

The Franciscan Conservative

"It does not take a majority to prevail...but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."-Samuel Adams

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Why We Fight (And Write)

By Steven Valentine

When I first considered the creation of a conservative publication on campus, under the leadership of College Republicans, I figured that we would be reaching out to three types of students on campus: the generally supportive students interested in politics, students apathetic about politics, and students who would take issue with the critical magnifying glass

under which we would examine President Barack Obama's domestic and foreign policy.

It became clear to me last week that the naysayers have arrived. Considering that there is only one active "political organization" on campus, it was obvious who was being called out in *The Gadfly*. Apparently we are seen as angry, bitter, and rather than debate, we yell at walls. We are not adults but rather partisan hacks

whose sole purpose is to undermine the liberal agenda. While I will readily admit that I take pleasure in undermining the liberal agenda, I disagree with the other accusations made, and must question the true motives behind them. In my opinion, College Republicans has been relatively uncontroversial this semester.

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Taking Back the Party

By Clare Hinshaw

On March 4, 2008 the Republican Party officially abandoned their conservative base when they nominated John McCain for President of the United States. However, McCain seemed to redeem himself on August 29, 2008 when he chose as his running mate Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, arguably the only person involved in the 2008 presidential race worthy of comparing herself to Ronald Reagan. However, when McCain

predictably lost the presidential election, the Republican establishment, also predictably, blamed this loss on Governor Palin and her devotion to the core values of the Republican Party.

As Governor Palin stated in a recent note on her facebook page "When Republicans were in the wilderness in the late 1970's, Ronald Reagan knew that the doctrine of 'blurring the lines' between parties was not an appropriate way to win elections." For decades the Republican

establishment has been racing away from their core beliefs all under the guise of "reaching out" to liberal voters.

Just this past summer one of Franciscan University's own students, Mary Novick, former president of the Franciscan University College Republicans, was in the running for College Republican Activist of the Year.

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Single Issue Voting and Abortion

By Dan Woltornist

Considering America's democratic tradition, all citizens are summoned to the polls every so often to vote for who will represent them in representative offices for the upcoming term. Most voters, especially at Franciscan, would identify themselves with the bloc known as "value voters." When it comes to value voting, most people would be considered to be single-issue voters - always voting for the pro-life candidate. Some students would belittle this view for its seeming pollution of "pure politics" or ignorance of other important issues that could stand with equal magnitude such as the economy and healthcare.

The implication of single-issue voting for every issue is dubious at best, but perfectly viable on the basis of abortion. If someone did not vote for a politician with the sole reason being they supported teaching evolution or intelligent design in schools, most people would see that position as unreasonable. Opponents of single-issue voting regarding abortion would like to see the entire world as falling apart while single-issue

abortion voters seem to have blinders on.

The argument for single-issue voting based on abortion is focused around intrinsic evils and obligations of voters.

In essence, an act that is intrinsically evil is one that is evil regardless of the conditions. Abortion clearly falls into this category. Regardless of how poor a woman is, how the child was conceived, or how the woman simply does not want the baby, at the end of the act, a child is killed. The act of abortion is a final or terminal act that does not allow any more.

Those who oppose single-issue voting on abortion will argue that all other acts are equal with abortion or when added up equal abortion. I contend that this is not the case. For the presented examples of economy and healthcare, voters are voting for candidates who support means of improving the economy and healthcare system and not ends, whereas abortion is a moral end. If a candidate campaigned on the platform of banning any economy in the United States, that would be equal with abortion because it absolutely violates the rights of citizens and duties of state which is an intrinsic evil. If a candidate

proposed banning all health care in all cases, even individuals caring for one another, then the issue would be of the same magnitude as abortion.

Others will put other important issues such as war and death penalty on equal grounds with abortion; however, these issues like the previously mentioned must be put aside because they are not intrinsic evils and are decided by conditions. For example, murder in self defense is justifiable and the death penalty is justifiable in extreme conditions. This is not the same for abortion.

As it stands, Americans are not presented with any issue that is an intrinsic evil such as abortion; therefore, other issues must not be put aside, but put on hold. The obligation of voters is to deal with the most serious matters first. In keeping with the lesson of intrinsic evil, a voter should base his decision on a candidate's platform and whether or not there is any intrinsic evil present. Only after this analyzation should voters begin to argue the good that a candidate promises.

Like Father, Like Son

By Clare Hinshaw

On Friday, October 23 Rhode Island Congressman Patrick Kennedy, son of the late Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, was asked to comment on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's October 8 letter to Congress in which the Bishops stated that they will "vigorously oppose a

health care bill that does not include language that specifically prohibits federal funding for abortion." Representative Kennedy responded with the typical Kennedy bluster stating that "I can't understand for the life of me how the Catholic Church could be against the biggest social justice issue of our time, where the very dignity of the human person is being respected by the fact that we're caring and giving

health care to the human person."

Really?

"The biggest social justice issue of our time?" Are you sure about that Congressman? How about the slaughter of 1.37 million Americans every year due to abortion?

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Taking Back the Party (cont'd)

Shortly after the 2008 presidential election Mary had been cited in a press release condemning the comments of Kevin DeWine, who had just been elected chairman of the Ohio Republican Party, which stated that the Republican Party needed to abandon the pro-life wing of the party and move towards fiscal conservatism. The Ohio College Republican Executive Board was less than pleased with Mary's opposition to the chairman and when they caught wind of her nomination for College Republican Activist of the Year, they went out of their way to attack not only her work as President of the Franciscan University College Republicans, but also her character (which, by the way, is flawless). In doing this the Ohio Republican leadership voluntarily severed themselves from the largest and most active College Republican group in the state.

However, the establishment is finding that despite their tripping over themselves to please everyone, they have only succeeding in alienating everyone. In New York's 23rd Congressional District a special

election is being held to replace Republican Congressman John M. McHugh who resigned his office in order to accept the position of Secretary of the Army. Running on the Democratic ticket is businessman and attorney Bill Owens. The Republican Party has nominated as their candidate Dierdre "Dede" Scozzafava. According to the New York State Conservative Party's "Legislative Scorecard", 46 *Democratic* members of the New York State Legislature had a more *conservative* (my emphasis) voting record than Ms. Scozzafava. As conservative columnist Michelle Malkin stated "Scozzafava is an abortion rights advocate who favors gay marriage . . . as a state assemblywoman, she voted for massive tax increases, Democratic budgets and a \$180 million state bank bailout. She also supported the trillion-dollar federal stimulus package – which every House Republican voted against. More troubling, Scozzafava in past elections has embraced the ballot line of the Working Families Party – a socialist outfit whose political DNA is

intertwined with scandal-ridden ACORN." Ms. Scozzafava is in fact more liberal than Democratic candidate Bill Owens. In response to the Republican establishment's audacity in nominating Ms. Scozzafava, the New York State Conservative Party has nominated their own candidate, businessman Doug Hoffman. And the people are responding. Mr. Hoffman's poll numbers have risen 7% in the past 2 weeks and he has received endorsements from national figures such as Fred Thompson, the Susan B. Anthony List, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Dick Arme, Steve Forbes, Rick Santorum, and . . . Sarah Palin. With her endorsement the former Governor of Alaska is doing what she promised in her farewell speech "to fight even harder for you, for what is right, for truth." And all Republicans should rally behind her in calling on their party to return to its base, return to its roots, and most importantly return to its values. After all, what is the point of having two political parties if you can't tell the difference between them?

Like Father, Like Son (cont'd)

Where does a congressman who, following in his father's footsteps, has supported abortion throughout his career find the audacity to invoke the dignity of the human person? You know Congressman, the Bishops aren't asking for much. I, personally, would oppose this health care bill even if it did prohibit federal funding for abortion for my own personal reasons. However, the Bishops have as good as stated that the only reason they are opposing this bill is because of its allowance of federal funding for abortion. The Bishops do not oppose health care reform. However, the Bishops, unlike Congressman Kennedy, recognize that health care is not "the biggest social justice issue of

our time," life is.

But Bishop Tobin, Congressman Kennedy's Bishop, said it much better than I can: "Congressman Patrick Kennedy's statement about the Catholic Church's position on health care reform is irresponsible and ignorant of the facts. But the Congressman is correct in stating that 'he can't understand.' He got that part right. As I wrote to Congressman Kennedy and other members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation recently, the Bishops of the United States are indeed in favor of comprehensive health care reform and have been for many years. But we are adamantly opposed to health care legislation that threatens the life

of unborn children, requires taxpayers to pay for abortion, rations health care, or compromises the conscience of individuals. Congressman Kennedy continues to be a disappointment to the Catholic Church and to the citizens of the State of Rhode Island. I believe the Congressman owes us an apology for his irresponsible comments. It is my fervent hope and prayer that he will find a way to provide more effective and morally responsible leadership for our state."

It is time the Kennedy clan, and specifically Representative Patrick Kennedy, learned to appreciate the 2000 years of wisdom their Church offers rather than throwing temper tantrums every time the Bishops call them out.

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Why We Fight (cont'd)

Our events have consisted of satires of now-infamous government programs and the premiere of a truthful and fact-based documentary. So perhaps this publication has been the source of controversy?

I have always liked to talk, write, and debate politics. That is why I joined College Republicans from the start of my freshman year. It is why I wrote for the "Conservative Talk" column in *The Troubadour* last year. It is also why I started this publication. I felt that though we conservatives could send as many letters to other campus publications as we wanted, there were still many voices and opinions that weren't being heard. There is only so much space for political talk in other publications, so why not start our own?

This year has been one of heightened importance. Our economy has been teetering on disaster for months, and the government, as usual, has decided to take an active role in attempting to stabilize it. The manner in which the White House and Congress attempt to intervene is of great relevance to college students. We are the ones who will be next to jump into the job market, whether it is at the end of this semester or in four years. We are the ones who will feel the effects of government legislation aimed at fixing the economy. We will be the ones stuck paying off the government bailouts that started with President Bush and continued with President Obama. We will be the ones shouldering the \$787 billion stimulus plan, which has proved to be an abject failure thus far.

This explains why we hold President Obama and Congress to such a high standard. We are not going to sit around idly while they attempt to ram disastrous health care legislation down our throats. We are not going to sit around while the far left attempts to strong-arm devastating cap and trade legislation through Congress. We are not going to be silent when policies such as Card Check attempt to undermine freedom in the workplace. We are not going to sit on our hands, trying to find some facetious common ground, when it is clear that the other side has no intention of giving conservatives the time of day.

One thing that has bothered me is the lack of submissions and letters to *The Franciscan Conservative*. We accept both letters of support and criticism. We both desire and encourage debates over the issues. You cannot have a debate when there is nobody to engage with. We have been sitting at the table for a while now, but no one has sat down with us. It is possible that the lack of participation is simply a result of the general trend of apathy among college students. I hope however that we have helped to stir at least a little interest in political issues.

Conservatives take threats of bigger government, higher taxes, crippling regulations, and attacks on our most basic liberties very seriously. Most important is our commitment to the

protection of the most innocent of human life. President Obama has continued the assault on human life with policies such as federal money for abortions overseas, funding for embryonic stem cell research, and continued lies about abortion funding in the proposed health care bills. We also do not shy away from calling out our own party leaders. We learned our lesson when President Bush and Congress spent recklessly while in the majority. We were delivered brutal defeats in the 2006 and 2008 elections, and we are not looking for a repeat in 2010. Elections have consequences, and we are feeling them.

If people are upset that we are tough on President Obama and liberals in general, then I feel that we are getting the job done. We do not go down without a fight. At a time when liberals control the White House, the Senate (with a super-majority), and the House, all we can do is offer a strong defense of our values and strong opposition to theirs. I can promise you that if President Obama continues on the far-left path he's following, especially on the issue of abortion, then you ain't seen nothing yet. If that upsets or offends the naysayers, then so be it. It is up to you to defend the policies, or explain why we should sit down and be quiet; the ball is in your court.