



California Review

University of California, San Diego's Conservative Journal for News and Opinions

TheCalRevUCSD@aol.com

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John McCain - Staff Writer

The 2008 Republican Party candidate, John McCain, was born into a family with a long tradition of service to the country; both his father and grandfather were naval officers. He continued this tradition when he entered the US Naval Academy in 1954 as a midshipman. Upon graduation and receiving his commission he attended flight school, became a fighter pilot and then flew missions in support of the anti-Communist struggle in Vietnam. During this conflict his jet was shot down and upon his descent into the rice fields he was apprehended by Vietnamese communists and was imprisoned in the POW camp known affectionately by its detainees as the Hanoi Hilton. For five and a half years he experienced a kind of hell that few men have the misfortune to know. He was tortured physically and mentally, and yet he persevered. When he was released and returned back to the country he loves he became a naval liaison to the Senate. Upon the conclusion of his career in the Navy, John moved to Arizona and ran for congress in 1982. He won the seat and four years later won his first term as a Senator when he filled in the void left by departing conservative icon Barry Goldwater. In the interim, McCain has distinguished himself as a fiery Maverick. This is not a gimmicky nickname, but a title earned the hard way, and has the scars to prove it.



Sarah Palin - Inez Feltscher

Governor Sarah Palin is a fresh face in the national scene. Although born in Idaho in 1964, Sarah and her family moved to Alaska when she was just a baby. An active young girl, Sarah spent her youth hunting moose, running marathons, and captaining her high school basketball team. After college she married Todd Palin in 1988, and eventually ran for the city council of Wasilla over concerns about taxes. After two terms in the city council, Sarah Palin became mayor of Wasilla in 1996. As mayor, Palin never forgot she was responsible to the people, reducing her own salary by 10%. She kept a jar of her constituents name's on her desk so that she could call a random resident each week to ask if he or she was happy with the way the city was being run. Palin became Governor of Alaska in 2006, beating an incumbent from her own party, and becoming both the first woman and the youngest person to hold that position. Palin got to work lowering taxes, halting runaway spending, and cleaning up the corruption that had plagued politics in Juneau. She promoted using Alaska's energy resources while curtailing the excesses of big oil companies, and she reduced the spending habits of the Governor's office, posting the Governor's jet for sale on ebay.com. Given Sarah Palin's history, her rise to the vice

presidency may be a prelude to a national political career as transformational and optimistic as the other common sense conservative governor-turned-president Ronald Reagan.

Recessions and Elections

How our economy got this bad and what to do about it - Joshua House

During the vice-presidential debate on October 2nd, Senator Joe Biden openly blamed deregulation for the financial woes that have befallen our nation. Mr. Biden, Mr. Obama, and even Mr. McCain, have all alluded to free-market greed and manipulation as the source of our credit crisis. It is disturbing that three candidates participating in the highest national election show complete ignorance as to the economic causes of this credit crisis. Now, our politicians, especially those in the Obama camp, expect us to believe that more intervention into the market is the answer. Essentially, the United States government is telling its people, "It's not my fault, it's yours and I need to trust in me to get you through this." I, for one, will not believe for a second that more intervention is the answer. The government holds the majority of the fault in this entire fiasco; I will not believe that it will also provide the solution.

Put simply, our financial system is based on risk. Let me give an example. Scottie Startup, a budding restaurant entrepreneur, wishes to start a diner. Unfortunately, despite having obtained an MBA from a well-known university, his educational pursuits have left him without any excess money with which to start a business. Even so, Scottie's education and experience has led him to be confident of future success. He walks to a local bank and strikes a deal with them, entirely sure of success. He proposes to the bank that, provided they give him a loan, he will pay back double the amount they loan him. The bank, excited to make that money and reasonably assured of his success, decides to provide him the loan and indulges in Scottie's risk. This process is how banks make money and entrepreneurs start businesses; it is a system of mutual risk-taking that can result in mutual benefits. Let us now consider a different scenario. Bobby Bad-Credit also wishes to start a business. When Bobby applies to the bank, they decide to not give him a loan as his landlord claims that he does not pay rent regularly. Bobby decides to apply at a second bank, still confident of success. Bank #2, less prudent, gives Bobby the loan. Bobby swindles the money on gambling and never actually makes any of it back. He can no longer pay back the bank, and the bank has lost a substantial amount of money on the risk it took. Banks have fallback plans for such a scenario and the federal government insures the money in savings accounts that banks use to make loans. But imagine millions of Bobby Bad-Credits simultaneously becoming unable to repay the loans - voila, our current crisis!

So the question must be asked: why would banks offer loans to those that obviously could not repay them? The answer: government incentives encouraging corruption and irresponsible spending. To bring our discussion down to specifics, let us discuss the recent government takeover of Fannie Mae. Fannie Mae was a government-sponsored enterprise (GSE) founded in 1939 during the Roosevelt administration as part of New Deal legislation. Its goal was to allow people with little credit to obtain housing loans. Fannie Mae was conceived by misguided economic policy. Instead of understanding that the free-market is the most effective means for the distribution of wealth and investment, the Roosevelt administration, enamored with socialism and deficit spending, decided to meddle in our economy with expenditures that we have still not recovered from. By the 1970's, Fannie Mae was privatized, though sponsored and directed by the congress monetarily and in policy. Fast forward to the housing boom experienced a few years ago. Congress decided that everyone should own a house, even if they lacked the good credit to be eligible for a loan. Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), giving incentives to lenders to loan to those who were unable to repay them. What we have is a case of legislative charity gone awry.

See Crisis P. 3

Intellectual Diversity at UCSD

- Inez Feltscher

There is a serious lack of diversity on America's campuses. No, I'm not talking about diversity of ethnic background, religion, or skin color, I'm talking about diversity of creed; diversity of thought. America's universities have become overwhelmingly Leftist bastions, where conservative or libertarian students who do not march in lockstep are squashed and harassed, not only by other students, but by the professors and staff charged with their education.

Don't believe me? The recent documentary Indoctrinate U featured among others, the stories of two young conservative activists. A conservative student, who happened to be Sikh, got a shock when he wrote an op-ed about how the committee in charge of events on campus never invited conservatives to speak. He got an accidentally forwarded email from a member of the committee, calling him a 'raghead,' a 'terrorist,' and expressing the wish that he would be 'shot in the face.' The author of the email, when reported, only lost the opportunity to attend a couple of campus events, while another conservative student was expelled just for hanging up fliers to a conservative speaker's event on another campus, and had to take his case to court to defend his rights.

That couldn't happen at UCSD you say? As a member of College Republicans at UCSD, I can tell you that this type of discrimination is very real here at our school. Another member was spat upon for just handing out fliers on Library walk, our office was broken into and vandalized, our organization was told to stop registering voters and leave the Price Center, and a biology professor expressed his doubts that students who could believe in conservative principles were even smart enough to get into this university, which prompted him to call us a "disgrace to the University."

But this kind of intimidation, while despicable, is not the biggest problem facing conservatives at UCSD or other schools across America. No, our problem is grades. Students in the sciences are at least allowed an objective forum to display their mastery of the material - a physics problem is either right or wrong - even though they still have to suffer through many professors' long unrelated rants about President Bush, and in one case, miss out on extra credit offered to students who attend liberal political events. Those of us in the humanities must regularly make the decision between writing a paper that reflects what we believe, and getting a good grade from a far-left professor who makes his views well known and ridicules conservatives every day in class.

See Discrimination, P. 2

Table of Contents

- Page 1 - Cover
 - Biography of John McCain and Sarah Palin
 - Intellectual Diversity- Inez Feltscher
 - Recessions and Elections - Josh House
- Page 2 - About Us
 - The Mistake of a Windfall Profits Taz - Erik Kumas
- Page 3 - Economics
 - Vote No on Prop D - Maria Romano
- Page 4 and 5 - A Conservative Summer
- Page 6 - Social Conservative Sector
 - Simplifying the Abortion Debate - Lara Plumlee
 - Proposition 8 Debate - Eric Tsai and Inez Feltscher
- Page 7 - A National Security Briefing
 - The Georgian Situation - Eric Tsai
 - Can Conservatives be Anti-War? - Josh House
 - The California Gun Show Survival Guide - Mark Mendoza
- Page 8 - Election 2008
 - My Top Ten Favorite Quotes from Election 2008 - Alec Weisman
 - Why McCain-Palin 2008 - Alice Chao, Alec Weisman, Inez Feltscher
 - The California Review Endorsement List

See Intellectual Diversity at UCSD, P. 1

I do not write this article just to whine about the many injustices conservative students suffer on this campus and others across the nation. American universities are supposed to produce capable, free-thinking citizens, and in the service of that goal they once were places that hosted vigorous, respectful debate about all types of intellectual, philosophical and political points of view. Necessary to this high ideal is a basic level of respect; a willingness to accept that an educated, intelligent and rational human being can disagree with your political views. The only way a liberal (in the classic sense of the word) democracy can continue to function is by allowing its citizens to learn from such open exchanges of ideas without reacting disrespectfully or violently.

My parents left Soviet-controlled Poland illegally from behind the iron curtain exactly because they were forced to give up their freedom of thought. When I was younger, my dad used to tell me stories about how school used to be easy because you always knew what to say in your papers. The capitalists had to be evil and the proletariat always had to rise up and throw off oppression; write a good peasant uprising story for your history paper and get an easy A. Neither he nor I imagined that my papers in America would also have to suit the political point of view of the establishment, or face bad grades.

Our Founding Fathers depended upon the friction between different schools of thought to keep the nation from swinging to dangerous extremes without breaking out into disrespect or violence (Federalist Paper #10). It's not only a pity, but a danger, that today in the institutions which are supposed to educate the citizens of tomorrow, there is only one school of political thought allowed.

We need an environment that encourages freedom of thought at this university and others. Liberals love to sermonize about tolerance, but as Ralph W. Sockman once said, and my UCSD daily planner repeats, "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority."

The Mistake of a Windfall Profits Tax
- Erik Kumas

In the final Presidential debate, America heard Senator McCain attack Senator Obama's plan to move the United States toward a socialist state by his "spread the wealth" tax policies. However, McCain missed the opportunity to expose Obama's socialistic goal of instituting a windfall profits tax on U.S. oil companies. So I'll do it for him.

Earlier this year, Senator Barack Obama called for a windfall tax on the profits of U.S. oil companies in order to redistribute the money as \$1,000 tax "credits" for Americans. Senator Obama must have forgotten Jimmy Carter's "Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act" which led to a 16% increase in foreign oil dependence and caused the collapse of the U.S. oil industry. A windfall profits tax will make it nearly impossible for U.S. oil companies to compete with untaxed foreign oil. Obama believes the "obscene" profits made by oil companies are evil and unjust, seeming to forget a capitalist economy is structured around the desire to make a profit. Obama should praise American oil companies for their record profits, which have increased levels of investment, jobs, and income. Instead Obama will take the profits from U.S. oil companies, destroying the oil industry upon which hundreds of thousands of Americans owe for their stock investments, income, and careers. Indeed, American oil companies have set record profits in the last few years; however, these profits also led to record payment in the form of taxes to the U.S. government. For example, of ExxonMobil's net (profits after taxes) profit of \$10.9 billion, it also paid almost \$30 billion in taxes. The federal government benefits more from the oil industry's revenue than the oil industry itself! In comparison, the profit margin for oil companies hovered around 8%, while the banking and pharmaceutical industries had profit margins of over 18%. Would Senator Obama support a windfall profits tax on these industries? Doubtful.

Senator Obama and the Democrats can't really be as naïve as this plan suggests. Historical proof, basic economics, and common sense all naturally oppose a windfall profits tax. Barack Obama's support of a windfall profits tax demonstrates he is willing to do whatever is necessary to win the presidency; including destroying our economy.

From the Source

Back from the dead. That phrase aptly describes two things. One, it describes Senator John McCain's presidential campaign after having been written off as dead the previous summer. Two, it describes the state of *The California Review* after having been in a state of virtual suspended animation and death for a period of two years. Now both are back, better than ever, and *The California Review* is looking forward to greeting a McCain presidency with our full support.

Who is *The California Review* meant for? On college campuses across the country, it is commonly accepted that the liberal political position is the only ideology that should be permitted, and that all people who disagree must be either heartless, racist, or misguided. However, it is not for them that *The California Review* is designed. *The California Review* is a newspaper that is meant to appeal to all those who feel left out of the ideological leadership, for all those who would rather draw their own opinion on an issue than have it spoon fed to them through indoctrination, and for anyone who is even searching for a drop of disagreement with the liberal attitude pervasive throughout the university. Why do we exist? It is because if *The California Review* did not exist, then the conservative principles held by the majority of the country would appear as if they did not exist at all within the confines of the academic community. We therefore serve as a foil to both the liberal collegiate establishment and the media, because it is so easy to buy the propaganda presented as fact, the dogma expressed as truth, and the lies that are not only permitted but encouraged on campus.

I am proud to be able to bring *The California Review* out of its long dormancy. My thanks go out to Patrick Todd, the great granddaddy of not only *The California Review*, but also College Republicans at UC San Diego and the Marksmanship Club; Inez Feltcher, my Associate Editor for her strong drive and determination to get another edition of *The California Review* released before Election Day 2008, despite serving as the UC San Diego Students for McCain Chair at the same time; Dejah Stanley, the Chair of College Republicans at UC San Diego, whose leadership helped me through the transitional period of reviving *The California Review*; Mark Mendoza, the immediate past Chair of College Republicans at UC San Diego whose training helped change the course of my college experience; *The Koala* for helping us with finally producing an issue, and all of the staff with *The California Review*, whose articles serve as the core of our opinions, experiences, and values. Finally, my thanks go out to the Cal State San Marcos College Republicans and the College Republicans at UCSD who helped fund this issue at the last minute and to all of the readers who make our existence meaningful.

- Alec Weisman
Editor In Chief



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"Imperium Libertatis"

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The California Review (Restitutor Orbis) was founded on the sunny afternoon of the Seventh day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two, by discipuli cum civitas listening to Respighi and engaging in discourse on preserving the American Way..

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ON THE ECONOMY



See Recessions & Elections P. 1

In addition to the ill-conceived incentives given to banks, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates to unreasonably low levels. Just as it created profit incentives for banks to be irresponsible, the government created incentives for the ordinary American to spend beyond his means. Added to inflation, the low interest rates made saving money economically irrational – people that saved began to lose spending power unless they knew a thing or two about economics and invested in precious metals or foreign commodities. The government encouraged irresponsible spending in the name of spurring the economy.

Anyone who accuses deregulation of producing the current economic crisis has been living under a rock. Our markets have been under siege by government intervention for many years and we are finally paying the price.

Nevertheless, before we blame the government for everything, it is important to keep in mind that these banks were never forced to give loans. Although incentives may have made this poor choice more appealing, even profitable, the banks still made the choice to provide the loan. On top of that, it is evident that there was serious mismanagement, bordering on corruption, going on in these financial institutions. In fact, shortly after the bailout passed, it was discovered that AIG executives went on a \$440,000 spa holiday after receiving government aid. These banks must be held responsible.

Lastly, we Americans must realize that we are also at fault. No politician, especially during election season, will blame voters for their mistakes. Sadly, the American people need a wake-up call. We must understand that the stock market does not guarantee increased wealth. There is no such thing as a free lunch, and risk is inherent to our financial system, as is gain and loss. The childish "I want it now" mentality that has become standard for American families will slowly kill our financial system. The bailout and other plans to procrastinate the effects of irresponsible financial practices are short-term fixes. Someday in our future the bills will be due and it is our generation of UCSD students who will be forced to pay the real costs.

It is easy to label such predictions as nay saying and brush them off. To those of you that do not believe me, I ask you to look at history. Think that our healthcare system became worse on its own? Go examine in the HMO act of 1973 and find out how our government destroyed true competition in healthcare, raising prices. Think that inflation is inevitable in any market economy? Look at how the Federal Reserve has crippled our currency and how wasteful spending forced us to abandon the constitutional gold standard. Finally, to those of you that think socialist economic planning will solve our crisis: examine the social security deficit we now face and explain to me how the government is going to have any left for my generation. The Federal government has continuously mismanaged our money; can we let it do so any longer?

The bailout is going to inject a magical \$700 Billion into our economy that did not previously exist. Consequently, it is devaluing our money. The government is now setting a precedent that banks which are 'too big to fail' do not need to worry about competition or failure – they will be bailed out for the 'good' of the people. Worst of all, the government is pushing off a massive, inevitable crash. The solution to the crisis is to allow the market to crash, and let it build itself back up. This may hurt us temporarily, but it is the only long-term solution.

Perhaps the costs of this bailout will not even fall on my generation. However, unlike most of my friends on the left, I worry about my children's future; I worry about their economic security and for the survival of their liberties. In 1964, Ronald Reagan proclaimed, "A government can't control the economy without controlling people." This takeover is more than an economic evil; it is a danger to our liberty. Sometimes, I just wish the government would be like an ex-girlfriend and tell me "It's not you, it's me." Coming from them, I would believe it.

Vote No On Prop D
- Maria Romano

Proposition D will appear on San Diego ballots only and concerns a permanent alcohol ban on San Diego's public beaches, the bay, and coastal parks (all public parks) that was temporarily enacted late 2007. A "yes" vote amends the San Diego Municipal Code and prohibits all alcohol from the restricted areas at all times. The ban was already unnecessary at the bay, several of the beaches and the parks; it was enacted as a backlash to underage drinking and the increased litter seen in Pacific and Ocean beaches after certain holidays (the 4th of July and Labor Day specifically). Since the ban was imposed beach attendance has decreased by 20% (according to San Diego Lifeguards) which is terrible for the small businesses that rely on foot traffic; the amount of citations, however, has increased dramatically, and the city reaps \$250-\$500 for each one issued. A permanent ban would hurt everyone except, as noonpropd.org claims, the very richest owners of beachfront property who are not happy about sharing "their" beach with ordinary San Diego residents, and the City of San Diego, who with each new law garner more funding for their already bloated and shockingly mismanaged finances. There are many alternatives to an overall ban, including increasing enforcement of current laws or banning alcohol on specific days. Should this ban be enacted, many tourists may just head further south to Mexico to avoid citation and excessive policing; San Diego residents themselves will be less likely to have parties and bonfires on the beaches. This atmosphere of restriction and the reduction of personal freedom is in direct conflict with San Diego's relaxed and peaceful vibe that normally makes it a popular tourist destination. Therefore please vote No On Proposition D!



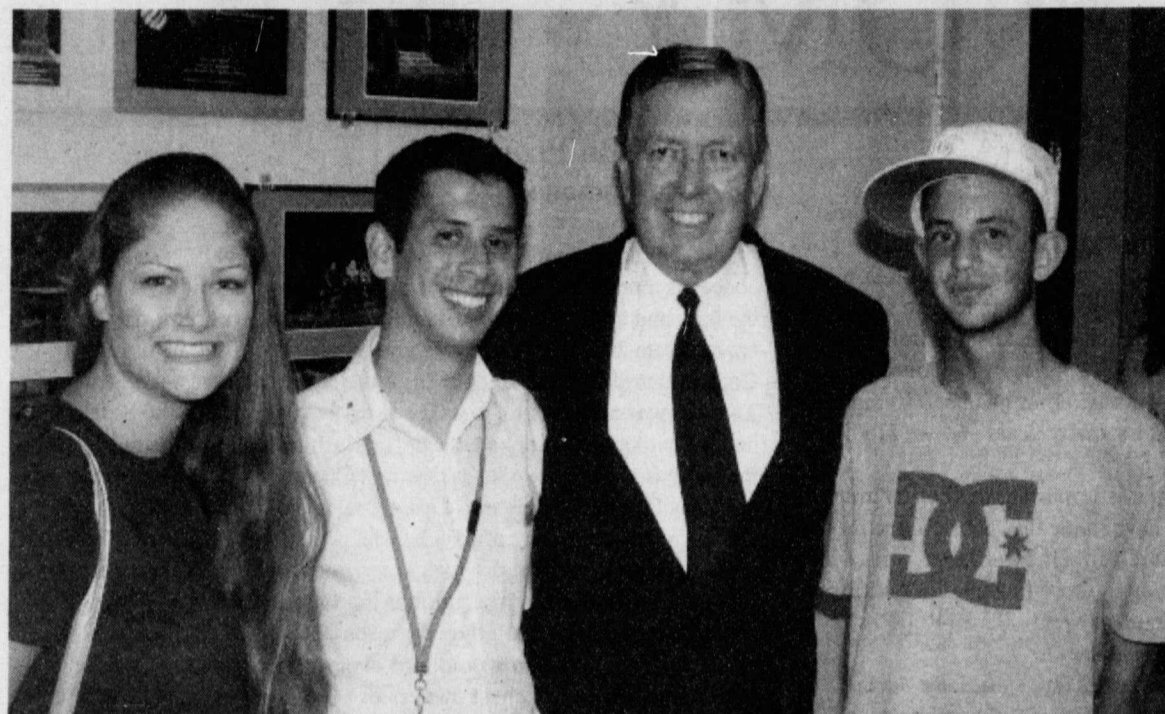
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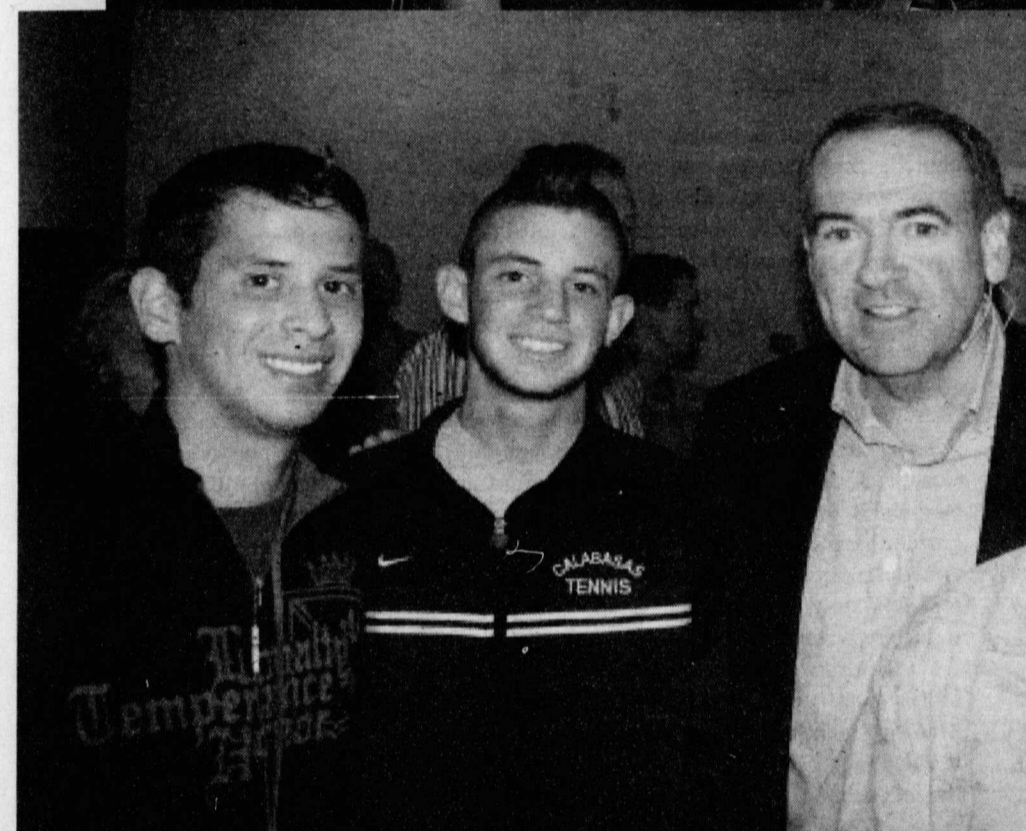
• "Meeting John Ashcroft with the College Republicans was an awesome experience, because he had served as Secretary of State during 9/11 and was so critical to making policy in the wake of the terrorist attack. I can't wait to join College Republicans when I begin to attend the University of Hawaii, Manoa." - Matthew Weisman



"College Republicans provides many opportunities to get involved and have a great time in the process. It's not for nothing that College Republicans get the reputation of being the best party on campus!" - Dejah Stanley, Chair



vative Summer


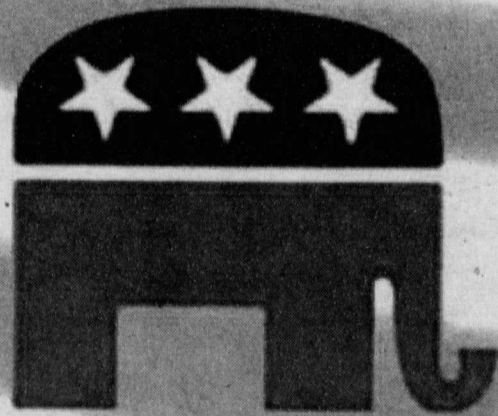


• "Having served as the Chair for Governor Mike Huckabee's Presidential Campaign at UCSD, when my brother and I finally got to meet Governor Huckabee it was very exciting. I am so grateful that I got involved with the UCSD College Republicans." - Alec Weisman

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Simplifying the Abortion Debate: What is the unborn?

- Lara Frances Plumlee

In California a girl under age 18 cannot drink alcohol, get a tan at a tanning salon or consume an aspirin dispensed by the school nurse without a parent's consent. However, current California law allows doctors to perform chemical and surgical abortions on a young girl without informing any family member.

However, voting Yes on Proposition 4 will change this by requiring a doctor to notify at least one adult family member before performing an abortion on an under-18-year old girl. Medical professionals know that a young person is safer when a parent or family member is informed of her medical procedure. Someone who knows the girl and cares about her future can offer her support and help her understand all her options, obtain competent care, and work through the problems that led her to the situation to begin with. Pregnant minors deserve to have the support of loved ones rather than strangers with a financially driven agenda at a facility that stands to profit from abortion. Additionally, an informed parent can get prompt aftercare for hemorrhage, infection, and other possibly fatal complications that may result from the abortion. Doctors who treated Sarah in the hospital after her abortion reported that, had she received prompt medical care, she would still be alive today. Families are left to cope with the physical, emotional, and psychological aftermath of the abortion – even if they didn't know the abortion took place.

However, advocates against Proposition 4 explain that this law will cause these pregnant teens who feel they can't tell their parents, for whatever reason, to seek dangerous "back-alley abortions" or head to Mexico. However, when given the opportunity in court, they could not identify a single case of danger or harm to minor girls. Also, this bill will give girls from abusive homes the option of having the doctor notify another family member – such as a grandmother, aunt, or sibling – rather than a parent.

In fact, this law is imperative to protect minor girls. Well over 50% of pregnant California teens were impregnated by adult males. These men are sexual predators, who encourage or coerce young girls to have secret abortions, aided by abortion providers in their cover up evidence of statutory rape and sexual predation. And because families don't know, crimes go unreported, and sexual predators roam free.

Voting yes on this law is vital no matter your stance on the abortion issue itself. If underage girls aren't even allowed to get a shot at the doctor's office without their parents consent why should they be able to obtain a serious medical procedure without it? (Information for this column was taken from www.Yeson4.net)

Where Do McCain and Obama stand on the abortion issue? John McCain has an exemplary voting record against abortion casting 31 pro-life votes since 1997. This includes voting against taxpayer funding for abortion, and voting for a ban on the brutal partial-birth abortion procedure. In opposition to McCain's stance, Obama has consistently voted against legislation to ban partial-birth abortions. Twice he voted against protecting infants born alive during abortions and against laws to require parental notification for minors seeking abortions, among other pro-life bills. Many pro-choicers are even appalled by Obama's disregard for human life in his vote against protecting infants born alive during abortions. Out of the most liberal senators, Obama was one of few who voted for this bill legalizing infanticide and the only senator to make a verbal appeal on the senate floor. In summation, McCain has been consistent in his pro-life stance and has consistently lobbied to give this issue back to the states whereas Obama, who says he personally opposes abortion, wants to bring back partial birth abortions and lift restrictions across the board. This vote is especially crucial because during the next presidency, one to three U.S. Supreme Court justices may retire, which will determine the direction of the Court for generations to come.

Proposition 8 Debate

In March 2000, 61% of the people of California voted to approve Proposition 22, which legislated that in California, a legal marriage was between one man and one woman. However, the will of the people was overturned in a California Supreme Court ruling in May of 2008 in a lawsuit initiated by the City of San Francisco. In the aftermath of this court ruling, homosexuals across the state flocked to get married. In response to this court decision, the California Marriage Protection Act is on the ballot as Proposition 8.

Pro: Eric Tsai

Throughout history, marriage has been defined as a religious institution that has civil benefits, however this court ruling overturns this idea. This ruling violates the First Amendment of the Constitution of United States, which states that the government "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. If this violation of the constitution is continued, religious institutions such as churches and temples that oppose homosexuality will soon be forced to marry gays and lesbians or to be shut down.

Continuing in this reasoning, which is supported by many liberal advocates, the Bible will soon be prohibited as it supports 'bigotry.' Already many religious groups and private businesses have been prosecuted for protesting homosexual marriage, for refusing certain services to homosexuals, and for simply refusing to participate in homosexual ceremonies. In conclusion, if Proposition 8 fails, marriage will lose its meaning, legitimizing everything from polygamy to pedophilia to incest, continuing on the slippery slope of human lust.

Con: Inez Feltscher

Proposition 8 allows the State to define marriage, a task rightly left to churches, communities, and individuals. I would like to start by addressing some boogymen that many say are hiding behind voting against Prop 8. The "protect the children" argument is fallacious, most obviously because gay unions, as far as I know, have never produced a child. If the only motivation behind Prop 8 is to "protect children" it would be about IVF or adoption. Similarly, voting against Prop 8 will not change the way marriage is taught in public schools, which would require separate legislation. Prop 8 does one thing, and one thing only; it eliminates the rights of homosexual couples to marry.

I dislike judges who legislate from the bench as much as any conservative, but the California judges in this case legitimately defended rights granted in the Constitution. The California Constitution guarantees that a "class of citizens may not be granted privileges or immunities not granted on the same terms to all citizens" (Article I, Section 7). Furthermore, it is a not only a conservative principle, but an American principle, that citizens should be able to exercise their individual freedoms to the maximum, that is, until by doing so they infringe upon another's rights. Whose rights are being infringed upon by allowing two homosexuals to marry each other?

Usually, conservatives recoil at government intervention in citizens' private affairs, but many conservatives are swayed by the moral principles behind Prop 8. Marriage is the ultimate private affair, and it should be between those individuals getting married, and God. There is no room for the State's, or your neighbors', opinions in the individual right to matrimony, which is why I'm voting NO on Proposition 8.

A National Defense Briefing

The Georgian Situation

- Eric Tsai

A generation ago, when the Berlin Wall fell, the American people believed a new era of stability awaited. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Americans believed the world had entered a new age of peace and freedom. Although we have entered a new era, it is far from peaceful. With the rise of terrorism around the world, America and her allies must continue to fight for peace and freedom.

It is in this troubled world that Russia has decided to attempt to regain its former glory. Russian aggression was evident in the form of their invasion of the province of South Ossetia in the Republic of Georgia. South Ossetia has had a conflicted relationship with the rest of Georgia due to a different ethnic situation. War began after skirmishes between South Ossetian rebels and Georgian troops on August 1, 2008, escalated into war a week later when Georgia launched a military strike against the South Ossetian city of Tskhinvali. Russia responded to the attack of Tskhinvali by sending troops into Georgia and opening a second front in the war with the assistance of the Republic of Abkhazia, from which Russia launched raids that destroyed several Georgian military bases. At the same time the United States and the EU sought for an immediate ceasefire, however fighting lasted until September 12, 2008 when Russian troops were finally ordered to withdraw under the order of Russian President Medvedev. Immediately following the conflict, NATO sent ships to the Black Sea in order to deter further Russian aggression and to deliver humanitarian aid. However Russia attempted to obstruct this effort, warning western nation against sending more ships and accusing the American naval taskforce of carrying weapons to Georgian military, rather than their cargo of humanitarian aid.

Has the Russian effort to increase their power been successful? On a local scale, they 'liberated' South Ossetia and whatever parts of Georgia they wanted. However, their goal of deterring Western influence in the area failed, unifying the Eastern European nations in support of the West.

Can Conservatives be Anti-War?

A Libertarian Examination of US Foreign Policy
- Josh House

In 1990, Ronald Reagan wrote in his memoirs, "We did not appreciate fully enough the depth of the hatred and complexity of the problems that made the Middle East such a jungle... In the weeks immediately after the bombing, I believed the last thing we should do was turn tail and leave... yet, the irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there." In 1983, the bombing of a Marine barracks in Lebanon led to Reagan's decision to withdraw our troops from the small Middle Eastern nation stricken by a decade of civil war. Is it time that Conservatives call for a withdrawal from Iraq? I think so. The most common argument against leaving Iraq is that the country would be wrecked by civil strife if we left. The unfortunate part of this argument is that it overlooks the fact that the civil strife has been caused by our invasion. And, if we are the cause, can we really be much of a solution?

In addition, I can assure you that the health of Middle Eastern democracy is not dependent on, nor strengthened by, our presence. As someone who has studied the language, culture, and history of the Middle East, I can safely say that there is a tradition of federalism and democratic impulse in the region that will live, regardless of our actions. Policy needs to change. American Conservatives have a long tradition of being anti-war. Conservatives understand that the purpose of the armed forces is to defend our country, not another. We understand that we ought not risk the lives of our servicemen under an international flag. We conservatives know that war is to be declared by the constitutional vote of congress, not the will of the executive branch. We conservatives must spread democracy by promoting and modeling the ideals of free markets and free people – not by continued violence.

The California Gun Show Survival Guide

- A. Mark F. Mendoza

Although California is the butt of all gun jokes in the country there is still a way to get our foot into the mainstream gun world: Gun Shows. But if you have no idea what you are doing and you don't understand the current weapon markets, the gun shows can rob you of your money and leave the bitter taste of screwed newbie in your mouth.

What When Where

Myth #1: GUN SHOWS ARE NOT REALLY SHOWS. There is no runway with bikini models holding the latest versions of NATO chambered assault rifles (although that's the world I dream of living in one day). Nor is there rock music blaring to accompany demonstrations of rapid fire drills. The best way to describe it is a swap meet with a lot of firearms and a lot of cops floating around. Bring lots of cash because it is the only way to haggle prices down. As a UCSD student, the best show to go to is the Crossroads of the West Gun Show. It is held every two months at the Del Mar race track and cycles through other locations in the meantime. You can see the schedule at www.crossroadsgunshows.com. Don't forget to print the coupon for admission discount.

Buying Guns at the Gun Show

Myth #2: Gun shows are the best place to buy guns. False. (95% of the time at least) Got your eyes set on a shiny new Glock or Springfield? Don't go running to the gun show. In California, the 10 day waiting period still applies to guns sold at the show. When you purchase a firearm at the show, they transfer it to a normal gun store that holds it for those ten days. This is usually some place really far away in the ghettos of East County and you end up burning in gas what you saved at the show. If you're planning on buying a very common model, you're better off going to your local gun store. They will stay competitive with gun show prices, you will know where your weapon is waiting for you, and they can custom order anything that they don't carry. And as a bonus, you will be supporting your local gun shop. Those guys need all the support they can get. Do you want to have to wait two months every time you need ammo?

The only time I recommend purchasing guns at the gun show is when you're looking for rare, used, or collector pieces. Things like German Lugers from WWII or the funky AR-15 designs to get around our ridiculous assault weapons laws are usually only found there. But you must still be aware of the real value of these things. You should research prices online ahead of time to avoid being ripped off.

Avoid the Nevada Temptation

Across the state line lies all sorts of goodies, hopes, dreams, and things that make you touch yourself: fully automatic actions, .50 caliber sniper rifles, detachable magazine lowers, high capacity magazines, and all other things awesome and fun and thus banned in land of the Priors and double mocha lattes. It has been noted in the past that California Highway Patrol or agents in alliance with them will go through the parking lots of Nevada gun shows and document California license plates present. Then they just wait on the other side of the state line and wait for your insta-felony. Remember you can't own a gun for the rest of your life after one of those. It's simply not worth it. Do you really need those four extra bullets in your magazine? (Just say no even though the answer is really yes)

A. Mark F. Mendoza is a principal member of the Marksmanship club as UCSD. He has been shooting for over a decade, is a licensed hunter, and competes in speed pistol IDPA/USPSA style competitions. Mark instructs dozens of students on the safe use and effective handling of firearms.

Pro-Life Ambassadors @ UCSD

Come learn how to respond to common pro-choice arguments.
Change hearts and minds about abortion in a loving and respectful manner.

When: Thursday, 5-6 PM
Where: International Center
Why: Because it will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves

Contact: Lara Plumlee, President for more information
lplumlee@ucsd.edu

UCSD MARKSMANSHIP CLUB

For More Information go to
marksmanshipclub.org

Election 2008

My Top Ten Favorite Quotes From Election 2008!

-Alec Weisman

- Senator Biden "I mean, you got the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy. I mean that's a storybook, man."
- Senator Obama "Over the last 15 months we've traveled to every corner of the United States. I've now been in 57 states, I think, one left to go. One left to go, Alaska."
- Governor Romney "I was misquoted by the AP"
- Senator McCain "You change your positions often enough and you will get misquoted."
- Mayor Guiliani "I think [Reagan would] be in one of Mitt's negative commercials."
- Governor Huckabee "Chuck Norris doesn't endorse. He tells America how it's going to be."
- Governor Huckabee "We got a candidate [Romney] who says he's a lifelong hunter but never had a hunting license - we call that a poacher where I come from."
- Governor Huckabee "I'm actually just for keeping marriage in the only manner for which it's ever been known in any culture, in any civilization throughout all of history...Dear friends, until Moses comes down with two stone tablets from Brokeback Mountain saying we've changed the rules, let's keep it like it is."
- Senator Obama "I have never been opposed to Nuclear Waste!"
- Senator McCain "So let me get this right. We sit down with Ahmadinejad, and he says, "We're going to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth," and we say, "No, you're not"? Oh, please."
- Senator McCain "There was an energy bill on the floor of the Senate loaded down with goodies, billions for the oil companies, and it was sponsored by Bush and Cheney. You know who voted for it? You might never know That one"

Why McCain-Palin 2008

- Alice Chao, Alec Weisman, Inez Feltscher

In recent polls attempting to gauge America's preferred choice for the future President of the United States of America, results show Democrat Barack Obama and his running mate Joe Biden have a clear lead over John McCain and his Vice Presidential pick Sarah Palin. While the media has hyped up Senator Barack Obama as a historic candidate, the media has generally decided to ignore the other historic choice made in this election, the placement of Governor Sarah Palin on Senator John McCain's ticket. However for a real discussion of the election, it is necessary to look past the hype and dig down into the candidates before America makes a serious mistake and votes for the least qualified candidate.

In the comparison between the Republican ticket of John McCain and Sarah Palin and the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, it is obvious that John McCain and Sarah Palin are far more qualified to lead. First, Senator McCain served in the military, understanding firsthand what a necessity it is to win the War on Terror. Senator John McCain has acquired a superior grasp of the inner workings of the federal government, having served for over twenty years as a Senator, and he showed his status of a maverick many times, risking his job for what he believed to be right. Obama, however, has served in the Senate for less than five years, and has yet drafted no significant piece of legislation.

Does America really need a President who is essentially famous merely for his celebrity status and flowery rhetoric? Barack Obama lacks substance in his policy, replacing it with his catch words of "hope" and "change" which most of America supports inherently anyway. He uses the word "change" like a broken record, never specifying the kind of "change" he is referring to? Will it make America better, or will it only benefit a select few but ruin America? However, Senator Obama refuses to be specific as to how he would "change" the troubles of our nation, remaining vague in his speeches.

Compared with Senator Obama however, Senator McCain's campaign slogan of "Country First" shoots straight to the point. Although Obama's rhetoric has suckered many hard working Americans, he is not "Obama the Messiah" as many liberals have come to believe. America must recognize that despite Obama's colorful and fiery rhetoric, he has never had to save a life, never has had to lead anything other than his legislative office, and when he has had to make a tough choice, has voted "present" rather than choose a side.

Although it is commonly argued that the highly experienced Joe Biden makes up for Obama's alarming inexperience, it's not the job of the vice president to conceal the lack of experience of the president, as often the democrats argued about Dick Cheney's relationship to President George W. Bush. Contrast the democratic ticket with the McCain team, who are by far a much better pair. The common argument made by panicked Democrats is that McCain is old and could die in office leaving Sarah Palin to take office. However, McCain's mother, Roberta McCain, is still alive at the ripe young age of ninety six, and she even appears on the campaign trail with her son, the accusations that McCain wouldn't be up to the job because of his age are not only frivolous, but empty speculation.

Democrats have now largely turned their attacks away from Senator McCain and towards the woman who they fear could take all their plans and turn them on their head. As the popular skit on Saturday Night Live showed, feminists were convinced that only a woman who are Democrats should ever lead the charge for gender equality, when Sarah Palin arrived on the stage. The first empty charge that is often made against Governor Palin is her lack of 'experience.' The media is obsessed with comparisons of Sarah Palin to Barack Obama, and although the last anyone heard about the election was the Barack Obama is running for President and Sarah Palin for Vice President. Comparing her record as a governor with Obama's record as a senator, Barack Obama has served as junior Senator for only about a mere hundred and thirty some odd days longer than Sarah Palin has served as governor of Alaska. Usually, comparing experience comes in time spans of years, as opposed to days. From this it is generally agreed that both Palin and Obama are equally inexperienced, although Senator Obama is running for President and is with his severe lack of qualifications, while Sarah Palin would be the Vice President to the experienced maverick John McCain. However, looking at media reports one could easily be led to think that Sarah Palin is actually running for President and not Vice President. However, should Senator John McCain die in office, G-d forbid, then by this point Sarah Palin will be able to apply her executive experience as governor, would have learned diplomacy and a depth for foreign policy, and would follow in McCain's lead as a president America could be proud of.

While such things only somewhat prepares one to be President of the most powerful nation in the world, it at least is a better situation than Obama who has ZERO executive experience running even a town, let alone a state, let alone a nation. And the scary part is that this man who has ZERO experience is running for President and believes that he can serve as the leader of the free world in this time of crisis we are now engaged in.

Therefore we are proud to support Senator John McCain and Governor Sarah Palin in their run for the presidency of the United States

The California Review Election Recommendations

State Propositions

- Prop 1A - California High-Speed Rail Bond - Vote NO
Approve the issuance of \$9.95 billion of general obligation bonds to partially fund a \$40 billion, 800-mile high speed train which would run between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Estimates are that the train system would be completed in 2030. Extreme waste of money in this financial crisis.
- Prop. 2 - Farm Animal Rights Bill - Vote NO
Major Impact on California Economy if passed, very few benefits
- Prop. 3 - Children's Hospital Bond Act - Vote NO
Expensive special interest windfall, Lacks proper oversight mechanisms
- Prop. 4 - Sarah's Law - Vote YES
Parental Notification for an abortion
- Prop. 5 - Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act - Vote NO
Check the List of Sponsors.
Too much misinformation
- Prop. 6 - Safe Neighborhoods Act - Vote YES
Places additional penalties on crime
- Prop. 7 - "Big" Solar Energy - Vote NO
Mistaken approach to energy, Would lead to mass lawsuits
- Prop. 8 - California Marriage Protection Act - Vote YOUR CONSCIENCE
State Constitutional Amendment to define Marriage as Between One Man and One Woman
- Prop. 9 - Victims' Rights and Protection Act of 2008/ Marsy's Law - Vote YES
Protects Victims of crimes
- Prop. 10 - "Big" Wind Energy - Vote NO
This is another excessive energy law however it is much less disastrous in relation to Prop. 7
- Prop. 11 - Voters FIRST Act - Vote YES
Redistricting by an independent commission
- Prop. 12 - Veterans' Bond Act of 2008 - Vote NO
Although this Law has good intentions, the state of the California budget and the way this law was written provide too large of a problem in the long run. Plus the wording of this law makes it too easy to be manipulated solely by well connected individuals in the military as opposed to being fairly distributed

Local Propositions

- Prop. A - Countywide Tax Increase - Vote NO
Prop. D - San Diego Permanent Alcohol Ban - Vote NO

President/Vice President

John McCain/Sarah Palin (R)

U.S. Congress

Darrell Issa (R) - 49
Brian Blibray (R) - 50
David Lee Joy (R) - 51
Duncan D Hunter (R) - 52
Michael Crimmins (R) - 53

State Assembly

Kevin Jeffries - 66th State Assembly District
Diane Harkey - 73rd State Assembly District
Martin Garrick - 74th State Assembly District
Nathan Fletcher - 75th State Assembly District
Ralph Denney - 76th State Assembly District
Joel Anderson - 77th State Assembly District
John McCann - 78th State Assembly District
Derrick Roach - 79th State Assembly District

San Diego City Council

Phil Thalheimer - District 1
April Boling - District 7

San Diego City Attorney

Jan Goldsmith