictment of *Roe v. Wade* is its fruit. In law, we have the term "fruit of the poisonous tree" which, while it actually refers to the collection of evidence, can be appropriately applied here. From this "poisonous tree" have come fruits like *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* (commonly known as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*) and *Stenberg v. Carhart*. It is from *Casey* (although, technically, the concept was born in an earlier decision called *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*) that we have the concept that laws cannot place an "undue burden" on a woman's right to seek an abortion. In his partial dissent to *Casey*,

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote "The ultimately standardless nature of the 'undue burden' inquiry is a reflect of the underlying fact that the concept has no principled or coherent legal basis", and further that "it is a unique concept created specially for this case to preserve some judicial foothold in this ill-gotten territory".

Of *Stenberg v. Carhart* (overturning Nebraska's partial-birth abortion ban), Scalia begins by saying "I am optimistic enough to believe that, one day, *Stenberg v. Carhart* will be assigned its rightful place in the history of this Court's jurisprudence beside *Korematsu v. United States*, and *Dred Scott v. Sandford*" and goes on to say "[t]he notion that the Constitution of the United States prohibits the States from simply banning this visibly brutal means of eliminating our half-born posterity is quite simply absurd." I can think of no more damning indictment than to compare a decision with one upholding the constitutionality of arbitrarily imprisoning an entire ethnic group (*Korematsu* in 1944) or declaring that blacks do not, and will never, have any rights as citizens (*Dred Scott* in 1857) and this decision is the fruit of *Casey*, which

is the fruit of *Roe*; if the fruit is tainted, the tree must be as well.

Every policy, even the ones that seek to do a good thing, has an ugly face. The ugly face of *Roe v. Wade* is *Stenberg v. Carhart* and incidents such as Barrack Obama, as an Illinois state senator, blocking passage of a bill that would criminalize the killing-by-negligence of the viable product of a failed abortion because it might chip away at the edifice of *Roe v. Wade* may yet see more fruit from this particular poisonous tree, a fact that illustrates the reason why lawmaking was put into the hands of those directly responsible to the people and, through 19th century activism, put directly into the hands of the people who would be affected by the laws. The decisions around an abortion are far too important to be left to courts that are designed to disregard popular sentiment in favor of objectivity. Above all, this is why it is so incredible, even dumbfounding, to witness the continued adulation of *Roe v. Wade* among those self-appointed guardians of women's rights.

# One tragic life:

*A review of, 'A long way gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier.'*

by Sarah Finn

Ishmael Beah was only 12-years old when Sierra Leone's gruesome civil war broke out in 1993, which left him homeless and separated from his family. In his memoir, *A Long Way Gone*, Beah recounts his experiences, first fleeing the violence, then engulfed in brutality as a soldier for Sierra Leone, and later coping with his transgressions.

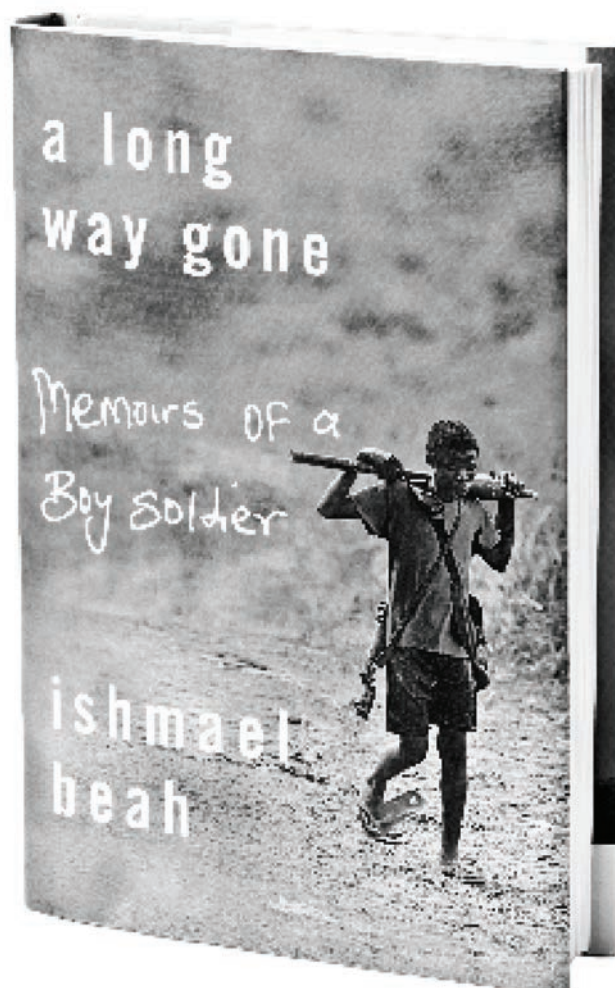
Even though his story is one of the first of its kind to be heard, Beah is not alone in his experience. The prevalence of children on the frontlines is becoming all too real as combatants have realized how simple it is to manipulate and brainwash children ravaged by carnage.

While visiting a nearby village with his friends, Beah's home was attacked and destroyed by rebels, forcing his family to flee. With nowhere to go, and no one to turn to, Beah and his friends began walking in search of safety and to escape the war. The boys survived, if you could call it that, for days without food, and only the hope of finding refuge and their loved ones kept them going.

Beah vividly describes being captured by his government's army. Drugs and AK-47s were dispersed, and Beah details the gruesome experience of being initiated into the madness. Too drugged to resist, Beah and his friends acquiesced and quickly acclimated to their new life of violence.

When he was 16-years old, Beah, along with several other child soldiers, were rescued by UNICEF and placed in a rehabilitation center. Beah describes their contempt for the UN volunteers, and the difficult they had handling the withdrawal from the drugs as well as the violence, both of which were major aspects of their former lives. Eventually, with the help from one of the nurses, Beah was able to come to terms with his actions and forgive himself for his wrongdoings.

It is sad but true that each day more and more children are fighting the wars of others. Ishmael Beah's remarkable memoir is an inspiration and a must read for everyone. His ability to persevere through the atrocities of war serves as a message of hope for the thousands of others facing the same reprehensible horrors every day.




B	I	N	G	O
Finds Osama. Justice is served.	Sees doctor for checkup. Starts to rethink that VP choice	Increases agriculture subsidies on all things prune.	Misses 'State of the Union' due to over-sleeping at nap time.	Sees Cindy without her makeup. Has heart attack.
Gives Mel Gibson cabinet post to prove Maverick-ity	Gets that whistling 'Sss' problem fixed with Invisalign braces.	Learns how to use e-mail, but still hits repl/y all on occasion.	Manages to eat without choking on pretzles or other food.	Vacations in Branson instead of Crawford. Sleeps a lot.
Discovers TV stations aside from The Weather Channel	Realizes we aren't his friends. He doesn't actually know us.		Starts eating jelly beans and muttering about rising tides.	Upgrades to Flot, Rich Wife version 3.0
Gets us out of Iraq without a civil war as a result.	Keeps making 'those faces' because his froze during an interview.	Converts White House bowling alley into shuffle-board deck.	Starts seeing random letters in the eyes of everyone.	Can have conversations without bringing up the POW thing.
Mandates National Nap-Time for all adults and children.	Frees Tibet with a paper-clip and his fists. Without injury.	Lowers taxes without anyone getting mad about it.	Sails through first term since anything is up at this point.	Purchases Blackberry. Gets frustrated at the tiny keys.

## *Sometimes American Politics can inspire laughter*

While it can't be said with any certainty who will be the next president, it can still be a little fun to get an idea of what will happen during each candidate's potential first term. Apologies to Ralph Nader and Bob Barr for not having enough room to create a First Term Bingo for

# FIRST TERM BINGO!

B	I	N	G	O
Spends afternoons crying after verbal abuse from Biden.	Grows goatee in desperate attempt to stay young, hip and relevant.	Turns out hoping for something doesn't make for good policy.	Calls Hillary at 3am to offer the job to her. She's up.	Puts daisy in the barrel of a gun. Wonders why there's still war.
Apologizes to Big Business for being so hard on them.	Never gets together that whole 'Exit Strategy' beyond the exits on a plane.	Gleefully uses veto like new toy. Has to be put in time-out.	Finds Osama. Justice is served.	Outlaws prom when oldest daughter enters high school.
Throws keggers at Camp David to draw out the youth vote.	Realizes dreams are not a viable substitute for petroleum.		Finds out it's not that easy to charm Iran out of their nukes.	Inspires people to be wealthy, attractive lawyers. Oh, wait...
Goes back to being called Barry, like in college.	Too busy signing autographs to make policy decisions.	Takes months to catch up on everything that happened while he was campaigning.	Stops smiling. Starts getting night terrors.	Proves the comparison to JFK ends when it comes to fidelity and fat, belligerent brothers.
Hands over the Oval Office to Michelle when the panic starts.	Tries to get onto currency. Suggests mint puts out a \$3 bill.	Wonders if polls reflect his actions or superbabe good looks.	Like any relationship, lets himself go after the ring goes on.	Realizes that campaign fliers made him look like big brother. Oops.

your administrations, but let's not kid ourselves, fellas.

Pay close attention to the next four years and keep the game going, something here is bound to happen.

These administrations could be very dull if they didn't.

