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Ron Paul's CPAC Straw Poll Victory

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Distinctly Catholic

Congressman Ron Paul won the presidential straw poll at the CPAC conference here in Washington. But, you would expect his brand of libertarian conservatism to be a hit with the kinds of affluent, young conservatives who attend such conferences. It is like reading Ayn Rand in high school: Which teenager does not want to read that the paths of truth and justice are found through self-assertion?

But, those young, affluent activists are not paradigmatic for the average primary voter, who is as likely to be motivated by a sense of populist resentment as by protean, libertarian ideas. The straw poll win means little in the long run.

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