

RECALIFORNIA REVIEW



AN UNAPOLOGETIC CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN IDEALS SINCE 1982

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO INTO DEBT

Bradley Brown

Have you ridden a Metropolitan Transit System bus or UCSD shuttle recently? Do you also own a parking pass? Most students would probably answer, "Yes, I ride, but no, I do not have a parking pass." If this is the case, you have been riding the MTS busses for free thanks to subsidies provided by students and staff who do not utilize these services. It is a common misconception that UCSD students pay for the MTS bus stickers and shuttle fees. In reality, the revenue from parking passes and parking tickets are used to finance the MTS stickers and the campus shuttles.

Campus transportation has been a hot topic since the UCSD Transportation Services (TS) announced they are operating at an unsustainable level. In an interview with Meggie Le, former A.S. President, Transportation Services' costs include debt from parking structure (Hopkins, Pangea) construction, shuttle maintenance, driver wages and insurance, and MTS rider subsidies - all of which total to about \$25 million

annually. Meggie revealed to the California Review that the annual revenue brought in by parking passes, pay station passes, and tickets is about \$23 million. This roughly \$2 million annual deficit is a huge problem. In talks with Transportation Services, Meggie discovered that the shuttle system was a free-to-ride pilot program that was introduced shortly after UCSD opened for business. The program was so successful that it was permanently implemented, but due to the experimental nature of the program it was not designed to survive as long as it has.

In fact, the free bus pass sticker is just an all-around bad idea. Meggie added that it costs the university \$1.16 every time a student steps onto the MTS bus, and with almost 2.5 million bus rides last school year, this adds up. If the current situation persists, Transportation Services estimates that they will exhaust their reserves in three years and have to close-up shop. So why not just slightly increase tuition or increase the student activ-



Photo: Samuel Bartleman

ity fees? Transportation Services is recognized as an auxiliary service by University of California policy, a service that is not allowed to receive funding from the state or directly

from student tuition. It is charged with being self-sustaining and, as Adam Powers, student representative to the Transportation Policy Committee, pointed out during an interview

with him, "on the surface, this is pro-student; you don't want tuition funds going to something that resembles

See TRANSP0, pg 4

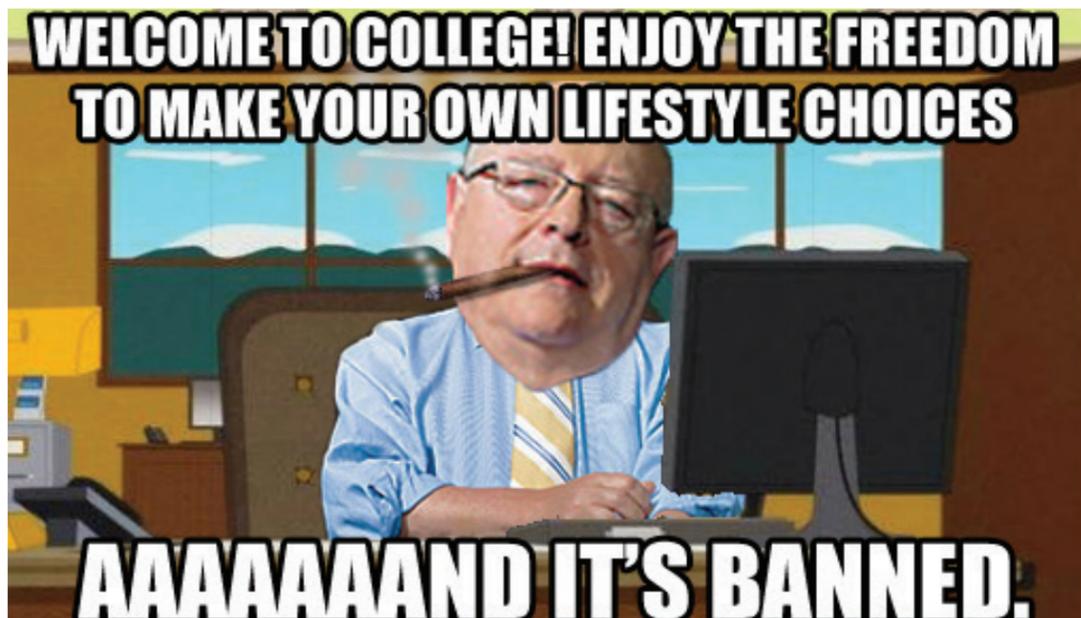


Photo: Joshua Marxen

UNIVERSITIES BUTT IN; SMOKERS SAY "BUTT OUT!"

Danielle Crume

A UC campus-wide smoking ban has been passed in which all campuses will be tobacco-free by 2014. On September 1, 2013, the UCSD campus will implement a smoke-free policy prohibiting the use and sale of tobacco products, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and electronic "e"-cigarettes. Proponents of the ban advocate their cause under the guise of improving the health of students and faculty members, but in doing so they implement yet another example of invasive government measures restricting personal rights.

If UC officials are truly concerned about the effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, it seems absurd that they would ban e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco. Both are smokeless, the former producing water-based, vaporized nicotine without the carcinogenic additives present in traditional cigarettes. This electronic alternative could

be considered an unofficial quitting method, as it delivers the nicotine that smokers crave without tar and hazardous chemicals. Unlike a nicotine patch or gum, its resemblance to a cigarette allows users to mimic smoking; the habitual act in itself drives part of the psychological addiction, as it provides a sense of comfort and ease. Thus, banning a possible means to quit is counterproductive to the University's goals for a healthier campus.

It appears that the UC committee responsible for the policy possesses an ulterior motive; state schools pander to the overbearing government that funds their existence, wanting to demonstrate "leadership" in "environmental and healthcare practices". Like recent measures against obesity, anti-smoking is another politically correct trend the nanny state has propagated throughout society using expensive advertising campaigns and scare tac-

tics to enforce what it deems beneficial for individuals.

In implementing what is "beneficial," the state invasively seeks to influence personal behavior, stripping people of their right to lifestyle choices. Because smoking is considered wrong and a health risk, the policy identifies "college years...as a time of increased risk for smoking initiation" and uses this as a rationale for prohibiting adults to consciously indulge in a legal substance. The policy acknowledges its intruding and manipulative actions; such aforementioned rationale is listed under a section called "Smoke-free Policies Change Behavior." This statist mentality removes individual accountability and portrays people as mindless, easily impressionable victims of corporate tobacco influence. Smokers know that their actions are dangerous, as do rock climbers and firemen, but they still choose smoking because they, like the other examples,

See SMOKING, p3

UCEN REFERENDUM - SUPPORTING CHÉ?

Marco Vasquez

On April 1, 2013 the Associated Students sent an email that discussed the recent student referendum to increase the University Centers fee. According to the email, this \$11.00 fee-increase-per-quarter would "support the maintenance, repair, and operations of the University Centers facilities, including the Price Center, Student Center, Crafts Center, and Ché Facility." Online, the description states that "29% of this fee increase will be used to meet the financial aid needs of UCSD students," with the remaining going towards the renovation of the University Center facilities. Voting for this referendum began on April 8 and ended on April 12.

Although the referendum did not pass, we should examine the "Ché Café," as a candidate for further funding. As described by thechecafe.blogspot.com, this facility is known as "a community space, DIY venue, vegan café, resource center for radical grassroots activists, and a whole lot more." It hosts numerous political and social events as well. While this "co-op," which serves as an alternative to typical UCSD-run organizations, sounds pleasing to certain students, the name of the café suggests that it is a monument to the revolutionary leader Ernesto "Ché" Guevara.

Many young Americans champion Guevara as a hero and symbol of justice - typically, he is seen as a Marxist revolutionary who fought for change. As a result, he has become a pop-culture icon with his figure on shirts, posters, and more. However, there is a dark side to this man not often acknowledged by supporters.

Guevara has said "unbending hatred for the enemy, which pushes a human

being beyond his natural limitations, [makes] him into an effective, violent, selective, and cold-blooded machine." Also commenting on overthrowing a government, Guevara has stated, "it was a lot of fun, what with the bombs, speeches, and other distractions to break the monotony I was living in." Not only did he advocate for his followers to be killing machines in their fight for revolution, but also said he enjoyed the process. These types of actions have been well documented, with Guevara even overseeing the killings of both known and suspected enemies. At one point, Fidel Castro put Guevara in charge of La Cabana prison, where countless individuals were ruthlessly executed. According to independent.org, the number killed is estimated to be around two hundred individuals. The same site claims Guevara also ordered his soldiers to rob banks, saying, "the struggling masses agree to robbing banks because none of them has a penny in them." The violence of Ché is not brought up frequently, but remains well documented throughout history.

Outlandish race-based claims also plagued Guevara's legacy. The Motorcycle Diaries, a book based on notes he took when he traveled, contains multiple disheartening quotes. For example, when discussing the differences between the Portuguese and an African race, Guevara states that "discrimination and poverty unite them in the daily fight for survival but their different ways of approaching life separate them completely: The black is indolent and a dreamer; spreading his meager wage on frivolity or drink; the European has a tradition of work and saving, which has pursued him

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's that time of year again – out with the old, in with the new. Spring cleaning has come to the California Review, and the next generation is getting promoted to replace the awesome staff who will be graduating at the end of the quarter (way too many!). It's been an abrupt transition, and the new staff has had to learn quite a bit in the last couple of weeks. I can't thank all of you enough for all the work you've put in between all of your sundry responsibilities. And to those who are about to graduate – we salute you!

I'm honored to carry the mantle of Editor in Chief. Our paper has a legacy of quality investigative journalism covering some of the most important campus stories, and serves as an important platform for the alternative, underrepresented (read: right-of-center) political perspectives on our campus. Our members don't always see eye-to-eye on every issue, but I think that's what makes this paper great – the fact that there are a diverse set of viewpoints on this side of the spectrum, and that they can battle each other out in this paper, encourages students to think about the issues, and the philosophical issues behind them, in new ways.

Now, back to journalism.

On campus, it's business as usual. Housing, dining, parking and transportation, tuition, and student fees, you name it – prices are rising, as the predictable result of trying to steer education with anything but a free market at the helm. With transportation, students are learning that there is no such thing as a free ride – somebody always pays for it, and until the person paying for that bus-ride to campus is the students themselves, the programs are going to continue attracting riders and losing payers. With the coming "smoking" ban (which actually bans much more than that), the University is undermining its own role as a space where students are encouraged to define themselves and make choices about personal habits. Looks like the General Store is going to have a legitimate excuse for a bailout for once.

In our corner of the country, San Diego remains a growing hub of drone research. In the next few years, our county is set to become one of six test-sites in America for integrating UAVs into our airspace. Such initiatives, along with current research on surveillance technology in general (some of which our own University may be engaged in), will give law enforcement agencies and other entities unprecedented surveillance power over citizens, and it is a critical time to put in place checks on these agencies to secure our constitutional rights.

Speaking of surveillance power, Congress is up to it's old tricks with the most recent version of the "Internet Slavery Act," this time named CISPA. The bill may have been defeated, along with previous threats from SOPA, PIPA, and ACTA, but this is no reason to feel secure. A new bill is already being drafted, and the Obama administration has demonstrated that it is capable of acting independently of congress when it comes to "cybersecurity," what with the creation of a massive NSA data mining center in Utah, and the IRS claiming that it can read our emails without a warrant.

Our university, our county, our state, and our country are all moving towards tyranny. Hopefully, those in power – but more importantly, the public that grants them that power – learn to identify tyranny not as the solution to our problems, but as their cause.

With Liberty,
Joshua Marxen

CALIFORNIA REVIEW

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"We few, we happy few, for he who picks up this paper today shall be my brother, be he ne'er so vice, this paper will gentle his condition."

UNIVERSITY OF STATISM

SMOKING, *from p1*

enjoy their activity. They have every right to do so. Opponents argue, however, that smoking affects others and the environment. In that case, policy should be more accommodating rather than punitive against it. As with the prevention of normal litter, cigarette butt receptacles should be widespread and perhaps placed near trash cans.

In implementing what is “beneficial,” the state invasively seeks to influence personal behavior, stripping people of their right to lifestyle choices.

Campuses can have clearly designated, accessible smoking areas while having the right to rebuke smokers when they are not within that area.

Even Associated Students has expressed its concerns. Recently, it issued a resolution to reform the policy. The resolution cites that during the last fiscal year, the General Store made fifty-two percent of its profit through the sale of tobacco products, and will consequently suffer under the ban. Since it sells vital student materials under market value, the General Store makes up for the monetary loss through selling cigarettes, and thus may

face bankruptcy and a forcible shut down when the ban becomes effective. If the General Store has to be “bailed out,” this comes at the expense of students. Secondly, the resolution notes that the smoke-free policy debuted after students made their on-campus housing deposits for the 2013-2014 school year. AS insists that Housing, Dining and Hospitality should refund smokers who want to withdraw from their housing contract.

Pragmatically, the enforcement of the new measures will probably mean little to smokers. Many already disregard the current measures, where they must remain 25 feet away from buildings and cannot smoke at all on the medical school campus. If punitive measures become extreme, a “black market” for tobacco could occur, in the manner of the War on Drugs or the Prohibition, where environmentally harmful practices arise. Perhaps it is their right to disobey such nonsensical measures, where it only serves to impede their personal rights. During these college years, where we are supposed to be encouraged to become free-thinking individuals, it seems absurd that there are rules dictating how to lead one’s life.

Danielle Crume is a Freshman in Eleanor Roosevelt College studying Political Science and Economics.

REFERENDUM, *from p1*

as far as this corner of America and drives him to advance himself, even independently of his own individual aspirations.” When talking about revolutionaries in the Congo, whom he fought with, Guevara also stated “we’re going to do for blacks exactly what blacks did for the revolution. By which I mean: nothing.” These two instances of racially insensitive remarks display Guevara’s troubling mindset.

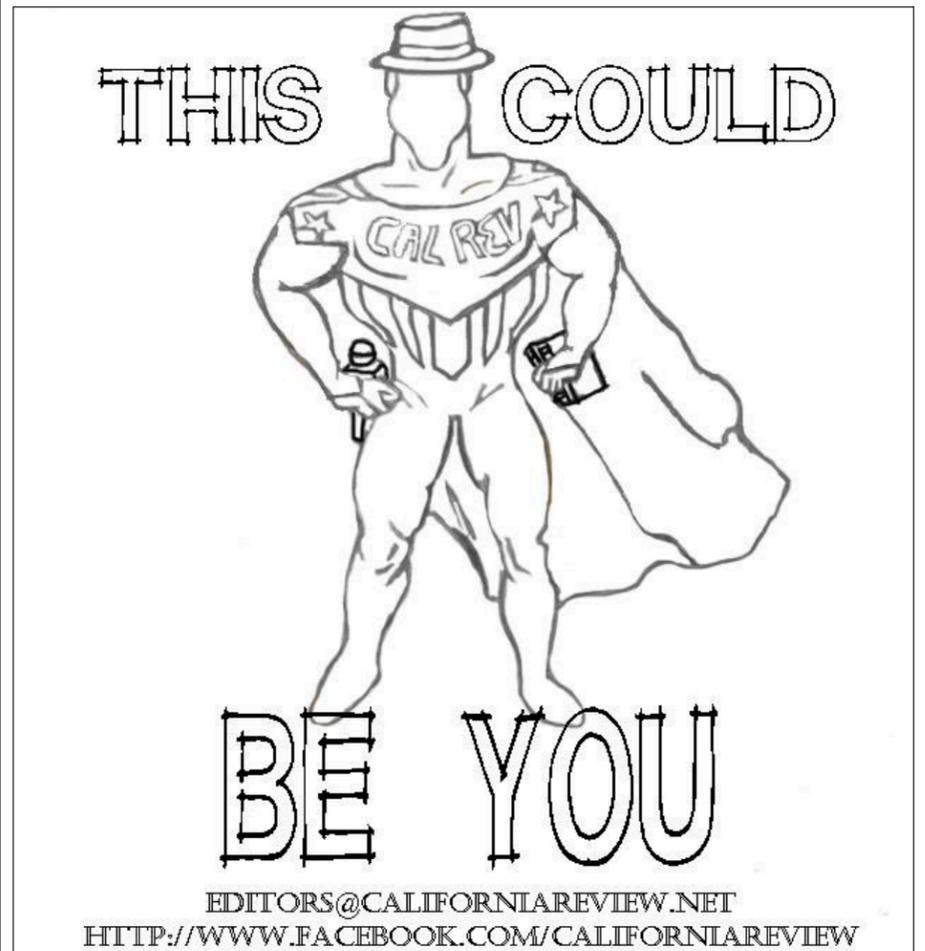
Supporters of Ché Guevara say he fought against economic inequality and later called for racial equality. However, the ruthless executions and

statements of racial supremacy cannot be ignored. The University of California, San Diego should not ask its students to raise fees to support the monument to a man of such character. What the café itself offers is not the problem, but rather, its association of Ché Guevara. A change in name would suffice.

However, given its current standing, the university should not condone association with both a ruthless murderer, and racially insensitive individual.

Marco Vasquez is a Sophomore in Revelle College studying American Politics.

YOUR AD HERE
UCSD has over 26,000 students.
Our goal is to reach them all.
editors@californiareview.net



WHAT IS A DRONE? A MISERABLE PILE OF SECRETS!

Joshua Marxen

Last quarter, the California Review published a story about a hoax staged by UCSD Art Professor Ricardo Dominguez, wherein a UAV had allegedly crashed on campus. The article talked about the issues concerning the use of UAV’s by the government, police departments, and private entities. But one of the most interesting questions – “to what extent is UCSD involved in researching Drone technology?” – was too tough to answer at the time. Since then, we have tried to get closer to answering this question, with limited success.

A quick summary of the results from the last article: last July, Shawn Musgrave of muckrock.com filed a Sunshine Amendment Request – the Californian equivalent of a Freedom of Information Act request – asking that the University of California, San Diego, to disclose any documents and contracts in its possession related to the school’s possible research activities involving UAVs. Initially, the University replied that no campus department had purchased Drones for the purposes of security – basically, they dodged the question. Musgrave replied with more specific requests, reiterating that the request was for research activities, not use of drones for security. The University replied it may have relevant documents, and that they would be released by September 25th, but also that as Academic research, the documents may be protected from disclosure by the California Public Records Act. The response date was later moved back to November 1st, but to this date, no documents have been released. No additional statement has been issued by the University, indicating its intent to release or withhold the requested documents. Musgrave has sent thirteen follow-up requests to the University since then, and none have received any response.

Given this unsatisfying response from the University, it seemed like going directly to the source would be a better strategy. Searching through faculty profiles in the Engineering and Computer Science departments, we found three professors who had extensive research and employment backgrounds in UAVs and other autonomous vehicle technologies.

The first two candidates were Erik Viirre and John Kosmatka. Viirre is an adjunct professor at the UCSD Department of Neurosciences who studies neurological disorders related to the perception of balance. Last May, he participated in a Calit2 panel about emerging drone technologies, where he gave a presentation on studies he has done regarding the perception of orientation by pilots of remote-controlled aircraft, including Predator drones used in combat overseas. Kosmatka, on the other hand, is a professor of Structural Engineering at the Jacobs School of Engineering, and does research within the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department. His past employers include drone manufacturers Northrop Grumman and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, where he performed research regarding the materials science of the materials used to build unmanned aerial systems. He also used to be the faculty advisor for UCSD’s Student Unmanned Aerial System competition team (SUAS), a.k.a. UCSD AU-VSI (more on this later).

Unfortunately, Viirre and Kosmatka did not respond to interview requests, and their faculty profiles don’t say much about their current research. We will continue to pursue interview opportunities with these professors.

We had better luck with professor Ryan Kast-

ner, a professor in the Computer Science department who co-directs the Wireless Embedded Systems Master of Advanced Studies Program. For non-comp-sci majors, an embedded system is any device which has an internal computer and which has components that interact directly with the physical world. In this capacity, he also co-directs the student groups Engineers for Exploration, a student group that builds semi-autonomous vehicles for various organizations outside of UCSD, including the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Seaworld, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He is also the current faculty advisor for UCSD’s SUAS team.

When we talked to Kastner, he told us that he had not heard of the Sunshine Amendment Request filed for UCSD last July. He had not been contacted by anyone at the University asking

him to prepare a summary of his research and other projects regarding unmanned/ autonomous vehicle research. Does this mean the University did not do its due diligence in attempting to follow through with the Request? It’s hard to say. Kastner said that in general, professors are insulated from these kinds of requests.

It is also unclear whether the student projects that he helps direct are considered “research” associated with the University. In other words, if the University had responded to the request, would information about these projects be included in the documents? The problems that these students are solving are novel, and require the kind of experimental work worthy of the label “research”. But the student groups act largely independently of the University. Kastner

See DRONES, p5



Photo: Samuel Bartleman

TRANSPO, from p1

more of a commercial entity, or that the entire campus (including staff/faculty) may benefit from. Parking structures definitely fall in that category, so the designation probably made sense at the time."

But it is hard to see how shuttle services are different from the RIMAC services. RIMAC is a service used by staff/faculty and even the public. And yet, the students pay for these services. In an email correspondence with Dave Koch, Director of Recreation, he indicated that approximately 600,000 students use RIMAC facilities annually, which is a far cry from the two and a half million bus rides taken by students every year. To add further insult to injury, UCSD is one of the only UCs that operates under such a broken system. According to Robert Holden, Director of Auxiliary Business Services (which oversees Transportation Services), "Several UC campuses - but not UC San Diego - receive funding through a student transportation fee; those fees can be used to support programs like the current Bus Zone, which is currently self-supporting, but rather, subsidized by Transportation Services." Why is UCSD subjecting itself to this ridiculous system? And just how can such a vital part of student life be labeled an "auxiliary service" and, therefore, not receive funding from their most frequent users?

The most obvious, logical solution is to pass a referendum, which would remove the auxiliary status from Transportation Services, making it eligible to receive a slice of the state/federal funding pie. Removal of this status would also allow something like a student activity fee increase to cover the costs. Adam Powers agrees, saying, "It would be a fruitful avenue of inquiry to investigate getting that policy changed." In this scenario, the students would continue to have the shuttle system in place and students could opt in or out of the bus zone sticker if they plan to live off campus or leave campus frequently. This is the most responsible outcome and the incoming Associated Students slate should investigate this further. It is the student's responsibility to get to campus.

The other possible solution involves MTS. Transportation Services could have MTS absorb the shuttle route, as planned in the January announcements, and the students would pay MTS for a quarterly regional pass. The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) had been in negotiations with MTS, attempting to secure a discounted bus pass for UCSD students. Adam Powers and the TPC proposed a yearly, \$100 unlimited regional pass. MTS countered with a

STATE AND MARRIAGE: AN UNHOLY MATRIMONY

George Hess and Thomas Webb

Currently, the Supreme Court is considering ousting the Defense of Marriage act and working towards legitimizing gay marriage on a federal level. Through their politicization and polarization of the issue, the media and the main parties have turned an otherwise constitutional issue into a moral debate. However, the question of whether or not gay marriage should be legal is really as simple as asking "what is the role of government?" As Ronald Reagan once said "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." It never ceases to amaze that when the government fails, some people believe the solution is more government. There would be no debates concerning same-sex marriage if the government had not attempted to regulate marriage in the first place. Where states have instituted same-sex marriage laws and furthered the government's role in marriage, equality does not exist contrary to what the proponents of same-sex marriage claim. Personal opinions regarding the issue should be irrelevant because it should not be the government's role to decide the morals of the people.

Marriage is only deliberated upon by the government in the first place because of a unique social contract bestowed upon couples involving tax benefits and shared property. Marriage on a social level is merely a symbolic union and societal construct, the definition of which varies between individuals, sub-cultures and religions. Therefore, to accept one group's definition of marriage and to create a regulation enforcing that defini-

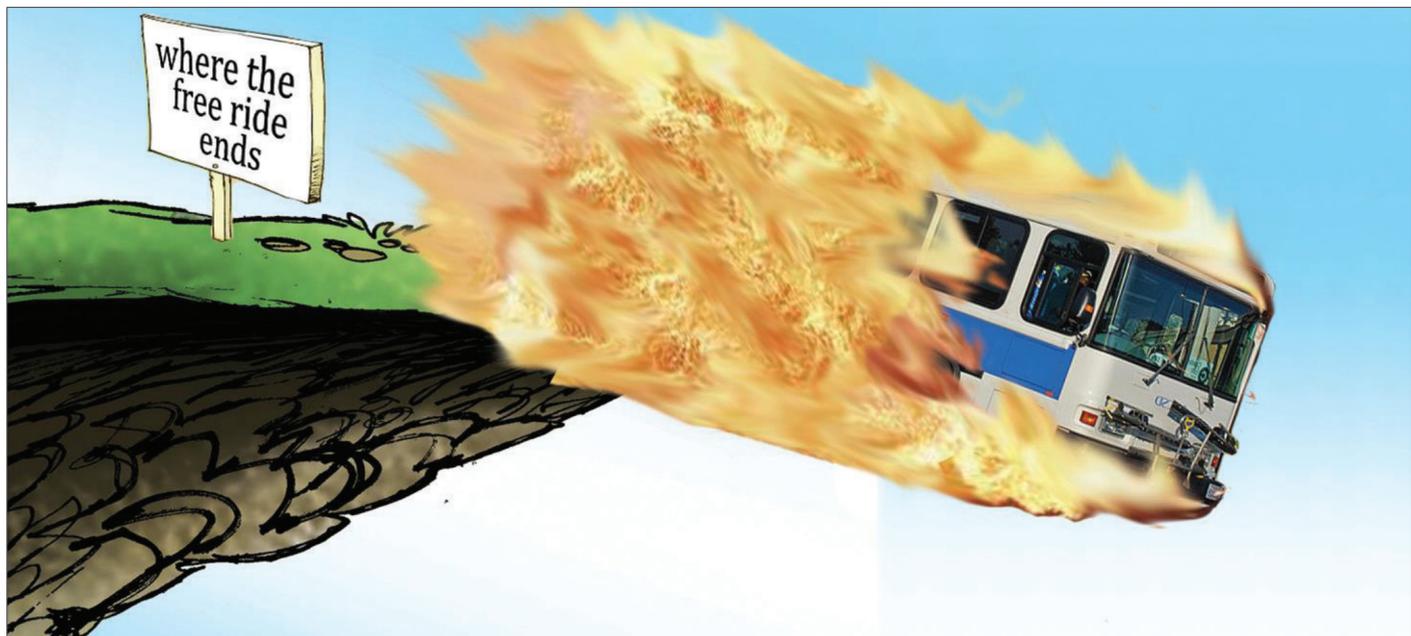


Photo: Samuel Bartleman

\$51 quarterly pass, which becomes \$65 when you add the 29% return-to-aid requirement of a referendum. This was far too expensive based on information the TPC had gathered from the student body, so the offer was refused. Following this exchange, negotiations have come to a stand still, which makes sense from the MTS perspective. They are, no doubt, aware of the trouble Transportation Services is in. They are protected by the city, so they do not have to worry about any competition for riders as well. While MTS has generously begun to deploy more buses to the 201, 202 and 204 routes, they know full well that they will get their money, whether TS collapses or not. After all, students are not going to stop attending class. There is, quite literally, no incentive for MTS to play ball. So with the referendum making a pass through the university too expensive, avoiding the university all together is the most efficient option. Students are free to buy a regional pass through MTS at any time. It is obvious that the

university is incapable of handling this matter. Best to leave it to the experts.

UCSD needs to get their act together. Due to the location of our campus, the shuttles and buses are arguably one of the most important resource to the students. There was something notable about The Guardian's January 24 article, "Changes To Shuttlles and Parking Take Effect in July." Multiple students commented on the article, expressing their anger with the University because their money was being wasted. One student said, "Yea the bus fees are already included in the tuition, and now we have to pay an extra fee for buses while the tuition still goes

up?" Another said, "The bus zone sticker isn't currently 'free' it's part of our student fees." Most students believe that they are already paying for the shuttles and busses. We desperately need to pass a referendum to remove the auxiliary status of TS. There is absolutely no reason these services should be free. The students are aware that driver wages and gasoline do not come out of thin air. We have been spoiled since day one when it comes to our transportation needs, but it is time to wake up. Problems never go away by ignoring them.

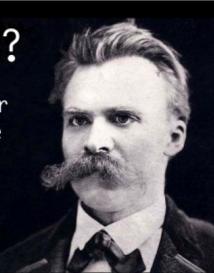
Bradley Brown is a Graduate Student studying Human Biology.

Like Philosophy?

"Wir haben die Kunst, damit wir nicht an der Wahrheit zugrunde gehen." -Nietzsche

Translation: "Life before Cal Rev means nothing."

Write for us. editors@californiareview.net



anyway. Ironically, such legislation goes against the original duties bestowed on the government by suppressing minority rights, instead of safeguarding them as the government was intended to do.

Also, the government regulation of marriage and its interplay with the 14th amendment affects church groups and those who provide marriage license. For instance, the Catholic Church has had their adoptive services shut down by state governments in Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and Illinois because it refused to allow gay couples to adopt children in their care. In New Mexico, the photography studio Elane Photography has been successfully sued (although on appeal) by a lesbian couple for refusing the couple's request to photograph their wedding. In New Jersey, a Methodist church is being sued for not allowing a same-sex couple to use their facilities for their wedding. In Kentucky, a t-shirt company is being sued for not making shirts for a pro-gay organization. There are several more lawsuits being filed, but nothing is more egregious than a new California bill which is seeking to take away the tax-exempt status of private institutions which do not support gay marriage, like the Boy Scouts of America. Under this new law in California, it is entirely conceivable that

church youth groups will be sued. In this instance government regulation is not only infringing upon gay marriage rights, but upon the rights of the people who provide wedding contracts and refuse to acknowledge gay couples. This impedes freedom of association and the ability to provide services to those whom one wishes rather than being obligated by the government to provide the service to all people regardless of whether the action goes against the personal beliefs of the people providing the services.

The real issue is actual equality, including hospital visitation rights, tax breaks, benefits, etc. Everyone needs to stop being fooled by the talking points of the proponents of same-sex marriage, and support one of two real solutions: get government out of marriage completely, or support a packaged deal aimed at giving true equal rights to everyone including private individuals, private organizations, and religious institutions. There is no real solution to the problem of inequality by supporting current same-sex marriage laws.

George Hess is a Freshman in Revelle College studying Biology.

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CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

DRONES, from p3

told us that most of their funding comes from the organizations that contract them, various corporate and government sponsors, and private donations. The only thing the University is "supplying" are the student brains, but student participation is of course perfectly voluntary.

The question is, do the results of these student efforts contribute to the development surveillance technologies that this article is interested in? The answer is definitely yes. Take the SUAS competition for instance. The inter-school competition is hosted annually by Autonomous Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AU-VSI), an organization historically associated with the US Air Force that advocates for the development of unmanned/ autonomous vehicle technologies for use in defense technologies. The students on the team told us that much of the funding that UCSD's group receives for the competition comes from AUVSI itself. It's no secret that the SUAS competition is a way to cultivate interest in such research among students, and to get them to start generating solutions for technical problems of surveillance.

Currently, so called "unmanned" drones used in combat overseas are controlled by a human pilot. While the surveillance capabilities of drones beat those of a helicopter in all ways, they are still constrained by this limitation. The next advent in drone technology will be their automation in conducting patrols. Not coincidentally, this is exactly the problem students have to solve in the SUAS competition. According to the competition rules, the students'

UCSD COLLEGE REPUBLICANS REVIEW "FRACKNATION"

Jonathan Natale

On Thursday, April 11, the College Republicans at UC San Diego shared in the excitement of hosting Ann McElhinney, a nationally acclaimed investigative journalist who co-directed the film FrackNation, regarding the controversy surrounding hydraulic fracturing.

Hydraulic fracturing has been used in the United States since 1947 as a means of releasing oil and natural gas from impermeable rock approximately 6,000 feet below ground level. The technique has revitalized the economies in cities and states across the U.S., with many employment opportunities emerging in the fracturing of the Bakken formation in North Dakota. McElhinney pointed out the immense economic promise this type of resource development brings to communities across America; "It is not just the energy workers making more - everyone is making more. Even McDonalds is offering a \$10,000 starting bonus in North Dakota."

Natural gas burns about 50% cleaner than coal or other fossil fuels, and there is enough of it to give America and Europe1, as McElhinney puts it, "energy security from countries who think stoning women and killing gays is an okay thing."

So why is this controversial?

In 2010, documentary filmmaker Josh Fox directed GasLand, an anti-fracking film that claims there are alarming environmental concerns with fracking, specifically a high risk of water contamination. But when Ann and her husband Phelim McAleer researched the correlation between fracturing and methane seepage in the water supply, the evidence appeared highly questionable. They came across five towns in the United States named "Burning Springs" by the Native Americans due to the naturally occurring methane in the water supply. In addition, scientists have found that water contamination is likelier from naturally occurring methane than fracturing, which occurs nearly a mile below the water level.

Thus, the inspiration for FrackNation was a confrontation between Phelim and Josh Fox at a Q&A for GasLand in Chicago. Phelim questioned Fox about the lack of acknowledgement of naturally occurring methane in the film. Fox's response was an abrupt "it's not relevant."

"Well, we thought it was very relevant, so we decided to make a film," declared Ann to a crowd of about sixty in UCSD's Multipurpose Room. "[My husband and I] are in the business of telling stories that no one else will tell," McElhin-

ney touched on a variety of issues in her speech following the film screening. As a former journalist for the BBC, she gave a personal account of her own dealings with the mainstream media and its politically motivated protection of environmentalists. "Greenpeace lies and gets away with it. They tell stuff to The New York Times and it's reported, just as if it were true." About ten minutes into the Q&A, a member of the audience asked McElhinney's opinions regarding the future of fracking in California. "You have a [big] opportunity here with the Monterey shale. I think that Jerry Brown is so excited about the money that he's almost beside himself." (Read Politico's "California is new fracking battleground" for current information regarding fracking projects in California.)

thoughts of the film with Ann and applauded her efforts to keep hydraulic fracturing alive across America. In sum, FrackNation meticulously debunked the claims made in GasLand, but more importantly, brought awareness to the personal hardships of the hardworking Americans in the Midwest who desperately need fracking to continue.

The evening ended with a College Republicans group photograph with Ann and a DVD signing. Many audience members discussed their

and private entities have engaged congress in a coordinated lobbying effort to convince the Federal Aviation Administration to establish six test zones in the United States where companies and state departments would be allowed to fly UAVs. Although the FAA has not yet made it's final decisions regarding the six test sites, San Diego, a hub for drone manufacturing, is all but guaranteed to become one such site. You can bet that the San Diego Sheriff's Department is going to take advantage of this - there is very strong evidence that, like other police departments around the country, the SD Sheriff's Department is interested in purchasing drones for use by law-enforcement.

There's still a lot of work to do. Right here at UCSD, we still don't really know about all the research that is happening on campus, and efforts to seek out this knowledge have encountered resistance. But the knowledge is distributed among students and faculty, and if we can coordinate that knowledge, we can at least get a better idea of where to start looking. I encourage anyone with such knowledge to contact us, so that we can find out how UCSD is involved in the process of integrating autonomous UAV technology with everyday life.

Joshua Marxen is a Senior in Warren College studying Computer Science.

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Please visit FrackNation.com or Facebook.com/FrackNation for more information about the film.

Jonathan Natale is a Freshman in Eleanor Roosevelt College studying Computer Science.

SUDOKU: FOUNDING FATHERS AND PATRIOTS

- Abraham Lincoln
- The United States Constitution
- Ronald Threagan
- Fourederick Douglas
- _____ (Choose your favorite Patriots)
- _____
- Thomas Jefferseven
- Benjamin Fr-eight-kin
- Martinine van Buren

OUR DUMB CONGRESS

DON'T SEQUESTER ME BRO!

Bradley Brown

It is no secret that the United States is fiscally troubled. At the time of this article, the national debt is around 16.8 trillion dollars. That is trillion with a "T". Want to go back to when the US was debt-free? You would have to return to January 1835, just before the Civil War, when the United States paid off its final dollar of debt accumulated from the War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War. Sound like a long time ago? It is, but enough nostalgia.

The United States Congress has been wrestling with the ever growing debt since the late 1970s, when the debt really started to accumulate. You may have heard the major media outlets buzzing about the fiscal cliff and more recently, the sequester. The buzz is mostly bad, but just what is the sequester? To understand the sequester, we need to go back to August 2, 2011 where Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011. The BCA created a special super committee called the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction which was tasked with finding spending cuts in order to prevent default from the debt-ceiling crisis. The idea was to make small, tailored cuts to the budget to decrease the deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the

following ten years. Surprise, surprise! The BCA failed to make a single cut. On November 21, 2011 the committee released the following statement:

"After months of hard work and intense deliberations, we have come to the conclusion today that it will not be possible to make any bipartisan agreement available to the public before the committee's deadline."

The committee was disbanded on January 31, 2012. So no cuts were made, which means all items are essential and we should continue to accumulate debt to finance these programs, right? Well, here is the kicker. The Budget Control Act had automatic, bipartisan spending cuts built into the plan which were due to take effect on January 1, 2013. These cuts, also called "sequestrations", were put in place to motivate both sides of the aisle. Defense spending cuts totaling around 7.9% were created to scare the Republicans, while all non-defense spending would be cut by about 5.8% to mobilize the Democrats. With the Bush Tax Cuts set to expire in 2013, the perfect storm of automatic spending cuts and increases in

taxes began to form, thus creating the "Fiscal Cliff." President Obama signed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 into law on January 2, 2013 which made most of the lower level tax cuts created by the Bush Tax Cuts permanent, but did nothing for the federal deficit. And so on March 1, 2013, the sequestrations began to take place, with the most visible kicking in around early April, when government employee furloughs started taking place. This meant fewer TSA agents, FBI agents, Federal Aviation Administration employees, to start.

What the BCA did not take into account is the extreme ineptitude that characterizes our government. Even with a gun to their heads, Congress could not find cuts. How about the Transportation Security Administration, which costs about \$7.9 billion dollars annually and has yet to catch a single terrorist? Or the Department of Homeland Security, which ensures a "safe" United States to the tune of \$59 billion. Slash the Drug Enforcement Agency, allowing local law enforcement to monitor the use of substances by consenting adults. Foreign aid could also use some tending to, as the United States government is currently sending billions of dollars to countries like Israel and Egypt for military spending. For sanity's sake, that is all that will be said of the fiscal black hole known as the United States military.

In 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) audited the federal spending activities and cited, "The U.S. Government Accountability Office cannot render an opinion on the 2011 consolidated financial statements of the federal government, because of widespread material internal control weaknesses, significant uncertainties, and other limitations." In other words, the federal government

is so disorganized that it is literally impossible to review their spending habits.

If we have one thing to learn from this period of uncertainty, it is that government is the problem. Congress ran up their tab and now they cannot pay. This is equivalent to someone creating a

What the Budget Control Act did not take into account is the extreme ineptitude that characterizes our government. Even with a gun to their heads, Congress could not find cuts.

massive credit card debt and not paying, so then the repo guys come and take their belongings indiscriminately. This person could have made spending adjustments over time and still kept the possessions they cared most about by being frugal and prioritizing needs. But it is too late for that. The repo men do not care how often you use that laptop, or what you need the car for. While mostly met with opposition, the sequestrations should be greeted with open arms. Without it, nothing would have been done. It would have been, "Oh well, there is nothing we can cut! Back to business as usual!" The sequestration created accountability, and as difficult as it will be for the members of Congress to see the cuts, it is absolutely necessary. They need to get used to the idea of downsizing, or else the United States will be facing a grim future of instability.

Bradley Brown is a Graduate Student studying Human Biology.



CISPA - THE WAR FOR THE INTERNET IS NOT OVER

Chase Donnally

The Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) is another battle in the ongoing struggle between those who wish to keep the internet free, and those who would like to see it regulated. Reintroduced in February of 2013, it was passed by the House of Representatives on April 13.

Many of its opponents have compared it to SOPA and PIPA, the anti-piracy bills that failed to make it through Congress last year. While it may be true that CISPA poses a threat to online privacy, and that the internet community is generally opposed to it, CISPA is quite different from the aforementioned bills.

SOPA and PIPA were primarily anti-piracy bills. The main idea behind SOPA was to allow copyright holders to file complaints against websites which they believed were using or distributing their intellectual property. The government, in turn, would take the offending websites down. The bill had heavy opposition from major websites like Google, Yahoo, and Wikipedia, who feared that the vague language in the bills would result in their sites being taken offline.

CISPA, on the other hand, is aimed at increasing cyber security by allowing for voluntary information sharing between private companies and the government. In the event of a "cyber attack," companies and the government would be allowed to exchange any information they feel to be relevant to the attack. While this may sound somewhat innocuous, the broad language in the bill seems to allow for compa-

nies like Google or Facebook to violate their existing privacy policies and share the private information of their customers with the government. The Electronic Frontier Foundation warns that it may be written broadly enough to even allow communications service providers to share emails and text messages with the government, overriding already existing laws protecting privacy online.

So given the clear danger to online privacy that this bill presents, why didn't we see the same massive opposition as we did with SOPA and PIPA? In January of 2012, many major sites, including Google, Wikipedia, and Reddit participated in a SOPA "blackout" in protest of the bill. No comparable protest took place for CISPA, and there was no similar opposition to the bill by the major tech companies that opposed SOPA. The reason for this may lie in which parties would be negatively affected by these two bills.

Under SOPA, large companies were worried that their websites might be taken down if they were flagged for using copyrighted material. There was even a possibility that major sites like Google or Facebook might be taken down. As a result, these larger companies were understandably opposed to the bill. However, under CISPA, the power is put in the hands of the corporations. It isn't their personal information that's at risk, and they won't be forced to bear any major additional costs as a result of the bill. In fact, in the event that they are the target of a cyber-security threat, the voluntary information sharing that this bill allows

Meetings: Wednesdays @ 6PM
(weekly locations are posted on our Facebook page and twitter)
twitter.com/UCSDGOP

them may benefit them, albeit at the expense of their users' privacy.

Luckily, despite passing in the House by a vote of 288-127, it looks like CISPA will not even be voted on in the Senate. According to the office of Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-West Virginia), "the Senate will not take up CISPA." While this is certainly good news for internet users, it certainly won't be the last attempt by lawmakers to impose regulations on the internet. In fact, according to Senator Diane Feinstein (D-California), efforts are already underway to draft a new "bipartisan information sharing bill."

On top of that, on February 12, 2013, Obama signed an executive order designed "to strengthen the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure by increasing information sharing..." A statement from the White House says that the order "includes strong privacy and civil liberties protec-

tions" and that the agencies will conduct investigations of their activities' effects on privacy and civil liberties, and that the results of said investigations will be made public. According to the same White House press release, the Obama administration has also submitted "Comprehensive Cybersecurity Legislation" to congress.

While it would be preferable that the government avoid placing unnecessary regulations on the internet, one of the last bastions of freedom in the world, it seems likely that some kind of information sharing legislation along the lines of CISPA will eventually be put into law. Hopefully when that happens, the law will at least have narrow scope, judicial oversight, and won't invalidate laws or contracts currently in place to protect users' privacy.

Chase Donnally is a Senior in Marshall College studying Math and Economics.

WORLD NEEDS TO CHILL

NORTH KOREA - COLD WAR OR HOT AIR?

Natalie Wong and Joshua Marxen

With a new leader in power, North Korea's recent war posturing is subject to interpretation. On one hand, the country has a history of making hollow threats to the U.S., South Korea, and Japan, and so these recent developments could just be a typical tantrum from this desperate child, seeking love, fear, and attention from the world. On the other hand, a number of factors indicate that these threats are more serious than before. Is North Korea really getting ready for an attack, or are they just trying to intimidate us as usual? Whichever it is, the effect these threats have on the public is diminishing rapidly. South Koreans even chose to wave them off as casual nagging, noting their annoyance more than anxiety. It seems like North Korea should either step up their game or shut up, give up, and go home.

Although not unprecedented, some of the actions North Korea has taken recently have rung more fiercely than in the past. In February, seismic activity originating from North Korea led officials to speculate that they had performed its third nuclear test. As a response, the U.S. pushed for the U.N. to impose tougher economic sanctions against North Korean financial institutions (lol-wut). Kim Jong Un retaliated with more fierce demonstrations of his intentions throughout March and April. He announced the re-opening of the dormant Yongbyon plutonium enrichment facility, nullified the 1953 Armistice that stopped the Korean War, and threatened violence against the U.S. and allies if the sanctions were not lightened. Specifically, on April 22, North Korea warned foreigners to evacuate Seoul as they readied themselves for a full attack that would apparently happen the week after.

Of course, with historical perspective, these tactics lose their bite. The Yongbyon reactor has been re-opened and shut down three times since the year 2007. Since 1994, North Korea has nulli-

fied the 1953 Armistice six times (having presumably reinstated it 5 times). And as for the threat of action against Seoul, as the week came and went, not even a chirp was heard from across the 38th parallel, let alone artillery or missile launches.

It might be true that North Korea and South Korea may have to go into battle at some point, but it is highly unnecessary for the North to report their every move to the public. For such a private and closed off society, they're sharing an unusual amount of information. What exactly are they planning on doing with these threats?

On balance, it does seem like their threats are just big talk, and no absolute plan is really established within the nation. These warnings have been going on for a decade, the border between

North and South Korea has not budged an inch. Seriously? The truth is, according to Time magazine, North Korea has "everything to lose" and nothing to gain for declaring war. Surrounded by more powerful nations and overpowered by larger numbers, North Korea would inevitably have to stand alone in the battle. With the world against them and almost no allies, North Korea just seems like the yappy, annoying, insecure chihuahua that everybody wishes China would stop bringing to UN meetings in its purse.

Furthermore, for North Korea's new leader Kim Jong Un, who seemingly just inherited the position with no experience or prior knowledge whatsoever, leading the nation into war at this point will just be an enormous laughing stock. Additionally, with citizens who are unwillingly forced into patriotism and loyalty, it is possible that they could turn against their ruler once havoc breaks loose. With these inherent issues within

the country itself, there is a high chance that North Korea, itself, would submerge into a "sea of fire and rubble" before they do any damage to anyone else.

But could it be that North Korea is just using this obviously "useless" tactic as an attack strategy? Are they just warning us again and again in order to catch us off guard when they actually intend to attack? Just last month, North Korea was allegedly responsible for an apparent cyberattack that stunted thousands of broadcasting and bank computers and servers in South Korea. Although not a direct, fatal attack, investigations state that it was an apparent spying attempt designed to phish out confidential and highly valuable information regarding the financial workings of South Korea. Although not a full-on, Cold-War style movement, there really is some sort of movement or intention of attack somewhere down the road. This sly, furtive movement caught enough attention from South Korea, and caused enough anxiety to run across the globe. Many in the Pentagon predict that North Korea will continue to develop its cyber warfare capabilities in the future to offset the weaknesses of its aging conventional military.

No one knows if North Korea is serious about an eventual battle or not. As the Time magazine puts it, it seems like the farther away we get from the Korean peninsula, the more paranoid people are. Is there a way to calm this nation down? Could there ever be peace and harmony between the North and South? These answers may not come for a few more blue moons, but one thing is for sure; if North Korea is ready for an attack, everyone else is even more ready to fight back.

Natalie Wong is a Freshman in Sixth College studying Communications.

Joshua Marxen is a Senior in Warren College studying Computer Science.



Photo: Joshua Marxen

MARIJUANA: THE CASE FOR FULL LEGALIZATION

Shane Robinson and Samuel Bartleman

One of the most notable events of the 2012 election season was the legalization for recreational use of marijuana in Colorado and Washington. Other recent attempts at legalization include a ballot measure in Oregon in 2012 and prop 19 in California in 2010. Recent polling has shown that a majority of Americans now support the legalization of marijuana across the country, and it's apparent that it's about time that legalization

is passed nationwide. Not only is it significantly more practical from an economic standpoint, but it is also the moral thing to do as well.

As it stands right now, the cost of drug law enforcement far exceeds any perceived benefit. The DEA had a budget of two billion dollars in 2012 which could have been going to improving education, dealing with America's homeless

problem, or solving one of the other numerous problems plaguing the United States. Beyond monetary costs, drug enforcement also wastes time that police officers could otherwise use to catch dangerous citizens who actually deserve to serve jail time. Sources estimate it takes around "two and a half hours as a minimum average amount of time one officer spends making a marijuana possession arrest." Considering there were 12,408,899 arrests nationwide for drug-related offenses in 2011, that's a great deal of man-hours that could be better spent elsewhere. And, with the high numbers of arrests, prisons are becoming so overpopulated that conditions degrade to the point that the Supreme Court ruled the Eighth Amendment rights of prisoners were being violated. Legalizing marijuana would reduce costs, save valuable time for law enforcement, and depopulate a prison system that is already heavily strained.

Much like ending prohibition, legalization would serve to reduce criminal activity related to the possession of pot. The current non-legal status of cannabis greatly increases the street price, which leads people towards theft and other criminal activity as a means to pay for it. If the criminal elements of marijuana were removed, there will be fewer secondary crimes

committed and fewer people in jail.

Most importantly, pot should be fully legalized nationwide because it is the only moral course of action. The current system where pot is semi-legal, medically for some and recreationally for Colorado and Washington (but remaining illegal under federal jurisdiction), has led to gross injustices being committed. Medical marijuana dispensaries have been more frequently raided under Obama's presidency than any other administration. The DEA has stated that they will continue to treat marijuana as an illegal substance in Colorado and Washington. Federal penalties for those engaging in statewide legal activity will continue to face harsh penalties such as fines up to 250,000 dollars for cultivation of a single plant. Such extreme penalties don't fit the crime, and should be ended immediately. Furthermore, pot smokers are not harming other people through their own usage of marijuana, so criminalizing their actions is wrong. Legalization makes both economic and moral sense - so what are we waiting for?

Shane Robinson is a Sophomore in Marshall College studying Physics.

Samuel Bartleman is a Senior in Marshall College studying Computer Science and Psychology.

Legalizing marijuana on a federal level could save the taxpayer millions of dollars a year



Photo: Samuel Bartleman

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DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM

GRADUATING SENIOR STAFF



CODY DUNN: EDITOR IN CHIEF

"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion."

- Albert Camus



SAMUEL BARTLEMAN: LITERALLY EVERYTHING

"Power that is not earned is power that is not worth having."

- Self



AMY LOCK: COPY EDITOR, ORGANIZER EXTRAORDINAIRE

"A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge."

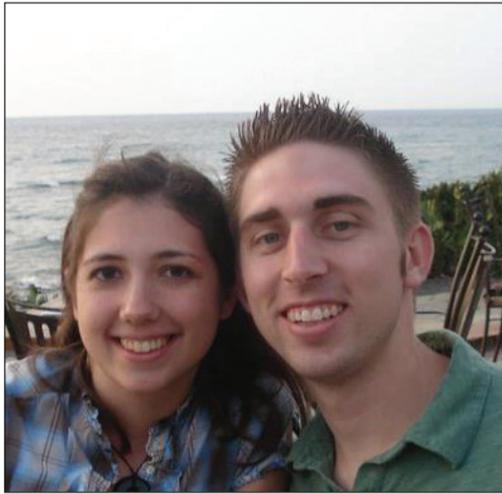
- Tyrion Lannister



CHASE DONNALLY: RESEARCH DIRECTOR

"No amount of force can control a free man, whose mind is free. No, not the rack nor the atomic bomb, not anything. You can't conquer a free man; the most you can do is kill him."

- Robert A. Heinlein



THOMAS WEBB

"The most fundamental fact about the ideas of the political left is that they do not work. Therefore we should not be surprised to find the left concentrated in institutions where ideas do not have to work in order to survive."

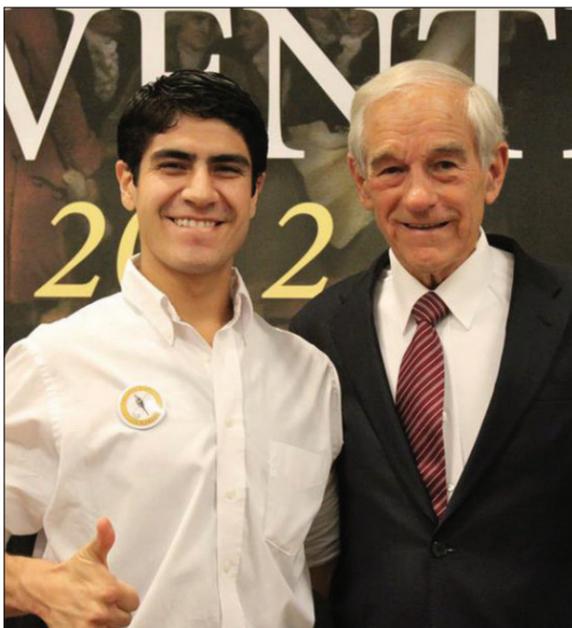
- Thomas Sowell



JOHN AYERS-MANN

"Long Live the King."

- Scar, The Lion King



ERNESTO ALVAREZ

"Certain brief sentences are peerless in their ability to give one the feeling that nothing remains to be said."

-Jean Rostand



SHAWN MESSNER

"Does anyone seriously believe that short dresses, exposing bony knees, make women look more attractive?"

- Thomas Sowell