

The Star-Ledger

Live from the Conservative Political Action Conference

By: Paul Mulshine – March 16, 2013

I've been at the CPAC convention since Wednesday night. It's great fun to attend the annual conservative confab. Here are a couple things I've noticed:

1. There sure are a lot of good looking young women at these things these days. They all walk around CPAC dressed to kill. Just why that is, I don't know. I suppose I could ask but they would probably think I'm a dirty old man.
2. There's a Fox News guy up there named Steven Crowder. I never heard of him, but I would like to strangle him. The minute he took the stage he went into that cliched "How many conservatives are out there? I can't hear you!"

After about eight CPAC's, I'm tired of that line and the many other cliches that come from the stage over and over, like the one about "American Exceptionalism," a term that was invented by a commie.

3. On the other hand, the rise of the Ron/Rand Paul liberty movement has done wonders to invigorate this debate. A few years ago, any idiot could get up on stage and rail against terrorism and the audience would go nuts - even though the idiot in question would be supporting policies of liberation that actually promote the rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

That's different today. I was at a panel on Iran the other day at which leading "neo" (i.e, "non") conservative senator Lindsay Graham was pushing the same old line.

"I've never seen our friends more afraid or our enemies more emboldened," said Graham.

So just what did that 12-year War On Terror accomplish.? Graham wasn't saying, but he made it clear he wants the war to go on for the foreseeable future.

That didn't get a rise from this crowd.

At another panel on military spending, three of the four speakers were touting the Trotskyite line about endless liberation, The fourth was Chris Preble of the Cato Institute. He got the biggest applause by far when he said that the argument for more military spending is really just a plea for more money for those disastrous nation-building exercise promoted by George W. Bush.

In the discussion, some clueless neocon on the panel actually asked him if giving up on nation-building meant a retreat from American exceptionalism - as if there is some doctrine that requires the United States military to interfere in any nation on the planet that does not offer liberty to its citizens. There have to be a hundred such countries.,

Preble made that point to applause.

More later. Sarah Palin's coming on.