

# The Patriot

Vol. 3 Issue 5

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March 2007



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**Correction:**

In the last issue of *The Patriot*, a story, entitled "USG Passes ALIRRT Act", stated that peak LIRR tickets had been purchased by USG for resale to students at half price. The tickets purchased are for off-peak hours.

## Endorsement for USG President: Joseph Antonelli

*This endorsement isn't an official endorsement by The Patriot, but rather an individual endorsement by The Patriot's Managing Editor.*

Why you should vote for Joseph Antonelli for USG President:

As a USG senator he has created and successfully implemented ALIRRT- Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets Act, which provides students with half-priced off-peak train tickets to Penn and Jamaica Stations. In its first month running, the tickets sold out within a few weeks, proving the program's success.

He has consistently proven his strong moral character by standing up against unethical dealings within all branches of USG. He presented an article for impeachment to the senate against Ralph Thomas, the VP of clubs and organizations. Thomas failed to complete his duties in this position, including not meeting with club presidents in the fall, failing to organize Leadership Day in the fall, failing to set up the Council of Representatives, failing to show up to office hours and failing to hand in a pay sheet to show he was working October through December.

Antonelli has also shown strong fiscal responsibility and stood up against the abuse of power exerted by President Romual Jean-Baptiste. Antonelli, along with other senators, presented a bill to limit the amount of assistants the president can have. The president is allowed up to 25 hours of paid help, but Jean-Baptiste is said to have paid his three assistants for up to 45 hours, an abuse that ended with the passage of the bill in the senate.

Antonelli has shown that he is willing to work towards a student government that is transparent and one that responds the students' wants and needs.



*Rachel O'Brien*  
**Managing Editor**  
**The Patriot**

## SB Grows, but Where's the Construction?

By Nathan Shapiro

When Stony Brook University's President Kenny presented her report on the state of the university to the University Faculty Senate, Stony Brook's tremendous growth was clear. It was also clear from the president's report that new construction to accommodate the student body wasn't part of the university's immediate future.

Stony Brook's popularity with applicants is increasing, according to the president, receiving the highest number of applications of any SUNY campus. The president estimates that over the course of five years the number of students will grow from 23,000 to 27,000.

"We need to have student facilities," President Kenny said to the Senate and visitors. Kenny said that in order to accommodate the growth of people attending Stony Brook that expansion of the facilities would have to take place.

But the president also made clear that over the next two years, the capital

budget only permitted critical improvements. "No new building is anticipated," the president said.

Until the university can address overcrowding concerns with new construction, the president said that she has been discussing the need to increase personnel and the size of the dining facilities to better accommodate the increased number of students.

"We are all keenly aware of the queues downstairs (in the SAC)," said Dr. Peter Baigent, Vice President for Student Affairs and attendee of the Senate meeting. Many members of the faculty echoed Baigent's comment, noting their own experiences with the line immediately before attending the meeting in the SAC.

Dr. Baigent told the Senate that they plan on expanding the dining room at the Bleacher Club into the ballroom, creating a new menu at the Bleacher Club and End of the Bridge, and having the University Café serving lunch and early dinner. They hope that these

changes will lead students to utilize them more and ease the pressures at popular eating facilities such as the SAC.

Baigent also said that renovations at the Roth Dining Hall would attract students away from the overcrowded dining facilities. Roth will be going offline in May and will re-open in fall 2008, suggesting that overcrowding elsewhere might get worse before it gets better.

"The convenience of just going out the door to Burger King is gone," said Matt Veres, a resident of Roth Quad. "Now you're going to have to go out to the SAC and that's going to cause more congestion there."

For the long term, President Kenny told the Senate that she still wants to see phase 3 of the SAC built. Phase 3 included expanded dining facilities and small shops for students to browse and buy from.

"Phase 3 would take the place of a surrounding city," for students attending a suburban university like Stony Brook, said Kenny.

# The Patriot

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**Our Mission:** The goal of *The Patriot* is to offer an alternative point of view to the students of Stony Brook University. It is a paper dedicated to raising awareness of student issues on campus, and conservative/libertarian issues on the national scene. While it does not actively seek controversy, *The Patriot* strives to offer opinions and news that will encourage the students of this campus to ask themselves what their true values are. It is dedicated to building upon and fostering the conservative and libertarian views that are strong among so many of us, yet suppressed in our community. But ideology aside, all of our news will be bound to three standards; we will always be *factual, sensible, and reasonable*.

Send questions and comments to [info@stonybrookpatriot.com](mailto:info@stonybrookpatriot.com)

The Patriot is a paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:  
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# FRESH START FOR TIKI

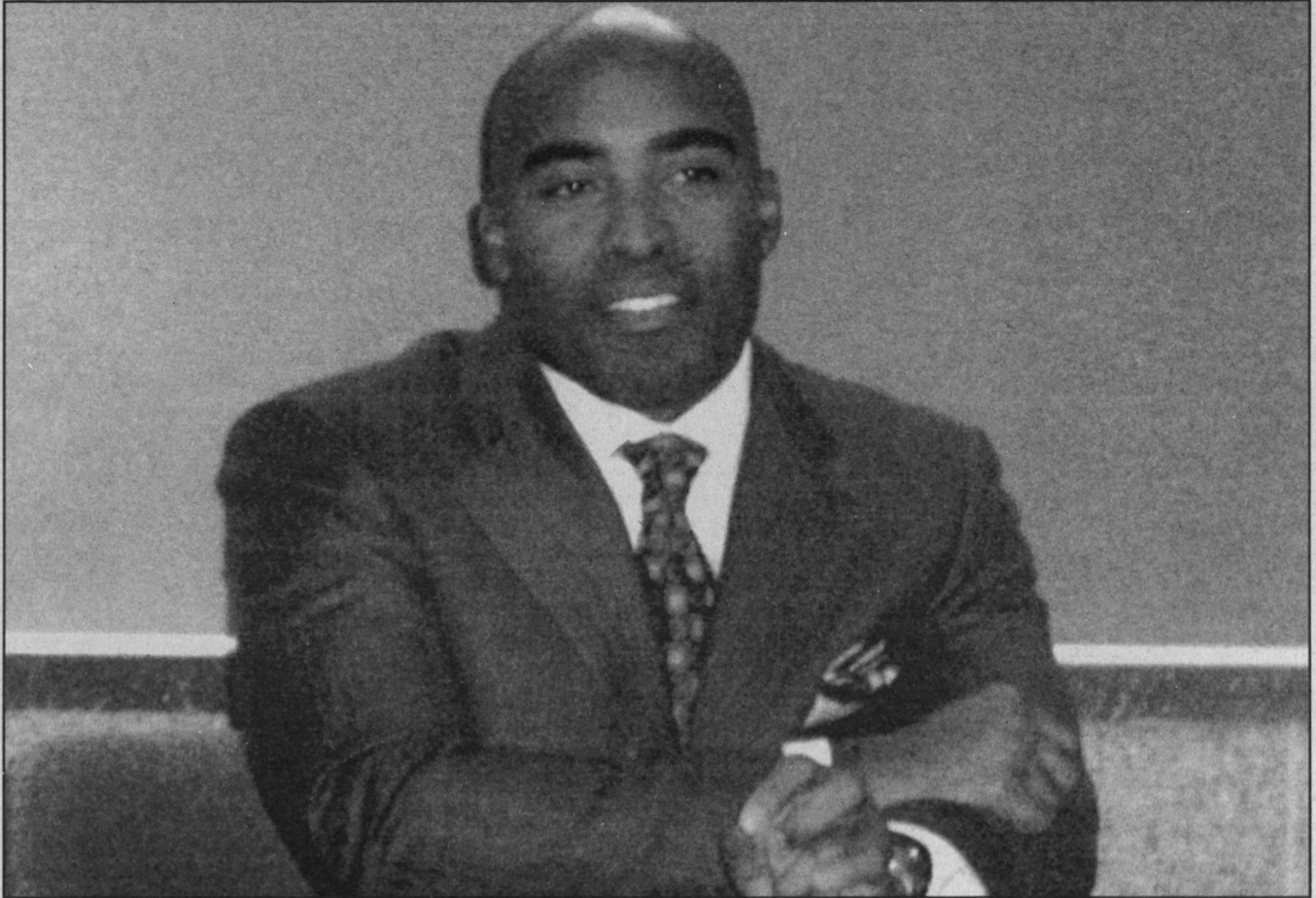
## Retired Running Back Visits Stony Brook

By Sean Martin

Former New York Giants running back, Tiki Barber, visited Stony Brook on March 7 to give a lecture on behalf of the USG. Barber's discussion, entitled "In Pursuit of Excellence: Leadership, Determination, and Teamwork", focused largely on how self confidence and determination are the keys to success.

Barber spoke of all the obstacles that he needed to overcome in order to retire as the best running back to ever play for the Giants. The newly retired athlete spoke of how early in his career he 'wasn't very good.' Tiki was extremely undersized for an NFL player and so in order to succeed in such a competitive league he had to put in massive amounts of work in the off-season. He credited an ex-teammate, fullback Greg Comella, with changing his career forever. Comella took Barber out to the mountains in Ramapo, New Jersey and the two would spend hours sprinting up and down the steep terrain.

Early in his career, Tiki had significant trouble holding onto the football. For two consecutive seasons Barber led the league in fumbles and most writers in New York had given up on him. Many athletes have faced similar crises and failed to overcome the psychological affects they have. However, Barber spoke of how rather than get down on himself, he sought the assistance of a world famous physical trainer who helped him become one of the strongest pound-for-pound



athletes in the world.

In approaching a new career path Barber will not be doing the same job as his twin brother Ronde. Which Tiki admits will be a little scary, but while Ronde continues playing for the Buccaneers, Tiki will be attempting to eventually take Matt Lauer's job on the Today Show.

Barber is not lacking in self-confidence

and he will be extremely successful in his work with NBC. He is an extremely polished speaker and appears as if he was made for work on television.

While Barber's opening remarks appeared packaged at times, after he opened the floor for questions he seemed to really come alive. He joked with the fans about his relationship with former coach Tom Cough-

lin and spoke of how he was thankful to have had several coaches throughout his career that acted as his father figure.

Those in the crowd wished Tiki well in his future work but it was obvious that everyone was hoping to hear him say that just maybe he would be back for one more year wearing Giant's blue.

# What if YOU Chose Who Won the OSCARS? Forget the Academy!

By Erik Berte

Many of us get tired of the elitists that choose who wins what in all these awards shows. In fact, many of the movies that win award after award in these types of shows end up being totally out there or boring to us when we get around to seeing them. So, Blockbuster decided to let the most qualified people, people who pay to watch the movies in the theaters or Netflix them later on, vote for who should win in the OSCARS.

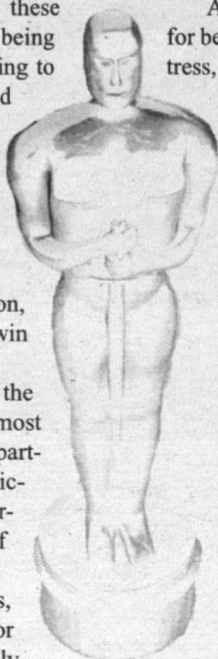
According to the Blockbuster survey, most people thought The Departed should win for best picture. This was an overwhelming 24 percent of those surveyed.

For best actress, Meryl Streep won for her role as the incredibly

nasty editor of one of the biggest fashion magazines in The Devil Wears Prada.

Will Smith won for best actor for his role in The Pursuit of Happiness. No, that's not a typo.

And finally, for the award for best supporting actor and actress, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson (known from American Idol) were chosen by those surveyed for their roles in Dreamgirls.



The award for best actress should go to Helen Mirren in The Queen. She did not just act the part of a Queen, she WAS the Queen. Enough Said.  
- Jillana Vincent



## The Actual Winners

Best Picture  
The Departed

Best Actress  
Helen Mirren in "The Queen"

Best Actor  
Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland"

Best Director  
Martin Scorsese

Best Supporting Actor  
Alan Arkin

Best Supporting Actress  
Jennifer Hudson

# March In History

## March 3, 1931

The 'Star Spangled Banner' is adopted as the U.S. national anthem.

## March 4, 1789

The First Congress of the United States is held in New York.

## March 10, 1969

James Earl Ray is found guilty of the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. and sentenced to 99 years in jail.



## March 14, 1964

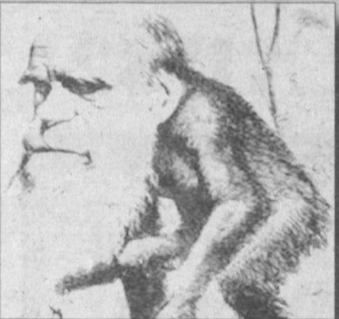
Jack Ruby is found guilty of killing Lee Harvey Oswald, and sentenced to death.

## March 17, 1945

American forces defeat the Japanese at the battle of Iwo Jima.

## March 18, 1850

American Express company is formed in Buffalo, New York.



## March 23, 1925

The teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution is banned in Tennessee schools.



## March 30, 1981

President Ronald Reagan is wounded in an assassination attempt by John Hinckley Jr.

# Who is Rabbi Adam?

In the past two issues of the Patriot, I've been sharing with you all my experiences at UMass, Amherst – informally called "Zoo Mass". The ultimate party school. For although I don an untrimmed beard, wear a black hat and am called "Rabbi", I actually grew up as the average American. I went to a public high school, Arlington High (pronounced as "Ahh-ling-ton" in my once authentic Boston accent) and, upon graduating, enrolled in my state's university, UMass. And just like everyone else, I roamed the campus, went to classes, hung out in the Union and came across a most interesting Rabbi – the Chabad Rabbi.

I distinctly remember the first time I saw him. There I was, in the Student Union, and there he was, sitting behind one of those literature tables.

I really didn't have much to do with the guy. For he was always sitting behind one of those literature tables in the Union, and as for me – I found "safety" remaining on the other side. And I mean "safety" in a literal sense of the word. For, G-d forbid, should anyone talk to the guy, suddenly you'd be faced with an invitation for a Friday night Sabbath dinner. Now, if you're not Jewish, this might really be a cool thing – a friendly Rabbi, free food, an interesting cultural experience, etc. And you know, if you can't make it, all you gotta do is tell him, "Rabbi, thanks for the invite, but I can't make it."

However, if you happen to be Jewish, getting an invitation from the Rabbi is a completely different experience. And, quite frankly, it can be pretty nerve wracking.

Now why is this? I mean, the Rabbi is a nice guy, and the Chabad Friday night dinner parties are pretty fun – so like, what's the big deal?

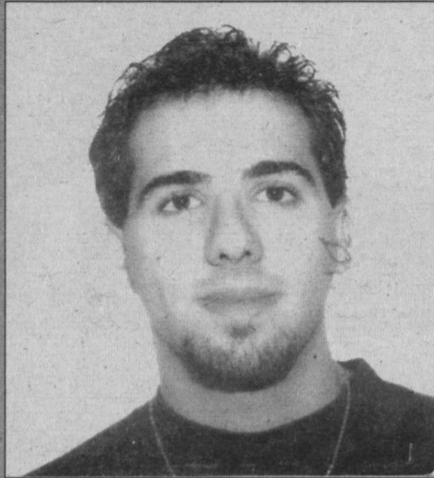
Well, it's like this: Jews have a love-hate relationship with their Jewish identity. On the one hand, they love being Jewish. However, on the other hand, they hate doing everything that the religion demands. So they're stuck. For the more they "do Jewish", the greater they feel. However, on the other hand, now that a Jewish student is away from home, they would rather focus their energies on campus life – studying, socializing, partying and being independent. But yet, on the other hand, everyone agrees that it feels so good when one does something Jewish.

Indeed, the Jewish people are a complex people. For being Jewish is not just about a national identity coupled with some matching foods. But rather, the Jewish people have an inexplicable affinity for holding on to their identity at all costs. For when push comes to shove, the Jewish people are survivors of history. And it is this sense of survival that has makes up the psyche of an American Jew.

At the time when Jews came to the United States between 1880 and 1910, world Jewry was "orthodox" and anti-Semitism was at its height. Now, really, there was no such thing as "orthodox", for there really was no such thing as "conservative" or "reform". For, at the turn of the nineteenth century, a

Jew was a Jew – a person who spoke a Hebrew-German dialect called Yiddish, donned an untrimmed beard, wore a black hat and looked like a Rabbi. As such, the Jewish people were very much a nation within a nation.

In truth, the Jewish people are the de-



Rabbi Adam while in college.



scendents of the Kingdom of David who, in the year 70 CE, were expelled from Jerusalem by the Romans and sentenced to roam amongst unwelcoming nations. As the modern world started to develop, countries began to redefine themselves along the lines of national identity instead of indigenous affiliations. The "deal" was this: leave your Judaism for the synagogue, take off your yarmulke, stop being careful about the Sabbath, eat the non-kosher food of the country, and then, we'll accept you as an equal.

The Western European Jews were enthralled with the idea, and they quickly did all they could do to blend into the throngs of European society.

The Eastern European and Russian Jews were not so convinced, because the Czars of Russia were, at the time, engaged in a campaign of brutal pogroms in which entire Jewish communities were obliterated from the map. Those that wanted to blend into modern society would only be able to do so by immigrating to the United States. So by the turn of the nineteenth century, some three million Jews came to Ellis Island, New York.

However, America, at the time, was a very anti-Semitic place to be. In order to survive, one had to shun their Judaism. And thus, as such, in a mere forty years, a Yiddish-speaking, Hebrew reading generation of Jews forgot their language and their culture, and instead, became "American".

Ironically, after World War II, the survivors arrived en-masse in America. They came with their Hebrew-German language of Yiddish; they came with the Hebrew language, Jewish culture and identity. And what did they find here in post-World War II America? Nothing. No Yiddish, no Hebrew, no yarmulke-wearers on the street, no kosher restaurants, no Jewish Days Schools – nothing.

When the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe finally managed to escape Nazi Europe, it was to America he fled. The Rebbi, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson, was a survivor. His ancestors belonged to one of the three tribes of Israel that survived the Assyrian invasion in 722 BCE. When the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem in the year 423 BCE and destroyed King Solomon's Temple – his ancestors were of those that lived to see the Temple rebuilt.

When the Romans conquered the Land of Israel and killed half of the Jewish population, his ancestors were of the half that fled to Europe. When the Medieval crusaders went on to kill another half of Jewish Europe, his ancestors fled to Eastern Europe. When Stalin and his KGB agents conducted a campaign to purge Russia of Rabbis by sentencing all to the deathly Siberian labor camps, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson was arrested, tortured and brutally confined to a wheel chair.

Unfortunately, as soon as the Rebbe finally escaped Russia for Poland, it was then that the Nazis invaded. As the Nazis pre-empted their invasion with the carpet bombing of Warsaw, all ran for the

bomb shelters. And yet, despite the dangers involved, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak got into his car and ordered his driver to head straight for Lithuania.

"Impossible!" his driver exclaimed with fright, "The roads are destroyed, the German bombers are overhead – we're doomed!"

The Rebbe hesitated for a second, closed his eyes, concentrated a bit and said, "We must drive to Lithuania, and nothing shall happen to us, for my holy ancestors will protect us."

The Rebbe miraculously made it to Lithuania, and then, to the shores of America in 1941. And what Jewish life did the Rebbe find in America? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. No Yiddish, no Hebrew, no yarmulke-wearers on the street, no kosher restaurants, no Jewish Days Schools – nothing.

The Rebbe got off the boat, turned to the handful of Americans that greeted him and said, "America will be no different."

For Americans will be no different than the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Crusaders, the Nazis, the Communists...for the Jewish people are survivors of history. For you see, the Jewish people are a complex people. For being Jewish is not just about a national identity coupled with some matching foods. But rather, the Jewish people have an inexplicable affinity for holding on to their identity at all costs. For when push comes to shove, the Jewish people are survivors of history. And it is this sense of survival that has made into the psyche of a Jew.

And this is why the average Jewish student gets so nervous when the Chabad Rabbi invites him for a Shabbat Friday night dinner – for unconsciously, the full weight of 3,000 years of Jewish survival has suddenly been placed on his shoulders. As such, when one considers the prospect of coming to the Rabbi's house for Shabbos, one may suddenly feel self-conscious and uneasy. However, this is also why a Jew feels so good when he does go, reaffirms his people's identity and does something Jewish. For then all of one's holy ancestors will surely protect him and please G-d. By doing so, the scales of Heavenly merit will tip such that by next year, we will all be in Jerusalem with the Coming of Moshiach.

# Opinions

## Run Rudy, Run... Rudy! Rudy!

By Alexander Ott

Well we all by now have heard the announcement about Rudy Giuliani running for president. What we haven't heard is that Rudy Giuliani represents most of what everyday Americans stand for!

So, here's the low-down on Rudy before the liberal media distorts the truth.

The most difficult challenge for "America's Mayor" is to get the message out, and convince the highly conservative wing of the Republican Party that he stands for American values.

Rudy is pro-choice, which is in line with a Fox News Poll taken in April of 2005, where nearly half (47 percent) of Americans identify themselves as pro-choice on the issue of abortion and 42 percent as pro-life. Ultimately, he respects a woman's choice, but believes it should be a real choice, one that criminal law can't interfere with it. He is against partial-birth abortion, however.

Rudy believes marriage should be between a man and a woman, but is tolerant, fair, open, and understanding of the rights that all people have in our society. He believes the best answer to the gay marriage issue is domestic partnership. This provides a way of dealing with the issue so that the rights of people who are gay and lesbian are recognized and protected.

Rudy also has experience appointing judges and as mayor appointed over 100 judges. He recently said in an interview



with the Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes" host, Sean Hannity, that he would "appoint judges that interpreted the Constitution rather than invented it, understood the difference between being a judge and being

a legislator."

Rudy took a financially strapped New York City and turned it into a tourist and commercial enterprise, revitalizing the 42nd Street Midtown area as the family and entertainment showplace of the world. He reduced taxes and crime and cleaned up the city with cooperation from communities and businesses alike. Before he became mayor of New York City, Rudy inherited a \$2.4 billion deficit and turned it into a \$3.2 billion surplus. Of course we all can remember Rudy's leadership on 9/11. His authoritative demeanor gave a city steadiness and hope in the midst of chaos.

Rudy's credentials are not only of a fiscally responsible mayor of America's largest city, it is much more than that.

He was a former U.S. attorney, leading campaigns against organized crime and corruption. He spent two years as the Justice Department's number three post, overseeing all U.S. attorneys, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Mar-

shals Service. He supports the 2nd Amendment and the right to bear arms, but he also believes that restrictive gun laws can help to bring down homicide. In New York City, he reduced homicide by about 65 or 70 percent, and some of it was by taking guns out of the streets. He also believes that the gun laws should reflect each individual community's needs, making the decisions for their specific area. This is specifically tied into his belief in our federal system of government that gives local government space to govern according to its needs.

Rudy's view on the broader War on Terrorism includes Iraq. His opinion on Congressional debate over the war appears to give the impression that Congress thinks we have control of whether or not we are at war. Rudy believes we are at war because terrorists are at war with us. He believes that Iraq is part of the broader War on Terrorism, and radical ideology that wants America to disappear from the face of the earth. He also believes there are "never any guarantees at war," and we must get "beyond Iraq."

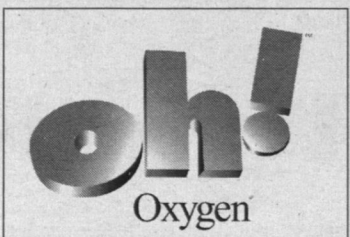
All in all, Rudy Giuliani is the most moderate Republican candidate that has come along in a long time. He does appear to support the views of most Americans on a wide range of issues and we have just touched the surface of the major issues that make a good candidate. For this Republican, he is the best of both worlds, and if elected would govern with leadership reminiscent of the great presidents of the past.

## U.S. Ready for a Female President?

By Matthew Reisch

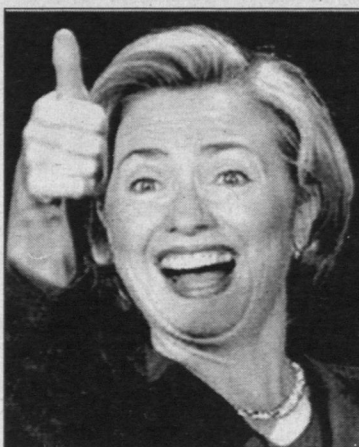
A survey sponsored by the Oxygen Network and conducted by Nielsen Entertainment Research concluded that America is ready for a female in the White House. Oxygen's Presidents Day Survey also found out that in many cases according to those polled, women would do a better job than men at every presidential duty except for national defense. I am in no way sexist, nor do I have a problem with a female head of government. What I am however, is a pessimistic scrutinizer, with little patience for statistical surveys with an intent of manipulating public opinion through misleading data.

Before I start questioning and ultimately debunking the validity of this particular survey, let me first provide the results. Firstly, the survey questioned 200 men and 200 women in total. Of those polled 85 percent of the women and 66 percent of the men stated that they would vote for a woman for president. Secondly, in regard to the questions asked on presidential duties: 92 percent of women and 74 percent of men believed that a female presi-



dent would handle education better than a male; on the topic of healthcare 92 percent of women and 73 percent of men believed a woman would do a better job; a theoretical favorite, fiscal responsibility, lead to a response of 87 percent of women and 72 percent of men believing that once again a woman would do a better job; and on the topic of the 500 pound gorilla in the room, social security, 80 percent of women and 58 percent of men believed that much needed reform could be attained with a female president. As the Commander in Chief, both women and men polled believed that a female president would not be as effective as a man with only 36 percent and 14 percent respectively agreeing that she would be better at handling the decision making.

Now then, does something in the data just presented seem a little,



I don't know, fishy? How about the obvious bias. Oxygen is a television network that prides itself with a female-oriented schedule. I think it is essential that whenever people read surveys, they should always be wary of the sponsor. Bias is evident in all things, even seemingly scientific surveys. Apparently, the Oxygen Network seems to be getting itself ready for a race involving Hilary Clinton.

Aside from the bias, this survey does not look like it was all that well put together. Firstly, we are not told if this was a survey where random participants were selected or

how these people were questioned. It could have been one of those online polls where you can vote as many times as your mouse button would allow. Okay, so let's imagine that this was a random survey, the data did not mention if those polled were even eligible to vote. Another interesting piece of information presented was the total number of participants. 400! Wow, now that is just one mind blowing number. Too bad it seems to be arbitrary and wholly not representative of the total population of those eligible to vote. According to the US Bureau of the Census and the 2000 census, there are a total of 193,376,975 citizens eligible to vote., 92,645,044 are men and 100,731,931 are women. How does a group of 200 men and 200 women represent the whole of the voting population, not factoring in all of those eligible to vote, but refusing to actively participate?

Clearly, this poll had an ulterior motive. Why else would a female oriented television station sponsor it? Their goal was to manipulate the general public into believing this poll to be completely true and undeniably the word of the general population. The sponsors wanted

people to see this poll and say "Wow, I didn't know that most of the population believed this, I should too." Instead of questioning the validity of the poll, Oxygen expected everyone to follow these 400 people like lemmings into voting for a female president, most definitely Hilary Clinton. It seems as if Oxygen is trying to prime the general voting population to believe certain things and vote a certain way.

So, you may be asking yourself, are we ready for a female president? The answer is yes, but as an educated voter, why would you just vote for someone based on sex? Would you vote for a person just because "their mother was a hamster and their father smelt of elderberries (Monty Python)?" No? Then why should you judge someone based upon gender or any other physical characteristics? I urge voters to be more attuned to merit, emotional stability, and personality. And, when looking at polls, please do not take them at face value; read into them. Your ability to scrutinize is one of your most important weapons in your arsenal as an educated voter, which I suggest using liberally.

# Why Michelle Malkin Was Right

By Rachel O'Brien

The annual gathering of conservatives and Republicans at CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) in Washington DC always brings a frenzy of media coverage for at least a few days to follow.

This year's conference was an uncommon one that happens, oh every four years or so. The presidential primary elections are looming and will be followed by the presidential election and all but one major Republican primary candidate attended the conference to build up his voter base. John McCain apparently doesn't need the votes of those he stiffed by denying the invitation to speak at the conference.

So we have John McCain's diss on the conservative base of the Republican Party, Rudy Giuliani's speech at the conference that surprisingly got less of a response from the audience than Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the NRA did and Mitt Romney's family-oriented speech.

However, according to the national media's coverage of the conference, the only newsworthy participant there was Ann Coulter, speaking with the usual vitriol spewing from her sarcastically inappropriate mouth. Don't get me wrong, Coulter has made many good points in the past. She just makes them in the wrong way. She goes far beyond what is acceptable as intelligent dialogue and alienates too large a group of her own people to be considered a representative of either the Republican Party or of the conservative base as a whole.

So why does the media continue to cover Coulter's short 10 minute speech when there are far more important things like, oh I don't know, presidential candidates' speeches? Why cover the words of a possible future American presi-

dent when you can make a witch hunt out of someone who has never held a public office and who spurs the resentment from many members of her own party? Presidential candidates Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani and Sam Brownback all gave speeches but were they discussed throughout the mainstream media as part of CPAC? No. And why not? Because covering Ann Coulter's cold-hearted remarks demonizes the Republican Party.

Americans already have given Republican candidates for office a 'cold-fish' handshake during the mid-term 2006 elections. It was evident then, as it is now, that Americans are fed up with certain Republican policies (namely the Iraq War) and want to see change. Lifelong Republicans have dismissed their political roots and voted for Democrats in the last election, and now, when it looked like Republicans couldn't get a worse rap from the media, Ann Coulter is being portrayed as the loud speaker for the Republican Party, when in fact many Republicans have denounced her views.

During her somewhat entertaining speech, that I myself had the privilege to see when I attended this year's CPAC, Coulter said this about John Edwards that gave the press the signal to release the hounds: "I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot,'" Coulter said.

A few days after the conference ended, Michelle Malkin, a conservative syndicated columnist who attended the conference promoting her new book "Unhinged: Exposing Liberals Gone Wild", appeared on The O'Reilly Factor. Malkin brought up the media's coverage of the conference and how

## On Ann Coulter's Remarks

By Federalus

Ann Coulter has again caused media outrage with a satirical speech given during the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in D.C. last month. After poking fun at some of the democratic presidential candidates, she ended her speech by saying, "I was going to have a few comments on the other democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out you have to go into rehab if you use the word faggot." The audience responded with a mix of shock and surprised laughter.

The joke was a reference to the controversy surrounding Grey's Anatomy actor, Isaiah Washington, when he called a fellow cast member a faggot during an on-set altercation with Patrick Dempsey last October. Washington eventually agreed to undergo counseling and issued a statement saying: "I can neither defend nor explain my behavior...I can also no longer deny to



myself that there are issues I obviously need to examine within my own soul, and I've asked for help."

As to how Edwards ties into this, Coulter says she was using the word as "a schoolyard taunt."

"An audience of conservative news junkies not only knows the Isaiah Washington story, they know John Edwards, with his two Americas and you know, his charlatan performances before illiterate juries. They know that that is wussy. That is lame. That is a sissy thing to do," Coulter later said on the Fox News show,

Hannity and Colmes.

Coulter was not using the word as a homosexual slur; that would be unacceptable, and Coulter has repeatedly stated that such use of the word is "wrong." She was instead just mocking a political opponent while making a social point about America's extreme political correctness.

Most of the media, however, had a field day, using Coulter as evidence of a bigoted conservative party. This reaction just proves her point. Of all the things the media should be focusing on, a satirist's use of the word "faggot" should not on the list, much less in the headlines.

Coulter refuses to be defensive and she has no reason to be. Whether or not one thinks the joke is funny, it has a strong point: America has become too uptight about political correctness. Universities in particular have become almost obsessed with using softly padded terminology. Remember, its "undocu-

Continued on Page 14

Coulter's 10-minute speech managed to make the news over any of the other events that occurred over the three-day conference.

Malkin noted that what Coulter says needs to be taken with a grain of salt. Half the time Coulter doesn't mean what she says, the other half, as what happened at CPAC, she says her words are distorted and misrepresented. Coulter said on "Hannity and Colmes" the Monday after the conference, "Faggot isn't offensive

to gays; it has nothing to do with gays," Coulter said. "It's a schoolyard taunt meaning 'wuss,' and unless you're telling me that John Edwards is gay, it was not applied to a gay person."

Whether or not you believe what Coulter says about her choice of words, the fact remains that the media focused on what was probably one of the most insignificant aspects of the convention when it could have used the coverage of the

presidential candidates' speeches to do its job: inform Americans of the candidates' views and platforms so they can vote intelligently when the time comes. But no, instead they decided to blow out of proportion what one woman, who says outlandish things to see what type of reaction she can get from the left, says in a petty, unsubstantial speech.

Good going free press of America.

# Blues Clues and Islamic Terrorism

By Bryce Cullinane

Every time someone mentions Blue's Clues I roll my eyes and try to avoid exposing my childhood obsession. I loved Blue's Clues as a kid and could spend hours helping Blue solve mysteries. It wasn't until recently that I discovered that Blues Clues was more than just another program I watched as a kid. It was, and still is, one of the most creative and intelligent television shows ever created for helping children develop critical thinking skills.

When Blue's Clues was first aired in 1996 it was revolutionary because it had the ability to keep children captivated and, more importantly, teach them. It surpassed Sesame Street in that it was better able to get children to retain what they had been taught. Malcolm Gladwell in his book, "The Tipping Point," describes the show as attaining optimum "stickiness." It was able to, "make sure a message didn't go in one ear and out the other. Stickiness means that a message makes an impact. You can't get it out of your head. It

sticks in your memory." Blue's Clues could captivate and mold minds.

You're probably wondering what this has to do with Islamic terrorism? The answer is simple: progressive education. It is almost a truism that the principle antagonist of Middle-Eastern terrorism is an ideology of religious extremism. The United States is engulfed in a fight against a powerful religious belief that teaches its adherents that the world would be a better place without the evil of America and its citizens.

Many people tell me that there is no way to fight an enemy that is willing to commit suicide. I disagree. The answer lies in modes of education like Blue's Clues. Terrorists are not born to be killers, they are taught. There is nothing inherently evil about them. As of 1997 there were 1.7 million televisions in Iraq, 4.61 million in Iran, and 100,000 in Afghanistan. Television is an effective mode of education with a large audience in the Middle East. In the same way that Blue's Clues is able to successfully educate its audience, the United States government should put increased

funding into progressive education to close the cultural divide. By investing in anti-propaganda propaganda, the roots of terrorism that lie in Islamic extremism can begin to be rooted out. If Americans ceased to be viewed by Muslim extremists as evil, suicide bombers would cease to be heroes.

The effort to progressively educate has already begun. An article appearing in the New York Times entitled "American Road Trip Through Arab Eyes" highlighted a new show being broadcast throughout the Middle East called "On the Road in America." According to a press release from the show's production company, Layalina Productions Inc., the show "follows the journeys of three young Arabs across the United States and the series focuses on Arab and American attitudes toward each other." The show attempts to educate its Arab audience about the true nature of the United States. Layalina believes that "television programming is one of the best ways to bridge the difference between the United States and the Arab Middle East."

The show is the product of the private

sector, yet private funds will not be enough to cross the cultural divide. The federal government is involved in education, yet this effort needs to be handed over to corporations and given increased funding. We need the Steve Jobs of the world to create trendy and "sticky" programs to radically alter Middle Eastern minds. Shows need to be developed for the Middle East that are as effective at teaching as Blue's Clues is.

I do not believe that education is necessarily an alternative to war and I do not disavow the use of military power at certain times. Also, I do not believe that education is a quick fix to cultural misunderstanding. All I advocate is an increased emphasis, through public funds spent in the private sector, on educating the Middle East. The iPod has spread like an epidemic throughout American culture, it is trendy and it sticks, and there is no reason why we cannot spread fresh ideas throughout the Middle East just as fast. In the long run, the money and energy invested in education in the Middle East will be much more effective than bombs and bullets.

# St. Patrick's Day Chowdown

## Major League Eating Event to be Shown on Spike TV

By Erik Berte

One of the largest celebrations for Saint Patrick's Day each year can be found in Savannah, Georgia. This year the day will be a bit tastier as the first annual St. Patrick's Day Chowdown, sponsored by Major League Eating (MLE), will take place there.

You can expect to see famous eaters such as Takeru Kobayashi, Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, and Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas to show up to this contest.

The first part of this event will be a race to see who can eat the most corned beef and cabbage, St. Patty's Day specialties. And the two winners of that round will go on to the green-donut-eating portion of the contest.

You may not be familiar with the International Federation of Competitive Eating, who sponsors the MLE, but this organization has been growing steadily over the last ten years reflecting the expansion



Sonya Thomas, also known as "The Black Widow".

of competitive eating as a sport.

MLE has sponsored many other events in the past that were shown on ESPN, including the



Challenger, Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, is expected to attend the event.

Krystal Square Off World Hamburger Eating Championship in Chattanooga, TN and the Johnsonville World Bratwurst Eating

Championship in Sheboygan, WI. And who could forget the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest?!

## Top Ten American Beers

In honor of St. Patrick's Day

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2. Sierra Nevada Pale Ale
3. Sam Adams Cherry Wheat
4. Dogfish Head Stout
5. Rolling Rock
6. Yuengling
7. Fat Tire
8. Miller High Life
9. Surly Darkness
10. Pabst Blue Ribbon

# A Semester in Washington, DC

By Rachel O'Brien

Have you ever shaken the president's hand? Rubbed elbows with Condi Rice, Margaret Thatcher, Laura Bush and Tony Snow? Listened intently as Harriet Myers and Karl Rove gave speeches to you and a small crowd of 99 other people? Chris Pitera has.

The White House Internship Program allowed Chris Pitera, a junior Political Science major at Stony Brook, to spend the fall semester in Washington DC doing just that.

"The president was the most exciting person to meet," he said in an interview last month. He shook the president's hand on the mid-term election night as the Secret Service tried to get Pitera out of the president's path on the way to deliver a speech to White House staff.

Pitera interned in the Executive Office of the President working on Presidential Proclamations of nationally recognized days of observance. Through this office Pitera and others reviewed requests from ordinary citizens as well as congressmen and senators, interest groups and charities for national recognition of days such as Breast Cancer Awareness day, Patriot Day and Religious Freedom Day.

"There are roughly 2,000 to 5,000 requests per month for national days and about 100 per year are declared by the president," Pitera said. He and a few others in the office were in charge of taking requests and then writing up summaries for the president to read and choose from. On a fact-checking team, Pitera was to make sure the documents were factually correct and fit for presentation to the president for consideration.

While in the White House, Pitera also

worked on the comment line where he took calls from constituents who called to comment on the issue of the day.

"Whatever was playing on the news, that's what people were calling about," he said.

Pitera was one of 100 interns in the White House from Sept. 5 until Dec. 15, working on average, a ten-hour day.

"Every intern I met was a Republican," he said. "With midterm elections, they wanted to surround themselves with people who supported them."

Pitera applied for the internship through the Career Center on campus. The lengthy process included a full background check and FBI disclosure. Two or three letters of recommendation, five or six essay questions and two phone interviews were also required.

"I waited a long time," he said. "It was a long, drawn out process."

Besides his official duties, Pitera was able to go to Senator Clinton's office, asking questions of her advisers and was able to see all the Supreme Court Justices' chambers. "I was in the West Wing all the time," he said.

"The West Wing is an office building. There's nothing extravagant about it except realizing where you're standing when you're standing there."

One of the moments that stand out in his mind is when he heard Donald Rumsfeld was going to resign as Defense Secretary.

"The atmosphere was different," Pitera recalled. "We were all really sad to hear but there was a lot of work to do."

September 11 was also a day Pitera says he sharply recalls. "You could definitely tell security was heightened."



Chris Pitera and his fiancée, Kate in front of the White House.

On this day, Pitera worked 16 hours. One of his duties included handing out commemorative pins to Condoleezza Rice, Dick Cheney, Margaret Thatcher, cabinet members and White House staff on the south lawn.

On the lighter side of things, Pitera got to see the inner workings of the daily White House routines.

"I often saw the dogs in the Rose Garden; Barney and Miss Beasley," he said. The Bush's also have a cat, Willy, but he's less social than the dogs. "I got to see the president come off the Marine 1 helicopter seven

times."

Pitera also saw the Oval Office, surprised by what he found. "It was smaller than I expected," he said. Very intimate."

He caught a glance of the almost daily protests on Pennsylvania Avenue. "There weren't any major protests there like the anti-war rally that was just held."

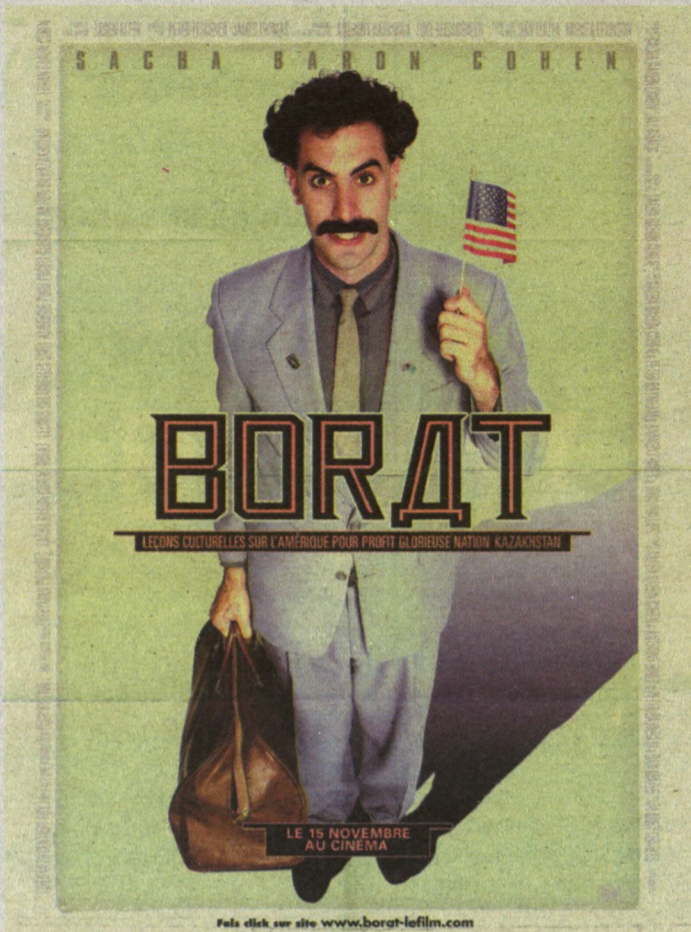
The lack of big protests in DC may not be thrilling, but ask him where his favorite place to eat was and his eyes light up.

"Pot Belly' on Pennsylvania and 17th; they have the best sandwiches."



The Patriot's very own movie expert, Damon Vetere, picks the films to rent so you don't have to waste your time choosing them yourself!

## THE PATRIOT'S NETFLIX QUEUE



# BORAT

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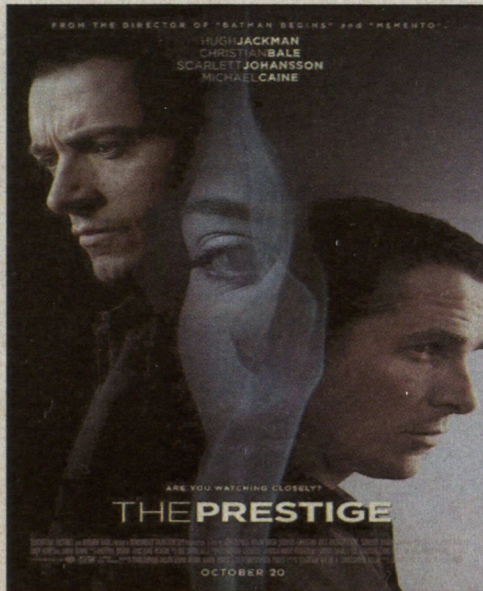
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## BORAT!

Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

Forget Netflix, this is a movie to buy! What many people would consider the comedy of the year, Sacha Baron-Cohen is Borat, a foreign journalist on a mission to film the United States and its citizens in order to show the people of Kazakhstan how to better their lives by being more American. He ends up in search of Pam Anderson, his dream girl. The people in the movie had no idea they were being filmed, and leads to some hilarious moments.



## The Prestige

Christopher Nolan's follow-up to Batman Begins, The Prestige, pits rival magicians (Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman) against one another in a battle for who's got the best trick in town. Pay attention to this one, as it twists and turns from one magic act to the next. The writing is smart, the acting is great, and once it's over you'll want to watch it again. Plus it's got Scarlett Johansson and her rather large "talents".



## The Return

Sarah Michelle Gellar delves once more into the world of the supernatural, starring in this thriller about a woman who is having visions of a murder that occurred 15 years ago. She begins uncovering the mystery, putting herself at risk. The buzz on this one is that it's pretty standard horror fodder, with unique visual sequences that try to make up for somewhat mediocre writing. Still, Sarah Michelle Gellar is always best when she's hunted by the things that go bump in the night.



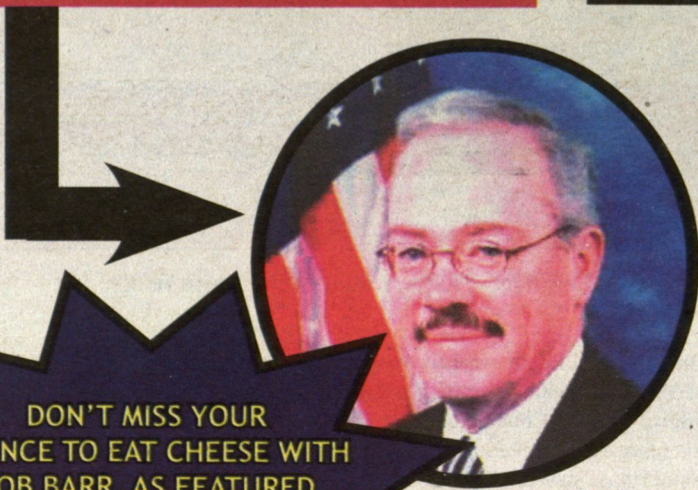
## The Departed

This movie deserves all the hype it has gotten in the last few months, and finally bagged Martin Scorsese that illusive Oscar. Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio are working against each other as snitches in the Boston police department and gangster Frank Costello's crew, respectively. It's a movie about betrayal, survival, and all the violence in between, and definitely deserves at least a rental before you go out and buy the DVD.



## Babel

Another one up for 'Movie of the Year,' Babel stars Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett and interweaves four stories together on an international scale. It's full of tragedy, and shows how an event can bounce around the world. It's a film filled with themes of family, and has been compared to poetry when it all comes together in the end.



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## Movie Review

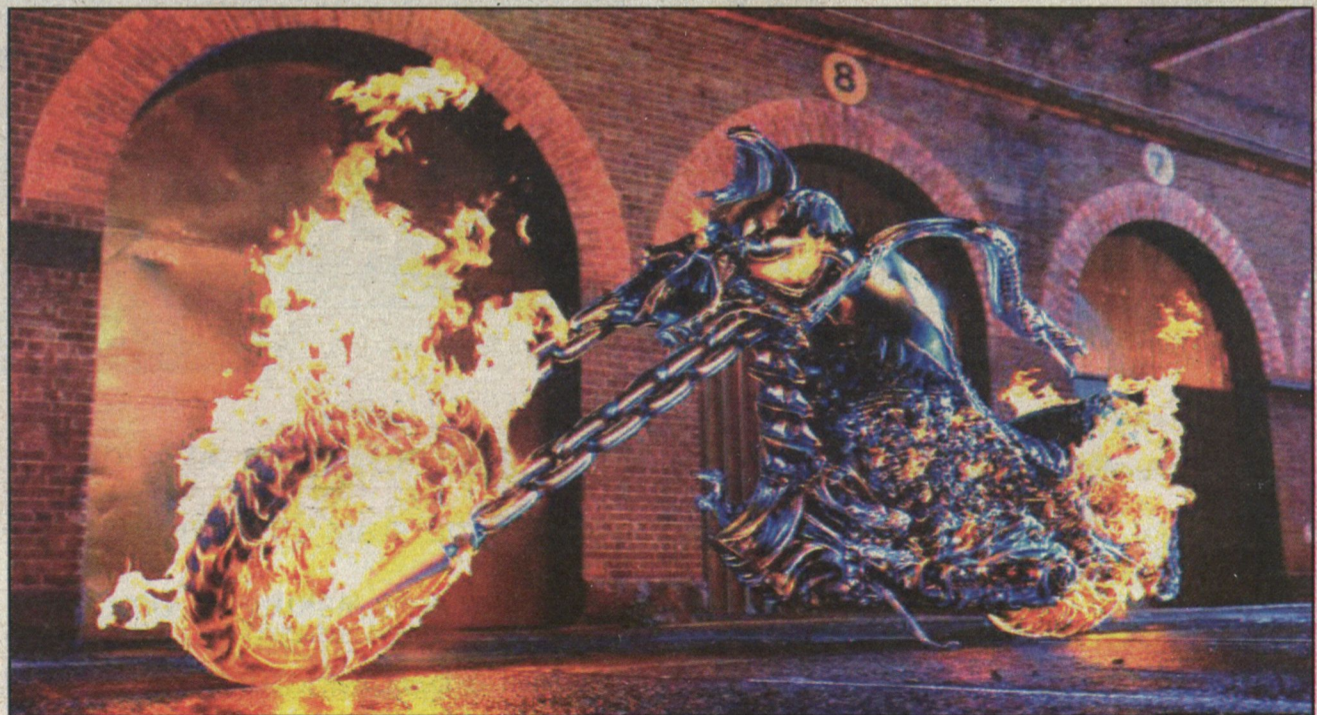


By Damon Vetere

In what felt like a very early start to the summer movie season, Ghost Rider opened to record holiday-weekend sales, setting a new box-office high of \$51.5 million. But with all the hype and advertising, is seeing Nicholas Cage's head on fire worth it? I guess that all depends on what you are looking for. If the last few years had to be defined by one particular genre, it would have to be superhero movies, hands down. We've seen (for better or worse) Superman, Spider-Man, Batman, Daredevil, The Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Elektra, Blade, the X-Men, and Catwoman grace the silver screen. The result has been varied, with franchises such as Batman and Superman getting re-launched with great success, as well as Spider-Man and X-Men becoming key franchises, while others have fallen flat on their faces. Where does Ghost Rider fit in to this orgy of leather, capes, and masks?

If you are a true comic book fan, heading to the store weekly to nab copies of whatever, then you're probably sick of seeing some characters butchered on screen at the hands of writers who wouldn't know Jeph Loeb or Frank Miller if they bit them in the ass. Most superhero films have been complete garbage, and Ghost Rider fits somewhere between the utter crap of Catwoman and the brilliance of Batman Begins. Nicholas Cage is Nicholas Cage. He really tries to play Johnny Blaze, but all I see is Nicholas Cage, looking utterly confused as always, only this time in leather - white leather. With flames. And big sunglasses. And jelly beans. Weird, I know.

Funny enough, the movie loses steam



when we are introduced to the villain, Blackheart, and gets even worse when Cage becomes the bounty hunter of the devil. When the action sequences begin, they are bland, boring, and predictable. You never really find yourself getting excited by them. You wait for something, anything to happen, but it doesn't. Blackheart is a bitch. No matter how cool the effects on him are, he comes off as a whiny, punk-ass kid who should be working at McDonald's, not trying to rule the world. His dialogue is cliché, and his scenes really drag. Eva Mendes is even worse. She sucks, and that's the only time I'm going to spend on her and her boobs, which manage to have more of an

on-screen presence than Blackheart and his minions ever have.

This brings us to the main character, Ghost Rider. There are parts in the movie where you really want him to do something sick and twisted. It seems that writer/director Mark Steven Johnson thought he should do two things throughout the entire movie: point and stare. His lines are something you would expect Hulk Hogan or "Macho Man" Randy Savage would say, like "you're going down" and crap like that. He has so much potential, and it really kills you to realize the movie is almost over and you haven't seen him do one cool thing on screen. The best scene in the entire movie is

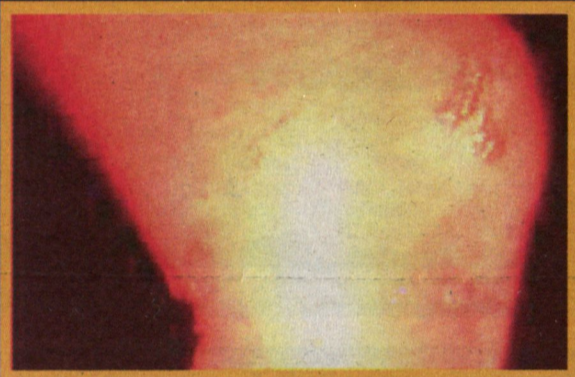
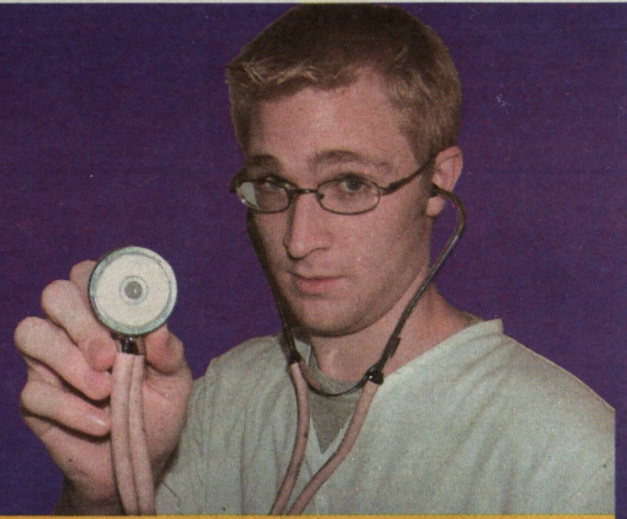
when Ghost Rider and the Caretaker (who is the best character in the movie) are hauling ass in the desert, with a techno-ish remake of "Ghost Riders in the Sky" blaring in the background.

If you are going to see this movie just to see Ghost Rider on screen, you'll probably have a decent time, but if you hold your superhero movies to a high standard and expect the character to be held in the same standard as the comics, you'll probably have trouble enjoying this one. Yet another movie with tons of potential is squandered away by poor writing, leaving a burning desire (pun intended) to see something worthy of having the Ghost Rider in it.

Patriot Labs Presents:

# Medical Myths Exposed

With "Doctor" Erik



## Is Poison Ivy Contagious?

Poison ivy, as well as Poison Oak and Sumac, is "poison" because of an oil in the plant. Eighty-five percent of people, if exposed to this oil, urushiol, will develop an allergic reaction, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. Coming into contact with the plant or anything else that touched it, including pets, will cause the symptoms of poison ivy in these individuals. Pretty much, everyone understands this.

From there on, public knowledge gets shaky. Firstly, many people think that the resulting rash from poison ivy spreads around the initial point of contact, and even to other areas of the body. Some believe that this can happen from touching the fluid that comes from the blisters and then touching other areas of skin. However, according to the National Institute of Health, this is bogus. The fluid, as well as the rash on the skin, is not contagious contrary to popular belief. This is because after a short period of time, the oil causing the reaction, is either absorbed into the skin or washed off. All that remains at this point is the allergic reaction left from it.

The rash might appear to be spreading for a couple of reasons. It could be that traces of the oil still remain under the individual's fingernails, which is one reason why it's

important to shower and wash your hands very well after you think you've been exposed to poison ivy. It could also be that the oil was absorbed at different rates in different areas of the skin, according to the FDA.

Now, some interesting information. Given the figure of 85 percent of the public being susceptible to poison ivy, it seems logical to assume that 15 percent of people are immune to it, to a degree, myself being one of them. Following that idea, researchers have recently done some experiments seeing if immunity can be provoked among poison ivy-sufferers. Researchers at Allergy Associates of La Crosse in La Crosse, Wisconsin, found that after a treatment (look up what the treatment was), ninety percent of the patients in the study reported having fewer reactions to poison ivy and the ones who had the same number, said that their occurrences were less severe. Of course, more research must be done, but this is a great step for people who are very allergic to poison ivy.

That said, until there's a magical antidote or immunization that prevents poison ivy, the best way to prevent it is to simply avoid the plant. Always be on the lookout for that nasty three-leaved plant and if you think you might have been exposed to it, wash up!



## Al Gore's COOL-O-METER

When not too busy fighting the "inconvenient truths" of global warming or accepting Academy Awards, our former Vice President combats climate control by discovering what's cool or not cool each month.

### March COOL-O-METER



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- \$2.00 Pints of Guinness on Saint Patrick's Day
- Giants Superstars on Campus
- Denim Jackets Making a Comeback
- Antonella Barba Pictures Released on the Internet
- Man-Bear-Pig
- Picking on the Statesman
- Killing Off Classic Characters in Comic Books
- Jared From Subway: No One Likes Him
- Fake Genitals Hanging on Doors

# Why Blair Changed Course in Iraq

By Matthew Reisch

Prime Minister Tony Blair's declaration in February to reduce British troop contributions to the United States' lead coalition in Iraq came as a surprise to many Americans. However, it was hardly an event that was unforeseen in the United Kingdom. Quite frankly, the reason why many Americans found this shift in policy difficult to grasp was because of their lack of familiarity with the Westminster model of government and the state of British politics.

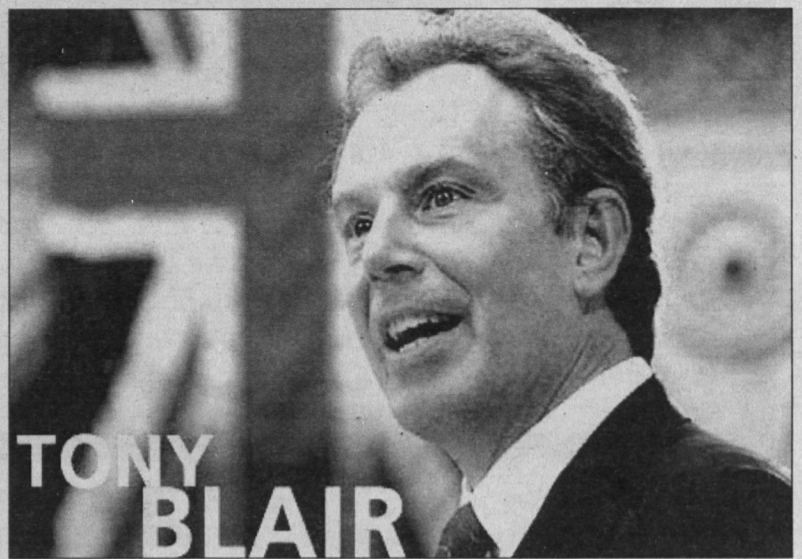
In order to truly understand Tony Blair's decision, a basic comprehension of British government is essential. The United Kingdom's system of government is known as the Westminster model and is a constitutional monarchy, with most of the power in government seated in the House of Commons of the British parliament. General elections in the United Kingdom for Parliamentary seats occur approximately every five years and special elections can be called by the prime minister in the name of the monarch. The election results are tabulated on a single member plurality system, also known as the "first past the post" electoral system. This has the uncanny ability to produce a very strong two party system, with one party controlling a majority in the Commons and the ability to form a government that is not a coalition. A government in British politics refers to the cabinet of ministers including the prime minister selected from members of the House of Commons.

The government is responsible for initiating policy which is voted on in the Commons and often passed because of a strict whipping system of party loyalty. Often times the government's ability to pass legislation with such great success is cynically called an "elected dictatorship." However this "elected dictatorship" can backfire if support in the Commons dwindles below the necessary votes to pass such legislation. When support for the government in power becomes minimal, the opposition may try to promote a vote of censure (aka no confidence), which is designed to show its discontent with the government's actions. If a vote of no confidence is passed by the majority, the government is required to resign and form a new government or dissolve parliament and hold general elections. A vote of confidence is a very similar measure, with

similar results but is instead proposed by the government as a way to solidify their majority which sometimes backfires.

In recent years Prime Minister Tony Blair has been threatened with motions of no confidence but has not succumbed to the inevitable resignation or dissolution of the parliament. The Iraq war began in March of 2003 without support from the UN (which is also another source of opposition for the war) and since has become a very heated topic in Britain. Public opinion has dropped significantly and dissent within Blair's own party is very evident. In fact in 2004, parliament members attempted to censure the prime minister. The 2004 debate was fueled by a document known as the Butler Report which investigated the validity of pre-war intelligence. Blair was charged by the opposition with misleading parliament and the public into supporting the war in Iraq based on third party intelligence and perhaps a mild distortion of the immediate threat the Saddam Hussein posed to the UK. Blair replied to these comments: "Whatever the situation with actual readily deployable weapons, part of the problem with this is that people have now gone to the other extreme and said there was no threat. That was not the case." Furthermore Blair also made the point that a retraction of UK troops would allow the U.S. to unilaterally take action in Iraq, unchecked, which would be much worse. Essentially Blair appealed to those Britons who felt that US actions were capricious and needed to be policed by the UK, who has had more experience in the past as a hegemony.

As civil war in Iraq has become more evident Blair has found himself in even more hot water, with many in his own party urging him to step down as prime minister. The opposing Conservative Party has also had a hard time securing a party platform on the Iraq issue. Quite frankly, both parties are split on the issue and public disdain for the war has become much louder.



Many of Blair's critics feel that Britain's sovereignty has been a casualty of this war. Some say that Blair has been a lemming, following President Bush's lead with little or no public criticism of the current state of the war.

All of the aforementioned has had a great deal of influence on Tony Blair's decision to start withdrawing UK troops. Speculating the immediate political reason why Blair changed his course of action may include an attempt at once again reclaiming strong party control. The War in Iraq has been one of the biggest schisms in Tony Blair's Labour party and party unification is necessary if the Labour Party wants to maintain control of the government and regain public support. Tony Blair and the Labour Party do not want to yield their power to the Conservative Party just yet, and they feel this is the best way to continue their control. Also, Blair has made it public that he will be leaving his post as prime minister in the not-so-distant future. This potential political move to withdraw troops, may be Blair's last stitch effort to secure Labour's power and leave a cooperative rank and file for the next Labour prime minister.

Captain America 1941-2007

## STAR-SPANGLED SUPERHERO DEAD AT 66

### Patriotic Hero Falls Victim to Assassin's Bullet and Publisher's Political Statement

In the turbulent months leading up to the United States' entrance into World War II, writer Joe Simon and artist Jack Kirby created a comic book character whose adventures would place him in direct conflict with the Axis powers that threatened the world at that time. They clad him in a red, white and blue costume adorned with stars and stripes that designed him to stand for the very personification of our nation's values. Several wars and many decades later, the hero who would go on to sell over 210 million issues worldwide has now died. Captain America, the Sentinel of Liberty is dead at the age of 66.

Marvel Comics, the publisher of

Captain America since his creation in 1941 has killed off one of their flagship characters to culminate the ending of their controversial storyline, "Civil War." The long running arc was designed to symbolize America's current distemper that our country is facing amid the War on Terrorism. At series end, Captain America surrenders to the side that enforces a super-hero Registration Act that Marvel crafted to stand in for the real life Patriot Act. On his way to court to face trial, Captain America is shot down by an unknown sniper.

The publishers have gone on the record as stating that the storyline was intentionally written as an, "allegory to cur-

rent real life issues."

"There is a lot to read into in there," says Joe Quesada, Marvel's Editor-in-Chief. "We want readers to find their own meaning in Cap's end."

Joe Simon, now 93 years old, is reported to be distraught in the wake of the death of his beloved creation. "We really need him now..." he stated in part of his release to the Associated Press.

But what of those who say comic characters die and get resurrected all the time? Dan Buckley, the president of Marvel Comics wants people to know that this death will be different. "Times are different now," he said. "We want Captain America's death to stand for something." They want us to understand the depth of this character's death within the overall scope of things. They want us to know that this is a political agenda. They want us to believe that the death of the star spangled patriot Captain America is also the death



of the American dream.

# USG Presidential Candidate Statements

***There are three candidates on the ballot for this year's Undergraduate Student Government elections. The Patriot gave each a chance to submit a statement to the students at Stony Brook and let us know what they stand for and what they can do for us, if elected. Joe Antonelli is currently serving in the USG Senate, Romual Jean-Baptiste is the incumbent in this race, and Chinelo Onochie is the current Vice President of Academic Affairs.***

Hello my fellow students,

My name is Joseph Antonelli and I am running for USG President. I have spent the last several months working hard as a USG Senator, serving specifically on the budget committee. In my experience in this committee, I have learned the ins and outs of USG as well as the ins and outs of almost every club and organization on campus. This is essential in serving you, the students because I can relate to the struggle of every club and organization here at Stony Brook University.



As well as this, my major accomplishment in office was the passing of the Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets Act (ALIRRT). This program is designed to take some of the financial burden of taking the LIRR off of the students. USG now orders 500 off-peak round trip tickets to Penn Station and 300 off-peak tickets to Jamaica Station every month. The tickets are then sold out of the SAC ticket office for \$9 and \$6, respectively. In the couple of months that this program has been enacted, I have truly seen what USG is all about: serving the students.

I have many plans if elected into office. My number one priority is to do something about the meal options here on campus. The contract with Chartwells (the company that provides our food services on campus) is up this summer and I will make it my personal business to monitor the contract bids. We deserve the best deal possible, and I am your man to make sure that happens. I also would like to fix this "off campus meal plan" that the current president has implemented. Using your laundry card at Subway and Dominos does not at all help the students in any way. In the new meal contract, I will do my best to make sure a real off-campus meal plan is in place. I also will make sure that the new contract has no activation fee. It is absolutely absurd that we pay an activation fee for a mandatory plan that forces us to buy overpriced food.

The SINC sites here on campus do not adequately serve the needs or the wants of our students. The congestion throughout the day is unacceptable. Many sites are not open nearly enough to accommodate us. I will fight to have better hours for all SINC sites so students can go at their convenience and not have to deal with long waits to use a computer or to print documents out. I also will fight to make double-sided printing the default setting at all SINC sites. Many students have been fighting for this, and I promise to join the fight and apply the necessary pressure to get this done.

One group that is often forgotten about is the commuters. The parking situation for commuters is unacceptable. On top of that, the access to bus service to go to the South P lot is inadequate. Often many of our commuters wait long periods of time to catch a bus. They have lives, jobs, places to be, why should they be treated so poorly? I am going to fight for a parking complex in the current faculty lot near the SAC. This is something that may take years to build so in the meantime I am going to push hard for more busses to South P so less of your time is wasted.

Weekend life here at Stony Brook University is non-existent. I am a resident here on campus who doesn't go home on the weekends and, personally, I find it quite relaxing, but the University does not at all accommodate our needs. We need better dining hall hours on the weekends. Anybody who gets up anytime before 10:30 a.m. doesn't have anywhere to eat and all that is available is all-you-can-eat brunch, which isn't they tastiest food around. The SAC doesn't open until 12:00 p.m., which is clearly unacceptable. How does anybody expect students to stay on the weekends when the administration doesn't take our needs into consideration?

I can go on all day about the changes that I am going to make around here. The thing is this. Enrollment keeps increasing, Faculty Student Association's revenues keep increasing, but the quality of life remains the same. My track record proves that I do get things done around here and I only answer to you, the students. I bring the most important asset to the table: honesty. I will never try to mislead any of you. Honesty and communication are the keys to getting anything done around here. If anybody has any questions or concerns, I invite you to send me an e-mail at [jtantone@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:jtantone@ic.sunysb.edu) or facebook me. I want to hear from you. Remember, between March 19th and March 23rd to vote Joe Antonelli for USG President. Thank you and I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,  
Joe Antonelli

Greetings my fellow students,

When I ran for president last spring, I guaranteed that I would consistently advocate for student rights and work with the university administration to achieve significant improvements in the quality of student life on campus. I also promised to answer only to you, my fellow students. I have fulfilled those promises and given the chance to be your chief servant once more, I will not only build upon the successes of this year, I promise to undertake upon even more ambitious initiatives, including the following:

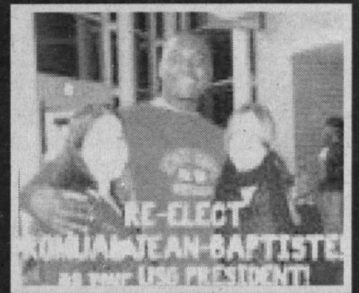
**FREE LAUNDRY PROGRAM:** We pay enough money to Stony Brook University for us not to be able to receive the most basic of services such as free laundry. I promise to work with the FSA in creating a free laundry program.

**LOWER FOOD PRICES:** As the current Secretary of the Executive Board of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), I have great influence in the contracting of vendors that provide food services on campus. I have a great working relationship with the Executive Board. This is apparent in my ability to achieve an off-campus debit account. The Chartwell's contract, the provider of food services on campus, is up for bid soon. Therefore, if lower food prices can be accomplished, then I'm the RIGHT PERSON and this is the BEST TIME to get it done, and it will be accomplished with your support! **ELIMINATION OF THE MEAL PLAN ACTIVATION FEE:** We should not have to pay FSA \$270 in order for our already overpriced meal plans to be activated. Therefore, I will fight this injustice that has been forced upon us. **CARRY OVER OF MEAL POINTS FROM SEMESTER TO SEMESTER:** It is our money; we should not be restricted to when we can spend it. I will fight to the end for us to be able to have our unused meal points from a previous semester to carry over to the following semester. **INCREASE WEEKEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:** Though I and others are currently working very hard to provide incentives for clubs and organizations to conduct weekend activities, there is much to be done over time. If re-elected president, I will be even more aggressive in encouraging quality and worthwhile weekend activities on a more consistent basis. **INCREASE SINC-SITE HOURS AND PRINTING ALLOWANCES:** The Sinc-sites around campus should be opened longer and we should not be limited in the amount of printing we can do the way we currently are. If re-elected president, I plan on confronting this issue head on. **INCREASE ON-CAMPUS PARKING:** Parking on campus has been of great concern not only for commuters but for residents as well. There are possibilities of increasing the number of parking on campus. The key is having the right person to initiate the dialogue. If re-elected president, I will be that person. **INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF BUSES:** By working with the university, I will attempt to cut down on waiting times for the buses, therefore increasing the frequency of all bus routes. **BETTER ON-CAMPUS HANDICAP ACCESS:** The handicap and wheelchair access on campus is both dangerous and inadequate, and we shall let the administration know that there must be proper drainage, snow and debris clearance for the safety of all students on campus. **ONE-STEP BUDGET PROCESS FOR CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:** The budget process is currently a tedious process, consisting of a 14 page budget application. If re-elected president, I will work with the elected treasurer to come with a maximum three page-long application thereby making the budget process more convenient and less time consuming for our clubs and organizations.

Some what I have accomplished while in office includes the following: **OFF-CAMPUS DEBIT PROGRAM:** Working with FSA, an agreement has been signed with Dominos and Subway to provide 10 percent discounts to Stony Brook students using their Campus Cash. If re-elected president, my plan is to expand this program so that we, the students of Stony Brook University, can utilize our financial aide awards towards the Campus Cash account, just like we are able to do with our bookstore accounts. **ONLINE RESERVATIONS FOR CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:** Club and Organization leaders no longer have to leave their rooms in order to book events and USG Services. This system saves time and effort. **INCREASED SAC DINING HOURS:** I worked with the FSA to keep the food court at the SAC open one hour longer than previous years. Rather than closing at 8 p.m., the SAC Dining Hall now closes at 9 p.m. starting last fall. **YES NETWORK:** Working with Campus Residences, I was able to get the YES Network to be included as part of our channel choices on campus. The YES network is available on channel 70. **CALYPSO!** Working with FSA and Campus Dining, I have been successful in adding a new flavor to the campus food menu starting next fall. This new Caribbean concept will offer authentic West Indies Caribbean cuisine such as curried goat, mahi mahi, rum marinated chicken breast, oxtails, and jerk pork stew. The menu will feature Golden Krust products such as coco bread and chicken, beef or veggie patties. Also enjoy fried plantains, callaloo soup and jerk chicken wraps. This area of dining will be located in the Union. **ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS:** I have worked closely with the USG senate to come up with constitutional amendments putting USG in compliance with certain state laws for the first time in its history. Also, I spearheaded the creation of the financial bylaws, which explains in a single, easy-to-reference document how clubs, agencies and USG-recognized groups can receive funding. It also protects clubs from unlawful government actions.

I HAVE PROMISED and I HAVE DELIVERED and I shall do so again. I believe in my own integrity, and you can trust me to be your faithful servant in office. I have made it my mission to restore the USG's reputation, and to make certain that yours is a government that is truthful, transparent, and above petty politics. We have accomplished this task but there are many more stones yet unturned. On March 19th through the 23rd on SOLAR, you can help in the continuous building of success and accomplishments by casting your vote for me, Romual Jean-Baptiste, the most experienced and most capable candidate to provide you reforms and results that count.

Sincerely Yours,  
Romual Jean-Baptiste (Your Current USG President)



**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE for USG!!!  
Monday, March 19 - Friday, March 23  
Logon to SOLAR to Vote!**

Dear Students,

Let me begin by introducing myself as Chinelo Onochie, your current Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Ambassador, and Chair for PASS. I started out as a senator my freshman year and was elected Vice President of Academic Affairs for two consecutive years. Throughout that time, I have dealt with issues affecting students academically. Tackling the problem of academic dishonesty, I presented a proposal to the Undergraduate Senate advocating for an inclusion of an "Academic Dishonesty" statement on every syllabus. This proposal also prompted the university to hire an academic integrity officer whose main objective is to prevent students from cheating by getting to the root of the problem. Working as a liaison between students and faculty, I often talked about the problem of tutor shortage. When I was made Chairperson for PASS (Providing Academic Support to Students), I made it my objective to ensure that students were getting the best tutoring possible. As a Student Ambassador and Vice President, I never limit myself to the corridors of USG. I was a voting member of CASA (Committee for Academic Standing and Appeals), I worked with NYPIRG in advocating against tuition hikes and I was chosen as one out of four representatives for the Student Assembly Conference. I've always been an advocate for fun and education, putting these two concepts together; I created the APC "Academic Planning Committee" who are responsible for fun academic activities such as "Edgy-Cation" the Academic game show. Here is the breakdown of my work thus far:

As Vice President I created a speakers' bureau where students can get the benefit of listening and learning from those that have achieved great success in different areas of their lives. Tiki Barber (our first USG sponsored speaker) gave a talk on the "Pursuit of Excellence: leadership, determination, and success". The purpose of this speech is to motivate students and inspire them to "Be all they can be". Through this event, we were able to raise \$1450 for the student giving campaign. Thanks to all who showed up.

As Chair for PASS, I am responsible for hiring and training 30 tutors. I am also responsible for pairing tutors/tutees together to maximize their learning abilities and ultimately receiving that grade that they deserve. The PASS program was created to help students who are in need of tutoring in any and every subject. This is a one-on-one tutoring program where students are able to learn and fill in the gaps for whatever they don't understand during lectures.

As President for APC, I wanted to create academic based activities for students. Edgycation (the academic game show) was created in this process. This is a fun and educational game show that allows students to come together in an informal setting to compete and learn about different subject matter. The next game show is scheduled for March 28th and will take place in Ballroom B.

Here's My Point: We all know what our needs are. We want food prices lowered, we want better food choices, we would like better bus schedules, and some of us might even want better professors, we want free laundry services....etc.

Here's the Deal: It's really easy for people to say, "yes I can get you these things if you make me president".....so why don't we have them????

In order to have these things, the next USG president has to have already established a relationship with the administrators, professors, even the staff that make up this fine university of ours. Basically, YOU NEED SUPPORT. During my three-year career as a humble servant of USG and a Student Ambassador, I have established a level of respect from professors and administrators which enables me to better communicate the needs of students and get enough support to push them through.

Besides advocating for the needs of students on campus, I will also focus my time into reconstructing USG and making it a better ground for communication between students. That being said, I have come up with 7-Ultimate Points of my One-year plan as President:

-Caring: This is my #1 point in that to succeed as an effective leader; I must care for those that I lead, and about the needs of students. With "caring" comes commitment, and as president, I will commit my time and power to listening and figuring out the various needs of the student body.

-Helping: My role as president will be primarily to target the leaders of different organizations. That way, I can better understand and reach out to the student body as a whole. USG executive council will work together to "help" establish a universal goal.

-Inspire: If we really want to take care of issues such as food prices, we need more students to get involved. As president, my third point will be to inspire a universal vision through which every student can agree to working towards and administrators can adhere to. This means.....

-Never as president will I favor a group of students over another. My fourth point involves ensuring equality between USG elected leaders and the student body. Equality is very important as a leader because it yields trust and without trust, we cannot function to our maximum potential.

-Enable: My 5th point is one that is often times taken for granted. I will focus on enabling other non-USG students to partake in leadership roles (to gain insight and experience). I want to see a USG that is able and willing to work together and working together means enabling others to assist when necessary.

-Lead: There's no president without one's ability to lead. I will work towards creating fluidity amongst students, Administrators, faculty and Staff. In order to solve the campus issues that we face, a good leader ought to include administrators, faculty and staff because if one group is dissatisfied, we cannot get anything done.

-Outcome: the outcome of USG will involve taking these key points and applying them and once we do that, the sky is the limit. The secret to success as USG president is showing not only students, but administrators how much improving Stony Brook University means to us. This includes working towards students' concerns like food prices and at the same time tackling administrative concerns such as upholding the reputation of Stony Brook University.

Bottom Line is if you actually want to see any of these changes come through, cast your vote where it counts, VOTE Chinelo as your president and you won't be disappointed.

Yours truly,  
CHINELO ONOCHIE

CHINELO ONOCHIE



## *Second Annual Alexander Hamilton Dinner Banquet*

*Proudly Presented by the Enduring Freedom Alliance*

### *Why America Should Get Out of the UN... Yesterday!*



**Bob Barr**

*Former Georgia Congressman*

*Join us on Monday, April 9, 2007*

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*SAC Ballroom A*

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**Prof. Schwartz  
vs.  
Prof. Withers**

***Should the U.S.  
Withdraw its  
Troops from Iraq?***

March 28, 2007  
12:40-2:10pm  
SAC Auditorium

Lunch will be served

Sponsored by the Stony  
Brook Debate Team

# THE MODERN FEMINIST GUIDE



## Chapter Two: The Domestic Realm

By Lena Tumasyan

*Note: The following article represents the views and opinions of the writer, except for cited sources. The guide is not meant for pimps, hoes, sluts, bums, sugar daddy's, gold-diggers, SOB's, Bitches, horndogs, bimbos, womanizers, princesses, etc, you get the picture.*

I will proceed to tackle the most dangerous of subjects, the one fallen under the most scrutiny, and the one feared by most feminists: The Domestic Realm.

The following three words cause shivers, evoke fear, contempt, and anger from many feminists, insight rage, and beget withdrawal from such activities by feminists: 1. Domestic - meaning "Of or relating to the family or household," also means "Tame or domesticated;" 2. Domesticated - meaning "A plant or animal that has been adapted to live in a human environment;" and 3. Domesticity - meaning "Home life or devotion to it." Why? And what is a Modern Feminist to do with his or her chores?

History shows that for a long time in many of the world's societies (but not all), women have played the major role in taking care of house and home. They stayed at home, cooked, cleaned, took care of children, and did business from home. But men didn't stray far from the house either. They might have set

off in groups to catch an animal and bring it back to the village, but they also played an important role in "playing house" - meaning, building it, planning a village, and making sure his family was safe from harm. The roles, although different, were equally important in weight. Without the animal caught, there would be no meat to cook, without the chef at home, there wouldn't be knowledge of how to cook it. The sperm needs the egg as much as the egg needs the sperm to create a child. Same thing applies.

Only in the most recent hundred years or so, with the coming of the industrial revolution, have the values of household roles shifted. Earning of money by the man in the household became "worth" more to society than women's work. The non-money earning kind, which became less meaningful in society, was subservient to the man's, and unappreciated.

The peak of this unfair ideology was in the 1950s. We had the poster-perfect images of a 50s housewife in a poodle skirt serving dinner to the husband who just returned home from work. But there were many exceptions to that rule at the time, and during the 60s the exceptions became a huge part of society. The feminists rebelled against this unfair image, and rightfully so. But the stick was bent beyond its limit and pushed to the breaking point where now both men and women are clueless and apprehensive about the domestic

realm.

We have many people, living with mothers and fathers, confused as to what role they should play. Should the woman learn to cook, clean, take care of kids, etc? If she does engage in such "subservient activities," is she still a feminist? Should the man learn how to keep house, fix things, make a living? Should he worry that women today think of him as too traditional? There are also riskier questions: should a girl learn how to keep house, fix stuff, make a living, etc? Should a guy learn how to cook, clean, take care of kids? The answer to all these questions is YES!!!! A modern feminist does it all.

The knowledge of domestic skills is especially important for any individual living on his or her own. Meaning, girls should know "girl" and "guy" stuff, and guys should know "guy" and "girl" stuff. Do not be afraid to attempt to do non-traditional work! But be rational about what you attempt. For example, a little guy shouldn't be lifting a refrigerator by himself, but any girl can fix the plumbing inside the toilet water tank.

In today's times, each person in the household needs to contribute to running it. One income is no longer enough, and if both people are working, then leaving the household duties to one person, usually the wife, is not fair - that's two full-time jobs! Argument over chores is also a big reason why so many married couple divorce.

So... what to do?

Step one: Every feminist rebelling against the in-house slavery known as being a "housewife": do not be afraid! Set your right foot in the vicinity of the kitchen, then your left, and repeat until you reach the stove. A modern feminist male won't think of you as "too-traditional" if you know how to cook and he won't get too used to it either. It saves money, is more healthy than eating out, and a good way to show you care. And guys, learn how to fix stuff, it scores bonus points with the girlfriend. It saves money and your job will more likely be of a higher quality than some middle aged plumber with a butt crack so big you wonder how he bent over and squeezed underneath the sink anyway. And if you're really stumped about how to do stuff, then proceed to your nearest bookstore, computer, supermarket, or Home Depot, talk to a few experts, and yes, even approach your parents, they just might know a thing or two.

Step two (just as equally important as the first): Share! Girls, let the guys help you out and guys - let the girls help you out. You can all learn from each other. That way you can take turns cooking dinner and finally put up the new wall, together! Hm! Who ever thought domesticated feminists would give divorce attorneys a run for their money!

Questions, Comments? Send them to [info@stonybrookpatriot.com](mailto:info@stonybrookpatriot.com)

## "Economically Insensitive" Man

**Former Federal Reserve Chairman chastised by investors for use of "r-word" sparking massive sell-off**

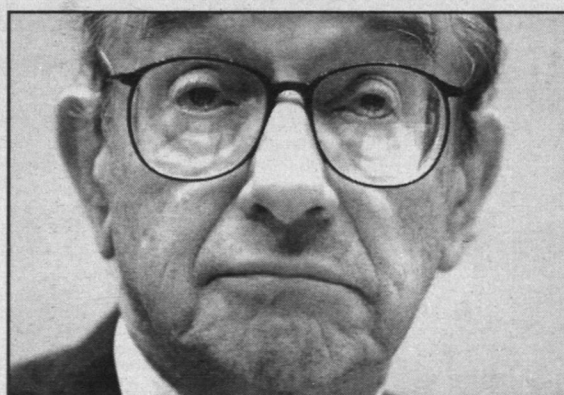
Satire By Damian Geminder

Following the 416-point crash that the Dow Jones Industrial Average underwent last week, many investors are turning their ire towards former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Though the significant decrease - 3.3 percent - was most likely due to the 8.8 percent drop in the Chinese stock market, not to mention the assassination attempt on Vice-President Dick Cheney, it is Greenspan's comments that have been shown the most scrutiny.

"It is appalling, really!" trader Jonathan Cavuto hollered. "That old fossil has the nerve to tell us not to over inflate the market! Well, we're just going to sell it all! ALL OF IT, I TELLS YA!!! That'll show him!"

The ACLU is seriously considering taking up the Cavuto's case against Mr. Greenspan, who said Monday, "When you get this far away from a recession invariably forces build up for the next recession, and indeed we are



beginning to see that sign."

Sodom E. Gomorrah, Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said that Greenspan's comments were "harmful and derogatory to the investor community and have harmed former Federal Reserve Chairmen-investor relations for years to come."

Trader Dagen Rogers explained her anger at the entire situation: "Greenspan knows just how volatile the market is. We investors will cause the global economy to grind to a halt at the drop of a - OIL IS UP A PENNY!!! SELL!!! SELL!!!"

Mr. Greenspan was unavailable for comment as of press time, but a spokesman told reporters that he was hibernating in the same type of protective, self-regulating cocoon that Larry King uses to extend his life.

## On Ann Coulter's Remarks

Continued from page 6

mented immigrant," not "illegal alien."

It's almost refreshing to hear taboo words spoken unabashedly in a public forum. It's a break from the tip-toeing in class discussions around sensitive words and issues. Is it even alright to say "black" anymore, or is only "African-American" acceptable? Even those who do not even like Coulter, can respect her refusal to abide America's hypersensitivity. (This writer included).

Some, however, worry (or celebrate) that Coulter's speech hurts the Right. Conservatives should respond that if there are voters simple enough not to support Republicans just because someone who isn't a public official jokingly used the word "faggot" against someone who isn't even gay, then Republicans shouldn't want their votes. They can win without them.

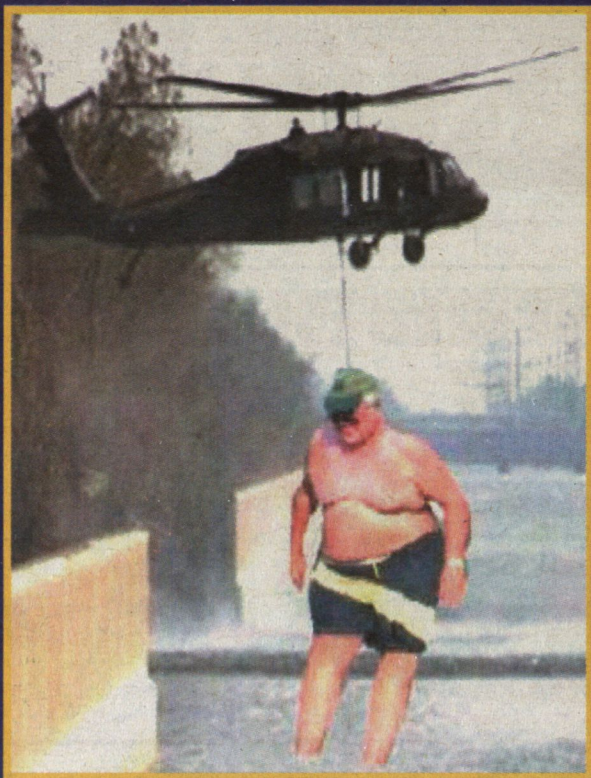
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# Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month

Satire By Virginia Morgan and Rachel O'Brien



## Bananas and Cream

When not ambling through the halls of Congress or filibustering judicial nominees on the floor of the Senate, there's nothing Senator Kennedy likes more than kicking back on the shores of Chappaquiddick with a nice, cold drink in his hand.

Each month this column will highlight one of Senator Kennedy's favorite drinks. This month's drink: Bananas and Cream

### Ingredients

1/2 oz Kahlua  
1/2 oz Baily's Irish Cream  
1/2 oz 99 Bananas

### Directions

Stir until ingredients are mixed well.  
Enjoy!



Not intended for the weak of stomach, faint of heart or those who are under 21.



## Picture of the Month



*"Michael Moore and Fat Bastard just couldn't take the sexual tension anymore and had to give in to their burning desires."*

*"Ted Kennedy just has to have that last life sized gingerbread man."*

Conservative?

Libertarian?

Independent?

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# The Patriot | Sports



Sean Martin

## SPORTS MINUTE

This upcoming season should prove to be another exciting one for New York Baseball fans. Throughout the summer of '06 both the Yankees and Mets continuously fought for the covers of the Sports Pages and this season should play out in virtually the same fashion. Both the Yankees and Mets go into this season possessing two of the most powerful lineups that either team has ever put on the field, while having similar question marks in their respective pitching staffs. With that in mind, here are some of the Patriot's predictions for the 2007 Baseball Season.

While the American League East may be slightly more competitive than in years past, it will still shape up to be a battle between the Yankees and the Red Sox. Any issues the Yankees will face in their rotation will be overcome by their superhuman lineup. Toronto will be an interesting team to watch, Vernon Wells should continue to mature into a MVP candidate and Roy Halladay should be Johan Santana's only

real competition for the Cy Young award. Yet they lack the real depth necessary to compete with the Yankees and Red Sox. Many feel that the spending spree the Red Sox went on this offseason will allow them to finally steal the division title away from the Yankees, but I feel that these moves will prove to be over-rated. Schilling is another year older and Josh Beckett still needs to show that he can pitch in the American

League. Ultimately the Yankees will win their 10th consecutive division title.

**Predicted Order of Finish- 1. Yankees 2. Red Sox 3. Blue Jays 4. Orioles 5. Devil Rays.**

In the AL Central last year the Tigers took everyone by surprise.

This year they won't be sneaking up on anyone, but that young pitching that made the Yankees look like little leaguers last post season is all still intact and getting better. This division of mostly small-market clubs will prove once again to be one of the most exciting in baseball with the Twins, White Sox and Tigers all with extremely talented clubs. The Tigers will emerge as division champions, however, and the Twins and White Sox will miss the playoffs because of the number of games they play against one another.

**P.O.O.F.- 1. Tigers 2. White Sox 3. Twins 4. Indians 5. Royals.**

The AL West is a much different division than it was a mere three seasons ago. Recent years have seen a large amount of talent leave West teams for major free agent contracts elsewhere. With that in mind, the AL West may be the only division in baseball that could be won by any one of the four teams in it. The Angels are the most balanced club in the division, however, and they will win the division crown. The two biggest stories in the division should be Jared Weaver's pitching in his second season and Sammy Sosa's attempt at a comeback in Texas.

**P.O.O.F.- 1. Angels 2. A's 3. Rangers 4. Mariners**

In the National League East most writers seem to be falling in love with the Phillies. Phillies short-stop Jimmy Rollins even went so far as to say they were the team to beat. All pretty bold predictions for a team that hasn't been in the playoffs in more than a decade. This lack of respect will prove to be beneficial to the Mets as their starting pitching will surprise doubters this year. The Phillies will win the wild card in a sub-par National League but

they don't have what it takes to outlast the defending division champs. Look for Jose Reyes to emerge this year as the best all around player in baseball.

**P.O.O.F. 1. Mets 2. Phillies 3. Braves 4. Marlins 5. Nationals.**

The Cardinals were able to win the World Series last year despite nearly collapsing in the last month of the season. This year no lack-luster regular season will get them back into the playoffs as the Chicago Cubs have significantly upgraded their roster. If luck is finally on their side for the first time in about 100 years, the Cubs should be in the playoffs this year. Carlos Zambrano will prove to be the most solid ace in the National League while the Cardinals failed miserably to even keep their championship rotation intact.

**P.O.O.F. 1. Cubs 2. Astros 3. Cardinals 4. Brewers 5. Reds 6. Pirates**

Some of the most significant off-season moves of this year took place in the NL West. The Dodgers significantly upgraded their rotation by landing the former Giant, Jason Schmidt. Meanwhile, the Giants made the biggest free-agent splash by signing free agent pitcher Barry Zito to an astronomical contract. Zito's signing will not yet pay dividends as the Giants do not have nearly enough talent to seriously compete this season. The Dodgers have one of the most well rounded teams in all of baseball, and there is something about their team makeup that I like. The Rockies and Padres will be in contention for at least some of the year, but the division belongs to L.A.

**P.O.O.F. 1. Dodgers 2. Padres 3. Rockies 4. Diamondbacks 5. Giants.**



## Roller Hockey Team Wins East Coast Title!

By Damon Vetere

In only its second year of existence here at Stony Brook, the university's Roller Hockey Club has been making some noise. The club plays in the ECRHA (Eastern Collegiate Roller Hockey Association), a regional league that is part of a national network of roller hockey clubs (NCRHA). Through heavy recruitment of local talent, the Stony Brook squad has managed an impressive 9-3-3 record, including wins against Maine, Vermont, Drexel and its local rival Hofstra. The team currently sits at the top of the National Conference in Division 2 of the ECRHA and has grabbed the top seed in the Regional Playoffs that took place in March. The team is the East Coast champions, earning them a bid to Nationals in only their second year of existence. Stony Brook also has a team in the B



division for the first time this year. The team has won multiple important games with a current record of 6-6-1, and are preparing for the playoffs along with the D2



squad. To learn more about the team, you can visit the league website at [www.ecrha.net](http://www.ecrha.net).