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“But what does conservatism stand for today, other than opposition to President Obama?”

Damon W. Root | October 5, 2009

The Cato Institute's David Boaz had a great op-ed in yesterday's *Washington Examiner* with a little advice for today's floundering conservative movement:

But what does conservatism stand for today, other than opposition to President Obama? President Bush expanded entitlements, increased federal spending by more than a trillion dollars, federalized education, launched "nation-building" projects in two far-flung regions, and accumulated more power in the White House than any previous president.

Yet the masses assembled at the Conservative Political Action Conference chanted "Four More Years!" at him in the eighth year of his reign. Is that really a record that conservatives wanted more of?...

The trick for 21st-century American conservatives, conservatives in a country founded in libertarian revolution, is to decide which traditions are worth holding on to. I would suggest as a good first rule that we allow the natural evolution of society and market, while limiting coercive intervention into those processes.

Conservatism should make its peace with natural social change, before it loses the entire younger generation, while reaffirming its commitment to freedom and limited government.

Read the whole thing [here](#).

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Warty | 10.5.09 @ 12:57PM | #
reaffirming its commitment to freedom and limited government.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

[reply to this](#)

Isaac Bartram | 10.5.09 @ 1:08PM | #
Uh huh.

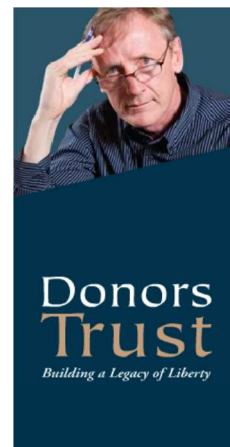
Though I didn't really LOL so much as WTF?!?!

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Jaybird | 10.5.09 @ 12:58PM | #
"But he's driving all of the right people crazy! What do you mean he's not conservative enough?"

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Attorney | 10.5.09 @ 12:58PM | #
IMO the excerpt is better than the whole piece.

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Autodidact | 10.5.09 @ 1:00PM | #
"But what does conservatism stand for today, other than opposition to President Obama?"

Best. Strawman. Ever!

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John Tagliaferro | 10.5.09 @ 1:01PM | #
"But what does conservatism stand for today, other than opposition to President Obama?"

Racism?

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Mark Twain | 10.5.09 @ 1:06PM | #
But I repeat myself!

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Hyperion | 10.5.09 @ 1:50PM | #
Or legislating moral values? My only question is... Because Huckabee jammed with Skynyrd on Fox, does that make him cool? I vote no.

[reply to this](#)

Pro Libertate | 10.5.09 @ 1:13PM | #
Limited government: It's what's for dinner!

[reply to this](#)

mark | 10.5.09 @ 1:16PM | #
Yet the masses assembled

Lost me there.

For those who don't read Drudge, I give you **Michael Bloomberg**:

We live in a world where we have to have a balance. We can't just say everybody can go everywhere and do anything they want.

[reply to this](#)

Hyperion | 10.5.09 @ 1:54PM | #
I saw that. Just the sort of statement you would expect from that nanny stater, shit for brains Bloomberg.

[reply to this](#)

mick | 10.5.09 @ 1:18PM | #
The narrative of inevitable change is how liberals have dominated society for the last several decades.

There is absolutely nothing inevitable about letting liberals run this country. It's time to stop being little bitches about this and say no to change.

[reply to this](#)

J sub D | 10.5.09 @ 1:26PM | #
But what does conservatism stand for today, other than opposition to President Obama?

We have to protect our phoney baloney jobs here, gentlemen!

[reply to this](#)

24AheadDotCom | 10.5.09 @ 1:38PM | #
Boaz is obviously an idiot. "Natural social change" is how the far-left obtains power, such as through MassiveImmigration. For an education, search through my archives.

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P.S. In case anyone replies to this, their responses will almost assuredly be ad homs, thereby conceding my points and showing the childish, anti-intellectual nature of libertarians. Dozens of comments here have shown that the phrase "fascist libertarian" isn't an oxymoron.

[reply to this](#)

Amakudari | 10.5.09 @ 1:48PM | #

And I quote:

Boaz is obviously an **idiot** ... In case anyone replies to this, their responses will almost assuredly be ad homs, thereby conceding my points and showing the **childish, anti-intellectual** nature of libertarians ... "**fascist libertarian**" isn't an oxymoron.

But seriously, ad hominem is childish.

[reply to this](#)

libertybill | 10.5.09 @ 2:02PM | #

But seriously, ad hominem is childish.

You expect LW to make any sense when he parrots Pat Buchanan's talking points?

[reply to this](#)

Warty | 10.5.09 @ 1:45PM | #

Holy shit, Lonewacko upgraded his disclaimer to a +10AC super disclaimer!

Shut the fuck up, Lonewacko.

[reply to this](#)

John | 10.5.09 @ 1:48PM | #

"Conservatism should make its peace with natural social change, before it loses the entire younger generation, while reaffirming its commitment to freedom and limited government."

So 'natural social change' is always for the better? It is never towards the more oppressive? Damon you might want to ask Europe about that. The natural social change there seems to be towards the Sharia.

Natural social change my ass. It is about affirming people's natural rights and protecting them from the government regardless of what the current social fashion is. What an idiot. How do these people manage to get jobs?

[reply to this](#)

Mike M, | 10.5.09 @ 1:59PM | #

Conservatism should make its peace with natural social change, before it loses the entire younger generation.

Political conservatism is never particularly popular with young people in any generation.

[reply to this](#)

libertybill | 10.5.09 @ 2:03PM | #

The problem is that like the Fiscal Left, the Social and Religious Right enjoys using the jackboot of government to enforce their idea morality. Like the Fiscal left, talking some sense into them is a pointless task.

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