

## Announcing *The Stanford Progressive*

Announcing *The Stanford Progressive*. For those who despise the decidedly right wing *Stanford Review*, here is a chance to fight back. Write for the *Progressive*, and reveal the truth behind the all-too-deceptive conservative dogma that is the bedrock of *The Stanford Review*. You will find more such rhetoric in the recently distributed e-mail announcing the inception of *The Stanford Progressive*.

This quarterly liberal student publication is the newest pet project of a group of Stanford students who apparently feel that the other voice is not heard often enough on campus. I welcome their publication. These students should spur forth a provocative dialogue between their publication and this one. I hope that the *Review* provides a bottomless supply of material for the *Progressive*, as I am sure the *Progressive* will for the *Review*.

Nonetheless, I do take issue with one claim that the editors of the *Progressive* make. They seem to think the *Review* is the dominant political voice on campus, completely unopposed. That's preposterous. For me it is much more difficult to imagine a student group that does not oppose the *Review*. Nearly every socially active student group, almost every publication, and a good part of the faculty and administration profess an ideology that is distinctly left of center. Which is fine. This makes for much more lively political discussion.

However, the *Progressive* is indeed the first publication of its kind, or at least the first in a while. That is, a political student newspaper with leftward leaning perspectives. I have long believed, in fact, that it is the most important publication that the campus lacks. For it is far more important to take part in a political debate than it is to remain loyal to any one side. It is through the marketplace of ideas that every important political and social innovation in American history has arisen. The *Progressive*, coupled with the *Review*, should create a new market-

place right here at Stanford. I only wish that these new editors planned to put their paper out weekly, instead of just quarterly. An ongoing dialogue is obviously the best kind.

For years, the *Review* has had only *The Stanford Daily* to ridicule. It's been a fine outlet when nothing else has worked, but it doesn't make much sense. The *Daily* is not an optimal adversary, as it covers a wholly different realm than the *Review*. Besides the *Daily's* predictably left of center of editorials, we just haven't had that much to criticize.

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Now, all of this can change, and I hope that the *Progressive* views the *Review* in the very same way. Without constant criticism, neither of

these papers could thrive.

Problems have surfaced in the past, however, when certain campus organizations have gone a bit too far with these criticisms. The Disorientation Guide has suggested on more than one occasion that we burn Hoover Tower. Not that they shouldn't voice their real feelings on the matter, but it does seem silly that all of the Hoover Institution's opponents don't realize that it serves the important purpose of counterbalancing the rest of campus. I applaud the *Progressive* for wanting to counterbalance the *Review*, but I still maintain that the *Review* exists on campus as a reaction to an already dominant left-wing ideology.

Finally, I should hope that the *Progressive's* maiden issue, whenever it arrives, serves as a call to duty for other conservative student groups on campus to make their voices heard. The Stanford Republicans and the Objectivist Society cannot even begin to compete with groups such as SEAS and the Stanford Democrats for campus visibility. This is not a conservative campus, and it likely never will

be. Probably it shouldn't be. But that doesn't mean we should suppress conversation about conservative issues. It is a sign of an unfortunately one-sided campus when the only things we hear about most conservative issues is opposition to them. I know that we live in California, not Texas. And I understand that most students here are much closer to twenty than forty. But that does not mean that we should limit our attention to the voices of those with whom we agree. We cannot leave Stanford as truly educated people without considering all sides. As obvious as this may seem, I fear it goes unfulfilled.

Thus again, I welcome the *Progressive*. It is precisely what the *Review* has been waiting for. These two publications will co-exist beautifully, reacting to one another and making each other much stronger.



Matthew Barrett is a sophomore who is undeclared, but considering an individually designed major in Symbiotic Systems & Conflict Resolution.

## Institutional Discrimination Or Institutional Ideology?

On Tuesday January 30th, leaders and officials from nine universities conducted a summit on women faculty in engineering and science at MIT. This conference was held in response to alleged systematic barriers that keep women from science and engineering. But is there really evidence that systematic barriers exist for women who want to pursue engineering? Or were prominent university figureheads simply paying lip service to the prevailing ideology?

One conclusion reached at the conference was that the universities should work to make engineering facultyship "A profession and an institution in which individuals with family responsibilities are not disadvantaged." Apparently some people think that it is possible for a person to be a full-time mother and a

full-time research professor with equal effectiveness. If many female faculty members earn less than male faculty members, it is

because their family obligations cause them to spend less time doing the things that make one's salary increase. It isn't discrimination to allocate a different amount of resources to someone who is in the lab 75% of the time that everyone else is, or to someone who frequently takes leave to take care of children. But don't expect university panels to take these kinds of tradeoffs into account.

Another conclusion reached at the confer-

ence stated that universities should work towards "A faculty whose diversity reflects that of the students we educate." This means that it is apparently a problem that the percentage of female engineering professors is different than the percentage of females in the general population. However, this is by no means evidence of discrimination or even a problem; rather, it most likely reflects the female students' preference for study in the humanities over engineering. When an undergraduate female student declares engineering as her major, she does not get an error message telling her that women may not apply.

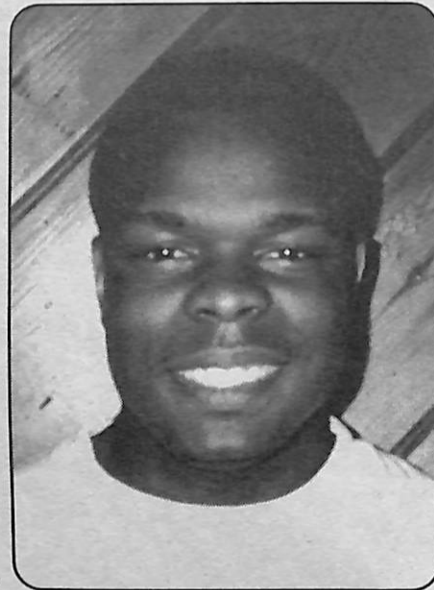
The same is true for female students applying for admissions to graduate programs; they are not blocked because they are female. Since women can choose to study engineering just as easily as men, this would imply that women are underrepresented in engineering not because of anything as complex as institutional discrimination or barriers, but simply because of a preference of female students to go into other fields. So because fewer women choose to go into engineering graduate programs than men, it is only to be expected that the number of female engineering faculty would be small.

In fields as competitive as the sciences, engineering graduate students tend to have the highest GRE scores of all graduate students. Thus, if institutional discrimination against women existed in the engineering postgraduate world, we would expect to find that although women and men were scoring about equally on average in their GRE

scores, and then far more men than women were being admitted. However, such is not the case. Males accounted for 98.5% of the top fiftieth percentile of GRE scores in 1999, even though they accounted for only 44% of graduate admissions. On average, men score about 100 points higher than women on the GRE Physics exam. Comparable

gaps exist for nearly every standardized test, especially in math and science. In order for discrimination to be the culprit, the standardized tests would have to be designed so that women would score worse than men, but even most feminists wouldn't argue something so incongruous. This means that far fewer women than men have chosen to prepare themselves for graduate work in science and engineering, and given that graduate work is a necessary step to becoming a professor, it is no surprise that there are far fewer female engineering faculty than male faculty. Once again, discrimination is not the culprit.

In reality, gender gaps exist in other areas of academia, but you won't be likely to see universities holding conferences on them. Why? Because in those cases it is men who are underrepresented. Since 1979, men have been the minority of the undergraduate population in universities, and now make up just 44% of undergraduates. This means that nearly every academic subject other than engineering is majority



John Gibbs, Senior Staff Writer

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# The First 100 Days: Interview With Martin Anderson

**Martin Anderson is the Keith and Jan Hurlbut Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He served as a senior policy adviser to Ronald Reagan's Presidential campaigns in 1976 and 1980. He also informally advised George W. Bush during the 2000 Presidential campaign.**

*The Stanford Review:* Upon taking office, which issues will President Bush first address?

Martin Anderson: If there are any current crises he will address them first because that is what any President has to do. I think the main thing is that he is going to surprise people because he is simply going to do what he said he would do. People are not quite used to that. And basically I think they will be the same issues that he identified when we started to work with him over two and a half years ago. In some of the meetings we had down in Austin, he laid out the four big issues he was going to run the campaign on.

First and foremost is national security, rebuilding the military, missile defense.

And he has already taken a giant step forward on that one with the nomination of Donald Rumsfeld. The second big issue is Social Security. Saving it, protecting it, developing a number of interesting ways that people can get more money than they would get from Social Security. I think that he is very serious about that and that process will begin.

The third one and probably his top priority is education reform. He has already begun that one. He has developed legislation, having people work on it, sending it to the Hill. He sat down with a whole group of Senators the other day. I saw him yesterday on television. He is sitting down with Democrats and Republicans. I even saw Teddy Kennedy come out and say some nice thing about George W. Bush. I never thought that I would see that.

The fourth and final one of course is taking steps to make sure that the economy continues to

grow. That includes a major reduction in taxes. Part of the reason why it will be a surprise is that when he does what he said he was going to do, people will be surprised.

For example take the issues of a tax cut. How would you like it if he proposed a the following reduction in the marginal tax rates? First, the kind of reduction that everyone gets a cut. Second, a cut which is family friendly. Namely, if you have children you get a larger cut. And third and most importantly, the way the cut will be set up, the lower your taxable income the higher percentage of your cut.

Everyone gets it, but people who are just starting to climb the economic ladder get a higher percentage cut than people who are up at the high end. Now, I think if you asked people if they would like that, most people would say that sounds pretty interesting. But it is also true that most

people do not know that is what is tax cut is, but that is what it will be, because that is what he said he would do.

*TSR:* Do you think the fact that George W. Bush lost the popular vote and won the electoral vote only after a prolonged dispute will hurt his ability to get any of these bills passed? Do you think it will weaken him as a President at all?

Mr. Anderson: I do not think so and I will tell you why. Because the way we play American politics is not like horseshoes. Close does not count.

One of the lovely things about politics is at one point in time you win or you lose, there are no ties. And he won. George W. Bush is the President, he is in the White House. The Republicans control the House of Representatives. The Republicans control, with Vice-President Dick Cheney, the U.S. Senate, and they control the majority of the Governorships. They have got everything. Now this is the first time that this has happened in 40 or 50 years. It has been a long time

And he has put together a very powerful cabinet. These people have been in government before. They know that they are doing, they agree with his policies. When this legislation is set forward, some Democrats will come along.

The situation in the House and Senate, has been close in recent years, but now the Republicans control it. If you came down from outer space and said, "Who is running the government?" The answer would be the Republicans are. And I think, so far, he knows what he wants to do and he intends to do it. So that is what is going to happen.

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*TSR:* Overall, are you pleased with Bush's cabinet selections?

Mr. Anderson: Overall, they are terrific. In fact I am trying to think of anyone one I do not like.

*TSR:* Going back to the campaign. Why do you think

Bush fell in polls behind during the closing days of the campaign? A week or two weeks before the election, the polls showed that he was leading Gore by a small margin, but on election day he ends up losing the popular vote to Gore.

**He is sitting down with Democrats and Republicans. I even saw Teddy Kennedy come out and say some nice thing about George W. Bush. I never thought that I would see that.**

Mr. Anderson: No one really knows. The speculation is that it has to do with a revelation that he had been convicted for a minor drunk driving charge. Actually, he had been driving too slowly while he was under the influence when he was young. When that came out, it was timed by the Democrats so that he did not have time to respond and as people were finding out about it, they had the election.

*TSR:* It was announced in the past few weeks that Senator John McCain (R-AZ) will reformulate his campaign finance bill and will introduce it in the Senate. It looks like Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) has indicated that he will support campaign finance reform this time around. Do you think that this bill has a good chance of passing Congress and do you think that President Bush will sign it?

Mr. Anderson: No and no. First of all, everyone talks about campaign finance reform, that is a misnomer. I am for campaign finance reform, except they do not like what I propose for campaign finance reform.

They do not want to reform it, they want to change the system so it favors them. And what Senator McCain is proposing is an outrageously bad proposal. Because the real problem with campaigns is that campaigns are starved for money. And he wants to take money away.

Now, there are three ways to communicate in a campaign. The first way is free media. Then the second way are the special interest groups, the Sierra Club, the National Rifle Association. And then the third way is you buy your own paid media

The only problem with the first two is that you are totally at the mercy of other people. You cannot say what you want to say. They report and they interpret and they say what you said. If the special interest groups like what you say, they will report it, if not, they will attack, but they have their own way of doing it.

The only thing you control is your own advertising. Now what McCain wants to do is take away that third part. And if you want to run the campaign as a Republican and be totally at the mercy of the media, of which 85% to 90% are Democrats, or special interest groups, that is crazy.

Then on the other hand if you have a very wealthy wife it may not make a difference.

*TSR:* Do you think it is a forgone conclusion that the Republicans will lose seats in the House and Senate in 2002 midterm elections?

Mr. Anderson: No, Bush has got a powerful cabinet, he needs to do what he said he was going to do and drive it through. If he gets reasonable changes in education policy and education scores start to go up, if he rebuilds the military and we start to build a missile defense system, if he reforms Social Security and allows people to take some of the money they pay in taxes and invest it in private accounts, and if he cuts taxes, then Republicans will win more seats in the Senate, more seats in the House, and Bush will be reelected. But it depends on what he does, absolutely.

*Conducted by Michael New, a graduate student pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science.*

## Gender Fairness

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ing, one would have to assume that all of the evil sexist fled the humanities and entrenched themselves in the engineering department in order to concentrate their efforts on holding back the progress of women there. This theory would take a lot of explaining to sound plausible, but, then, academics have a lot of time on their hands.

If it is indeed true that institutional sexism in universities are conspiring to deny female faculty the resources they deserve, where are they? It does not appear as though there was any opposition present at the meeting. The MIT conference was attended by all of the major universities, and all engineering departments represented have chosen to comply with the decrees made there. Obviously engineering department heads have the power to punish those who refuse to comply with their demands, or at worst bring their misdeeds to light, so we can assume that engineering department faculty and administration will comply. Plus, affirmative action programs require universities to make an extra effort to hire women whenever possible. So who is this fight against? If a faculty member is guilty of discriminating against women, let him be rightly punished. But holding a national conference on invisible, institutional (and probably unreal) discrimination is hardly the proper recourse for such cases. Perhaps universities are waging a war against no one, based on false premises and a desire to pacify entrenched leftists.

The conclusions reached by the "Gender Fairness" conference at MIT were unfounded, and if women are in fact heavily underrepresented in engineering, it appears to be justified. It would take an awfully large conspiracy involving too many people for women faculty to be purposefully denied the same resources and compensation as their male counterparts. Any differences therein can be explained by less complex factors than sexism or institutional discrimination.

*John Gibbs is a senior majoring in Computer Science. He would have declared a humanities major, but got an error message saying "No men need apply."*

female. In order for the theory to hold water that discrimination and barriers keep women faculty from engineering