

## Presidential Candidate Platforms:

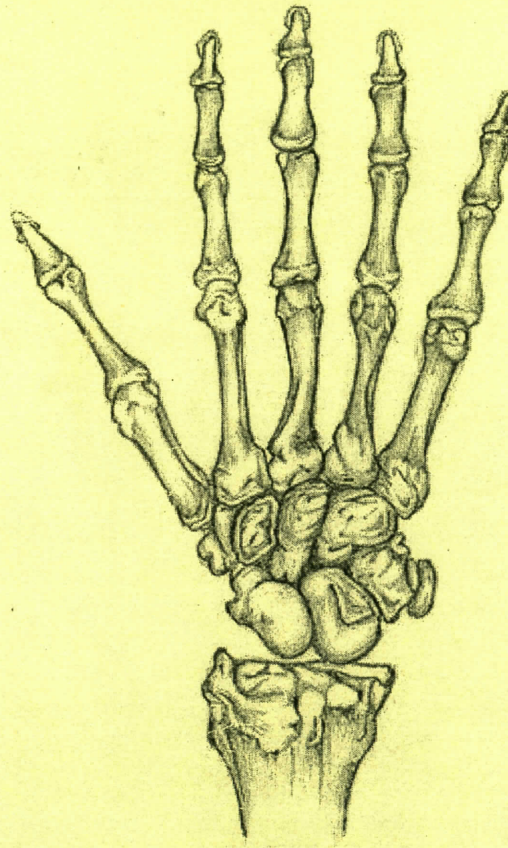
### Gay Marriage

**Ron Paul** has publically come out against gay marriage. He stated that marriage is between a man and a woman, but does not think the government should be involved. "Well, I believe marriage is between one man and one woman....Biblically and historically, the government was very uninvolved in marriage. I like that. I don't know why we should register our marriage to the federal government. I think it's a sacrament." - October 2011

**Mitt Romney** has publically stated that gay persons should be treated with respect and not be discriminated against, but traditional marriage must be preserved. "I can tell you this, which is I believe gay individuals should enjoy tolerance and respect... At the same time, I believe that marriage should be reserved for a relationship between one man and one woman." - April 2007

**Newt Gingrich** is opposed to gay marriage and adoption by gay couples. He has stated that there should be ways to accommodate homosexual couples in situations such as hospital visits. "I certainly think that we have every right to defend traditional marriage...whether it's by passing a law or a constitutional amendment." - 2008 Interview

**President Obama** believes that marriage is between a man and a woman. However, he has clearly stated that he supports the states making their own decisions regarding same sex couples. He has also opposes constitutional amendments defining marriage as between a man and a woman. "I am a strong supporter, not of a weak version of civil unions, but of a strong version in which the rights that are conferred at the federal level to persons who are part of a same-sex union are compatible." - 2005 interview



# SSH



## The Falling Apple



SSH



## World News

US to cut almost 100,000 troops. "The US will cut almost 100,000 troops as part of its plans for a 'smaller, leaner' military, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has announced." - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-16751973>

First report on UK climate impact: by David Shukman. "The report warns that flooding, heatwaves and water shortages could become more likely. But benefits could include new shipping lanes through the Arctic, fewer cold-related deaths in winter and higher crop yields." - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-16730834>

Tibetan Areas Rocked By Protest, Chinese Crackdown: by Frank Langfitt. "Frustrated Tibetans this week staged some of the largest protests against Chinese rule in nearly four years. Chinese security forces responded by opening fire on demonstrators, killing up to four and wounding more than 30, according to Tibetan rights groups." - <http://www.npr.org/2012/01/26/145885684/chinese-security-forces-move-against-tibetan-protesters>

Ahmadinejad says Iran ready for nuclear talks. "Iranian president rejects Western claims that he is 'dodging negotiations' and downplays impact of new EU sanctions." - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/01/201212616169630477.html>

Egyptians mass in Tahrir to honour uprising. "Hundreds of thousands gather in iconic square demanding transition to civilian rule on first anniversary of revolution." - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/01/201212535836564645.html>

Does 'biopiracy' endanger world food supplies? "The Indian government is preparing charges against Monsanto, the US-based agricultural company that specializes in biotechnology, for appropriating indigenous farming techniques and knowledge to develop a genetically altered plant." - <http://stream.aljazeera.com/story/does-biopiracy-endanger-world-food-supplies-0021995>

## CNU News

It is hardly news to any students here at Christopher Newport University that our campus is currently under construction. With the opening of Forbes hall and the soon-to-be Luter Hall, CNU's campus is looking newer and more sophisticated every day. One aspect of the construction that many students may be unaware of is CNU's use of Caterpillar equipment. Caterpillar is the largest manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines.

Unfortunately, one of Caterpillars largest clients is the Israeli Defense Force, also known as the IDF. The IDF is known for their constant violations of human rights, and repeated illegal confiscation of Palestinian land. In fact, since 1967, the IDF has used Caterpillar machinery not only to bulldoze thousands of Palestinian homes, but also to uproot hundreds of miles of privately owned Palestinian farms. Amnesty International reported that in the town of Rafah in the West Bank, 1,500 homes were demolished from 2000-2004. Homes were destroyed as families were still inside, brutally murdering those people. Caterpillar was also held responsible for the death of an American citizen, Rachel Corrie, in 2003. Corrie was protesting the illegal home demolitions being committed by the IDF by simply standing in front of the house. She was killed after being run over by an IDF soldier in a Caterpillar bulldozer.

Caterpillar machinery was also used to build Israel's separation wall. This wall is meant to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel, but is conveniently built past the official border between Israel and the West Bank, and has resulted in the confiscation of Palestinian homes, farms, and aquifers. This separation wall was deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004.

Due to their selling machinery to the IDF, Caterpillar has been charged with aiding and abetting war crimes and has violated Article 52 of the Geneva Conventions, which re-

lates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts. The company is also currently facing a suit conducted by Rachel Corrie's family, and 16 other Palestinian families who have also lost loved ones. Despite being asked by organizations, such as Amnesty International and the International Red Cross, to comply with international human rights laws, Caterpillar has refused to make any changes and continues to supply the IDF with as much equipment as they need.

Having Caterpillar equipment operating on campus gives the impression that we, as a university, are okay with supporting a company that is currently helping commit war crimes. Caterpillar has become associated with the Israeli Defense Force, and by allowing the administration to use this equipment on campus, CNU is becoming associated with them too. As a university we should stand up for human rights, and join the millions of others by joining the boycott against a company who sees nothing wrong with allowing their products to be used for the murder of innocent civilians.

\*SSH recognizes that there have been human rights violations on both sides. SSH is not anti-Israel, just against Caterpillar's consistent involvement in the conflict.

*The Caterpillar construction logo (below) is evident on many of the construction vehicles seen around campus.*

