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In 2012, who will learn the lessons of Rep. Paul's last presidential campaign?

By Paul Mulshine | April 20, 2011

In early 2007, Ron Paul was so obscure a political figure that the way to get in touch with him was to call his home phone. A long-time libertarian in New Jersey had given me the number, and I'd call him on occasion.

The subject was his proposed run for the presidency. I, and perhaps he, suspected it would be about as successful as his prior run. That was in 1988, when he was the Libertarian Party candidate and got one-half of one percent of the vote.

Every indication was that his campaign for the 2008 Republican nomination would end up the same way. Paul would be lost in the crowd. The other candidates would speak in sound bites as Paul patiently explained his philosophy in the monotone of a professor trying to get a point across to a not-so-bright student.

All that changed on May 15, 2007. The first big debate of the 2008 campaign was sponsored by Fox News. At first, the good doctor looked lost in a sea of blow-dried politicians. But then moderator Wendell Goler asked the question that launched a movement.

Maybe it was because he was trying to purge the field of the sole critic of the neoconservative foreign policy so beloved by the Fox crowd. Or maybe he was just looking for ratings. In any event, Goler adopted a prosecutorial tone as he asked Paul why he was the only candidate to oppose the Iraq War.

Professor Paul responded with a rather dry history lesson concerning conservative opposition to foreign-policy adventurism going back to the days of Robert Taft. The timer rang.

Goler persisted.

“Congressman, you don’t think that changed with the 9/11 attacks, sir?” he asked.

“What changed?” Paul said. He seemed honestly puzzled at the notion that the principles espoused by the Founders could be altered by a one-time event. Once he got Goler’s drift, though, he explained that the 9/11 attacks were “blowback” for U.S. government meddling in the Mideast.

“They attacked us because we’ve been over there,” Paul said. “We’ve been bombing Iraq for 10 years.”

That sent the front-runner into a frenzy. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani demanded time to repeat the talking point around which his entire campaign was based. “That’s an extraordinary statement as someone who lived through September 11 that we invited the attack because we were attacking Iraq,” said Giuliani. “I don’t think I’ve ever heard that before, and I’ve heard some pretty absurd explanations for September 11th.”

The audience erupted in applause. Talking heads all over America started chattering about the biggest gaffe of the campaign. They pronounced the campaign over for Paul.

It was just the beginning. Paul knew something the pundits didn’t: there’s a strong strain of support in America for what traditional conservatives call “noninterventionism” and neoconservatives call “isolationism.”

Six months later I saw the result up close. On a November Saturday, Paul had scheduled a rally not far from my office at the *Star-Ledger* of New Jersey. My libertarian friends had told me about it, so I drove over, expecting to see the usual hundred or so hard-core anti-statists huddled around their hero.

When I got there, I was shocked. There had to be 5,000 people crowding the mall. Guys in business suits. Hipsters with nose rings. Vietnam vets wearing hats identifying their units. It was a political Woodstock. I half-expected Arlo Guthrie to get up there and proclaim, “The New York Thruway’s closed, man!”—except that the rally was being held in Philadelphia. Sandwiched between the Liberty Bell and the Federal Reserve building, Paul gave a speech that reflected on each symbol.

Something big was happening here, but it didn’t make the news. I discovered why at a press conference scheduled to take place in a nearby Holiday Inn. When I showed up at the appointed time, I saw a podium and microphone on one end and coffee and donuts on the other. But there was no press, just me and a couple guys from weekly newspapers out in the sticks. There was a TV station just down the street. A few blocks away was the building that houses the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News*. But no reporters had shown up, and no one on the staff seemed to have heard about the press conference they’d scheduled.

I figured I’d just get a few quotes from the candidate on my own. But when I started to interview Paul, I was rudely interrupted by a campaign staffer who told me the media would have to clear out because campaign contributors were coming in.

I’ve been covering politics since 1975, and this was the single most amateurish stunt I’d seen. It’s standard practice for any campaign to list events in the Associated Press Daybook, a compendium of events that editors rely on when assigning reporters. Most campaigns also send out emails to the usual suspects in the media. The Paul staffers did neither.

When I wrote about it afterward, I got emails from Paul supporters in places like New Hampshire who had similar stories of staff incompetence. The problem wasn’t lack of funds. The candidate’s young supporters had begun those “money bombs” by then. They raised \$4 million in just one day in early November. But in an interview with *Roll Call* that week, Paul said he had no plans to hire professional consultants.

Paul was, in other words, going to run a third-party campaign in a major-party primary. The results were what you’d expect. As the crucial New Hampshire primary approached, the Paul campaign was doing a miserable job getting its message across. Paul’s TV commercials had him stressing his opposition to the war, which according to polls won him the support of

the most liberal of the Republican primary voters. But he did little to stress the voting record that consistently ranked him among the most conservative of congressmen.

Meanwhile the campaign continued to keep events off the all-important Daybook, thus overlooking the most important aspect of any campaign event. Even the most successful events attract a mere handful of voters. The idea is to leverage the event with a sound bite or photo op that reaches tens of thousands. That idea was lost on his staff.

Meanwhile Giuliani was plummeting in the polls. Joe Biden quipped that a typical Giuliani sentence was “a noun, a verb and 9/11.” That pretty much summed up the staleness of not just Giuliani’s campaign but of the entire mainstream GOP. The candidates seemed to believe that if they repeated the word “terrorism” enough, the voters would forget about an economy that was worsening by the month.

That version of the Republican Party blew up with the housing bubble and John McCain’s loss to Barack Obama. What takes its place remains to be seen. Perhaps we got a preview at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington in February.

CPAC represents the traditional tryout for presidential wannabes, and this year didn’t disappoint. Most of the usual suspects were there. They fell into two groups. The mainstream candidates—Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and the like—devoted their speeches to Obama-bashing, always good for applause. They promised balanced budgets without mentioning just what they would cut.

That was left to Paul and his son Rand, also a doctor and also a “constitutional conservative,” the label the two are employing these days. I don’t know who thought that term up, but it’s a lot more marketable than “libertarian.” Say “libertarian” to the typical American, and he’ll ask why you favor legalizing pot and prostitution.

A constitutional conservative, by comparison, sounds like someone ready to take on weightier issues, such as how to address the deficits created by the Bush and Obama administrations. And the new U.S. Senator from Kentucky did so when he got up before an audience made up mostly of young people who’d lined the halls to get into his speech.

For them, the red-meat issue was not war but the question of all the bills that the baby-boom generation will be handing the younger generation. The senator didn’t disappoint. He blasted the cuts proposed by Republicans in Congress as insignificant, saying they would still permit a \$3 trillion growth in the deficit over the next five years.

To balance the budget, he said, you have to go after the big-ticket items: entitlements and military spending. “You cannot say that the doubling of the military budget in last 10 years has all been spent wisely and there’s not any waste in it,” Paul said. The round of applause he got seemed to surprise even him.

The kids were still in the room when outgoing American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene committed what was either a huge blunder or a calculated move to embarrass the Paul supporters, depending on who you asked. The applause for Rand Paul had barely ended when Keene brought out Donald Rumsfeld to receive a “Defender of the Constitution” award.

That would be an odd choice under the best of circumstances, given the fact that the people Rumsfeld liberated in Iraq repaid the favor by killing 5,000 or so American soldiers. Before this audience, it was incendiary, especially when Dick Cheney walked out to engage in what was supposed to have been some happy talk with Rumsfeld. One kid yelled “war criminal.” Another yelled “draft dodger”—just before Cheney went into an anecdote about some interaction he and Rummy had back in Washington back in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War.

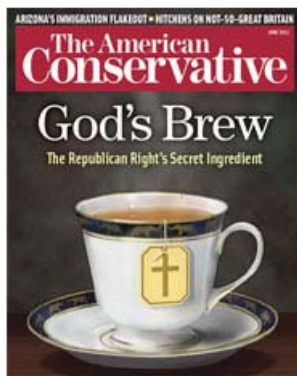
Nothing like this had happened at CPAC before, and the Beltway pundits couldn’t figure out whether this was an aberration or a trend. Even at this late date, the mainstream media haven’t figured out the difference between conservatives and neocons. As for the potential presidential candidates not named Paul, they’re doing their best to ignore it. Once the debates get going, though, the question of whether it’s really a good idea to have our military literally all over the map will be brought up by “the liberty candidate.”

“The liberty candidate” is the guy both Pauls urged the CPAC crowd to support in the GOP primary. But just who will that be? I put in a call to Jesse Benton to find out. Benton is Ron Raul’s political director (and son-in-law). He was also directed Rand Paul’s successful 2010 Senate campaign. So he’s in a unique position to know which Paul will be running.

“Ron’s deliberating and we can see him making his decision in the next month to six weeks, early summer at the latest,” said Benton of the elder Paul, who will turn 76 in August. If Ron doesn’t run, Rand will “consider his options,” said Benton.

Benton worked on the 2008 campaign, and he admits its shortcomings. “Ron kind of had to go to battle with the army he had,” said Benton. “The team was all people who were very hard-working, but it was a team you could get when expected to be a 2-3 percenter.”

Those “money bombs” were great, he recalled, but much of the money came in on Dec. 16, 2007—“Tea Party Day” in Massachusetts. The \$6 million raised that day set records. But the money arrived less than three weeks before the New Hampshire primary, Benton recalls. Too late for television advertising. “If Ron were to run again he would put a big focus on raising the money up front,” said Benton.



This article appears in the
June 2011 issue.

If Ron, or Rand, were to run, he’d have a ready audience in all of those tea-party people whose movement got its start with that money bomb. The tea-party types actually like listening to lectures about fiscal responsibility. Early in the 2008 campaign, Paul seemed to bore even his base with all that talk about the Federal Reserve. It sounded esoteric.

Once the financial bubble burst, though, monetary policy was a hot topic among conservatives. Throw in trillion-dollar deficits and the Fed’s policy of “quantitative easing” in the years since, and suddenly every candidate’s sounding like that guy who was denouncing the Fed in Philly four years ago.

And consider this quote on foreign policy: “We shouldn’t go to war so carelessly. When we do, the wars don’t end.”

Did Haley Barbour say that just the other day? Probably. But Ron said it first, in that Fox News debate four years ago when the Republicans were ready to run him out of town on a rail. That same rail will be a crowded one this year. And I for one can’t wait to see who is on it.

Paul Mulshine is an opinion columnist for the Newark Star-Ledger.

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30 Responses to “Running Like Ron”

1. **LARRY OLAUGHLIN**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 2:02 pm](#) Said:

The Constitutional Conservitave title was an excellant idea.I noticed Michelle Bachman immediatly latched on to after Rand started using it.So unfourtantly the odds are the neocons will begin to dilute Rand’s correct interpretation

2. **Thomas O. Meehan**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 2:04 pm](#) Said:

Paul Mushine is in my opinion, one of the best right of center journalists writing today. He combines old fashioned journalistic practice with a fine and amusing prose style.

How he does it in New Jersey is mystery.

3. **Concerned American**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 4:44 pm](#) Said:

Here's some free advice for Ron Paul or anyone else who will take it up. If a Republican really wants to break through the media fog and people's normal inattention, then it is necessary to stand loud and clear for preserving and promoting the wages of native-born American workers. That means favoring strict border and immigration control, including throwing out illegal aliens and their anchor babies and reducing legal immigration to a trickle. I would also recommend nearly eliminating student visas, because those just become an argument for letting the student stay now that he's so educated. Educate Americans instead! It also means promoting any policy necessary to ensure that in the aggregate America does not buy more from foreigners than it sells to foreigners. In fact, it has to start buying less than it sells to make a dent in its trade deficits. If that means a tariff, so be it. The Republicans have to make a credible case that they are for stopping the floods of imported goods and imported people. Failure to do either leaves huge potential constituencies unsure about whom to choose, and there's a good chance they might choose BO again by default.

4. **beowulf**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 7:19 pm](#) Said:

Constitutional conservatives should make common cause with the Modern Monetary Theory chartalists (of which I'm definitely a fellow traveler) by advocating that the Federal Reserve be placed under the Secretary of the Treasury. Whether Tsy then sets monetary policy based on gold prices or by focusing on inflation, unemployment or anything else is at the discretion of the President who appoints the Secretary. And ultimately, who gets to be President is at the discretion of the American people.

Frankly, I'd rather be governed by the policies of an elected President I disagree with for 4 years with than the policies of an unelected Fed board of governors (with their 14 year terms) even though I agree with them most of the time. If we can trust our Presidents not to blow up the world, I think we can trust them not to blow up the currency.

So what has to change? Congress could pass a one page bill amending two subsections of the US Code.

1. Give Tsy power to create interest-free money for govt spending. This could be done by deleting subsection "b" of the US Notes statute (31 USC 5115), which limits US Notes in circulation to \$300 million and their use as reserves. The remaining subsection "a" allows the Secretary to issue US currency notes in the form (so paper or electronic) and denomination he prescribes (of course he can't spend anything without congressional appropriation). A balanced budget simply means Tsy is destroying the same number of dollars with taxes as its creating with spending. We can disagree whether that's a good idea or not, but when Congress does pass budgets with deficit spending, there's no reason taxpayers should have to pay \$5 trillion (per CBO projection) in debt service over the next decade for the right to borrow their own money.

http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/31/usc_sec_31_00005115---000-.html

2. Amend Federal Reserve Act to squarely place Federal Reserve under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, most easily by Congress striking from Sect. 10.6 (12 USC 246) the words between the asterisks

*"any power vested by this Act in the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal reserve agent *** appears to conflict with the powers of the Secretary of the Treasury, such powers*** shall be exercised subject to the supervision and control of the Secretary."*

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/aboutthefed/section%2010.htm>

As for what the Secretary does with this "supervision and control" of the Fed, well, that's why we have elections.

5. **jsmith**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 7:43 pm](#) Said:

Slowly but surely the word is getting out!

6. **Mad Doc MacRae**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 8:05 pm](#) Said:

@Thomas Meehan,

His coverage of New Jersey politics is even better than his national coverage. The only real reason I read the star ledger at breakfast.

7. **Big Lesson**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 9:03 pm](#) Said:

One big lesson of the Ron Paul candidacy is to not stand by grinning politely as you are shouted down by the neocons.

Our Israel problem has to be addressed frontally this time. No more euphemisms. no more vague references to “our foreign policy”. We’re well past the point where we can afford the luxury of civility on this subject.

What is easily our most damaging foreign relationship must be ended.

8. **[Thomas O. Meehan](#)**, on [April 20th, 2011 at 10:09 pm](#) Said:

Mad Doc MacRae,
Hell, I moved out of NJ and still read him.

9. **[Tex Tradd](#)**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 2:07 am](#) Said:

Since it is looking like the Good Doctor is going to run, the big question this time is whether the campaign staff and the Ron Paul grassroots will create a synergy. The money-bombs paid for the training of many hundreds or thousands of activists via the Campaign for Liberty org. There is a real possibility of a Goldwater-style youthful insurgency using social media to catalyze thousands of volunteers in Iowa and New Hampshire. While the latter seems a better fit with the Ron Paul message, the 2008 results there were disappointing.

When Paul came to Austin during that election cycle, a huge throng of students, many thousands strong, came out. He is the only candidate on the Right that has this kind of appeal. The 2008 campaign staff were not prepared for the massive groundswell of support. But the Campaign for Liberty can use Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to reach millions of people to show up and flood the GOP. If that happens in Iowa and New Hampshire, the momentum may overwhelm the Establishment.

Ron Paul supporters should remember to be, like their hero, polite, not insulting, and should assume their opponents are fellow concerned citizens arguing in good faith. Yes, neo-con foreign policy has led to disaster, but neo-cons have also contributed to the anti-communist struggle, and helped to focus attention of intellectuals on illegitimacy rates, welfare, and crime. Birthers, anti-Zionist obsessives, Black Helicopter spotters, and angry radicals with weapons turn off regular folks worried about the mortgage, school quality, and American decline. I hope Jack Hunter is reading this: the movement needs to keep the fringe from defining the message.

10. **[TP Middy](#)**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 9:22 am](#) Said:

Dr. Paul has patiently (and now successfully) mainstreamed several important facts and ideas. The reason for this long-deferred success is that he is right, and that the truth eventually “will out”.

The string of accomplished and unfolding disasters in the Middle East is at least grounds for hope that Paul’s take on foreign policy – pure George Washington – will be the next suppressed truth to take hold in the popular mind. Keep reminding us that we are Americans, Ron, not Romans.

@Tradd: No need to give neocons credit or thanks for their Cold War conversion: as amply documented in many neocon writings, it was done in the interest of Israel and Soviet Jewry. The real “obsessives” are those “Americans” whose reflexive, overriding concern is “is it good for Israel?”. We are living with the disastrous consequences of their policies, and Paul must continue to address that.

11. **[Brian](#)**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 11:32 am](#) Said:

Nonetheless, Tradd is correct.

Widen the tent. Then Paul can win.

It’s no use being a radical quivering ball of humanity, and then just losing over and over again, basting in the faux satisfaction of “being right.” That attitude, which is ridiculously prevalent in the Libertarian movement, must stop.

I have never seen a group of people more politically astute and politically stupid at the same time. That is to say: astute in their views and facts on policy, and stupid about persuading people to join them.

12. [The American Spectator : AmSpecBlog : Since Gary Johnson's Running](#), on [April 21st, 2011 at 12:17 pm](#) Said:

[...] He might want to take a look at Paul Mulshine's advice. [...]

13. **Tex Tradd**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 4:53 pm](#) Said:

@TP Middy “No need to give neocons credit or thanks for their Cold War conversion: as amply documented in many neocon writings, it was done in the interest of Israel and Soviet Jewry.”

A more high minded and less reductive approach would be to acknowledge that while many leftists were sadly slow to recognize the atrocities and overall degraded character of the Communist era (not sure if Sartre ever recanted his support), eventually the work of Solzhenitsyn and others changed people’s minds. It is fair to note that concern for the fate of one’s co-ethnics hastened this shift, but to reduce the neo-con’s embrace of the anti-Communist position to mere tribal solidarity strikes me as simplistic.

“The real “obsessives” are those “Americans” whose reflexive, overriding concern is “is it good for Israel?”

Israel is part of Western Civilization and should be supported and defended, though the settlements should be stopped. The story of the enigmatic origins of Christianity lay in it’s caves and sands, and Israel can be relied to protect sacred sites there better than the anti-Western wing of Islam, which might take power without the support of the US.

I am not excusing the sometimes brutal excesses of Zionism, of which there are many, nor turning a blind eye to the distorting influence of pro-Zionist lobbies on our politics. But it would likely be a disaster for the West if Israel were to succumb to it’s enemies.

14. **Publius Cato**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 7:47 pm](#) Said:

Tradd, I understand your point and sometimes the “radicals” make me facepalm. But even taking your view, the fact is neo-cons are, at best, ideological dinosaurs with a poor grasp on reality. They are dead wrong on foreign policy. Their views of crime, welfare and illegitimate births are out-dated. Their views of central government have no difference from the progressive-democrats. Their understanding of government is Lincoln hogwash driven by buzzwords like “democracy” and “equality”. Conservatism is not an ideology, there should be no belief that X is a universal good or right or whatever. In terms of social-economic-political norms, they are contextual, driven by prudence, experience, and a sense of humility. The Neo-Cons lack all of these.

15. **NY Teacher**, on [April 21st, 2011 at 10:25 pm](#) Said:

Seems like many here — including the well-meaning, but wishful, author — are inhaling the libertarian “pot.” Neither of the true-conservative Pauls will be ALLOWED to run successfully! Short of a revolution, the likes of Paul(s) will be snuffed out — like Buchanan was 15 years ago.

NeoCons rule!

16. **Horace DuPont**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 3:39 am](#) Said:

If Ron Paul runs again he won’t do much better than he did the last time around. Although Paul is good on a couple of issues, such as his non-interventionism he is also very bad on some of the most important issues. Let us not forget that Paul is an ideological libertarian although a registered Republican.

Ron Paul believes in free trade and would oppose tariffs and protectionist efforts. Paul would allow US corporations to continue exporting jobs overseas. He is against the minimum wage. Although Paul claims to be opposed to illegal immigration, as a Libertarian would he actually do anything about it? And Legalize drugs? A terrible idea I say.

We must not become single issue demagogues. Granted Ron Paul has a couple of valid points, he does not have my support in any capacity. I prefer to weigh all of the issues together. All in all, I don’t care for Ron Paul.

17. **Publius Cato**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 3:16 pm](#) Said:

Horace:

Call me a skeptic about the whole need for tariffs? Ask yourself, how much of the problems with American manufacture are caused by NIMBY assholes who obstruct business at every turn because building or expanding a factory might shorten someones like by a few hours. In addition, there is a very strong argument that what manufacturing exists in the US is bloated on military contracts and unable to compete with foreign firms.

18. **Divinryan**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 8:25 pm](#) Said:

Rock on Ron Paul, though I'm on Gary Johnson's 2012 war wagon. We could use his common sense, business approach to constitutionally limited, fiscally accountable government. And most importantly he believes in individual freedom.

19. **Jay Edgar**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 8:30 pm](#) Said:

Paul's may not ever be able to get electoral success, but he has kicked off a libertarian movement. When I first got involved in libertarian politics 15 years ago it was nothing but white old men involved. Thanks to Ron Paul, there are more people in the libertarian movement than ever before. I'm seeing a wide variety of ages, sexes, and nationalities embracing libertarian beliefs. There are multiple libertarian organizations that are all growing. I think it was both because of Ron Paul and because of the huge absurd growth of government under Bush and Obama.

20. **Sean Scallon**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 8:41 pm](#) Said:

Good article although I must say better staff work might have helped a little bit, the candidate deserves some criticism for not making enough appearances in Iowa and New Hampshire compared to his rivals (although to be fair some of them didn't have day jobs and could campaign in those states as often as they like.) Still, in states where retail politics is important, Paul has to display his good skills as a retail politician if he is to be successful in 2012.

21. **JakeJ**, on [April 22nd, 2011 at 11:10 pm](#) Said:

In eight months either interest rates will be way up or the dollar will be way down – the economy will be job one for the 2012 elections. By that time, it will be more than apparent that no half measures will solve our problems.

Who will the primary voters choose – bombastic Trump, dull everyone else led by Romney, or steady honest Ron Paul?

Hmm!

22. **daddydave**, on [April 23rd, 2011 at 3:13 pm](#) Said:

The Titanic has already hit the iceberg and you are all standing around trying to elect a new captain. You can re-arrange the deck chairs all you want but...this sucker's going down.

23. **Libertarian**, on [April 24th, 2011 at 4:11 pm](#) Said:

“And Legalize drugs? A terrible idea I say.”

I completely agree. Let's keep them illegal, and keep throwing our citizens into jail. If we keep doing that, people will stop using drugs. If we legalized and taxed them it would probably be the end of America. Even more so than if gay marriage were legalized.

24. **Ink Cartridge Sam**, on [April 25th, 2011 at 11:51 am](#) Said:

Of course the problem is getting Paul past the primaries. I simply imagine any of the current GOP frontrunners winning an election against Obama, and frankly I'd prefer Obama over any of them. Paul is the only possible candidate on the table right now that I think independents would vote for.

25. **MG**, on [April 25th, 2011 at 12:29 pm](#) Said:

I would be happy to vote Ron Paul in 2012

26. [The American Conservative » Ron Paul Runs](#), on [April 26th, 2011 at 9:01 am](#) Said:

[...] the current American Conservative, Paul Mulshine looks at the lessons of Ron Paul's 2008 run and how they apply to 2012. Not only is Paul's [...]

27. **Joe Joseph**, on [April 26th, 2011 at 9:33 am](#) Said:

This article about Ron Paul was informative. I don't care to play in the neo-conservative playpen which is the current Republican Party. Corporate ownership of the media coupled with demographic reality make Dr. Paul a marginal candidate at best. While disgusted with the inept and weak Obama, he is likely to win a general election against a truly divided "republican party". The "republican" candidate will be decided not by the people but the corporations. The same remains true of Obama. An interesting factoid is that President Obama received huge donations from Goldman-Sachs and other Wall Street oligarchs. With the start of the depression I believed Obama would purge these economic terrorists but NOTHING.

We need to be honest about the demographic of the average "republican" voter; they are aging whites who know something seriously wrong has happened to their country but fear the true answer. America has deindustrialised and people cannot seem to understand that if America does not regain it's industrial power it will go the way of Rome.

The last honest Republican was Pat Buchanan and corporate America did not like his prescription(s). Anyone who thinks that they can obtain objective "news" on FOX is either naive or simply too partisan to gain true insight.

Now more than ever paleo conservatives need to form a Nationalist Party that maintains the social safety net, withdraws from foreign adventures and has a sound industrial policy for the United States and perhaps Canada and Europe.

Foreign debt needs to be retired and I would favor a VAT as a dedicated fund to pay off our Chinese "trade partners".

Pats book "A Republic not an Empire" should go into reprint. My well worn copy has been read by almost all of my relatives who now know the truth. The Republican and Democratic Party no longer serve the aspirations of middle class America.

Time to smell the coffee folks.

28. **Viking**, on [April 26th, 2011 at 2:56 pm](#) Said:

Trad there is persecution of Christians (some of it violent) by Jews in Israel as well, particularly of Arab Christians. This is not to say that things would be better for them under the rule of the likes of Hamas, but if one is looking at the Holy Land in terms of Christian identity modern Jews are simply a lesser evil.

29. [Revving Up for the Ron Paul Run - Hit & Run : Reason Magazine](#), on [May 4th, 2011 at 11:47 am](#) Said:

[...] Doherty | May 4, 2011 American Conservative has in its June issue an interesting survey of why Ron Paul should be a serious GOP's choice and hitting on some of what author Paul Mulshine sees as the mistakes and [...]

30. [The American Conservative » Paul Caps his Congressional Career](#), on [July 13th, 2011 at 10:59 am](#) Said:

[...] up time, resources, and staff for campaigning." Paul thus has an opportunity to avoid the mistakes of his 2008 campaign and deliver his message through a more focused and professional organization. [...]

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