

The Conservative Youth Movement

Prepared by the Roosevelt Institution, May 2006

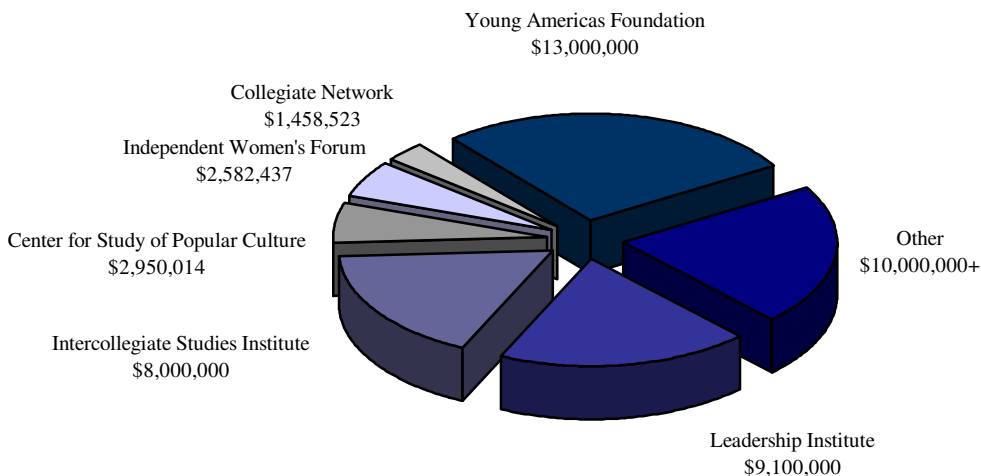
Overview

- The Right has recognized a central truth: that *funding student [political] activism and journalism is an investment in the future* of the conservative movement.
- Their focus on the development of youth activism has helped to build a network of research institutions, academic fellowships and scholarly journals aiding the conservative movement.
- A key component in successfully building this infrastructure has been financial resources provided by foundations and other conservative organizations.
- In addition to receiving a considerable amount of funding from conservative foundations and trusts, these organizations are supported by a well-documented plethora of individual conservative donors.

Funding of the Right-Wing

- Conservative youth organizations have an annual operating budget totaling over **\$40million**.
- A few key organizations in this group have been well established for many years and sustained by steady pattern of giving by key donors.
- In turn, they have yielded a new and dynamic generation of conservative leaders such as: Anthony Scalia, William F. Buckley, Karl Rove and Ann Coulter.
- The majority of funds are densely concentrated amongst 8 major organizations: Young Americas Foundation, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Young Americans for Freedom, the Leadership Institute, Center for the Study of Popular Culture, Independent Women's Forum and the Collegiate Network.

Current Funding of the Conservative Youth Movement



*Other includes: College Republican National Committee, Young Americans for Freedoms, the Federalist Society, and youth programs at conservative organizations.

Mission and Purpose

The following conservative organizations fund the activities of college students, helping them to establish ties within the conservative network, concurrently cultivating a new generation of leaders.

The Young America's Foundation

Mission: "to develop the leadership skills of young American men and women, and to educate them in the principles of Ronald Reagan."

Time Magazine proclaimed that YAF is the "largest advocacy group" devoted to advancing conservative ideas to college and high school students and is "making quick advances on even the most liberal college campus."

Last year YAF facilitated bringing over **200 conservative speakers** to campuses across America.

YAF's National Journalism Center has produced over **1,400 conservative authors**, who have published over **100 books**.

Continued Expansion: The Svobodas family presented a **\$2.5million** donation to YAF to aid the Regan Leadership Academy.

Annual Operating Budget: \$13,000,000

Intercollegiate Student Institute (ISI)

Mission: offers students on different campuses a chance to work together to develop a more cohesive unified conservative movement. Since it's founding in 1950, ISI has spread to over 900 campuses with a membership composed of more than 50,000 students and faculty.

Alumnae of ISI include **Justice Antonin Scalia** and **William F. Buckley**.

Big money: ISI gives conservative groups at Yale University nearly *twice* as much money as Yale gives to *all student groups combined*. SI donor, the Olin Foundation, has given \$295,000 to the *Dartmouth Review* alone.

Annual Operating Budget: \$8,000,000

The Leadership Institute

Mission: to provide specialized training facilities for thousands of college campus conservatives with hopes of them pursuing a career in government.

The institute offers inexpensive job training ranging from instruction to actual job placement in areas of journalism, polling and campaigning.

Political alumnae include **Senator Mitch McConnell** and former Virginia **Governor Jim Gilmore**.

Nationally, nearly **200 alumni** went on to become **state legislators** and more than **300 alumni** have worked as **staff members on Capitol Hill**.

Last year the institute had a record 3,562 graduates.

Annual Operating Budget: \$9,100,00

Young American's for Freedom

Mission: to train a new generation of conservative leaders

The national office organizes large-scale PR campaigns to combat liberal stances.

The National Board is credited with leading the national charge to impeach Attorney General Janet Reno.

Its most recent activities have been demonstrations against affirmative action and left-wing campus speakers.

A great number of conservative political figures such as **Dan Quayle**, **Karl Rove** and **Rep. Tomcredo (R, CO)** began their political career as YAF members

Annual Operating Budget Undisclosed

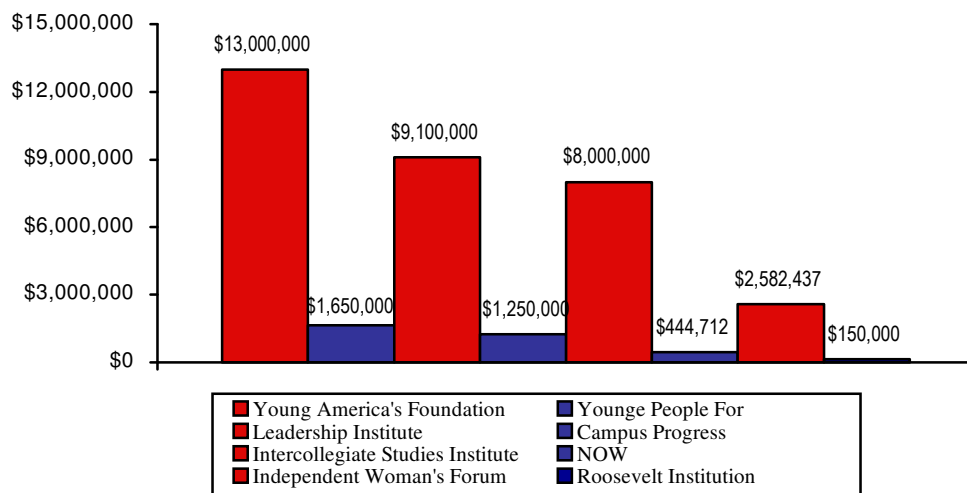
Progressive Organizations: Dwindling Numbers and Budgets

While the Right is making huge strides in funding the conservative youth movement, liberal-minded organizations are being stifled by financial constraints.

Previously, there were over 200 left-leaning Public Interest Research Groups on college campuses; in recent years we have seen the existence of these groups cut in half. Many sources pinpoint the lack of funding as the dictating factor in the success of progressive organizations.

Well-established progressive organizations cannot compete with the funding provided to the right.

- The liberal-group the Sierra Student Coalition operates on an inadequate budget of \$350,000 for its 150 college chapters.
- Last school year, the National Organization for Women (NOW) spent twice the usual amount on campus publicity for April's feminist march on Washington. However, this increase in spending would amount to just 4% of Young America's budget.



Ironically, well-funded conservative organizations encourage right-leaning students to view themselves as oppressed minorities.

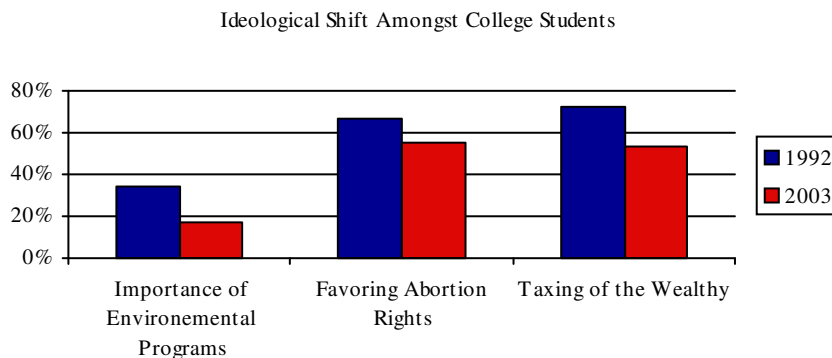
- A brochure from the National Conservative Student Conference reads, "Young America's Foundation alleviates the isolation so many young conservatives face."
- Another YAF pamphlet says its speakers "energize students in the fight for freedom on campus against radically anti-American, leftist professors."
- Conversely, YAF boasts that it is "America's Largest Campus Outreach program" and with lectures at over 200 schools routinely drawing record crowds it is hard to find the "oppressed" "minorities" in the movement.

Simultaneously, they have attacked racial minorities by publishing material such as YAF's "Black History Month Exposed" which described Black History Month as: "Black Panther reunions, white privilege discussions, and diatribes about America as a racist society" which "filled college classrooms and lecture halls during February."

Ideological Atrophy

As the strength of conservative youth organizations is felt within professional circles, having produced a prominent set of conservative politicians and media luminaries, the progressive population on college campuses is shrinking. Often thought of as a bastion for liberal thought, college campuses and the students inhabiting them seem to be drifting from the left towards conservative ideals.

A comparative study tracking ideological shift between 1992 and 2003 reaffirms the reality that college campuses are becoming increasingly conservative on a number of issues:



Organizational Incentives

Not only do the majority of these conservative organizations purport that following their ideological doctrine is morally superior, but they also offer financial incentives attracting many youth members.

Progressive organizations have not been able to compete with these organizations financially, and ultimately rely upon student volunteers. As a result, these organizations are not as appealing as their conservative counterparts.

The main financial incentives for students rest in three major areas:

- Average dollars spent per member
- Scholarship and fellowship opportunities
- Paid internships

In turn, these conservative organizations have been able to sustain themselves by producing a large number of successful alumni who have gone on to be leaders in several areas of the political arena:

- Media
- Government Staffers
- Political Strategists
- Elected Office

The correlation between organizational success in fundraising and producing youth leadership is demonstrated through the dollar-to-member ration. Of the organizations

outlined it is important to note that the Leadership Institute has been credited with cultivating many of the right-wing leaders currently controlling Washington, DC.

Organization	Annual Budget	Membership	\$ Per Member
Leadership Institute	\$9,100,000	3,562	\$2,554.74
YAF	\$13,000,000	10,000	\$1,300.00
Federalist Society	\$3,000,000	5,000	\$600.00
Roosevelt Institution	\$150,000	2,000	\$75.00

*Leadership Institute membership based upon annual student membership.

What these figures demonstrate is the fiduciary fluidity offered to each of these organizations and their members, respectively. As is evident, the Roosevelt Institution will be forced to operate in an extremely constrained manner in the years to come; often pitting organizational priorities against one another.

- The Roosevelt Institutions membership is expected to swell to a size similar to that of the Leadership Institute in less than a year, but cannot expect its budget to exceed more than **1/60** of the Leadership Institute's annual operating budget.
- In turn, the Roosevelt Institution will only be able to spend **3%** of what the Leadership Institute spends on its members.
- Unfortunately, the reality of this funding inequality will be fewer materials and organizational services to the members of the nation's first student think tank.

Conclusion

The Roosevelt Institution represents a unique funding opportunity to help counterbalance the conservative youth movement. As a largely student-run and student-driven organization, the Roosevelt Institution is in a prime position to educate and empower the future progressive leaders of our nation. Without increased financial support, conservatives will continue to recruit and train a powerful cadre of top college students.

*All membership statistics, financials and programming information has been gathered from the following sources:

1. Cloud, Jason. "The Right's New Wing." *Time, Inc.* August 30, 2004.
2. Deparle, Jason. "Next Generation of Conservatives (By the Dormful)." *The New York Times* June 14, 2005.
3. *Right Wing Watch*. May 2006. People for the American Way. May 1, 2006. <<http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=3149>>.
4. Center for the Study of Popular Culture Homepage. May 2006. <<http://cspc.org>>.
5. Collegiate Network Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.isi.org/cn>>.
6. The Federalist Society Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.fed-soc.org>>.
7. Independent Women's Forum Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.iwf.org>>.
8. Intercollegiate Studies Institute Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.isi.org>>.
9. Leadership Institute Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.leadershipinstitute.org>>.
10. Young America's Foundation Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.yaf.org>>.
11. Young Americans for Freedom Homepage. May 2006. <<http://www.yaf.com>>.