Support for the Tea Party from an Academic

Angelo Codevilla's new book: the anger is legitimate

RARE IS THE professor whose latest book can boast a gushing introduction by Rush Limbaugh. But when the book sides with the Tea Party movement, it’s perhaps inevitable that it will attract the attention of one of the country’s preeminent conservative commentators. The volume, by Angelo Codevilla, a College of Arts & Sciences international relations professor emeritus, earned Limbaugh’s endorsement by making the Tea Party case “more soberly, bluntly and constructively than anyone else has done,” according to a New York Times reviewer.

The Ruling Class: How They Corrupted America and What We Can Do About It (Beaufort Books, 2010) argues that an elite, bipartisan “Ruling Class”—comprising Democratic politicians and voters, Republican political leaders, and government bureaucrats—has overtaxed, overregulated, and scorned the “Country Class” or “Country Party,” Codevilla’s term for all those who dissent from the Ruling Class’ views. Rather than serve the common good, he writes, modern liberalism’s government programs serve well-connected special interests.

With several Tea Party–backed candidates in the new Congress, you’d think Codevilla would be gleeful. But he outlines more ambitious goals than cutting federal spending and taxes. The Country Class can only reassert itself, he says, by recapturing a civic involvement and self-governance that it has ceded to bureaucrats. He points out that there were 117,000 school boards in 1940; today, they have congealed into just 15,000 school districts, giving Americans less chance “to exercise responsibilities similar to their grandparents” in running schools.

But Codevilla says it’s not certain that either the Republican Party or the larger Country Party is willing to take up the burdens of citizenship “that their fathers and mothers laid down a generation ago—meaning service in local government and doing without some of the entitlements and administrative agencies that have come to characterize our lives. The differences between the agendas of the Republican and Democratic parties are really more apparent than they are real.”

And he takes issue with the liberal argument that the poor and working class suffered when the government interfered less in the private sector. “If that were the case,” he says, “why did millions of immigrants come to this supposed vale of tears and exploitation? This country was, because of its lack of regulation, a place where people could own what they earned and do what they wished with it.”

BU Poised to Impact Cancer Research

Cross-campus collaboration nets $2 million NIH nanomedicine grant

The National Cancer Institute’s Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer has tapped a multidisciplinary research team, comprising members of the Charles River and Medical Campuses, to launch a training center to help grow the next generation of nanomedicine researchers in cancer. The announcement comes with a five-year, $2 million grant.

An offshoot of nanotechnology, nanomedicine is medical intervention at the molecular scale for treating disease or repairing damaged tissues. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter, too small to be seen through a conventional laboratory microscope. Biological molecules and structures inside living cells typically operate at less than 100 nanometers.

Harnessing nanoparticles to deliver drugs, heat, light, or other substances to specific cells could dramatically alter the future of diagnoses, prognoses, and treatments for a range of diseases. Traditional chemotherapy, for example, is delivered through the vein and exposes the entire body to its potent effects.

“If you can deliver chemotherapy specifically to sites, you not only concentrate the chemotherapy at the site of the tumor, but decrease the side effects and off-target effects,” says Douglas Faller, a School of Medicine professor, director of the BU Cancer Center, and one of the grant’s primary investigators. “We’re taking a very blunt instrument, systemic chemotherapy, and turning it into a targeted approach.”

In 2009, cancer was responsible for more than 550,000 deaths in the United States, according to the researchers. New diagnoses in 2010 were anticipated to top 1.5 million and deaths to come close to 570,000, with projections growing as the population ages.

The $2 million training center grant, distributed under the umbrella of the National Institutes of Health, will allow BU graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to train in research labs focused on developing diagnostic and therapeutic tools for various types of cancer, from purification
of micro RNAs—molecules that play an important role in gene regulation—to the development of noninvasive imaging and detection of cancer cells. The center will be called the Boston University Center for Cross-Disciplinary Training in Nanotechnology for Cancer.

A new cross-disciplinary course, Introduction to Nanomedicine, has also been developed and will be cotaught by faculty from both physical and life sciences and engineering, as well as by medical researchers.

BU’s multidisciplinary research effort, known as the Nanomedicine Initiative, brings together the Charles River Campus Center for Nanoscience and Nanobiotechnology with the Medical Campus’ Cancer Center, Evans Center, and the MED department of medicine. CD

Angelo Codevilla, a CAS professor emeritus of international relations, derides America’s “Ruling Class.”

Iconic ’60s Band Barry and the Remains Honored

Back when LBJ was president and the war we worried about was in Vietnam and most TV sets were black-and-white, four kids from BU who met as residents of Myles Standish Hall formed a garage rock band called Barry and the Remains. For two meteoric years, starting in 1964, their polished performing packed Kenmore Square’s iconic rock club, the Rathskeller, earning them an appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, an album deal, and a job fronting for the Beatles’ last U.S. tour. Then, as suddenly as it began, it was over: the Remains disbanded in 1966. “The flame burned out,” says Barry, aka Barry Tashian, lead vocalist and guitarist. “That was the time to quit.”

The group came home December 5 to be inducted into the Boston Music Awards Hall of Fame and to perform their staples—including “Why Do I Cry” and “Don’t Look Back”—at the ceremony held at Boston’s Liberty Hotel.

For Tashian (CGS’65), the moment mixed pride with a question often raised by admirers and interviewers: what might the group have achieved had it stayed together? “Something like this does not happen very often, so we’re delighted and grateful,” he says of being inducted. Yet the band’s abbreviated life may have cost it a more prominent spot in rock’s firmament, suggests one music writer. “Had these Boston bad boys stuck it out,” he speculates, “we might today be calling them—and not the Stones—the World’s Greatest Rock ‘n’ Roll Band.”

“Who knows,” says Tashian. “If we had scored a mammoth hit in 1966, there’s a chance that we might not be here today, given the hazards of the road.”

In any event, posterity did excavate the Remains. Since the 1990s, group members have reunited periodically for gigs, including some in Germany, France, England, Spain, and the Netherlands. In 2002, the band released Movin’ On, its second album and the first since its heyday debut. The Remains were also the subject of a 2004 off-Broadway play, All Good Things, and a 2009 documentary, America’s Lost Band.

The band’s members migrated to new lives after their breakup. Vern Miller (CFA’69) is a retired music teacher, Bill Briggs (CGS’66) sold Audis at his Massachusetts dealership before retiring, and Chip Damiani (SED’64) owns a Connecticut construction firm.

Tashian remained a performer—he spent the ’80s as a vocalist and strummer with Emmylou Harris’ band—and records country-bluegrass music with his wife, Holly. The two live in Nash- ville. RB

Spencer Beekham

“Lost” BU group inducted into Boston Music Awards Hall of Fame

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