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New Alcohol Policy May Harm Students

by David Stat
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Stanford's new alcohol policy, effective this fall quarter, has been the subject of quite a bit of controversy on campus. The policy stipulates, "No alcoholic beverages may be served at all-freshman house events in common area spaces (e.g. lounges, hallways, patios/outdoor areas)." As a result, police have seen an increase of incidents requiring their attention.

The intent of this policy is to reduce the consumption of alcohol on campus, particularly among students under the age of 21. Yet, many believe that the new rules are ineffective and counterproductive. Arguing that the absence of alcohol in freshmen dormitories during parties will not dissuade freshmen from drinking in other forums, many students feel that freshmen will resort to consuming alcohol in the seclusion of their rooms. Such behavior could increase the risk of alcohol poisoning and other ailments that could be more easily addressed if the drinking occurred in a more public setting, they say.

The administration's actions in recent years indicate their desire to rectify a perception of lax awareness to alcohol problems and tighten Stanford's alcohol policy. In the past two years alone, several fraternities and the Stanford Band have been placed on alcohol probation. The university has also required an increase in security at



Where has all the alcohol gone? Students are being forced to turn to alternative methods for acquiring and drinking alcohol after changes in Stanford's alcohol policy.

parties, often times mandating a police presence.

This new aggressive stance toward alcohol is not limited to administration officials, as the Stanford Police Department has now become emboldened in curbing student drinking. For the first time since most students can remember, Stanford Police have begun randomly "breathalizing" students outside of campus parties and subsequently issuing citations to those drunk in public and underage. In fact, in the last two years, the Stanford Police department has issued over 100

alcohol-related citations to Stanford students.

While the police may believe their heightened activity has had a positive effect on campus, many students disagree, citing feelings of increased rebelliousness.

"The new alcohol policy has forced many freshmen to swarm fraternity parties when they want to drink," Stanford Junior Eric Woersching says. "This has caused numerous safety and security problems that make Greeks prefer to throw less all-campus events and more invite-only parties instead of

putting themselves at risk of university sanctions."

This new surge of freshmen in search of alcohol, coupled with Stanford's increased scrutiny of Greek groups, has caused many fraternities to take a more defensive posture towards all-campus parties, further restricting freshmen's drinking options to their own rooms.

At times, such enforcement has reached overzealous levels, students feel. Sophomore Evan Raff recounts an incident in which a friend of his was stopped by police.

"He was frivolously pulled over on the Row on a Saturday night because he didn't have a license plate light on his car and two of the passengers in the back seat weren't wearing their seat belts," he says.

Although many Stanford students view this new alcohol policy as repressive, some outside the Stanford community have a different opinion. In a recent news article "Stanford Drinking Crackdown" featured in the San Jose Mercury News, Stanford is criticized for being "lax about underage drinking." The article portrays Stanford's underage drinking enforcement as slack and in need of strong reforms.

Recent events have further fueled suspicion that Stanford's alcohol policies are counterproductive. While thousands of Stanford students enjoyed Full Moon on the Quad, the event was characterized by a ban of alcohol

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Episode 2: The Review Strikes Back

by EDITORIAL BOARD

Following some of the weakest reporting in recent memory, *The Stanford Daily* managed to dash what little remained of its journalistic integrity earlier this week. In an exceptionally poor display of writing, the *Daily* attacked the *Review* for our comparison of MEChA to the KKK, citing a lack of evidence on our part to support the comparison.

While criticism is necessary to keep journalists and their papers honest, the criticism must follow a logical argument, remain consistent, and have a strong factual basis before it can be taken seriously.

With so many blatant falsehoods in their writing, it is obvious the *Daily*

failed to even read the *Review* before they wrote their editorial.

For example, the *Daily* states, "The *Review* criticizes MEChA for attempting to uphold its own particular culture and unite Hispanics regardless of their particular nationality." In fact, this is precisely the opposite of our stated criticism of MEChA.

The *Review*'s criticism of MEChA philosophy centered upon its divisive nature, particularly with regard to Hispanics. The *Review* never criticized MEChA for attempting to preserve "its own particular culture," but rather called into question its ability to unite Hispanics.

Here is what we said, verbatim: "What is perhaps the most injurious is the *disenfranchisement of Hispanics* advocated in El Plan Espiritual de Santa Barbara. As opposed to Chicano,

"The Mexican American or Hispanic is a person who lacks self-respect and pride in one's ethnic and cultural background.' Therefore, *this plan does not even recognize Hispanics* who choose not to emphasize their differences from other Americans due to race as being part of MEChA." (emphasis added).

The *Daily* also stated that "Although the *Review* qualifies its use of the Ku Klux Klan within the editorial to be a comparison of the modern-day Ku Klux Klan, *which it claims is for some reason more acceptable than the historical Ku Klux Klan...*" (emphasis added).

The claim that the modern KKK is better, or more acceptable, than the "historical" KKK was never made. Any racist organization like the KKK should be unacceptable to a diverse society such as ours. A change in tactics to spread the hate does not mean

it is better or more acceptable.

This is what we actually said: "Before proceeding, note that the parallel is between modern day KKK and MEChA, which is a much different organization than the KKK of the past. We are in no way suggesting that MEChA is an organization that lynches and terrorizes other races in the manner the KKK has in the past, nor has MEChA been the cause of intimidation, pain, and anguish as has the KKK. Where the comparisons are familiar, however, are in the present day ideologies of the organizations."

How did the *Daily* get it so wrong? Was it because of malicious intent or simply because of incompetence? The answer is both. It is a well-known fact that the *Daily*'s opinions board is

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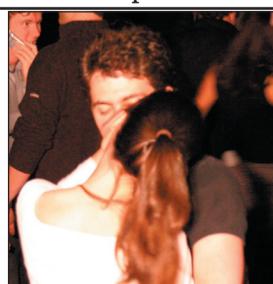
HOOVER BOOK REVIEW Not as good as Full Moon

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Proposed Laundry Plan Subsidizes Minority

by Michael Hasper
INVESTIGATIVE NEWS EDITOR

A new *Review* poll shows that while the majority of Stanford students support a proposed flat-rate \$28 per quarter laundry fee, the majority would also experience higher laundry costs per load and subsidize a minority who do more than the "break-even" 28 loads of laundry.

Last spring, the ASSU and Housing and Dining Services decided to implement a flat-rate laundry fee to replace the "per usage" system. This strategy would have charged a universal \$28 fee for unlimited laundry usage to every student's University bill. However, negative feedback from some students motivated the ASSU to rescind this policy until further studies and student input could be garnered. The major complaint from students was that not enough discussion had taken place regarding the new system, and various concerns on pricing and procedure were not addressed.

In light of this, the *Review* conducted a poll of Stanford students on the laundry issue and used the results to carry out economic analysis to pinpoint the benefiting parties of the flat-rate policy. Overall data show that poll respondents spend an average of \$22 per quarter (representing 22 loads of laundry) under the current \$1 per load plan. This value is slightly lower than the \$28 per quarter plan that the university is considering.

The new \$28 per quarter laundry policy received the support of 61% of students polled, with 39% preferring that the old plan remain in place.

Students were then asked how many loads of laundry they would do if required to subscribe to the new plan as part of a prerequisite charge to one's university bill. In this scenario,

the poll shows that students would do an average of 28 loads of laundry per quarter under a \$28 charge. In other words, average laundry usage would increase to a level equivalent to that which is the corresponding usage level under the old \$1 per load system. Conversely, if faced with a theoretical laundry pricing of \$2 per load, students would reduce laundry usage to 19 loads per quarter.

Examining the overall data in itself is not enough to pinpoint what types of laundry users would change their habits under the new plan and for what reason. Therefore, to fully appreciate where the shift in higher laundry usage occurs, the data was scrutinized

more closely to determine what system laundry users support, the reason therein, and how much their laundry usage would change, broken down into subclasses based on current usage.

Among students currently spending \$15 or less on laundry, 90% indicated that they do not support the new laundry system. If forced to pay for the new plan, they would increase their laundry usage by an average of 5 loads per quarter, still well under the "break-even" point of 28 loads when compared with the old fee structure. Students who suggested that they would increase their laundry usage were also asked why they would change their habits. 100% of respondents spending \$15 or less said that since they would have to pay \$28 up front, they might as well increase their laundry usage some to make up for the difference. In other words, their impetus was to keep

economic shortfall to a minimum. On the other hand, if faced with a pricing of \$2 per load, they would maintain their exact level of laundry usage. This indicates that these students are currently doing their bare minimum laundry usage under the \$1 plan.

Students currently spending between \$16 and \$28 on laundry harbored somewhat different motivations. 64% support the new policy. They would also increase their laundry usage by 5 loads. Such trends coupled with

weighted averaging show that only students currently doing 23 loads of laundry or more would increase their usage to meet or exceed the 28

load "break-even" value between the old and new systems.

Thus, according to the data, 57% of students would fail to reach this break-even point and actually end up paying a higher "per usage" laundry fee than otherwise. In fact, the inelasticity of laundry usage as a function of price indicates that students not reaching the break-even point would be paying an average of \$1.35 per load of laundry.

Considering that the mean usage of laundry does reach 28 loads under the new plan, how is it that the majority of students would be shortchanged? The data show that the distribution of increase in laundry usage as a function of original laundry usage is skewed to the right, such that those who do more than 28 loads of laundry are just as likely to increase their laundry usage by as much (6 more loads under the new plan). This pulls the mean

laundry usage value above that of the median. Incidentally, 88% of these users support the new laundry plan.

Therefore, the usage shift of those who do more than 28 loads of laundry pulls resources that all students allocate toward the common laundry pool to subsidize the 39% minority who employ most prolific laundry practices. Since the majority of students support the new plan, it is probable that they are not aware of the monetary resource allocation that could occur with such a pricing strategy. Additionally, most of those supporting the plan (68%) would engage in laundry practices at or above the break-even point with the new plan, suggesting that the opinions of those who suffer the most from the change in policy may not be heard.

Some groups favoring the plan believe that students will appreciate the convenience that the new plan endorses, in that students will not have to worry about change every time they use the machines. However, the poll indicates that only 29% of those who would increase their laundry usage under the new plan would actually do so because of convenience. The vast majority sees usage as being determined by gains vis-à-vis pricing benefits.

Such indications lend credence to the ASSU and Housing and Dining Services' decision to delay the new laundry plan until further receipt of student feedback. However, the numbers also suggest that student input is insufficient to determine the best approach to the plan, since support seems to hinge on the familiarity with its economic implications. Through further exploration into the raw economic aspects of a laundry policy, along with subsequent discussion and input from the student body, interested parties may be able to reach a more palatable and economically feasible solution.

"...how is it that
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The News in Brief

by Harrison Y. Osaki
NEWS EVENTS EDITOR

Law School Dean Sullivan to Step Down Next Year

Kathleen Sullivan, the current Dean of Stanford Law School, has announced that she will step down from her position as of September 1, 2004. After leaving, Ms. Sullivan will serve as inaugural director for a new center on constitutional law for Stanford.

Ms. Sullivan came to Stanford from Harvard Law School in 1993 and became the Stanford Morrison Professor of Law in 1996. Three years later, she began serving as Dean of the School of Law. Ms. Sullivan has appeared on numerous news television shows and newspapers as a legal commentator.

Ms. Sullivan was responsible for many changes to the Law School during her term as Dean. She oversaw the addition of numerous promising professors to the School of Law; supervised the creation of new law centers on e-commerce, the Internet, and bioscience; managed the renovation of the Law School, which expanded wireless internet coverage across the school and improved studying conditions in the Robert Crown Law Library; and played a large role in the creation of the Stanford Community Law Clinic, in which Stanford law students provide pro bono legal assistance to residents of East Palo Alto. Ms. Sullivan was also responsible for the improvement of fundraising for the Law School despite weak economic conditions; \$56 million was given to the School over her term.

Ms. Sullivan will be directing the new constitutional law center at the request of Stanford President John Hennessy. The new center will be dedicated to Gerald Gunther, a former constitutional law scholar, colleague and friend to both Ms. Sullivan and former Stanford President Gerhard Casper, who served on the Stanford Law School faculty for four decades.

Hennessy Announces New Study Institute

President John Hennessy has announced the development of a new environmental study institute. The institution, which is designed to provide an interdisciplinary umbrella organization for environmental research, is part of an overall broad initiative sponsored by the Provost's Committee on the Environment. While speaking to the Faculty Senate about the organization, President Hennessy used the new biology research program Bio-X as an example of the value of interdisciplinary programs. President Hennessy also highlighted the overall strength of Stanford in the field of what he called "environmental scholarship" and further stressed the importance of capitalizing upon this strength.

Students push ASSU to help First Amendment Lawsuit

On October 14, four Stanford Law School students requested the ASSU to ask Stanford University to join a lawsuit alleging violation of the First Amendment by the Department of Defense. The lawsuit, which has been put forward by the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR), a group of law professors, students and schools, alleges that the Solomon Amendment of 1996 illegally allows the Secretary of Defense to exclude federal funding to universities that prohibit ROTC and/or military recruitment on campus. The Stanford Law School has not hosted military recruiters in years passed due to a lack of interested students. Although the Solomon Amendment initially withdrew funding solely from schools that do not permit military recruiting, in 1996 the Department of Defense reinterpreted the Amendment to allow the government to withdraw funding from an entire university when even just one school that does not permit recruiting. Stanford has not yet received a notice from the Department of Defense but stands to lose millions

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Alcohol

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of dollars if funding was withdrawn. In the past, law students interested in the military have evaded the rules by meeting with recruiters on other locations on campus.

Stanford's non-discrimination policy as a whole does not include sexual orientation as a classification, unlike the Law School's policy. The students wished for the ASSU to ask President Hennessy to allow the Law School to join the plaintiff as a whole.

CDC Revamps Undergraduate Recruiting System

The Career Development Center (CDC) will no longer employ a bidding process for its Cardinal Recruiting service for undergraduates. The Cardinal Recruiting service is a system designed to match undergraduates looking for work with potential employers. In the past, students were chosen by companies for interviews based both on strong resumes and preference for the particular company.

This year, however, companies working with the center will be able to individually pick every interviewee. Student response has been mixed, with some students preferring the new system and others feeling that loss of the bidding system, which was unique to Stanford, will hurt some otherwise promising candidates. The director of the CDC has said that the change was made in response to companies who wanted more control over choosing potential interview candidates, and that students were never ensured an interview even with the presence of the bidding system. According to The Walt Disney Company, one of the new companies that have joined Cardinal Recruiting this year, the change away from the bidding system and towards a pre-select system will make it easier for Disney recruiters to gather resumes and thus facilitate recruitment.

For more information, visit The Stanford Review's website at www.stanfordreview.org

More information about the alcohol policy can be found at osa.stanford.edu.



Ronald Reagan Redefined in Letters

Hoover Fellows Provide a New Look at the Life of our 40th President Through His Own Letters

by Aliyya Haque
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Reagan: A Life in Letters, the recently published book by Stanford University's own Hoover Institution fellows Kiron Skinner, Martin Anderson, and Annelise Anderson, not only provides a detailed glimpse into the life of Ronald Reagan, but in fact demolishes previously held theories on the very actions and character of the man.

On Wednesday, October 15th, the Andersons presented their book, *Reagan: A Life In Letters*, in the Stanford Bookstore and stayed afterwards for a signing. Fellow editor Kiron Skinner unfortunately could not attend Wednesday night's event. *Reagan: A Life in Letters* has been gaining increased media attention ever since its publication in September, mainly because of its portrayal of Reagan as a "take charge" president and rebuttals of allegations that Reagan's staff and wife, Nancy, called the shots during his presidency.

All three Hoover fellows have been

with the Institution for a many years and have varied backgrounds and expertise in a broad range of fields. Martin Anderson has specialized in topics such as economic policy analysis and national defense, and most recently has worked as a historian. Both Annelise Anderson and Kiron Skinner have expertise in the fields of American domestic and foreign policy. Together, it was through their research at the Institution that the book came into being.

Reagan: A Life in Letters was precipitated in large part due to an accidental find. This discovery took place approximately four years ago, when Hoover fellow Kiron Skinner began researching the role of Reagan at the end of the Cold War. Ms. Skinner came across hand-written essays and letters by Reagan, written on pages of yellow legal pads. These pages led to a box of about 50-100 more letters and papers, and both Martin and Annelise Anderson became more involved in the process. "A light went on inside my head," reflects Martin Anderson.

The discoveries in the Hoover Institution began a period of extensive research and the collection of many

letters, which led to the publication of an earlier book on Reagan's works, *Reagan in His Own Hand*. Afterwards, the Andersons and Skinner continued their search for Reagan's letters by visiting numerous presidential and university libraries, and even procuring several letters from former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Together they amassed thousands of letters, judg-

finally in politics. We're looking back in retrospective." The remaining thousands of letters, after being processed, will be opened up to the public, if they are not already located in one of many libraries around the country.

The Andersons and Skinner found that most of Reagan's letters were personal responses to people. Reagan would personally answer letters from

would listen to the advice of his staffers and Nancy [Reagan], but would only take the advice if he himself agreed with it." In the end, Reagan's actions can best be summarized by the motto in which he believed, "There is no limit to what man can do, if he doesn't care who gets the credit."

Reagan: A Life in Letters is enjoying great success in the media, having spent time in the top ten on both the NY and LA Times bestseller lists, while ABC has bought the television rights to the book. The Andersons and Skinner have also promoted the book on national talk and radio shows and in bookstores across the country. In fact, *Reagan: A Life in Letters* has just graced the cover of Time Magazine, with a ten-page article devoted to it.

Reagan: A Life in Letters clearly changes many views and perspectives of Reagan long-held by countless people. "Although this wasn't his intention, through the letters, it was as if Ronald Reagan had written his

own biography," says Anderson. And even to this day letters of Reagan are still being found and shared.



Hoover Fellows Martin and Annelise Anderson autographed copies of their book, "Reagan: A Life in Letters," at the Stanford Bookstore on October 15.

ing that Reagan had written upwards of ten thousand letters. "Very few people knew he was writing all these private letters and so many of them," remarks Annelise Anderson.

With thousands to choose from, the Andersons and Skinner had to go through an extensive screening process of Reagan's letters. They divided all the letters into three main categories: a great letter that had to be included, one that maybe might fit in, and a letter that would not be included. The Andersons and Skinner only included the letters on which all three jointly agreed. At the end of the screening 1100 letters were put into the book, the majority being handwritten drafts by Reagan himself as opposed to dictated letters or from second-hand sources.

As the title suggests, the letters span Reagan's life, beginning with the earliest written at the age of eleven to the most recent written in 1994-1995. The letters are arranged not only by time period but by subject matter as well. Annelise Anderson said, "They [the letters] are about growing up and getting a first job. They outline his career first as a sportscaster, then in Hollywood and with the Screen Actors' Guild, and

both political leaders, such as Thatcher and former Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, to the common American citizen. The letters were often entertaining and insightful, providing little lessons and stories. Andersons and Skinner found through the letters that Reagan had been corresponding with Richard Nixon since the late 50's, and had also engaged in personal negotiations with the Soviet leaders of the time, again through handwritten letters. "The letters came as a big surprise to even those who worked with Reagan and knew him well," comments Martin Anderson

A close examination of the letters shows that Reagan was indeed a take-charge president who made his own decisions, set his own tone, and did things his own way. Extensive handwritten drafts of various speeches, written by Reagan in a relatively short period, show how Reagan was not only a hard worker, but knew exactly what he was talking about. These characteristics of Reagan shatter stereotypes of him sitting back during his presidency and letting his staffers and wife do all the work. "Reagan liked being underestimated," says Martin Anderson. "He

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California Media-bias: why a moderately conservative electorate is represented by a left-wing legislature

by Alec Rawls
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Californians consistently elect representatives who stand far to the left of themselves. For instance, a recent Field Poll reports that 59% of Californians are against the law signed by ex-Governor Gray Davis that allows illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. Yet the law passed the state Senate by a 20% margin and the Assembly by a 6% margin.

This has been a persistent pattern in California politics for many years now. Californians overwhelmingly approve conservative ballot measures that the state legislature overwhelmingly disapproves. In 1995, Proposition 209, which banned government use of racial preferences, passed by a 60-40 margin. Nearly identical majorities passed Prop. 227, ending bilingual education in the public schools; Prop. 187, curtailing state services to illegal aliens; and Prop. 22, defining marriage as between a man and a woman. All were despised by virtually all Democrat legislators and all but the last were opposed by large numbers of Republican legislators as well.

There are only two possible explanations for this mismatch between the California's moderately conservative electorate and its left-wing legislature. Either Californians are intentionally voting for people who they disagree with, or they are getting bad information. The first explanation is not plausible, while the latter is not just plausible, it is verifiable.

All four of California's major papers—*The Los Angles Times*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The San Jose Mercury News*—are relentlessly illiberal ("liberal" in the popular usage), being anti-liberty at every turn. They are anti-gun rights and anti-school choice. They are anti-market. They are anti-growth. They are anti-defending-the-country. In short, they are just as leftist as the legislature.

They also lie. To see documentation of a number of examples this summer of blatant lying and media bias by Bay Area newspapers, see the report appended to this article on the Review's website.

Most California media bias is not so obvious as the flat-out lie. Editors just have no interest in giving column inches to conservative views. Not that they won't run the occasional George Will or Charles Krauthammer opinion. That's a necessity. And they'll publish any and every conservative who crosses over and attacks the President (making Pat Buchanan a peculiar bedfellow). The problem is that almost none of their writers or editors are conservative themselves, leaving these papers uniformly ignorant of and hostile to

conservative understanding.

California papers do not even employ token conservatives. The lone conservative voice in Bay Area print news is Debra Saunders at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, who presumably (given the *Chronicle's* proud championship of affirmative action) was hired because she is a very talented woman. More typically, affirmative action is used to lower the bar for illiberal "liberals," such as *Chronicle* opinion columnist Joan Ryan, an internally promoted sportswriter who has no grasp of current events beyond the most sophomoric political correctness. (Ryan's debut article as a regular opinion page columnist was a worn-out condemnation of SUV drivers. No way the *Chronicle* was going to make the Debra Saunders mistake again.)

Bay Area television stations are similarly politically correct. All are co-anchored by women who have mastered the bathetic art of putting on long faces and deep voices and remarking sadly on every accusation of racism, sexism, or other unfairness.

On simply worded ballot measures, voters do not need any additional information to know how to vote. If they despise racism, they vote to bar the government from using racial preferences. If they are pro-immigrant and anti-crime, they vote against giving state services to illegal aliens. The fact that the illiberal media describe these measures as racist and anti-immigrant rolls off people's backs because they have independent knowledge of the issue.

With most news stories, however, the substance of the issue is not independently known by readers and listeners, who must rely on media characterizations. Here the relentless anti-conservative bigotry of the media is a tremendous obstacle for conservative candidates to overcome.

Suppose a candidate is for gun rights. The local media regularly publish anti-gun opinion pieces and run anti-gun junk-science as news while completely blacking out the actual news that crime falls dramatically when more law abiding citizens are armed. Gun rights are skewered as wacky right-wing zealotry at the expense of public safety, regardless of the overwhelming evidence that gun rights enhance public safety. By implication, any gun-rights candidate also puts zealotry ahead of public safety. No matter how many times the efficacy of gun rights for deterring crime is verified, as it has been many times, no Californian will ever learn it from the major media.

With every conservative issue and candidate smeared by this kind of disinformation, conservatives are at a tremendous disadvantage with the majority of voters who do not avail themselves of alternative news sources. A conservative estimate of the magnitude of this disadvantage is the gap between the views of the

people and their representatives on the driver's license bill and on ballot measures. (This estimate is conservative because it does not account the ability of the press to affect people's views on the issues themselves.)

By this measure, media-bias is good for about a 20% electoral edge for the illiberal Democrat-left in California. With quite a bit of consistency, conservative/liberty issues that the people are 60% for, their representatives are 60% against. Subtract away this 20% electoral edge that can only be attributed to the illiberal media-monopoly and the core illiberal vote seems to be about 40%. Together with the 20% boost from their media monopoly, this leaves the Democrats in firm control except on ballot measures.

One way to fight back is to pursue a strategy of government by ballot measure. While this avenue has been a godsend for California, its power has up till now been greatly limited by Democrat control of the executive. The people could pass Prop. 209, for instance, but they couldn't stop the Democrats who staff the government from finding ways to employ race preferences surreptitiously, as by giving university admission credit for overcoming "hardship," then accounting race a hardship.

With Governor Schwarzenegger in control of the executive, government by ballot measure becomes a real possibility. How about an energy deregulation scheme, produced not by the Democrat sausage factory in Sacramento, which neither understands nor believes in markets, but produced by a panel economists who are experts in the field? With Arnold's backing, the people would pass it 60-40 and the idiots in Sacramento could just be ignored.

The long-term need is to break the left-wing media monopoly by buying one of California's big four newspapers and turning it into a real newspaper, with no demagoguery either in news or opinions. Only when the left-wing media monopoly is broken will the actual conservatism of the California electorate be reflected in state government.

How about a *California Truth Leader*, with statewide distribution? Page three could be dedicated to exposing lies and bias in the state's other major papers, while down one side of the front page would be listed all errors of fact or reason that had appeared in the *Leader* itself, in order of significance. It would be a profitable investment, too. That is a guarantee, in this honesty-starved state. Anybody want a share?

Alec Rawls is a Contributing Editor for The Stanford Review. He is currently writing a book on republicanism. Contact alec@rawls.org or visit www.rawls.org.

TWISB-BISS College Football Rankings

Rnk.	Team	Record
1.	Miami	7-0
2.	Oklahoma	7-0
3.	Virginia Tech	6-0
4.	N. Illinois	7-0
5.	TCU	7-0
6.	Georgia	6-1
7.	Ohio State	6-1
8.	Florida State	6-1
9.	USC	6-1
10.	Purdue	6-1
11.	Washington St.	6-1
12.	LSU	5-1
13.	Bowling Green	6-1
14.	Nebraska	6-1
15.	Iowa	5-2
16.	Michigan	6-2
17.	Michigan State	7-1
18.	Texas	5-2
19.	Tennessee	4-2
20.	Minnesota	6-2
21.	Wisconsin	6-2
22.	Boise State	6-1
23.	Miami (Ohio)	6-1
24.	Oklahoma St.	6-1
25.	Utah	6-1

Honorable Mention:
Auburn,
Arkansas,
Pittsburgh,
Texas Tech,
Louisville,
Mississippi,
Missouri,
Oregon State,
Maryland,
Florida



Alcohol Policy Endangers Students, Threatens Trust

You'd have to be triple majoring in CS, EE and Math to miss all the commotion over the last year concerning Stanford's tightening of alcohol policies. The intent of the administration is to cut down on student drinking in the hope of protecting students from the dangers of binge drinking and alcohol related accidents. Yet judging from past experiences and a basic understanding of the way people think it seems obvious that this new policy will not have much effect on alcohol consumption. Freshmen who want to drink, will drink. That there is not alcohol provided for them in their dormitories during parties will not dissuade them from drinking in other forums.

Rather, students will be forced into the seclusion of their rooms to consume alcohol – an unhealthy habit and one that will lead to the formation of cliques that deteriorate the social fabric of the dormitory. Instead of parties or large gatherings, students will restrict themselves to only those they know best—those with whom they drink in their rooms and trust not to report to the Resident Assistant.

RA's in freshmen dorms are among those who have suffered the most as a result of the ban. They have traditionally been viewed as helpful, understanding, more experienced peers who are available to help with problems a student might have. With the new alcohol policy, however, students are more hesitant to approach them for help in the event of an alcohol-related incident out of fear of academic and civil repercussions. This needless endangerment is the most terrible consequence of the new policy.

Dorm-bonding is also severely affected. Dorm-bonding is one aspect of freshman life on which Stanford places heavy emphasis. There are myriad of activities that each freshman dorm has planned throughout the year, from scavenger hunts to barbeques. However, dorm-based social functions have always been the greatest source of bonding for residents. The whole process of planning a party, setting it up, enjoying it during its duration, and cleaning up afterwards brings the dorm closer together than any crossing-the-line exercise will ever do. Shared experiences where you are working together towards a common goal are what the bonds of friendship are built upon. While freshmen are free to have social events at their dorms without alcohol, these are destined to be less successful than parties with alcohol, resulting in a general attitude of defeat among its organizers and less enthusiasm for planning a second one.

Although one could argue that freshmen could go elsewhere for parties serving alcohol, the fact that several fraternities are on probation and unable to have parties, coupled with the fear of others taking the risk of having a party lest they end up on probation themselves, severely limits their options.

Administrators have argued that most freshmen are underage anyway, and thus any consumption on alcohol on their part is illegal. Furthermore, administrators argue the policy will help to ensure a safer atmosphere that will reduce the number of alcohol-related incidences among freshmen. If Stanford administrators are concerned with reducing the number of alcohol-related problems among freshmen they would encourage a more open and honest atmosphere about drinking, one in which students would not be forced to consume large quantities of hard alcohol during short periods of time while locked in their rooms. Of course, as lawsuits become a bigger threat, Stanford may simply be hoping to reduce its own liability in the case of a serious alcohol-related problem. It seems proper, however, that student health should be more important in the university's eyes than any lawsuit that might arise.

While the new alcohol policy may have a minor effect on the consumption of alcohol by freshmen towards the administration's goal, it seems that its negative consequences outweigh its positive benefits. The negative impressions of Stanford that current and future generations of Stanford students will have will likely lead to a lower popularity of the school in general. Moreover, maintaining an adequate social venue on the Stanford campus is imperative to both the students' and the school's success. After all, social education is just as important as academic education when it comes to one's future success.

Simply put: the ban on freshman dorm parties with alcohol, once one of the main sources of nightlife on campus, makes attending Stanford an overall less enjoyable experience that will have long-term negative effects on the future of the students and the school.



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The Stanford Review Stands Firm on MEChA Editorial

Our article and editorial regarding the racist roots of MEChA and their connection to the local chapter, Stanford MEChA, generated quite a response of both concurring and dissenting views. After listening to much feedback from our readers and the community, we feel it is necessary to respond to contradictions and misleading arguments MEChA and their supporters have been touting as a defense against our accusations.

First it should be noted, as it was in the original article, that Stanford MEChA skipped a scheduled interview and decided not to respond to our questions regarding their founding documents and the racially-charged statements of the national network of MEChA chapters. Furthermore, the leaders of Stanford MEChA ridiculously attempted to thwart the printing of any information from their meeting by telling our reporter, who was in attendance, that anything said in the meeting was "off the record." Usually that request would be taken into consideration, but they only made this demand after the meeting had ended and after they discovered that she was a reporter from the *Review*. Such attempts at censorship, including the members of Stanford MEChA at Casa Zapata who were caught throwing copies of the paper away after they were distributed, are to be condemned.

The most common criticism we received was that we ignored, or otherwise diluted, the fact that MEChA is primarily an organization with a goal of educating and preserving the Chicano culture. On the contrary, we clearly stated "First and foremost, Stanford MEChA serves as a network of Chicano students designed to promote social activism for progress in the area of issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community and their education."

Though Stanford MEChA's primary mission is to promote social activism to achieve a better education, they have thus far refused to renounce the racism embedded in the El Plan de Aztlán and El Plan Espiritual de Santa Barbara.

El Plan de Aztlán is the heinous document that gained attention nationwide by stating "For those in the race, everything. For those outside the race, nothing." Stanford MEChA has affirmed, and then re-affirmed, that they don't "adhere" to this document. You know they and others recognize the blatant racism of the document when they're forced to *re-affirm* that they don't "adhere" to it. Yet, they have rebuffed numerous calls to explicitly renounce it—something many MEChA chapters nationwide have done.

El Plan Espiritual de Santa Barbara, a document to which Stanford MEChA implicitly does adhere, is revolting in their rejection of the Hispanic community. It states: "The Mexican American or Hispanic is a person who lacks self-respect and pride in one's ethnic and cultural background."

Stanford MEChA again tried to avoid these connections by emphatically declaring that they are "autonomous" of the national network. However, their website states "Though locally autonomous, MEChA de Stanford is connected to other MEChA chapters on a...national level. We attend state and national conferences each year to collaborate...on issues concerning the Chicano community." The documents being scrutinized were written and ratified at the national conference of MEChA chapters. This is what their collaboration produces.

Stanford MEChA could save itself a lot of trouble if they would simply renounce all ties to the racist founding documents of their organization. Therefore, once again, we call on Stanford MEChA to stop equivocating and renounce El Plan de Aztlán and El Plan Espiritual de Santa Barbara. If they do not, they will make the declaration to the community that not only are they unwilling to fight racism wherever it may be, but they endorse it as long as it serves their interest.

Responsible Journalism

Continued from Page 1

dominated by liberals—the editor-in-chief admitted it, stating that they had "2 or 3 Republicans on the board of 7 or 8" (he wasn't sure which at the time). We do not challenge their right to choose their board, nor do we challenge their right to be liberal, as most of the campus is. But when ideology, or perhaps in this case, incompetence, leads to a blatant disregard for the facts, this should cause major concern among the Stanford community that the main paper of the University is not doing their job.

Furthermore, we find it ironic that the *Daily* would criticize us for making a comparison of MEChA to the KKK when the *Daily* itself compared the *Review* to the KKK a few years ago in an editorial cartoon. The fact that they didn't back up the comparison with evidence should come as no surprise.

Just ask yourself why every President of the University since Richard Lyman has criticized the *Daily* for their disregard for the facts and called on them to hire a fact checker. Pick up an issue of the *Daily*, read it, and you will have your answer.

The Editorial was written by Joseph A. Fairbanks, Stephen A. Cohen, and Gary J. Raichart. It is the opinion of the Review's Editorial Board. All attributed columns are the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of The Stanford Review.



Letters to the Editor

Shocked. Angry. Appalled. Disgusted. Violated.

After reading Alec Rawls' article, "Abortion 101: True pro-choice," I am shocked. Appalled. Angry. Disgusted. Violated. I will try, as Alec Rawls' urges, to take out the "rhetoric." I will simply show how his claims are simply non-researched polemic.

1) While it is true that 78% of Americans believe that women who have abortions regret their experiences (Wirthlin Poll, 1998), research has shown that when the women themselves are polled most (nearly 70%) report being satisfied with the decision with nearly 72% reporting more benefit than harm, and a 10% LOWER incidence of post-traumatic stress symptoms in the post-abortion group compared to the general population (Major, B. et al. 2000. Arch Gen Psychiatry 57(8), 777-84).

2) He likens having a baby to taking a fifteen unit course with extracurriculars, then cites his sister as an example for how Stanford women should be old enough to start pumping out children, since we are ostensibly the same age as this paragon of womanhood.

3) He also urges us to take a closer look at Planned Parenthood. I did that. Instead of finding a "population control group" I found an organization that "believes in the fundamental right of each individual, throughout the world, to manage his or her fertility, regardless of the individual's income, marital status, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or residence" and whose abortion services "must include information on the nature, consequences, and risks of the procedure, and counseling on the alternatives available to the woman, so as to assure an informed and responsible decision" (www.plannedparenthood.org)

4) He also finds time to launch ad hominem attacks against Professor Ehrlich, calling him "Doctor Death" and saying that when Prof. Ehrlich points out that humans are destroying the earth "no one has ever been more fabulously or more tragically wrong." I can think of at least one other person.

5) Next follows a section of dodgy economics saying that while it would seem that increased population might harm the earth, actually, "well raised children of intelligent parents" will counteract the ill effects of overpopulation. He even graciously allows a small role for "the worst raised children of the most ordinary parents." All this reads like a non-veiled attempt to show that children of his background are of more value than those who are not so well-privileged.

6) He says "the best thing that most Stanford girls will ever have a chance to do for the environment is have a baby," suggesting that it is left for males to undertake more ambitious plans to improve the world. I guess girls like Rachel Carson are just flukes.

7) According to Dr. Rawls, women should "embrace their biological urge to reproduce"—again, no citation to back this up and no mention of men, who are probably out saving the earth via non-childbearing methods.

8) He states that "it is horribly perverse that almost all the pregnant Stanford girls are having abortions." Where are the figures? He never considers the possibility of negative psychological effects of abortion stigma (Major, B & Gramzow, RH. Abortion as stigma: cognitive and emotional implications of concealment. *J Pers Soc Psychol* 77(4) 735-45).

I am ashamed that harmful and misleading idiocy of this kind is published under a banner that shares the name of the university I attend.

Jennifer Yoon, UNDERGRADUATE

Conservative Viewpoint Refreshing

First let me say that it is refreshing to hear a conservative viewpoint expressed professionally and respectfully on this campus. I appreciate your paper each week, as it allows me to balance my information inputs and synthesize my personal opinion along objective lines after hearing logical arguments from each angle. This week, in particular, I was very impressed with the analysis of the MEChA organization, and glad to see someone is pointing out the potential contradictions present in a racial organization.

However, I was far less impressed with this week's Rawls Report. While I believe there to be great potential in examining "pro-choice rhetoric" for its own level of tolerance and even-handedness, I do not believe that the article did so in any sufficient manner. Rawls' argument was fractured, interrupted with admonitions regarding endometriosis, and overall off-topic.

I would like to see a higher standard adopted with regard to opinion pieces, especially knowing (from experience) a well-reasoned argument to be the most effective means of convincing otherwise skeptical readers of a particular opinion. I feel such an argument was absent from this week's Rawls' report.

I trust these sentiments will find you agreeable and open to polite critique, and I look forward to the next issue of the Review—offering a necessary, but often neglected, conservative voice to this campus' debates.

Milton Solorzano, UNDERGRADUATE

Diversity For All, Segregation for None

I am a student at Southern California College and researching on the topic of Affirmative Action. For this research our school paid for a Museum trip to "The Museum of Tolerance" in Los Angeles. In this trip we had a tour which included to my amazement the discovery of certain websites on their monitors. These computer monitors provide touch screen services for the student to learn about hatred groups and one of the groups is called "Aztlan." The more I researched and found out they are indeed a hatred based group which is also affiliated to MEChA. Furthermore, I then came upon the article in the Stanford Review titled "MEChA: Social Justice Group or KKK?" This article was good and informative. Diversity on college campuses is productive when it is beneficial to all as students; once it segregates itself into its own hidden agendas then it creates a hostile and racist environment for the remainder students (others) to tolerate.

Thanks for being honest even though some do not see it as such, and the MEChA from Stanford is responding emotionally and with resentment; they will not grasp; they are brainwashed.

Patricia Alarcon,

More Alcohol for Everyone! *A Humorous Interpretation of the Obscure Consequences of the New Alcohol Policy*

by Stephen A. Cohen
OPINIONS EDITOR

Full moon on the Quad sucked. There was a time when Full Moon on the Quad meant "Sketchy drunken fun," but this year it was closer to "9am IHUM lecture." After all, what's the appeal of an event that is little more than many confused freshmen trying to figure out why they aren't making out with anyone yet? So what's changed since years before? Let us examine the root cause of why Full Moon on the Quad ended up so lame this year.



The crowd of bystanders at least got some play from the band, if nowhere else

Let's begin with a few basic sociological observations of Stanford students in general. Stanford girls are so unapproachable, guys feel like if they're not spitting James Bond game then they don't have a chance. The few ballsy guys who do manage to make it through this gauntlet of initial intimidation tend to find that the prize on the other side is little more than an awkward conversation about "ontological empiricism", as Stanford students see little other ground to relate to each outside their over-sized intellects.

Stanford men bear their share of the guilt also. At any given Friday night party, Stanford boys tend to clump together like they just arrived inside the auditorium at their first 8th-grade dance. Complaining about how much the scene sucks, Stanford guys tend to mill around their immediate group of friends, and when they do decide to "mingle" they don't get much farther than bumping into that one guy who they met freshmen year in Econ 1 or waiting by the keg with some kid from ProFro weekend.

But fear not, Stanford students, for there is a savior, a potion that will alleviate all of our interpersonal woes: alcohol.

Alcohol's amazing medicinal effects include reduced social inhibitions, heightened sexual desire, and large-scale disregard for the consequences of one's stupidity.

Now I'm not talking about binge consumption here. If by 2 am you find

yourself hunched over a toilet, you're not doing anyone ... (Pause)... any favors. As much as we might become enraged at the university's attempts to curtail our fun-loving debauchery, there's really no good excuse for why some freshmen has to be sent to the hospital every other weekend. But luckily, the positive effects of alcohol can be realized at a relatively low dosage.

Enter Nanci Howe and her gang of OSA cronies trying to clamp down on a bunch of us kids just trying to have some fun. Last year she tried to use the brutal Stanford police department to

crack down on our parties. When that wasn't enough, she resorted to changing the actual rules governing consumption of alcohol in Freshmen dorms.

Let us not forget, we are in College. If there is one time in our lives where it is most appropriate to do something uncharacteristically wild on a Friday night, it is now. Stanford students, you call yourselves ambitious winners? Well if you're not having fun and meeting lots of new people every weekend, you are passing up the greatest opportunity of your life. Having a pool of the world's most clever and creative, don't we owe it to ourselves to go out and engage each other in an atmosphere of social liberation? I say we do. And together we will hold our beers in solidarity and send a clear message to everyone around us, we will not accept a campus whose idea of Friday night fun is a game of eight-player Halo. Remember, nobody wins in eight-player Halo.

Maybe the Daily's Editorial Board wants to sit around and kiss the OSA's collective rear. But I say this new alcohol policy cannot and should not stand. But rather than hunger strike, let us resort to the tactics of Malcolm X, civil disobedience. We must help our Freshmen brethren. Let us upperclassmen embrace our first years (of course, only the ones over 21) with open arms and open forties. *Ladies and sirs, it is in vain to extenuate the matter – the battle for our social liberties has already begun... Give me Miller Time or give me death!*

View from Inside the Reagan White House

Review of Peter Robinson's "How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life"

by Michael J. New
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The past few years have seen a number of books written about the life of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan. However, Peter Robinson's "How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life" offers a different perspective. Instead of writing a biography or a call to arms defense of the Reagan Presidency, Robinson instead demonstrates why Reagan was such an effective leader. In the book, Robinson talks about 10 important lessons that he learned from President Reagan and shows how he was able to use these lessons in his own life.

Robinson served as a speechwriter during the Reagan administration and is best known for writing Reagan's famous speech at the Brandenburg Gate in April of 1987. During this speech, President Reagan questions Gorbachev's commitment to openness. He tells Gorbachev that if he is serious about reform, he should send an unmistakable signal. He should come to this gate and "Tear Down This Wall!"

Not surprisingly, this speech figures prominently in the book. In fact, Robinson devotes a chapter of the book to four of the most famous speeches that Reagan made about Communism: the address to the British Parliament in 1982, the speech to the National Association of Evangelicals in 1983, the speech at the Brandenburg Gate in 1987, and the speech at Moscow State University in 1988.

Interestingly, these speeches were drafted by three different people. However, Reagan always managed to sound like himself. "How could this be?"

wonders Robinson. Indeed, what gave Reagan's speeches a trumpet-like quality was his insistence upon telling the truth. In his speeches, Reagan always stood up for his beliefs and spoke with conviction because he knew people would always respond to the truth. Reagan, unlike his predecessors, did not need an extensive political network

administration. Furthermore, one of the important lessons he learned from Reagan was that in order to accomplish anything, one has to be respectful and forgiving of others.

Indeed, conviction and forgiveness are only two of the many lessons that Robinson received from Ronald Reagan. Robinson also talks about the

concisely demonstrates the success of Reagan's economic and foreign policy proposals. Robinson also gives short but convincing explanations as to how errors in judgment led to the Iran-Contra scandal in 1987. Furthermore, President Reagan's handling of the incident was instructive. Instead of brooding, Reagan went on to sign the INF treaty in at the end of 1987. This is an event so significant that one historian argues that it ended the Cold War.

Perhaps even more importantly, many of the anecdotes provide insight into the character of President Reagan. Robinson talks about the time Reagan agreed to meet some blind children after a campaign event and even allowed them to touch his face, so they would have a better idea of what he looked like. Robinson also recalls the well known story about the time Reagan met with an elderly lady who traveled across the country, mistakenly believing that she had received an invitation to the White House.

Overall, conservatives invest a lot of time and effort trying to convince others of the merits of their ideas. However, articulate reasoning itself does not result in policy

changes. Throughout the course of the book Robinson demonstrates that it was not only Reagan's ideas but also his personal characteristics that enabled him to change policy. Furthermore, Robinson shows how all of us can learn from these characteristics that made the Reagan Presidency one of the most successful in history.

* Biographical data taken from Hoover Institution website



Peter Robinson's new book, "How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life," covers the story of his years in the White House as a speechwriter during the Reagan Administration.

because his speeches were so effective in rallying people to his cause.

Robinson also describes the effort that went into the Brandenburg Gate speech. His earliest versions of the speech included the famous "Tear Down This Wall" quote. However, State Department officials raised objections at every turn. Robinson was often frustrated with these pragmatists who did not seem committed to Reagan's agenda. Nevertheless, Robinson acknowledges that the pragmatists did play an important role in the Reagan

importance of Reagan's optimism, his relationship with his wife, and his faith. Additionally, Reagan's belief in simple policy solutions allowed him to focus on what was important and prevented him from getting distracted by unnecessary details. Furthermore, Reagan's willingness to act gave him the courage to both intervene in Grenada and launch the Strategic Defense Initiative shortly after the idea was proposed.

While this book is not intended to serve as a defense of the Reagan Presidency, the background information

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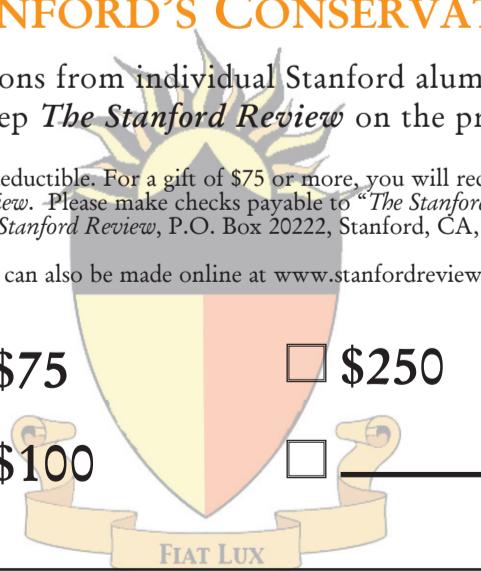
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