

An Elephant In Amherst

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The Official Newsletter of the UMASS Republican Club

*The **Best** Republican Club in America*



*“There is no silver bullet...
...what we need is silver buckshot”*

*“Americans are not addicted to oil,
Americans are addicted to freedom.”*

*- Governor George Allen
10.29.08, Bowker Auditorium*

Merry Christmas!

"Christmas can be celebrated in the school room with pine trees, tinsel and reindeers, but there must be no mention of the man whose birthday is being celebrated. One wonders how a teacher would answer if a student asked why it was called Christmas."

-Ronald Reagan

Happy Birthday, Jesus.

*The club's silhouette in front
Of our annual Christmas Tree
Display – Campus Pond
-12.04.08*



The Club In Action



UMRC with Governor George Allen



*Governor George Allen;
Bowker Auditorium 10.29.08*



Kickoff meeting with State Senator Scott Brown



UMRC With Conservative Intellectual Star Parker



UMRC Van Meter Debate



Tax Cut Aficionados



Alana Goodman at the Yes On 1 Rally



Brad DeFlumeri at the Yes On 1 Rally



Jay Lincoln at the Yes On 1 Rally



Our Wartime Consigliere at the Yes On 1 Rally

Saving Diversity of Thought: Greg Collins

“Mr. Collins has been said to resemble Tom Cruise in good looks (but more pro-life and less Scientology-inclined) by Mr. DeFlumeri.”

Recent news that an instructor from the History Department, in conjunction with a chaplain on campus, was going to offer credit to students who volunteer for Senator Obama’s presidential campaign exemplifies the most toxic intellectual aspect of universities today: an implicit but powerful force which stifles conservative thought and encourages liberal thought.

The credits-for-Obama independent study appeared to be heading towards full implementation until statewide and nationwide educators and concerned UMass students began to uncover the program’s details. Not until I asked for more information about the study did I receive an email explaining that students who wanted to work for Senator McCain’s campaign would get credit also, as if supporting McCain were a mere afterthought. Literally two minutes later after receiving this email, I was sent another message saying that the whole program had been canceled.

Let’s reiterate the obvious: the ultimate goal of academic environments is intellectual diversity. Not a climate which encourages just liberal thought, and not a climate which promotes just conservative thought. Instead, an environment in which a wide spectrum of viewpoints is carefully considered, exhaustively discussed, and meticulously challenged.

But most of the time this does not happen at UMass, because liberal thought is pushed, advanced, and endorsed to students in all sorts of ways. Just this week, in addition to the credits for Obama fiasco, Commonwealth College is playing “Fahrenheit 9/11,” an anti-George Bush, anti-conservative documentary. Remember, the important point is not that this movie is being played. Rather, it is that a documentary challenging “Fahrenheit 9/11” will not also be played.

But the problem goes deeper than that. Professors are simply not dedicated to studying the reality of human nature when they teach and write. Instead, they are committed to promoting a way of thinking about the world in an overwhelmingly theoretical and idealistic nature. They will structure curriculums to reflect this theoretical approach, and assign textbooks and course readings to direct class discussions in accordance with this framework. For instance, in the social sciences, how many times have we talked in class and read in course readings about “rational actors,” as if people were robotic thespians on stage making mechanical decisions completely removed from life-and-death situations? How many times have we been assigned readings by scholars who explain their analysis to fit their own preconceived theories of how they think the world should work, instead of allowing empirical data and past historical events to shape these conclusions?

Preconceived notions are rampant on campus. For example, common consensus at UMass dictates that blacks are perceived most vehemently by the white establishment as “other.”

This is complete nonsense. The biggest bloc on this campus which is seen as “different,” “unusual,” and “other” are students who hold conservative beliefs.

News flash: the majority of Americans oppose affirmative action. The majority of Americans oppose gay marriage. And the majority of Americans don’t think a woman has a constitutional right to abort her child.

How many times in class have professors raised the possibility that global warming is cyclical and not an existential threat to our existence? How many times have your professors said that there are legitimate reasons to oppose gay marriage?

Until administrators and professors recognize this implicit indoctrination, they are as much part of the problem as the one-sided intellectual environment they encourage.

9/11 – Seven Years Later: Brad DeFlumeri

“Mr. DeFlumeri is a closet hippie known to read the International Socialist Review in his spare time.”

The attacks of September 11th 2001 brought instantaneous and profound horror to our nation. After two planes crashed into New York’s World Trade Center Twin Towers, it became manifestly clear that our nation was under attack; indeed it had already been successfully attacked. Less certain, though, was whether we would be faced with more hijackings, more nightmarish acts of brutality. When President Bush took to the airwaves to address the nation at 8:35pm on that Tuesday night, many Americans harbored strong emotions about the unprecedented events that were being replayed on television screens all across the country. Still more Americans struggled to make sense of how such tragedy could have overwhelmed the nation so suddenly, and so unpredictably.

For countless days and week following the 9/11 attacks, a surge of patriotism – forceful, meaningful, and resilient – swept through our nation.

I was 16 years old at the time and can remember listening to President Bush address the national from the National Cathedral three days after the attacks.

That same night I remember vividly the omnipresent display of American flags on every street corner. Time seemed to stand still, if only for a few moments, while the unique people of a great nation got as viscerally close to the profound notion of what it means to be an American as they had ever been. Americans from all over the country hadn’t been directly impacted by the attacks in Washington DC, New York, and Pennsylvania, yet they felt a deep connection to their fellow Americans and to a nation that had given them so much and asked for so little in return.

America had been shaken to its core in an unexpected and unfathomable act of murder and evil, and Americans in a moment of true clarity responded by pronouncing their love for country and their resolve in the face of challenge and danger. Selfishness and politics seemed to be absent from our television screens as an outpouring of support for the victims of 9/11 and respect for the heroic first responders were absorbed into the national consciousness.

Without a doubt, it was an incredible time to be American, one that most of us will never forget. The events of that week propelled me into military service and inspired in me an unquenchable and unwavering love for the United States – a love affair which intensifies every day.

Through its freedom-furthering and liberty-enshrining institutions, this nation everyday grants the gift of opportunity and the protections of its breathtaking Constitution to millions of people. Many of us take the blessings of living in this country for granted. 9/11 threatened to take away the peace and freedom that so many Americans hold dear, and that is why the response from ordinary Americans expressed an extraordinary love for and loyalty to country. History will remember the outburst of unfettered patriotism after 9/11 as yet another beautiful chapter in the story book of this great nation’s narrative of freedom and human progress – a narrative so unique that millions of immigrants flee their own countries to live in ours every year.

In order to commemorate the lives lost on 9/11 and celebrate the resilience and greatness of our nation, on the 7th anniversary of the terrorist strikes, the Republican implanted 300 American flags on our student union lawn, showed the inspirational movie *World Trade Center*, and held a moment of silence. No doubt a cataclysmically dark day in American history, 9/11 must never be forgotten.

The warm patriotism and unprecedented national unity that emerged as a result of the cowardly attacks reminded us all of the special privilege it is to live in a country as free and brave as ours. God Bless America.

Kickoff with Scott Brown: John Beale

"Genetic test results have confirmed Mr. Beale is Ron Paul's long lost son."

The University of Massachusetts Republican Club's Fall 2008 semester started out with a lecture by Scott P. Brown, the Republican State Senator representing portions of Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex counties. State Senator Brown, who was named "Public Servant of the Year" in 2004 by the United Chamber of Commerce, addressed a crowd of enthusiastic conservatives and curious liberals in the Lincoln Campus Center on Tuesday, September 16th.

Brown gave an overview of the uphill battle he and other conservatives face in the Massachusetts Senate, where Democrats hold a supermajority, outnumbering Republicans 7-1: a ratio all too familiar to conservatives on the undeniably left-leaning Amherst campus.

Among the topics Brown explored was the growing budget deficit that the Commonwealth is facing this year-end under the Patrick administration. Brown cited wasteful, irresponsible spending on Beacon Hill for the deficit and regretted to inform his audience that the Commonwealth will likely have to withhold already-appropriated funds or increase taxes and fees in order to balance the budget by year's end. Beacon Hill politicians, Brown revealed, promise funds that they know the Commonwealth doesn't have in an effort to make themselves seem philanthropic, but then scapegoat others when the time comes to actually pay for these programs.

Senator Brown estimated that the 2008 Massachusetts budget shortfall may be nearly \$1.5 billion with the Patrick administration at the helm and with Democrats in control in both houses of Congress – more than four times the largest expenditures reached by the Dukakis administration when income taxes were raised so much that the *National Review* proclaimed "Taxachusetts is back." This spending gap is especially staggering when one considers that the former Massachusetts governor, Republican Mitt Romney, had been able to balance the Massachusetts budget every year of his gubernatorial term without increasing taxes – and actually finished 2004 and 2005 with \$700M and \$500M surpluses.

The State Senator also blasted the Patrick administration's plan to tax earnings that corporations with offices in Massachusetts make outside the United States. This so called "closing corporate loopholes," he said, would make Massachusetts a far less viable place to do business and would likely result in many businesses with offices in Massachusetts relocating to other states or to foreign countries. Brown gave the example of Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Corporation, which has a bottling plant in Needham: under the Patrick administration's plan, Coca-Cola would be required to pay a Massachusetts tax on its international earnings simply because they have an office in Massachusetts. This issue has been especially pressing for Senator Brown because the Needham Coca-Cola bottling plant is one of the largest employers in his senatorial district and has begun to consider moving over the border to Rhode Island to avoid this superfluous new tax while still remaining close enough to Boston to not damage its distribution business.

Scott Brown also criticized Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's excessive record of abstentions from voting. Records show that Senator Obama entered nearly 130 votes of "present" in the Illinois State Senate and that he continued this trend in the United States Senate. "a voting record like that means that they can't make the tough decisions," Brown reasoned, adding, "a man whose record shows an inability to make difficult decisions has very little business leading the most powerful country on Earth."

Brown was challenged on his stance on the ballot initiative to amend to the Massachusetts constitution by formally defining the word "marriage" as the union of one man and one woman – an initiative fiercely opposed by gay rights activists. Memorably, Brown countered by stating that he feels that the voters ought to be connected to the political process to as great of an extent as possible and that he has, thus, supported every ballot initiative that has crossed his desk.

Star Parker Speaks Out Against Welfare: Tiffany Stahl

"Ms. Stahl's first ever Republican Club birthday bash in Amherst was imbued with patriotism and free market discourse and would have made Reagan jealous."

The UMass Republican Club sponsors many events throughout the academic year where guest speakers give talks on a variety of current and controversial issues. On September 18, 2008, renowned author and conservative spokesperson, Star Parker, gave a lecture on welfare, "How the Poor Get Rich." Ms. Parker has written several books on the socioeconomic status of the poor including, "Uncle Sam's Plantation," and "White Ghetto."

A large crowd welcomed Ms. Parker at Bowker Auditorium in Stockbridge Hall. Her lecture outlined five key points to get the poor off welfare and on their feet. Welfare, according to Ms. Parker, only hurts the poor by keeping them in the perpetual cycle of poverty. Programs implemented to provide assistance to the lower class teaches the poor governmental dependence and deny them responsibility as they can be assured that the government will always be there to support them at the cost of tax payers. Ms. Parker, a former welfare recipient, claims she too had once fallen into the trap of government help when what she really needed was self help.

One of the most important steps to stabilizing the poor, as outlined by Ms. Parker, is education. When a population is educated and given the proper tools, success becomes possible. She praised the Bush administration for having implemented the No Child Left behind Policy. School choice is an invaluable aspect of changing a person's life by granting them options for their future. School choice is different from welfare systems in that it does not grant a restricted voucher to a recipient, instead it works to eliminate the educational boundaries that separate the poor from the rich.

Those that oppose school choice see the program as privatizing education and making it an exclusive exchange of students among desirable or wealthy children. However, as Ms. Parker clearly pointed out, school choice does not give the rich a monopoly over the education system, the wealthy can afford to send their children to any school they please. School choice allows for the hardworking, underfunded students to gain access to better education as a means of bettering themselves.

Social Security is a program that takes a percentage of all workers' wages to support the elderly and disabled. The flaw with this system is that the percentage that is taken out is greater than the percentage that is given back at retirement, thus making for an extremely poor investment. Ms. Parker discussed the advantages of privatizing the Social Security system. She argued that individuals should be allowed to hold their own money and invest it how they see fit. Regardless of how a person decides to manage their money they would benefit greatly just by avoiding Social Security due to the opportunity of pure capitalistic investment gain.

Redistribution of income is another flawed system because it handicaps the flow of the economy by cutting the income of the middle class and thus essentially adversely affecting the poor. If the middle class has to pay higher taxes in order for the stimulus checks to be distributed, than they are going to be less likely to spend their money in the very malls and restaurants that employ the lower class. There are countless dimensions that should be taken into account before a program is implemented to ensure the long term results are desirable more so than just a quick fix.

Ms. Parker conveyed many of the issues associated with welfare and made clear the urgent need for reform. Her convincing argument left the audience with much more knowledge on the subject of poverty. The UMass Republican Club was pleased to have Ms. Parker as the first featured speaker of the semester and look forward to hearing her comprehensive and perceptive interpretation of future conservative issues.

Republican Club on the Radio: Joe Sklut

"Mr. Sklut is world-renowned for his copious note-taking during club meetings and for emailing them to both Republicans and socialists worldwide."

On September 19th, four members of the Republican Club debated foreign policy with liberal students from the International Relations Club on WMUA, the campus radio station. Although the topics ranged from Cuba to Iran, much of the focus of the discussion was the Iraq war, a contentious issue in the upcoming election.

The typical liberal argument calls for either an immediate or quickly-scaled down withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. This would be a disaster. The withdrawal of combat troops before the creation of a fully sovereign and self-sustaining government would be a catastrophe for American interests, regional stability, and the Iraqi people.

Opponents of the war typically argue for a speedy withdrawal for the purpose of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people. Unfortunately, this concept is just as naive as that held by the architects of the war in 2003, when they wagered the United States would be welcomed by civilians with open arms during the initial invasion. Iraq's political geography is complex and the competing factions, Sunni, Shiite, and Kurds engage in intense sectarian strife, oftentimes with coalition forces caught in the middle. The Iraqi government, juggling these three groups, is not currently powerful enough to prevent collapse if U.S. troops withdrew too quickly. The roughly ninety thousand deaths suffered by the Iraqi people would be nothing compared to the collapse of effective government and inevitable devolution to a Somalian-like anarchy.

If the Iraqi government collapses a power vacuum will exist in the Middle East. Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia all have an interest in filling in this vacuum to protect their borders and struggle for their piece of the religious and political pie. Iraq could become a battleground between Sunni and Shia, with Iran backing Shia and Saudi Arabia coming to the aid of Sunnis. Throw in the wild card of Turkey increasing attacks on Kurdish separatist rebels that are based in Northern Iraq, and the whole region would flare into conflict with the Iraqi people mired in the crossfire. The resulting impact on American interests in the region, including economic stability, counterterrorism, and the promotion of democracy, would be a catastrophe.

Liberal bloggers and campus leftists argue that Saddam Hussein was an effective ruler because he promoted stability in Iraq by crushing dissent and slaughtering his political opponents. Who cares if Saddam was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and the raping of the economic resources and potential of the country? He kept the population in check! Do leftists think the Iraqi people are too stupid or primitive to have liberal rights? Do they think the Iraqi people are inferior barbarians because they have not had the privilege of a decent government? The Iraqi people, like all citizens of the world, deserve democracy and the rule of law.

No doubt, mistakes have been made during the war. However, we must use the recent gains in security to forge a democracy out of the ruins of Saddam's police state. If we listen to leftists and European fear mongerers and leave now, we will abandon the Iraqi people and lose America's first great challenge of the twenty-first century. And that is something many UMass students need to realize.

Domestic Counterinsurgency: Jay Lincoln

"Mr. Lincoln is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for buying Dunkin' Donuts coffee and making fun of Democrats on the same day for 493 consecutive days."

Few things in life are more sobering, particularly for misinformed liberal fascists, than a brilliant Iraq war veteran delivering a well articulated, logically sound prognosis for, of course, Iraq. That is to say, however, that, notwithstanding political alliances, *all* will, and in this case, *all* have, greatly benefited from such a discourse. Captain Trip Bellard, undeniable American hero, as are, naturally, all men and women who serve or have served in our armed forces, is the veteran to whom the task, and a difficult one at that, of enlightening UMASS was bestowed.

By my count, the Iraq war has been lost over four hundred seventy eight thousand ninety two times; at least, that is what campus anti war buffoons have been preaching. For some of us, it doesn't take the word of a Capt. Trip Bellard to understand our unwavering progress in Iraq, but, for many (more like most) of the thousand scores of students here, it does. For those who held the tasteful, [*couuuugh, cough*], anti war rally in front of our Veterans Week flag display, Trip's briefing would have had you running for the hills, or, at the very least, for your trust funds. Unfortunately, however, there were no leftist gas bags in the crowd for Trip to shred like linguine with facts-- the liberal kryptonite --, at least none that were willing to speak.

At any rate, Trip's presence on campus was an inspiration to many. Club President Greg Collins did frequently remark that having a face to face conversation with anyone who has, indeed, *fought* in Iraq is the single most, by virtue of savvy seasoning, insightful and enlightening means of peppering ones chapter and verse thereof. I couldn't agree more. The mainstream media, even the imperceptible few outlets not flying al-Qaeda's flag, simply cannot so profoundly move you, educate you, and invigorate you in the manner Trip has so many. His insight into Iraq disproved, categorically, virtually every single liberal talking point regarding the war and its ramifications

His presentation marked the conclusion of our club's efforts for National Veterans Awareness Week. In addition to our Flag Display and Disabled American Veteran (DAV) charity efforts, we fought the radical left and their classless attempt to cast a shadow on, and make a political stepping stone of, our honorary memorial. The anti war, anti military protest in front of our flag display is, most assuredly, an experience I will not soon forget. In an environment as hostile as the Peoples Republic of Amherst, I had legions of *DEMOCRATS* approach me, as I stood our ground, to give to me their support. Also, veterans, representing a variety of ages and backgrounds, along with several passers by came out of the woodwork, and made an effort to show their distaste and abhorrence with the protest.

This, indubitably, is reason to conserve our headset.

Do not, ever, lose hope, fellow conservatives. Do not give up. Rather, join the resistance. This is a clear sign that we are not alone. Even in the infested leftist breeding ground of the Peoples Republic of Amherst, amidst the perversion in the heart of the fray, endures the incorruptible, beneficent besetment. Remember, "One ought never to turn ones back on a threatening danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never." - Sir Winston Churchill.

Governor George Allen: Alana Goodman

"Ms. Goodman's alter ego, some say, resembles Michelle Malkin celebrating Hanukkah."

On October 29th, the UMass Republican Club had the honor of hosting the most prestigious speaker to come to campus all semester. Former Virginia Governor and United States Senator George Allen came to UMass to give a lecture titled "McCain, Obama, and America's Energy Security."

It's not often that a former Governor and Senator comes to speak on campus, and the event generated quite a buzz. Nearly 200 students packed Bowker Auditorium to hear Governor Allen's fascinating discussion on the future of energy in the U.S.

Weaving together pressing issues like immigration, foreign policy, the economy, and healthcare with personal anecdotes and a boisterous sense of humor, Governor Allen proved to be one of the most engaging speakers we've hosted in recent years. The Governor's knowledge about U.S. energy policy and his experience from his time on the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee were apparent by his fluency on the subject.

Probably the most interesting part of the energy discussion was Governor Allen's view on global warming. The Governor dissented with the UMass campus orthodoxy that global warming is a man-made phenomenon. He argued instead that it is caused by natural variations in temperature, and he gave compelling evidence for this opinion. The idea that global warming is a natural occurrence is rarely discussed on campus, and it was important for students to hear that side of the issue.

Governor Allen also addressed offshore drilling-- a concept that sparked a lot of controversy during the election. He expressed the importance of offshore drilling and the positive impact that it would have on our future energy independence.

During the question and answer section of the event, Governor Allen was challenged by several Left-wing students. He responded to their questions skillfully and with a lot of grace. In all, the Governor was an admirable representative of the Republican party to the students on campus-- even those who disagreed with him.

Before the event, the UMass Political Science department joined up with our club to host a "Meet and Greet" with Governor Allen. Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Byron Bullock came to greet the Governor, along with faculty members from the Political Science department.

After the lecture, Governor Allen joined the UMass Republican Club for dinner at local restaurant Bertucci's. The Governor was a gracious dinner guest with a completely unpretentious demeanor. His easy-going, southern attitude was a refreshing change in Amherst, and his favorite topics of discussion over dinner were politics and football. Needless to say, it was a great event, and we hope to host more speakers of Governor Allen's caliber in the future.

'Yes on 1' Rally: John Beale

"Mr. Beale joined the UMass Republican Club because no other student organization on campus would take in a crazy Ron Paul apostle."

'Taxachusetts' had a chance to reform its famously corrupt, big-government, wasteful-spending ways this November by repealing its state income tax. In pursuit of this goal, the University of Massachusetts Republican Club held a rally in favor of the binding ballot initiative on Monday, November 3rd. UMass is often touted as one of the most liberal universities in the country and a walk across campus reveals the overwhelming support for the tax-repeal naysayers. The sea of black and blue "NO on 1" posters could not silence our club, however.

"YES on One! That's right, vote YES on Question One. Don't believe the one-sided scare tactics your professors are using," the voice of club VP Brad DeFlumeri echoed across the library lawn. With yellow "YES on 1" posters surrounding the podium like a conservative ideological incursion into liberal enemy territory, seven conservative speakers took the podium to reveal the truth about stemming government wastefulness.

UMRC President Greg Collins accused Beacon Hill of "throwing money around inefficiently" and proclaimed, "we must empower the people to use their money for themselves instead of yielding their money and power to the state legislature to distribute arbitrarily."

Calling the government "an uncaring political machine gorging itself on tax dollars," the second speaker, Keith McCormick, a candidate for the State Senate seat from the Hampshire and Franklin district, declared this ballot initiative to be the taxpayers "last best hope" to take a stand against corruption and wastefulness.

Terry Franklin, a local libertarian activist, put things into perspective for us: "remember the Big Dig? The salaries – the lifetime salaries – of 10,000 teachers were wasted on 7 miles of road," he said, recalling the nearly \$12 billion in additional tax revenue required to complete the leaky tunnel. Franklin added, "that's just one project -- there are a thousand little digs across the state."

Brad DeFlumeri condemned Beacon Hill as "a national disgrace" whose leaders "consistently make a mockery of the taxpayers' dollars used to pay their salaries and fund their inefficient operations." He energetically called for the citizens to "vote to change a dilapidated culture of unfettered corruption."

Alana Goodman, UMRC membership director, criticized the legislature's reluctance to fully disclose its budget to the taxpayers. She revealed that the complete \$47.3 billion budget is not published annually by the government, preventing the taxpayer from knowing the extent of its wastefulness. Goodman demanded that this secret budget be published on a website detailing every check written by the legislature.

Jay Lincoln, UMRC publicity director and owner of a start-up computer tech business, decried the tax burden that Massachusetts businesses must bear as one of the worst in the country. "Businesses are fleeing Massachusetts to avoid the unjust tax oppression. I'll be on the first flight, after I graduate, to one of the other 49 business conducive states."

Last, was Ioan Tihenea, who voiced his outrage about the excessive salaries paid to unskilled government employees. "Guess how much toll collectors make. 70-80 grand a year! If I'm able to graduate with a degree in electrical engineering, that'll be almost \$20,000 a year more than I'll be making! Everywhere else I go, those people are called cashiers and they're not making \$70-80,000 a year." Although Question One was not approved by the voters on Election Day, the conservative voices of the Republican Club and its supporters could not be drowned by the UMass sea of liberal blue.

A Tribute to American Hero's: Colleen McKiernan

"Ms. McKiernan describes liberals and Yankees fans in the same breath: whiny, depressed, and just plain wrong about everything in life."

America is an amazing country, built upon the sacrifice and service that millions of men and women have given to this great nation. For hundreds of years, men have stormed the front lines of wars, abroad and at home, representing the principles that our forefathers wrote into the Constitution more than two-hundred years ago. It is on this day forthcoming, Veteran's Day, which we honor those men and women that have given the ultimate sacrifice, that of delaying one's life, of disability, and, perhaps, of death.

One of the greatest ways to give back to these noble men is through the gift of time, of benevolence, of philanthropy. By simply devoting time and a listening ear to these aged men, one gains both the knowledge of times past and can absorb so much information about the so-called 'greatest generation.'

On the 19th of October, seven members traveled to the Soldier's Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts. This event was meaningful for both our members and for the soldiers themselves. One bright, interesting man served on the same ship as did Senator John McCain (in the Navy). "He spoke about his service with a sparkle in his eye... You could tell that he was proud of his service," said Greg Collins, president of the UMASS Amherst Republican Club.

Another sailor whose stories were etched in the memories of our club members was a man in his early seventies, a veteran of World War II. One particularly poignant story, told by this brave man, occurred at the end of the war. When the atomic bomb was dropped, he knew that there would be no more fighting, even when he didn't know the true repercussions of this deadly weapon. Even today, this vivacious man lives each day to the fullest, and maintains a light-hearted perspective on his fellow veterans at the soldiers' home. He says, "[A]ll these people do is go to the cafeteria, wait for their food without talking, eat their food, head to the elevator, stare at the elevator, and take the elevator upstairs. Nobody ever talks around here."

Activities such as this remind me of the great conversations that I have had with my father over the years. A former navy man, he served as an aviation electronics technician from 1968 to 1972. During that time, he rotated between bases in the Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam, serving at each for six-month stints. His primary role was to ensure cargo was appropriately cared for, flying from base to carrier and back; he often toted goods such as bombs, food stores, and bodies.

Of course, my father did not want to enter the military service – he was living at home, in Randolph, enjoying college and life, in general. But, he received a low lottery number; it was then that he chose to enter the navy. From 1968 to 1972, my father fought on behalf of the United States, serving at bases in three countries. Such an experience taught my father to grow up quite quickly and to appreciate the amenities he received, just because he was American. Looking at the living conditions of the Vietnamese people, dwelling in small huts which provided no protection from the attacks occurring all around him, taught him to be grateful for all that he had at home.

Hearing stories like that of my father and of these brave men makes me grateful to be an American, supporting pro-military and pro-troop events like our visit to the Soldier's Home. Backing such honorable events transcends partisanship; rather, it is something around which all Americans should gather, proud to support the honorable history upon which America was founded. "It is events like these which allow me, even in the smallest possible way, to show my appreciation to our best and brightest this country has to offer," states Collins.

Obama and Race-Conscious Voting: Ben Duffy

"Mr. Duffy is the former president not only of the UMass Republican Club, but also Vox: Students For Choice."

By the time this article is printed, the great McCain-Obama slugfest will have been decided. The last man standing will be our next president, and the other will make an honorable exit back to the US Senate. I predict that if the polls are correct and Obama is victorious, there will be a media-sponsored ticker-tape parade broadcasted twentyfour hours a day on all the cable news shows. If McCain delivers the knock-out punch on election day, we will be subjected to endless media speculation that white racism was the decisive factor.

To think that skin color is all that matters is basically absurd. There are substantial differences between the two men in terms of vision, policy, experience, voting records, and leadership style. There are a million reasons to vote for or against either candidate that have nothing to do with race.

At the time I am writing this, polling data shows Obama maintaining a not insurmountable lead. Most polls show McCain to be the underdog, but I'm not too worried yet because polls are frequently wrong.

One reason that I take polls with a grain of salt is because people lie to pollsters. This election year offers a special incentive to lie because for the first time in history one of the two major parties is running a non-white candidate. The candidacy of Senator Obama puts a new spin on politics, and consequently on polling.

It's called the Bradley Effect, and it basically means that people will tell pollsters that they intend to vote for the black guy, and then—in the privacy of the voting booth—turn around and vote for the white guy instead. Liberals have long misunderstood the Bradley Effect as proof of lingering racism among white voters. It is nothing of the sort. In reality, the Bradley Effect is proof that a certain social pressure exists to vote for the

black guy simply because he's black. When asked which candidate voters prefer, it's cool to say that you are voting for the black politician. It distances you from those other racists that we hear about so often who would never cast their vote for a black person. I would argue that the social pressure to vote for the black guy far outweighs the effect of white racists. Incidentally, if we were a society that could actually get past skin color, there would be no Bradley Effect, and no pressure to vote for any candidate because of race.

Yes, race matters; but it shouldn't. Skin color should be neither a benefit nor a liability to a candidate. I would argue that for every white racist who unreasonably fears the first black president, there are two or three more voters who want a black president for its own sake. I would like to point out that I have already sent in my absentee ballot from my home in Japan. I too voted for a black man, but his name wasn't Barack. I voted for independent candidate Alan Keyes. Keyes is entirely black, as opposed to Obama, who is only half black.

The Democrats' last failed presidential candidate, John Kerry, has already admitted that he supports Obama because he's black. Senator Kerry was giving an interview to a reporter with The New Bedford Standard Times, and he suggested unambiguously that electing Obama would show the world that we aren't a racist country.

With liberals like Kerry, there is no racial neutrality in this election. Either we elect Obama and show the world that we're not racist, or we elect McCain and show that we Are.

News flash to Kerry and liberals: people vote with other things in mind besides race.

A Note From the President: Greg Collins

Greetings! On behalf of The UMass Republican Club (UMRC), I would like to invite you to join us for yet another year of passionate conservative activism from the most vibrant political group at UMass Amherst. It is safe to say that the Republican Club has grown to become the central force of conservative thought and action on perhaps the most liberal college campus in the entire country. While attempting to spread conservative messages here is frequently met with skepticism, resistance, and sometimes outright hostility, I can assure you that UMRC members are some of the most dedicated students to the conservative movement in America today, and that we will not stop until we sufficiently get our message across to the UMass Amherst community as a whole.

In attempting to continue the tradition of conservative activism spearheaded by past UMRC presidents such as Laurie Belsito, Ben Duffy, and, most recently, Brad DeFlumeri, I inherited a club last fall which had already established itself as the singular power for conservatism on campus. We became known as the one political group which consistently hosted compelling conservative speakers, organized rallies in support of America and our military, and in general challenged the status quo liberal assumptions which continue to shape political discourse in classrooms.

I knew that maintaining these high standards for the UMRC this year would be a great challenge and would require unceasing commitment. Yet with the help of active UMRC members, I was confident that we would be able to continue this tradition.

And what a semester it has been so far! From organizing flag displays honoring 9/11 victims and veterans; to hosting esteemed State Senator Scott Brown, Iraq war veteran Trip Bellard, conservative intellectual Star Parker, and former Virginia Governor George Allen; to rallying in support of ending the state income tax and protesting an anti-war rally; to visiting the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and raising over \$400 for Disabled American Veterans; and to campaigning, of course, for John McCain and local Republican candidates: the semester has been an incredible success, and every single UMRC member deserves credit for their dedication and loyalty to making these events happen.

Even more, perhaps our biggest intellectual victory for political diversity occurred when we helped expose a program at UMass to give credits for students to volunteer for Barack Obama's presidential campaign without giving an equal opportunity to McCain supporters as well. In receiving not only local but national media attention from blogs such as the famous Drudge Report, this instance revealed the ultimate purpose of our activism: spread conservative principles and values in a respectful yet unwavering manner.

In addition to the aforementioned events, this purpose also entails reaching out to other resident student organizations to help further the values that the UMRC holds dear. For instance, we invited the University Democrats, Students Alliance For Israel, and the Muslim Students Association to participate in our 9/11 flag display. Currently, we are organizing efforts to help out with Thanksgiving food drives through the Catholic Newman Center on campus.

It goes without saying that being conservative on college campuses is difficult today. Even though our message is frequently stifled by other students, professors and the Student Government Association, we pride ourselves on the fact we do not hesitate to question and challenge liberal assumptions in a civil yet forceful way. It takes true courage to take a stand against an intellectually monolithic environment, and I cannot thank UMRC members enough for doing so day after day.

Of course, we would not be able to spread conservatism without the generosity from our supporters, donors, and alumni. Rest assured that the UMass Republican Club will continue to be the dominant force of conservative thought and activism at UMass, and one of the most influential on all college campuses across America today.

A Special Thanks To:

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Fall 2008 Speakers:

State Senator Scott Brown - 9/15
Star Parker - 9/18
Governor George Allen - 10/29
State Senatorial Candidate Keith McCormic - 11/1
Capt. Trip Bellard - 11/13

We could not have done it without you.

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*We recognize President Greg Collins and Vice President Brad DeFlumeri as, currently, amidst the top 15 Nationally ranked college conservative activists by Young America's Foundation.
-Bravo, gentlemen.*

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Tiffany Stahl Val Tihinea
Eric Price John Beale
Dan Strom Dmitry Shapiro
Jainaba Tuffile Justin Lockenwitz

Meeting Information:

We meet at 7:00PM, Tuesdays
423B Student Union
See you there.

COMING SOON:

*Kickoff meeting with WTKK host Michael Graham - 2/17/09
CPAC in Washington DC - 2/26/09
Major Lecture featuring prominent YAF speaker (TBA) - 3/11/09
Governor Paul Cellucci - 04/16/09
Continuing, unfettered conservative activism.*

A Letter From the Editors



The University of Massachusetts, a taxpayer-funded public institution, is hijacked by the far left. The university and the surrounding communities are havens of angry, dissent-crushing leftists, openly-communist organizations, massive marijuana-growing operations, and even a college where the concept of sex-segregated bathrooms is banned. In Amherst, the flying of the American flag on a flagpole on the front lawn of one's own home is banned. Military recruiters are harassed, intimidated, and threatened to be banned. Republican candidates typically attract less than fifteen percent of the vote in the area; if the leftists could, they would be banned too.

UMASS is in need of an intellectual bailout. That is the purpose of this newsletter.

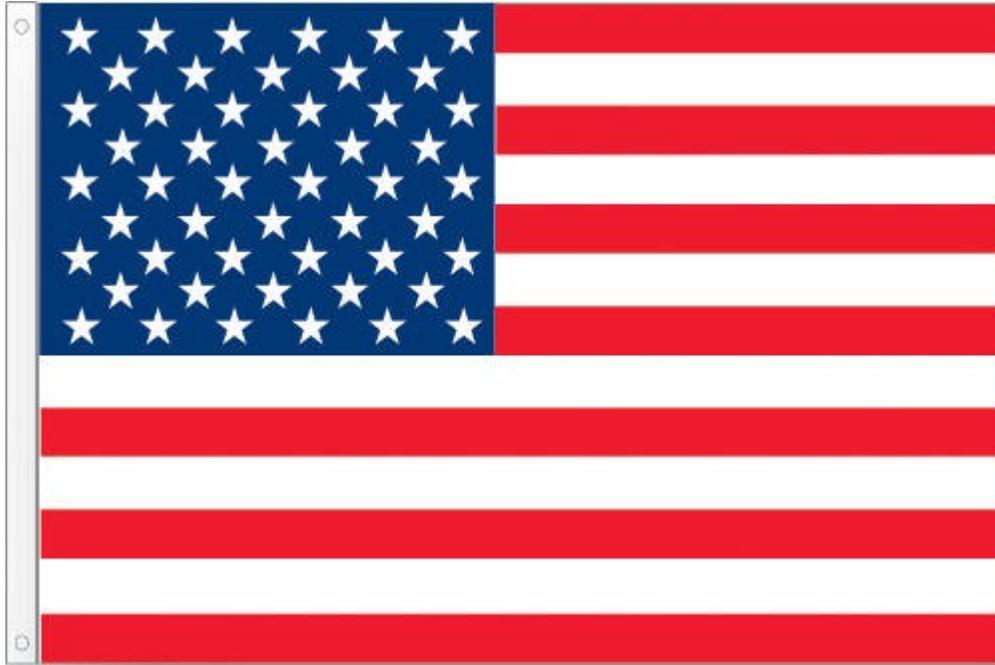
- Co-Editor Joe Sklut

The fate and survival of the conservative opposition here at The University of Massachusetts relies, almost exclusively, on the continuous, unwavering exertion from its confederates. The radical left has, indeed, permeated into the deepest pores of academia. It is only this tight knit band of brothers (and sisters) that can be, and is, the honorable, loyal, and dignified resistance. We must now, and forever, remain honorable, loyal, and dignified in our necessarily unfettered, resolute, and everlasting efforts combating the left and their insidious, Machiavellian, corrosive, cancerous dogma.

This newsletter places us, once again, on the front lines repelling liberal fascism at UMASS.

- Co-Editor Jay Lincoln





God Bless America

Paid for by: The UMASS Amherst Republican Club