

Rand Paul aligns with college crowd

It is no surprise that college campuses are filled with young people who are overwhelmingly supportive of liberal policies and, in turn, supportive of democrats.

One can only imagine how many Bearcats align with democratic candidates, notably Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders.

Furthermore, recent remarks made by businessman Donald Trump have turned off many young and ethnic voters from even considering candidates from the Republican Party, further hindering any appeal republicans once had. But one candidate is doing just the opposite.

Republican Senator Rand Paul has taken a note from his father's playbook on libertarianism, combining it with a conservative base, leading him to describe himself as a "constitutional conservative," something that could appeal to youth more than ever.

Really packing a punch, Rand Paul has aggressively come out against the NSA and the Patriot Act. Rand has repeatedly said that he disapproves of the government spying on U.S. citizens by reading emails, phone history and social media posts—even after they have been "deleted."

Literally standing by his word, Rand filibustered on the Senate floor for nearly 11 hours in late May, successfully blocking reauthorization of the Patriot Act.

Rand's tax plan has accumulated attention because it sets out to purge over 70,000 pages of the tax code, replacing it with one low income tax rate of 14.5 percent for everyone. Rand has also proposed a Balanced Budget Amendment, saying, "Currently some \$3 trillion comes into the U.S. Treasury. Couldn't the country just survive on \$3 trillion?" He

proposed cuts across the board, believing local and state governments can manage certain areas better than the federal government and that they understand citizens better than some unelected gray-suited bureaucrat.

Perhaps Rand's greatest libertarian stance is privatization of marriage. Amid controversy surrounding the Supreme Court's rulings on gay marriage and Kim Davis, Rand has taken a stance that government has become too intrusive in citizens' lives, proclaiming government should not oversee marriage.

He declared during the first G.O.P. debate, "I don't want my marriage or my guns registered in Washington."

The logic behind this libertarian principle is that two consenting adults should be able to contract an agreement, including a marriage—heterosexual or homosexual—without government regulating, legislating and profiting off of it. It is nobody's business, especially not the government's, what people are doing in their spare time when it does not hurt others.

Following that logic is why Rand is the most vocal member of the G.O.P. calling for criminal justice reform, in order to break the cycle of incarceration for nonviolent crimes.

In the second G.O.P. debate, Rand accused former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush of hypocrisy for believing that medicinal marijuana should not be legalized, yet admitted to smoking pot in high school. Rand justly said that Bush's ideas over marijuana would not only be detrimental to patients who need medicinal marijuana, but would also excessively target poorer Americans. He said to Bush, "In the current circumstances, kids who had privilege like you [Bush] do, don't

go to jail, but the poor kids in our inner cities go to jail."

In regards to actually being a constitutional conservative, Rand has said that if you want someone who will wait for Congressional approval before sending troops abroad, and someone who will always use diplomacy before sending troops abroad, he is your candidate.

Boasting his libertarian non-interventionist stance during the second debate, he said, "If you want boots on the ground, and you want them to be our sons and daughters, you've got 14 other choices. There will always be a Bush or Clinton for you if you want to go back to war in Iraq."

Unfortunately, Rand is not getting much media attention due to Trump's incoherent ramblings, as well as a plethora of other problems mainstream media present. In May, Fox News left Rand out when reporting a Quinnipiac University poll that showed Rand garnering 7 percent of votes, despite them showing four other candidates who received 5 percent or lower. Media acts as a watchdog and to presume that mainstream media does not censor issues, contain bias or sway politics is ignorant.

The very idea present in many voters' minds that Rand cannot win because of low polling is quite fatuous. Right now, polling is hardly indicative of anything; truthfully, polling is only indicative of who has the spotlight this very moment. For now, it is Trump. Do not assume any candidate is in or out until it is over.

Rand Paul has what it takes to be the commander-in-chief. If only people started realizing it.

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