

the stony brook Statesman

VOLUME XLVII, NUMBER 55

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2004

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Kerry Chooses Edwards as His Running Mate



Courtesy of JohnKerry.com

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Kerry Chooses Edwards as His Running Mate

North Carolina Senator Chosen To Boost Image

BY MARK Z. BARABAK AND MATEA GOLD
Los Angeles Times

Sen. John F. Kerry chose fellow Sen. John Edwards as his vice presidential running mate Tuesday, hoping to infuse his campaign with the buoyancy and charisma Edwards brought to his own White House bid.

Kerry's selection of his former campaign rival, after months of unusually stringent secrecy, delighted many Democrats, who believe Edwards will broaden the ticket's appeal to his native South, as well as independents and voters sharing his small-town, blue-collar upbringing.

After a private family dinner Tuesday night in Pennsylvania, Kerry and Edwards planned to embark Wednesday morning on a four-day swing that starts in Ohio, perhaps the mostly hotly contested state in the presidential campaign, and continues with appearances in the battlegrounds of Florida, New Mexico and West Virginia.

In selecting the first-term senator from North Carolina, Kerry chose someone whose high-wattage smile, sunny rhetorical style and message of "two" divided by class and race won him a fervent following among Democrats.

Polls showed the 51-year-old Edwards to be the favorite vice presidential pick of the party rank-and-file, and many Democratic leaders believe his geography and geniality will complement the more dour senator from Massachusetts.

For their part, Republicans wasted no time Tuesday assailing Edwards' background as a personal injury lawyer and pointing out his relatively meager political resume.

Kerry announced his choice in an e-mail to supporters and then at an exuberant rally before hundreds of backers, who jammed into the red-brick Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh and waved freshly printed Kerry-Edwards placards.

"I have chosen a man who un-

derstands and defends the values of America, a man who has shown courage and conviction as a champion of middle-class Americans, and for those struggling to reach the middle class; a man who has shown guts and determination and political skill in his own race for the presidency of the United States; a man whose life has prepared him for leadership and whose character brings him to exercise it," Kerry told the crowd.

After combing through a list of 25 prospective candidates, the finalists were Edwards, Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, according to campaign insiders, although Kerry was considering others right up to the last minute.

At the White House, President Bush welcomed Edwards' return to the race, telling reporters at an Oval Office photo session that he looked forward "to a good, spirited contest." Vice President Dick Cheney telephoned Edwards to congratulate his

new counterpart. But GOP strategists and their political allies skipped the niceties.

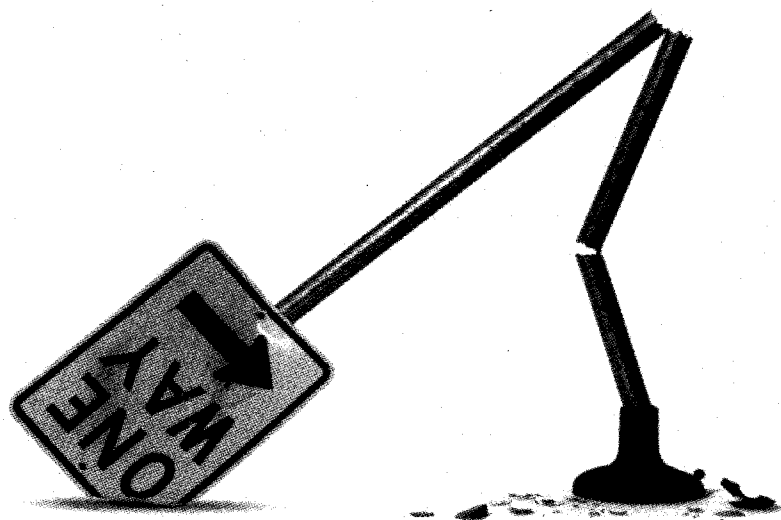
The Republican National Committee issued a statement calling Edwards "disingenuous, inexperienced and unaccomplished."

Anti-abortion activists and social conservative groups later joined in, denouncing Edwards as a liberal extremist.

Among Democrats, Edwards' selection won support across the party spectrum, from environmentalists, labor leaders, Jewish and Latino groups, centrist "New Democrats" and liberals such as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California. On Tuesday night, a freshly produced Kerry campaign ad began airing on cable stations around the country, touting "a new team for a new America."

One Democrat familiar with the process described the pick as "a combination of heart and head and politics that all came together."

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University Plan to Acquire Land Opposed

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

At a public hearing at the Charles B. Wang Center on June 21, Stony Brook homeowners voiced their opposition to Stony Brook University's plan to acquire and develop Gyrodyne Flowerfield 320 acres of land just off of Stony Brook Rd., a short distance from Stony Brook's West Campus.

"There are many unanswered questions," said Mr. Brown, a Stony Brook homeowner. "Why can't the college develop the property they now have in King's Park? What about the additional sewage from the facilities built on that land? That has to be treated with chemicals."

We didn't vote on this issue. Our property and school taxes will go up. We'll have to subsidize the police and the fire department for that land."

Richard Mann, Vice president of Administration at Stony Brook University, responded to concerns by emphasizing the expansion of college facilities to meet student needs, and the creation of jobs and tax revenue from development of the property.

"Proximity and that it's undeveloped is what

attracted us to this property," he said.

An environmental impact study was already done for the development of that land. Surrounding the property are forested areas, which Mann said the college will preserve.

Also objecting to the acquisition of the property at the hearing were representatives of the Gyrodyne Company of America, a former military helicopter subcontractor. Gyrodyne owns the Flowerfield property and does not want to sell it to the university.

Gyrodyne has said it wants build a luxury golf course on that property. But Gary Lewi, public relations representative for Gyrodyne, said the company's real objection is to the land's use by the university.

"It will cost taxpayers millions of dollars, and we still don't know what exactly will be built there," Lewi said. "[Our company] is held to a high standard to show what will be developed there, but the college is not."

Gyrodyne once owned all 500 acres of the Flowerfield property. Peter James Papadakis, founder of Gyrodyne, donated 180 acres of it to New York State in the 1950s, and Stony Brook University was

built on that land. Papadakis died in 1992.

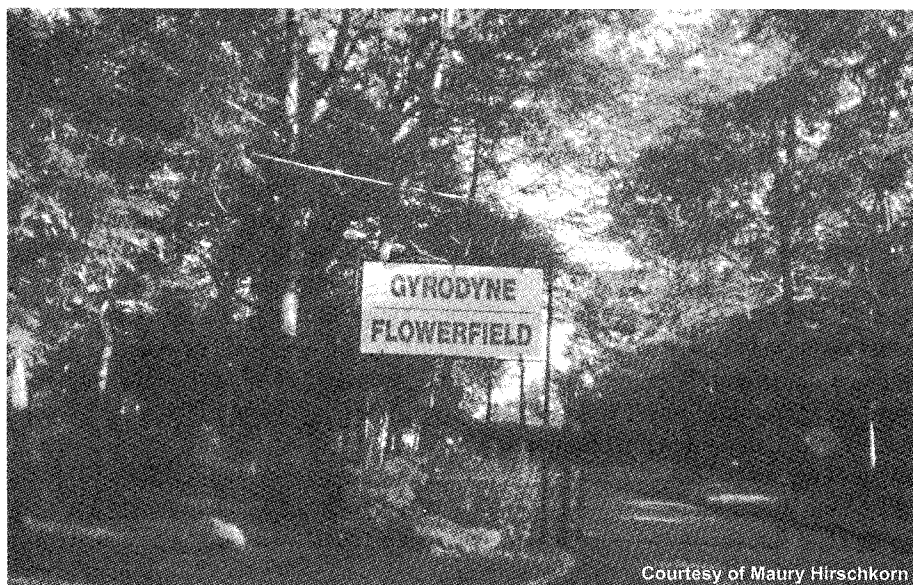
Gyrodyne and Stony Brook homeowners know their opposition to the acquisition of the property will probably be overruled. But the law of eminent domain applies to this property, meaning that it is subject to the right of the government to appropriate private property for public use, usually with compensation to the owner.

Some people at the hearing supported the college's plan. "We don't want the university to look like what happened at [New York] City universities with buildings [being at different locations]," one resident, giving her name only as Carol, said. "A [geographically] unified university makes for a better atmosphere."

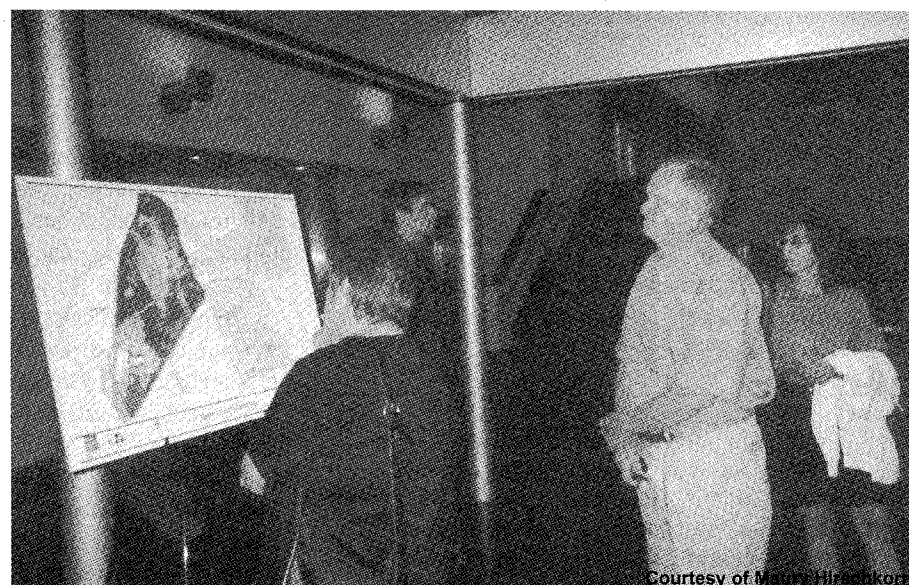
At the hearing, Mann outlined the development of the Flowerfields. In 2007, Center for Excellence in Wireless Information Technology is slated for construction.

Nine more buildings will follow by 2017, many of them research buildings.

Academic facilities, health care facilities, student residential facilities and recreational buildings are also in the long-term plans for the property.



Courtesy of Maury Hirschhorn



Courtesy of Maury Hirschhorn

Senate Report Condemns Iraq Prewar Intel

By DANA PRIEST AND DAFNA LINZER
The Washington Post

The U.S. intelligence community gave lawmakers debating whether to wage war on Iraq a deeply flawed and exaggerated assessment of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, according to the results of a year-long, bipartisan Senate investigation released Friday.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said either the intelligence community "overstated" the evidence that Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons and was actively reconstituting its nuclear program, or that the claims were "not supported by the underlying intelligence."

The report refutes every major weapons assessment laid out in a key 2002 intelligence estimate provided to lawmakers before the war and cited by Bush administration officials to justify publicly the case for an invasion. The findings also offer a broad indictment of the way the CIA carried out its core mission, accusing the agency's leadership of succumbing to "group-think," of

being too cautious to slip spies into Iraq and of failing to tell policy-makers how weak their information really was.

Asked Friday if he believes Congress would have supported the use of force if it had been aware of this information before lawmakers voted, committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said, "I don't know." He said he would have voted for war on humanitarian grounds and would have considered it more "like Bosnia and Kosovo." U.S. ground troops did not fight in those conflicts.

Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV (W.Va.), the committee's ranking Democrat, was more emphatic. "We in Congress would not have authorized that war, in 75 votes, if we knew what we know now," he said. U.S. standing in the world "has never been lower, and as a direct consequence our nation is more vulnerable today than ever before."

In a 440-page report that came to 117 conclusions, the committee said the intelligence community correctly determined that "there were likely several instances of contacts between Iraq and al-Qaida throughout the 1990s, but that

these contacts did not add up to an established formal relationship." The panel also concurred with the CIA's conclusion that "there was no evidence proving Iraqi complicity or assistance in an al-Qaida attack," including the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The committee also concluded that the CIA overstated what it knew about Iraq's attempts to procure uranium in the African nation of Niger, and that it delayed for months examining documents that would prove to be forgeries, resulting in reports to policy-makers that were "inconsistent and at times contradictory." No one at the CIA told the National Security Council of concerns about the credibility of the Niger intelligence as President Bush's 2003 State of the Union speech was drafted, contrary to officials' previous assertions, the report said.

In evaluating the 2002 National Intelligence Estimate, the committee blamed intelligence leaders who "did not encourage analysts to challenge their assumptions, fully consider alternative arguments, accurately characterize the

intelligence reporting, or counsel analysts who lost their objectivity."

Acting CIA Director John E. McLaughlin defended the agency in a rare news conference Friday. "I don't think there is a broken corporate culture here at all," he said, adding that outgoing CIA director George J. Tenet had admitted "serious flaws" months ago and has remedied most of them.

"We get it," McLaughlin said, noting that caveats to key judgments were buried in the body of the October 2002 intelligence document, but from now on will be given equal weight. He added that, in the future, estimates and assumptions will be tested by "devil's advocates" from the agency as well as outside experts.

As part of an agreement reached six months ago between Republicans and Democrats, the Roberts committee will investigate the administration's use of intelligence on Iraq. Critics have accused Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and other senior officials of exaggerating Iraq's links to al-Qaida and repeatedly suggesting that Iraq was involved in the terrorist attacks.

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Commentary

Kerry and Edwards: a True Democratic Duo

By KELLY BROWN
Special to the Statesman

Some people have been rolling their eyes an awful lot lately. But when you do that too much, it becomes difficult to actually focus on anything that's happening around you. So stop the eye rolling just long enough to look at the picture I'm about to paint you. I'm not even going to talk about the Republicans, so it should be a little easier to keep your eyeballs properly situated in their sockets.

I've been hearing some complaints about the millionaire's club that the Presidential tickets seem to comprise. How can any of these privileged white men possibly relate to the plight of the average American,

the less well-off. And Edwards can only help crystallize this image. The Democratic VP nominee is the son of mill workers, did not go Ivy for college, and made his money through hard work as a trial lawyer. His Southern origins may or may not help him: although North Carolina will likely go to the Democrats, other Southern states may bristle against the liberal platforms concerning abortion and religion in schools, among many other key issues.

Perhaps the dynamic Democratic duo can push the swing states. Unions in the Midwest are clearly divided, and the Democrats have a window of opportunity. If Kerry can offer them a strong enough argument against the big business politics of Dubya, maybe those states will go blue. It's just awfully difficult to discuss

Let's just hope that eye rollers everywhere can take a minute to really look at the facts, to put down their pint of Haagen Daz, to turn off reality TV for half an hour, and to VOTE.

much less the poorest among us? All well and good for the Republicans, perhaps, because we expect them to look out for big business and "the haves and have-mores," as Bush once eloquently referred to his core supporters (insert eye roll).

But the Democrats are expected to have empathy for the blue-collar worker. They should know what it is like to work hard for a dollar. Well, just because both John Kerry and John Edwards both have plenty of bank now does not mean they were born that way. Yes, Kerry hails from an old New England family of some means, but it should be remembered that most of his wealth comes from his sugar mama, ketchup heiress Teresa Heinz Kerry. And the Kerry family has none of the international political clout (for better or for worse) attached to the Bush name.

In my opinion—after all, that's what this is all about: my opinion—Kerry is definitely concerned with the plight of the Average Joe, evidenced through his rhetoric regarding "Two Americas," one for the rich and one for

economic and social issues in the face of this giant Iraq headache. I would have thought the whole debacle would have bidden good riddance to Dubya, but I underestimated, once again, the ability of the American people to stand by their man. Much like women entrapped in abusive relationships, the people make excuse after excuse for their President's lies and betrayals.

I know I had promised to avoid any discussion of the GOP. But it was too tall an order for a mere mortal Democrat.

It almost seems a waste to have written this piece, which will be printed in the pages of a liberal New York college newspaper. Heads will nod over this page; I am preaching to the choir. New York will go to Kerry and Edwards, without question. But Ohio? Michigan? Florida?! It's going to be a tumultuous 120 days, but let's just hope that eye rollers everywhere can take a minute to really look at the facts, to put down their pint of Haagen Daz, to turn off reality TV for half an hour, and to VOTE.

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Photo on Backpage: Courtesy of David Roberts

(L-R) Barry Fox, Stony Brook Foundation, President Kenny, Bob Rosen, Wine Center Advisory Council

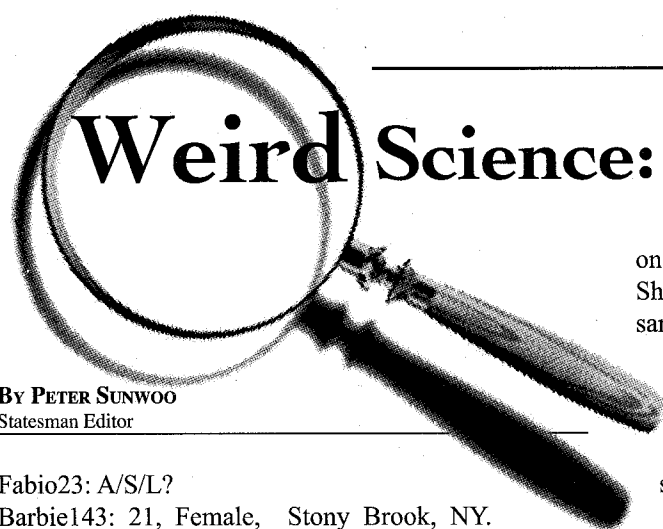
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Weird Science: New Occupation of Virtual Drag

By PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Editor

Fabio23: A/S/L?

Barbie143: 21, Female, Stony Brook, NY.

What do you drive?

Fabio23: BMW Z4, the landshark, baby! I'm 6'3" with brown metro-sexually messy hair, blue-eyed very fit straight male. I used to model and now I'm in school to become a doctor. And you?

Barbie143: 5'8" blonde hair blue eyes, 36 D, 120 lbs. I'm a personal trainer, and a yoga instructor.

Fabio23: You know, I'm a great judge of character, and I think we have a connection. Can you send me a pic?

Barbie143: Uh sorry, I deleted my hard drive, a car ran over my webcam, and my dog pissed on my digital camera. How bout you send me a pic of yourself in the meantime?

Fabio23: Sure, sending...

Barbie23: Wait a minute, that's a picture of Brad Pitt!

Fabio23: Why yes, yes it is.

Barbie23: Omg, I'm your biggest fan, you're so hot, you have to let me meet you!

Fabio23: Oh yeah, giggity giggity!

Chat rooms are great for meeting new people, especially when you twist the truth a few thousand-fold. In reality, Fabio is overweight, works for the Statesman, struggles through pre-med classes, and has bad luck with women. Barbie is a 14 year-old girl, hoping that

one day her breasts will grow into what she described. She is failing pre-calculus. We know we all did the same at least once in our Internet generation lives, and we do get our kicks from it. Everyday thousands of Internet chat users meet new people, find potential mates and make new friends. It can improve the social skills of introverts, and can lower depression for lonely people.

Sounds dandy and great, but with most things in life there are twists. Illegal activities are planned and executed via the Internet every day. It's just so easy to do. So simple that even a child who knows how to read and write can search through a million forums that teach you how to make homemade drugs or bombs. The amount of dangerous and illegal information is astronomical; the list goes on and on.

The most infamous online chat dwellers are the pedophiles. Cracking down on child pornography has been a winning battle through new innovative technology that can track those that view and share this explicit illegal material. But how do we stop pedophiles from preying on adolescent children?

Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary. Just do what Barbie and Fabio did: lie about your identity.

During the August 2003 blackout in New York, one window of the 11th floor of One Police Plaza in Downtown Manhattan was illuminated. This 24-hour office is the headquarters for the NYPD computer crime squad, where detective Mike Smith spent the night of the blackout cleaning up Internet scum.

"I had backup power," Smith said. "I had coffee. Where else would I want to be?"

Over the past eight years, he has been working in the online investigations field. "I am an Internet Sybil,"

Smith said.

Smith's work requires him to constantly switch identities. Before taking his 12 p.m. lunch break, he could have been a male high school student coaxing information from young naive girls to find local drug dealers. After his break, he might morph into a 13 year-old surfer chick that likes learning from older men. The list of different personas goes on and on, but somehow he doesn't have any trouble juggling them.

In June 2000, Smith impersonated a 30-something female marketing rep for a New York sports team and gathered enough evidence to send Internet Ecstasy king Wagner "House of Beans" Bucci to Oneida State Prison.

Predatory men come in all colors, shapes, sizes, and occupations. In recent months, Smith's pedophile cases included a prominent rabbi, an Army MP, a four-star chef and the owner of a multimillion-dollar manufacturing company.

"Mike talks to men well," said Travis Rapp of Smith's special role within the unit. "Trolling for pedophiles is like shooting fish in a barrel," said Smith. Three out of five guys will continue chatting with Smith even after informing them he's an underage girl. One in five if he's an underage boy.

In none of his cases does Smith solicit any of the criminal activity he encounters online. "I don't have to, guys love to brag to women." After a web user has crossed a legal line, Internet service providers cooperate with police by supplying the real name and address behind a screen alias.

"Before the guy is sitting in front of me in handcuffs, I usually know more about him than I do my best friends," Smith said.



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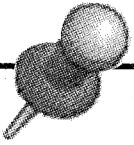
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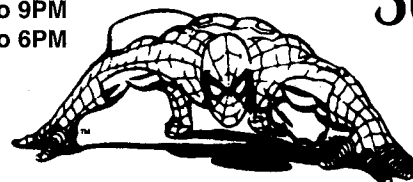
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Fahrenheit 9/11: Putting a Dent in the White House

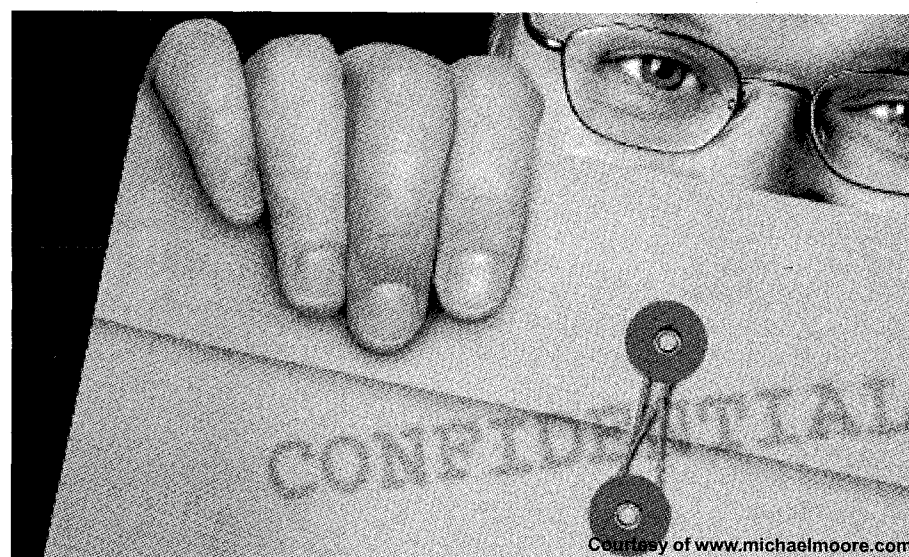
By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

The opening of "Fahrenheit 9/11" is intelligent, clever and funny. The major players in the White House (Bush, Cheney, Powell, Rice, etc.) get themselves prepped, groomed and straightened by aides as though they're about to walk on stage and put on a talent show performance. They need to look good for the American public watching them on television, a theme reiterated through much of Moore's documentary, which very much parallels the approach he took in his intro: intelligent, clever and funny.

But that's not all that can be said about "Fahrenheit 9/11." Moore offers his audience a staggeringly blunt portrayal of our clumsy Commander-in-Chief. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and sometimes downright shocking and appalling, Moore's documentary gives us a glimpse of his views on what really happened during Bush's presidency.

He begins with the contested presidential election in 2000, illustrating the flaws and inadequacies of our Electoral College system. Scores of protestors threw rotten fruit at Bush's limo during his inaugural parade, the first time that has ever happened to a U.S. president. How can you build the next four-year on that, Moore asks through the length of the documentary.

You can't, and Bush didn't. He was elected president because of the political connections of his father. The man didn't deserve the position, and he certainly acted the part. "Fahrenheit 9/11" portrays every gritty detail of Bush's failure as the



nation's leader. He received consistent warnings about the impending threat posed by Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda, and yet continued to spend the bulk of his time relaxing on his ranch and playing golf.

And when everything collapsed around him, Bush used the United States' resources to fly out the Bin Laden family members. I can understand the idea of saving innocent victims from biased attacks, but they weren't even questioned! As Moore suggests, the best place to find out information about a criminal is to go to his friends and family, and the Bush regime clearly neglected this valuable resource.

And what brought about this consistent neglect of responsibility and suspicious concealment of facts? According to Moore... Money. Saudi Arabians own 7% of the U.S. stock market. If they ever retracted their shares, the U.S. economy would take a big hit, along with Bush

Senior and Junior's pockets.

But Moore's documentary is not just about the conspiracy behind 9/11. It also reflects the struggles of the soldiers fighting overseas in Iraq. In a surprisingly patriotic manner, Moore gives credit to those who have the courage to offer their life for their country, but at the same time condemns the U.S. government for waging a war through a cloud of lies.

While the documentary is eye-opening and interesting, it does, however, leave the viewer feeling a bit doubtful, if not cynical, about Moore's approach. He seldom offers even the slightest credence to the Bush regime. Had he offered a reasonable opposing view (and thus addressed the concern of his opponents), and then systematically proved why that view is impossible, his point may have come across much more effectively. However, the extremely one-sided spin of the movie

leaves a bit to be desired.

Even so, Moore stands firmly behind his facts, and even beckons viewers to check them. In an interview with Time magazine, he even said he was considering offering a 10 thousand dollar award for anyone who can prove any of his facts wrong. For me, this comes with a bit of a caveat. As one of my professors always insists, "Never trust your informant." A fact is only as good as the source it came from.

Additionally, some of the arguments that Moore makes are simply products of his own interpretation. He adlibs for President Bush at times and dramatizes anything that proves his point. This is extremely persuasive, but a closer inspection reveals the fallacy of this method. Moore is appealing to our emotions in a very real way, but if we actually take the time to think about what is happening, we realize that Moore's arguments are sometimes out of place. In war, many people die. Families must cope with it, and I am sure countless mothers have blamed the government for sending their children to their death. Following the grieving mother of a fallen Iraqi soldier does not prove that the war is unjust. It just proves that it is war.

Regardless, Moore's documentary is still a compelling essay, as much as it is an entertaining film. His arguments and portrayals are logical, coherent and even humorous at times. Whether or not you like Bush (and I know very few people who do), take the time to see Washington behind the scenes. With the presidential election approaching, "Fahrenheit 9/11" may change the course of our future. At least I hope so.

Spiderman 2: Webbing the Summer Film Top Spot

By PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Editor

"Spiderman, Spiderman, does whatever a spider can, spins a web, any size, catches thieves just like flies. Look out here comes Spiderman!"

The ultimate summer action movie has arrived, "Spiderman 2." With the combination of thrills, spills, love and hatred, it's no wonder that the sequel leaped over the 200 million dollar mark in just two weeks. Directed by Sam Raimi, the blockbuster hit fails to miss any of the critical elements of an action hero movie. That makes it good, but not necessarily great.

The iron force behind the movie was certainly the action effect. Some of the scenes were absolutely amazing, and Spidey, played by Tobey Maguire, gets his blue tights kicked over and over and over again by Dr. Octavius, played by Alfred Molina.

But that's not the only thing that makes "Spiderman" a pleasure to watch. The character development was done really well, especially that of the main villain. We get to see all kinds of perspectives of Doc Octopus, from comical to intelligent to endearing, and straight-out badass. His bionic arms, welded to his back, each present their own personalities, acting like



the little devil on your shoulder. Compared to the original movie's super villain, the Green Goblin, Doc Oc is definitely a step up. His mere presence is pretty terrorizing, not to mention the prospect of having your head crushed by a metal claw hanging over your head.

But Spidey isn't just a fighter; he's also a lover. And once again, love doesn't just suck

for the average human. It's ten times worse for the super humans. It all starts out with Spiderman losing his spidey touch because of a melodramatic girl named Mary Jane, played by Kirsten Dunst. The combination of stress, depression, and heartbreak drains his superhuman abilities, and renders him back to an average joe, I mean Peter. He decides to turn his back on fighting crime

and focuses on his Peter Parker priorities: Aunt May, school and Mary Jane.

With the emergence of a new eight-limbed super villain, Peter Parker is thrashed into a struggle with himself and the world around him. He doesn't know where to turn, and eventually, as expected, retakes his role as Spiderman upon the introduction of Doctor Octopus.

Once again as expected, the super hero and super villain dredge around the city battling each other maniacally in epic battles that leave tons of rubble crashing down to the Earth from ridiculously tall sky scrapers.

Alright, so the depth isn't quite there. As far as engrossing storylines go, Spiderman one tops over its sequel, but the action in the new movie more than makes up for it. The biggest flaw is the over-exaggerated amount of emotion. I want to feel sorry for Peter Parker, but he just cries too much. I want the love connection to work between the two starry-eyed protagonists of the movie, but they just keep whining and making it harder for themselves.

Regardless, the film was definitely entertaining. If you're looking for an action-packed movie, this is the one to see for the summer. Besides some bad acting and dramatic teenage moments, overall it was enjoyable. I give it 3 out of 5 webs.



Statesman Features

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