

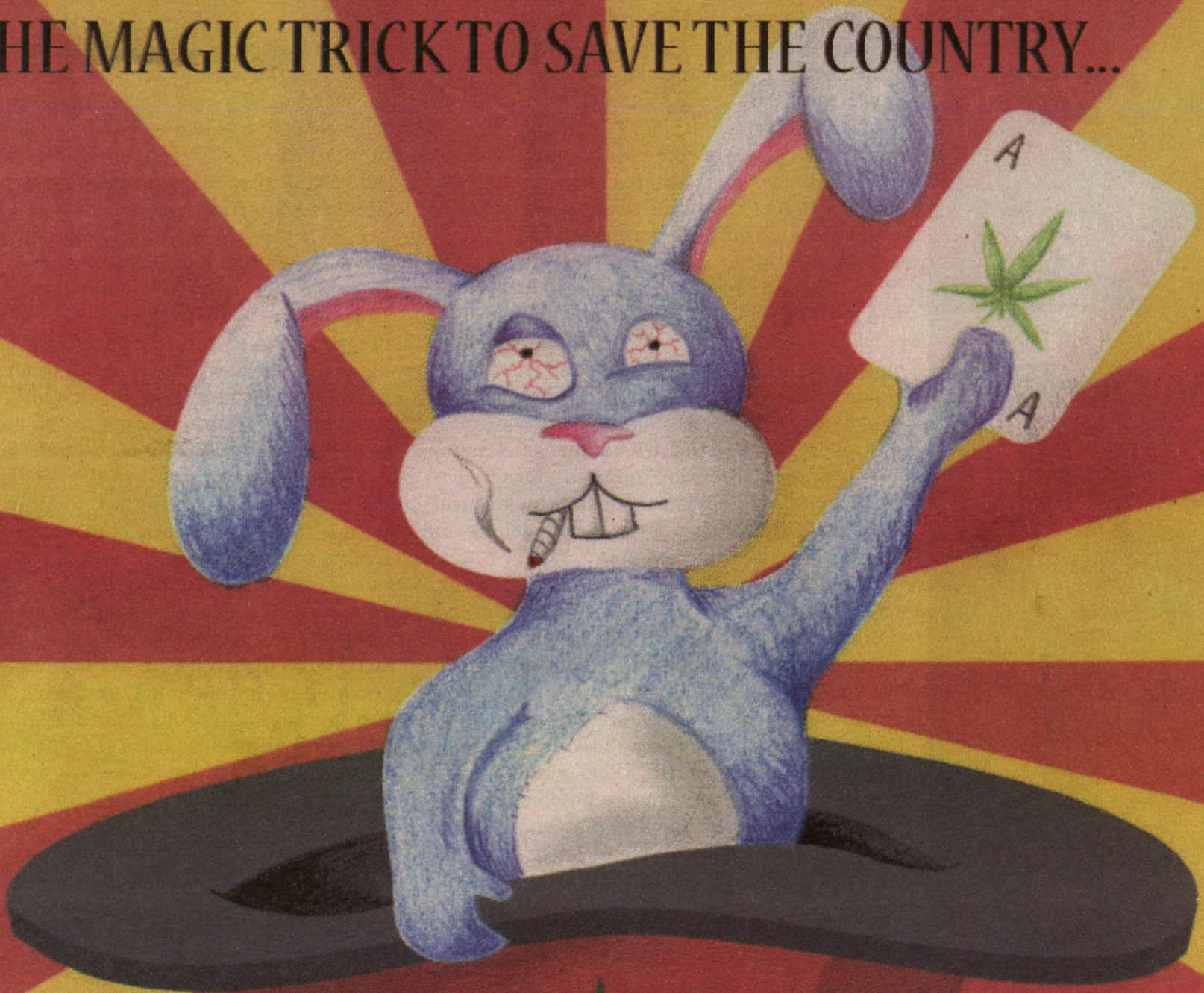
# The Patriot

Vol. 5 Issue 8

April 2008

LEGALIZE IT...

THE MAGIC TRICK TO SAVE THE COUNTRY...



DR

...OR JUST A STREET HUSTLE?

# THIS ISSUE

Letters

Page 2

On Campus

News and Events happening right here at Stony Brook

Page 4

College Life

How what's going on affects you as a College Student

Page 11

Commentary

Opinions about current national and international affairs

Page 15

**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?  
HATE WHAT YOU SEE?**

**SEND US SUGGESTIONS AT:  
SBPATRIOT@GMAIL.COM**

**OR JOIN US!**

**MEETINGS MONDAYS  
6:00-7:00 PM  
SAC 308**

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

There has been a sort of peaceful "regime change" within The Patriot ranks. Our previous Editor-In-Chief, Alexander Chamessian, is graduating in May and I am proud to tell you that I will be succeeding him in his position. I'd like to first thank Alex for everything he has done for this paper. If not for him, The Patriot may not have survived these last two years. He took a paper in shambles and guided it on its way to what it has become recently, a paper that I hope many of you look forward to reading and/or respect. Not only did he make great leaps with respect to the paper itself, he set the foundation for us to hold different events, such as election parties, inviting speakers to come to the university and hosting professional debates about prevalent issues. I hope to continue along this path and make The Patriot even better for those who will succeed me.

Nothing has changed about our goals and intentions: while we technically hold no political affiliation, I think it's obvious where most of us fall on the political spectrum. Our paper will seek to promote the Founding Principles of this great republic and continue to support those in the armed forces defending it. It is not our intention, however, for this to deter anyone from writing for us who disagree. In fact, we strive for and encourage debate and intellectual discourse.

This year, The Patriot has become actively involved with a soldier support group called Adopt-A-Platoon. In the last issue, I wrote a letter to you describing our efforts and encouraging you to join us in our endeavors. For those of you who may have missed it, Adopt-A-Platoon allows an individual, or in our case a group, to literally "adopt" a platoon of soldiers. Every week, I mail a batch of letters that we write to our adopted platoon of thirteen soldiers in Afghanistan. We recently received a letter back from the leader of the platoon and

it was one of the greatest feelings I have ever felt knowing that I made a difference, that my simple letter brightened their day and raised their spirits. I encourage anyone interested to contact us. Feel free to drop letters off in our drop off envelope on the door of the Honors College Office on the third floor of the Melville Library. With your aid, we could make a big difference.

Times may be tough, especially for those of us on the Right. However, I implore you: Do. Not. Give. Up. Now, more than ever, we need to fight for what we believe in. We need to act and we need to act now. Getting worked up, complaining and/or talking a big talk without action is just as bad as sitting by idly or apathetically. If you feel disenfranchised, dejected or that there is nothing you can do because you are only person or just a few people, you could not be any more wrong. You have a great privileged power afforded only to a select few throughout the history of man: the power to vote. The power lies not with the empty-suited politicians, but with you. You also have the power to convince others to come to your side or meet you in the middle of your differing viewpoints because of the various freedoms we enjoy. This newspaper is a perfect example. This country is of the people and by the people; never forget that. I will leave you with a quote that inspires me any time I'm feeling particularly down. Ayn Rand once had one of her fictional characters say, "Whoever you are, you who are hearing me now, I am speaking to whatever living remnant is left uncorrupted within you, to the remnant of the human, to your mind, and I say: There is a morality of reason, a morality proper to man, and Man's Life is its standard of value." As long as we're alive, there will always be something left worth fighting for.

All the Best,  
Derek Mordente

# The Patriot

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Derek Mordente

**Advertisement Manager**  
Frank O'Neill

**Senior Editor**  
Britany Klenofsky  
Aditya Ramanathan

**Staff Writers**  
Conor Harrigan  
Sarah Marshall  
Frank O'Neill

**Graphics Editor**  
Dan Rubin

Aaron Burr  
Bridget Matikainen  
Zoe Levy

**Copy Editor**  
Shannon Manzella

Zachary Kurtz  
Jon Pu  
Jason C. Shaeffer

**Opinions Editor**  
Gaby Jusino

Deborah Machalow  
Drew Art

**Contributors**  
Maroof Ali  
Amanda Gerani  
Elana Glowatz  
Sandy Cheng  
Geordan Kushner  
Tom Blom

**Enduring Freedom Alliance**  
President: Britany Klenofsky  
Vice President: Alex Chamessian  
Secretary: Sarah Marshall  
Treasurer: Dan Rubin



**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 [sbpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:sbpatriot@gmail.com)

The Patriot is a publication of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:  
<http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/efa/>

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in the opinions columns are not necessarily the opinions of *The Patriot* or its editorial staff as a whole.

## Part of Our First Letter Back From Our Adopted Platoon in Afghanistan!

Derck,

22 February 2009

First I would like to thank "The Enduring Freedom Alliance" and your members that took the time to write my soldiers and I, Derck, Alex, Debbie, Gaby, Meredith, Brittany, and Priscilla.

You would be amazed by how something as simple as a letter can lift a soldier while away from home. I will take the time to answer as many letters as I can and will also pass them on to the others so they can add their own thoughts to the member of your college club.

It always surprises me to hear others call us heroes and such, as for me though I only look at it as a chosen profession. My guys and I do what we do just to make the world or at least our little part of it a better place.

Well as for WWE I always watch it when I am home I look at it as the male soap I find it very hilarious myself. Sports though it has gotta be Hockey even being from NY I am a Penguins fan through and through.

Well as for here I can not get specific on anything but my guys and myself are the Light Equipment Section for a Sapper Company we are currently at FOB Shank which is south of Kabul, Afghanistan we are just a bunch of construction equipment operators with the job of building up the base security and living conditions. Currently we are all using in tents the good thing is we do have electricity, phone, and internet capability.

## Meet The (Stony Brook) Press

By Derek Mordente

In the March 11, 2009 edition of the Stony Brook Press, I was the subject of an article denouncing my criticism of Professor William Chittick's acceptance of an Award from The Islamic Republic of Iran, presented to him by its "President," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Unfortunately, the extreme ideological bias shown by the editor of the SB Press clouded his ability to analyze my article so much so that it blinded him from seeing my point.

Nowhere in my article did I say that Professor Chittick did not deserve the award, nor did I question Professor Chittick's contributions to his field. I questioned his judgment for accepting the award from such an outspoken anti-Semitic, anti-Western agenda-driven psychopath who presides over a government identified as a state sponsor of Terrorism, which can be confirmed at the website of the Council On Foreign Relations (<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9362#2>). All of this takes away from Professor Chittick's credibility and belittles that which he has done.

Per his question, "What could possibly be wrong with Chittick agreeing with what Ernst said," I believe I detailed that fairly well in my article with statements such as, "the recipients 'are chosen by a committee within the government ministry of science, research and technology,'" "This particular Islamic Republic government ministry is part of a government run by an anti-Semitic, anti-American, anti-Western Islamist Fascist and supremely presided over by an authoritarian Islamic Mullah hell bent on the destruction of the West and the establishment of Sharia law around the world," as well as the facts I presented about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The SB Press editor, on the other hand, provides no base or evidence for his counter-arguments and makes lofty claims that he does not back up. Strongly and confidently, he claims that "this award is academic and apolitical" but offers no evidence as to why. Just because Carl Ernst said it, does not make it true, as he seems to be implying. He maintains (along with "most respectable scholars" that supposedly agree with him but who remain conveniently un-identified) that Carl Ernst is correct and that the "Farabi Award" is simply an "academic and apolitical" award.

The problem with this is that the Islamic

Republic of Iran disagrees with the assessments of both Carl Ernst and the editor of the SB Press. On its own website, the award is described as follows: "Considering that the domain of humanities is placed on the margins of the current developmental and promotional policies, the necessity of criticizing this situation with an aim to boost the national strength within the ideals of the Islamic Revolution [emphasis added] is felt more than before. Farabi International Award can be regarded an effective step to this end and can provide an appropriate atmosphere to attain this goal." This can be found under the section entitled "Requirements," bullet #2 here: <http://www.farabiaward.ir/TheAward.aspx?lng=en>

It is clear that the award is considered by the Iranian government itself as serving the purpose of boosting the Iranian Revolution, replete with its virulent anti-Semitism, its fanatical Hate-America ideology, its support of international terrorism, its Government sponsored Holocaust Denial, its misogynist oppression of women, its repression of free thought and its expansionist aims both in and outside its own region of the world.

Is the government of Iran, which clearly makes sure recipients of this award are those who, according to its own website, "boost the national strength within the ideals of the Islamic Revolution...", less credible on the subject than the experts at the SB Press, laughing it up in their dorms on Long Island? Can the editor of the SB Press really not identify a political agenda even when it is openly stated to be one by the people in charge of giving out the award?

Next, the "sentiments echoed by certain Iranian politicians" are more than simply "unsettling," as he so disingenuously puts it. He obviously didn't get Ahmadinejad's memo about bringing down the West brick by brick, which just happens to include him. Such sentiments are not simply "unsettling", especially during a time of war wherein we are fighting the very Islamist Fascists that Ahmadinejad praises, lauds and most undoubtedly supports. Judging from the usual content of his paper however, he is probably okay with that.

While I'm on the subject of his editorial decision making, it's actually laughable that he has the gall to accuse me of some sort of

indecent when he allows grossly anti-Semitic and anti-American cartoons by "John Tucker," as well as deeply misogynistic articles such as one by Ross Barkan, to run rampant throughout his publication.

I also expect a retraction of his statement, "the article never once provides Chittick a chance to rebuke these groundless arguments." At the end of the second paragraph of my article I clearly state, "I urge Professor Chittick to correct me if I am in any way incorrect." Also, to the SB Press editor: did you ever provide Robert Spencer with a chance to "rebuke" your "groundless arguments" regarding him? For those of you reading, the answer is no. Maybe the SB Press Editor should follow his own advice.

Perhaps, as he says, Professor Chittick really has had no part of Iran since the 1970's, but by accepting this award, he has now thrown himself back into the mix. By accepting the award from someone like Ahmadinejad, he recognizes the Iranian Government and its leader as legitimate and morally responsible. If Professor Chittick did not find them so, why would he accept this award from them?

He ends his article talking about "mutual understanding," "bridging gaps," and "peaceful connections" where, regarding Professor Chittick, he states, "We admire the fact that he can transcend unfortunate present day politics and continue to teach about the rich, vibrant history and culture of Iran and Islam." Ignoring the non sequitur that no one is advocating stopping Professor Chittick from teaching, these remarks are so childishly credulous it seems as if someone called up Central Casting and asked them to send over the "idealistic college student" character and have him utter all the naïve clichés associated with such silly, post-modern archetypes.

One should not want to "bridge gaps," have "peaceful connections" or have "mutual understanding" with a form of fanatic, messianic, violent, tyrannical theocratic-totalitarianism which seeks our destruction. One should strive to defeat it. None of what the SB Press Editor says will come about by sending love notes to psychopaths who want either our submission or our death...

JOIN THE PATRIOT  
MONDAYS SAC 308 6:00-7:00PM

# Film Sparks Debate About Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

By Elana Glowatz

Stony Brook University's Social Justice Alliance hosted a screening recently of "Occupation 101," a film about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the viewpoint of people living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The screening faced pressure to be canceled from some Jewish students who asserted that the film is anti-Semitic.

"I don't find the film anti-Semitic at all," Alex Saiu, treasurer of the SJA, said to around 60 people at the screening.

Once most of the attendees walked past the two campus policemen standing in a Harri-man Hall corridor into the dimly lit room and found seats or a place to lean against the wall, Saiu introduced the film by saying that the SJA program coincided with the mobilization of a convoy to bring aid to Gaza.

Saiu also touched upon an early response to the screening.

He pulled a wrinkled poster from his pocket and unfolded it. Someone had written "Cancelled" in capital letters across the bottom of a poster SJA had put up to advertise the screening.

"We don't appreciate that," said Saiu. "It was not canceled."

During the movie some people took notes, but most kept their arms crossed and watched intently. Numerous exaggerated sighs and occasional outbursts could be heard around the room.

"You serious?" said one student from the back of the room, in response to a voiceover stating there was no history of fighting between the Palestinian and Israeli people before the legal inception of Israel as the Jewish homeland.

"I hate this," said senior Sarah Rahman as she watched footage of Israeli military quelling rebellions in Gaza and the West Bank. "Disgusting."

Afterward, Saiu said that although the film was one-sided and not all pre-screening feedback was positive, the SJA showed it to humanize the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"Not showing the film would be a disservice to the people here," he said. Saiu said it would also deny students the opportunity to a public debate on the topic. He then invited Rabbi Joseph Topek of Stony Brook Hillel to

clear up what he called some historical inaccuracies in the film.

Topek commended the SJA for doing something he said was humanitarian and for opening a dialog on what he called a complex and tragic issue.

He said there are two different sides to the argument. "Somewhere in the middle there might be a truth," he said. In order to find a solution, he added, both sides must extricate themselves from the situation.

After explaining what he considered to be the film's inaccuracies, Topek discussed media coverage from both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and said it was funny that both sides think the media is against them.

"It's in the eye of the beholder," he said.

The floor then opened for students to voice their opinions. Yotam Arens, the head of Focus Israel, an Is-

raeli activism group connected to the campus Hillel, spoke first.

"I admire everyone's passion sitting in this room," he began.

He then responded to a previous comment by Saiu that the film was clearly not anti-Semitic because many of the film's speakers are Jewish.

"Just because they are Jews doesn't mean it justifies their comments," he said. Arens said the film offered no context, such as Qassam rockets or political strife between the two nations as explaining the actions of the Israeli government and military. Qassam rockets are simple steel rockets filled with explosives that are produced by Hamas, one of the two main Palestinian political groups.

A young woman in a teal top and matching headscarf later talked about the exchange of remarks concerning Qassam rockets. She said that people in the Palestinian territories launch rockets because they have no food, clean water, or electricity.

"What they gonna do," she said. "What you gonna do?"

She remarked that the difference in the number of casualties between the two sides makes the Qassam rockets different from the Israeli Defense Forces' rockets. She said that the rockets from the Palestinian side are "compared to nothing."

"Just because they have better weapons they should be punished?" whispered sophomore Sarah Marshall to a friend sitting beside her.

Some then responded to the tone the increasingly heated debate had taken.

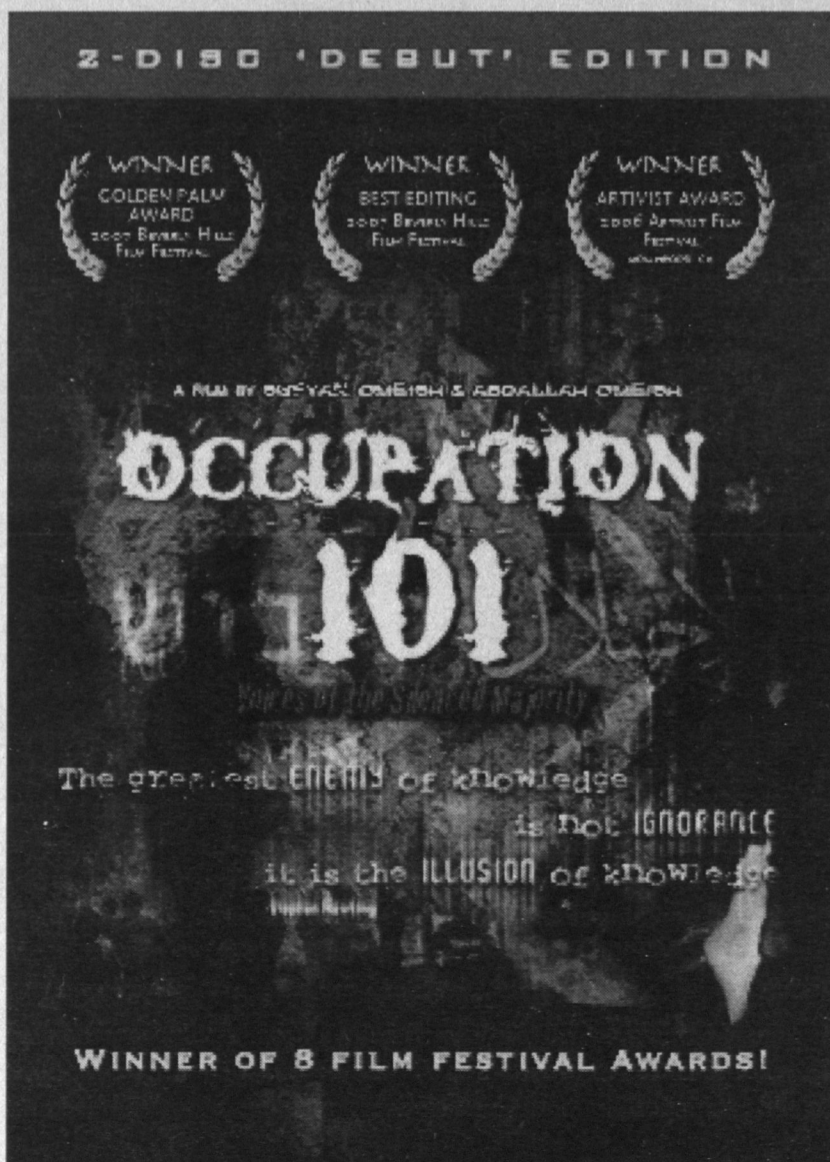
"Most of the minds here are already set," said a student wearing a dark hat with a snowflake design and braided pigtails hanging by the earflaps. "They're not gonna change."

Many nodded silently in agreement. It was the only comment garnering broad approval throughout the program.

After the discussion, a member of the Social Justice Alliance thanked participants for "not falling into a circular debate." People applauded, and many of the students milled over and discussed the events of the evening.

Arens said that although there was not enough time for the dialogue after the movie, the program had a greater turnout than expected and he looks forward to more events that might allow students to reach an agreement.

"Or provide an opportunity to be educated," Rabbi Topek piped in.



# An Open Challenge

By Conor Harrigan

I suppose I could be considered a self-loather. Why? Well, I occasionally force myself to pick up that thing known as the "Stony Brook Press." During one of my sessions of self hatred last month in March, I picked up a copy and saw a piece defending William Chittick in regards to his acceptance of an award from a regime that has contributed to the murder of American soldiers (gotta love academic integrity).

Regardless of the majority of drivel that drooled off the page, I noticed that whoever wrote this piece decided to take a smack at Robert Spencer, renown expert on Islamic history and theology. Hated by many, but loved by more, Robert Spencer is our nation's first line of defense against the virulent ideology of Islam.

In the piece by the Press, Robert Spencer was dutifully smacked down by the author. The writer painstakingly dissected all of Spencer's arguments. He or she referred to Spencer as an "Islamophobe."

Wow. What stunning intellectual counter-

assault on Spencer's cornucopia of research on Islamic theology and doctrine. I gasped. How impressive.

Anyway, it got me to thinking. Where do the people at the Press come up with this stuff? Where do they get off making statements based on falsehood? I don't know. This is why I am offering an open challenge to the Press, and to anyone else on campus who feels the need to expose Spencer's supposed deep seated hatred for the Muslimun of the world. The MSA is free to take up the challenge as well, as we all know how they feel about Robert Spencer.

Prove that Robert Spencer is an Islamophobe. Don't make people take your word for it. Explain where he is wrong. Don't just dismiss his mountain of research on the subject as "hate speech."

Explain how jihad fii sabeel illah (Jihad in the path of God) against the kuffar (unbeliever) is not a central tenet of Islam. Explain how the four major schools of Sunni Islam (Hanafi, Hanbali, Maliki, and Shafi'i) are wrong when they note the importance of offensive jihad.

Explain how al-Azhar University is wrong when they note the same.

Explain how the Tasfir al-Jalalayn, one of Islam's most widely celebrated commentaries on the Qur'an, is wrong when they note the importance of offensive jihad in Islam.

Please explain to the followers of Sayyid Qutb, one of Islam's most prominent modern scholars, how he was wrong when he wrote about the importance of Islamic war on non-Muslim places.

Explain how the Hadith from Sahih Bukhari in which Mohammad says, "If he changes his religion, then kill him," has no relation to the systematic oppression and murder of Islamic converts to Christianity today.

I look forward to a response. However, knowing you guys at the Press, I won't hold my breath.

# Anti-Iraq War Event At Stony Brook!

By Jason Schaeffer

On the 25th of February during campus lifetime Stony Brook University Global studies sponsored a speaking event in the SAC with U.S. Army Sergeant Mathis Chiroux. Chiroux came to speak about the war in Iraq. However, instead of coming to describe a moving experience he had in combat or talk about how well Operation Iraqi Freedom has been going, he came to slander his fellow soldiers and embarrass the United States and to portray himself as a hero for shirking his responsibilities. Despite never even having been in Iraq, he is certain that the mission is doomed, wrong, and has been a failure.

Chiroux began by saying that he is not proud of the U.S. army. He also said that he is ashamed of the war on terror and that Iraq never did anything to us in the first place. He described a few tours of duty that he had in Europe and even became a decorated soldier and even signed on for a second tour after five years of being in Europe. He was then ordered to go to Iraq about a year ago and this is when things went awry. Despite having re-enlisted,

Chiroux thought that it would be perfectly acceptable to just simply refuse to go. He did not show up for active duty with his unit in South Carolina last May. He was promptly separated from the army for misconduct. Despite never

he gives an order and refuse without penalty. However, this is exactly what he did while addressing Congress last May. He proclaimed the war to be illegal and said that he does not fear the consequences of not deploying. Thirteen misguided Senators even signed a petition supporting him in his defiance.

Chiroux is awaiting a hearing at which he might be discharged dishonorably. He could even face jail time or the death penalty, and he definitely needs to be penalized in some way. He is planning to hold an anti-war rally at the venue along with thirty others who call themselves the Winter Soldiers. Chiroux claimed that the government has been harassing him because of his so-called activism, but he also said that he views the hearing as a chance to further discuss the foreign policy issues at hand. In his speech here he also opined that the war in Iraq was about imperialism, neglecting the weapons of mass destruction that Iraq used to possess and

the threat that they posed to America and the



having served myself, I know that you can't simply turn to your commanding officer when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

world.

It was during the question and answer session of the event that I was reminded that many Americans still do not have common sense to see Mr. Chiroux's stunts for what they are. I was deeply inspired when a brave student asked the question "You signed up, didn't you?" Sergeant Chiroux did not take kindly to this challenge and he contritely replied "I did not sign up to commit crimes." However, this wise individual was not done making his point and he followed up by correctly making the case that Chiroux did not have the right to not go to Iraq once he enlisted and he should have realized that beforehand. Unfortunately, the

rest of the student body didn't seem to see eye to eye with one of the real patriots at the event. Chiroux also quoted the supremacy clause of the Constitution and said that "Every soldier had the right to resist on day one."

Mathis Chiroux and others like him have become a beacon for left-wing war resisters across the United States. Chiroux and his veterans group held a rally at the Democratic National Convention this past summer to protest the war and turn out in support of Barack Obama. Chiroux also defended a fellow soldier, Robin Long, in a court martial for similar misconduct. One thing seems certain to me; the military has to make a bold statement in

this case. Sergeant Chiroux needs to be discharged dishonorably and maybe even be sentenced to jail time by a tribunal. This sends a powerful message to fellow soldiers not to become defectors and also reaffirms support of the war within the ranks. It also strikes a blow to the left who have staunchly stood by him in this violation of his duties. Students need to see what should really happen to Chiroux after the dust settles and they'll find out he isn't a hero and, hopefully, the liberal establishment like the GLS or Professor Schwartz of the Sociology Department will stop promoting him and his cause.

## "Idiocracy" Is Upon Us

By Geordan Kushner

The hit comedy "Idiocracy" is a film about two average people who are cryogenically frozen for a government program. But they are forgotten for 500 years and wake up in an era full of idiots.

At first, I thought this reality was a distant prospect, but after seeing the March 11th issue of the Stony Brook Press, I immediately realized that a brainless society is just over the horizon. One of the Press' comics depicted a phony newspaper called the "Jew York Times," featuring the headline "Kikes Rule, Muslims Drool." The person who drew this cartoon published it under a pseudonym, but was later identified. His comic attests to how we have enabled ignorance and stupidity in our society. These social ills have even penetrated our school, which prides itself on academic excellence and diversity.

The cartoonist is Jewish, but that doesn't give him a pass to use inflammatory words, even in a joking manner. Although the origin of the slur is disputed, "kike" was used by the Nazis to refer to Jews and was said regularly during exterminations. In fact, a Nazi propaganda publication, called *Der Sturmer* (translated as "The Storm" or "The Attacker"), used to publish vehemently anti-Semitic and/or racist cartoons like the one published in the aforementioned issue of *The Press*. Using the word "kike" is at the same level as saying the n-word when talking about a black person.

Freedom of speech is necessary to promote growth in a society, but it does not protect the use of fighting words. "Kike" is a fighting word, and its use is not something that is or should be condoned. The Press has every right to publish staff opinions, but they crossed the

line when they used a racial slur and, in doing so, mocked a word with a painful history. Stony Brook students fund all campus groups, and we should not allow the Press to use our money to insult us with disgusting language and degrade our campus community.

Regardless of the cartoonist's intent behind the comic, the offensive way in which he expressed himself shows that he cannot communicate his beliefs in an intelligent manner. Also, his editors, who should be filtering out garbage like this comic, supported it. If we continue to allow people like this particular cartoonist, his editors, *The Stony Brook Press*, as well as any and all media outlets to get away with being irresponsible and insensitive, idiocracy will come sooner than we thought.

## Cartoon of the Month

By Dan Rubin



## Is Caucasia A Country?

By Zoe Levy

I dorm with two Bengali girls, a Jamaican girl, and an Asian-Salvadorian girl. Since I have been here at Stony Brook University (I am a freshman), I have noticed that special attention is paid to the idea of diversity. But what has “diversity” and this mix of culture I have been introduced to taught me? I have learned that when fellow students look at me “all they see is white.” What does that mean to me? Well, I have to say that I am a little offended.

Since I have been here at SBU my friends have explained and made it quite clear what race they really are, and this is rightfully done so; people deserve to be recognized for what race and culture they really are. For example, people have said to me, “I am not Indian, I am Bengali” and “I am not black, I am Jamaican.” Another example is from my roommate, who has said, “Just because I am Hispanic does not mean I am a Mexican.”

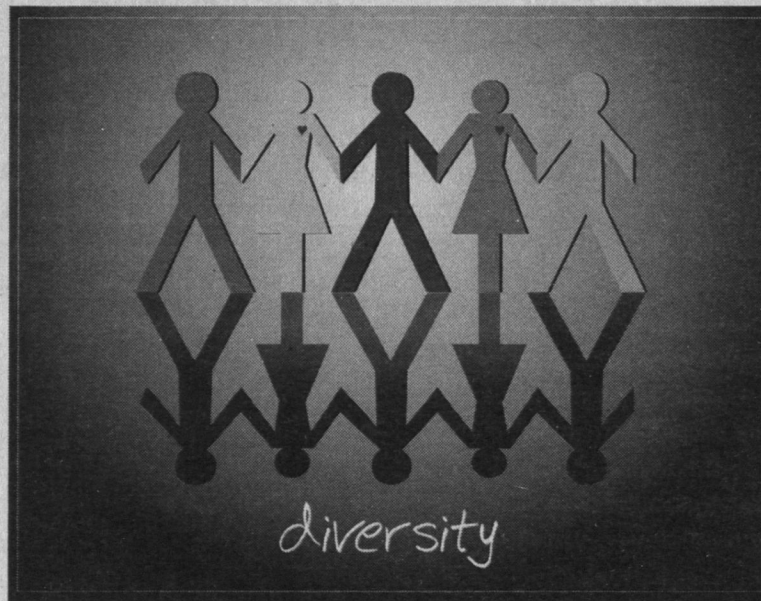
Recently I went to a program in my dorm that was geared towards learning to recognize diversity. Originally, it was meant to teach us about diversity with respect to personality, but it quickly became a dispute and a call-out on racial profiling and identity. Amidst the chaos, I was asked to identify the ethnicity of another attendee at the meeting. Now, I am not an ignorant person and I can usually look at a person or hear an accent and tell where in the world they might be from. In this case I couldn’t tell, but he looked like a friend of mine from home who is an immigrant from Ghana. (When I say “looked” I do not mean that because his skin is darker than mine I assume he is an African.) My guess was wrong and I was promptly and forcibly told so. When I asked the others what they thought my eth-

nicity was I got a rather disturbing response: “When I look at you all I see is White.” Imagine if I had said something similar to them replacing the word “white” with any other color. When I pressed them more they responded with, “Oh maybe you are an Italian or something.” Needless to say, I am not an Italian, but yes, I am “white.”

I am a “white” girl, but what does that really mean in the context of this “diversity” lesson? When people speak of the “White Race” with any pride, it automatically is interpreted

“minorities.” Maybe though, we should drop it and actually accept that we are in fact “all equal.” If we want to talk about how people and cultures deserve compensation because of historical mistreatment, maybe we should take a deeper look into the world than just the civil rights movement of the 1960’s.

My family came here to America just like many other families with the hope of achieving the American Dream, escaping the atrocities and hardships of their homelands. They did not come here to pay taxes so people who historically had horrible experiences, or are “minorities,” can have the American Dream paid for by those who actually achieved it. Most of my peers whom I have spoken to have gotten scholarships from various organizations and EOP (Equal Opportunity Program), which promotes educational equality for some “underprivileged” persons but has seemingly developed a bias/type of favoritism towards minorities. Fine, why not. But why can I not get scholarships for my heritage? My “white” family fled Europe while literally being chased by maniacs with pitchforks and torches who were trying to kill them because of their beliefs. But still, I cannot get a scholarship. We stopped hearing from many of the ones who did not make it to America during WW2 because this little event called The Holocaust happened. So why shouldn’t I, or other “white” people get reparations? It’s not a ridiculous claim for the others, so why is it ridiculous for me? Members of my family were thrown in concentration camps and suffered unmentionable horrors, and this was less than 60 years ago.



with the connotation of a white supremacy attitude, showing no regard to history and “diversity.” There exists Black Entertainment Television and Black History Month, but no White Entertainment Television or White History Month, and the latter is rightfully so. So why do the others exist? It’s a rhetorical question, I already know the answer. People will start screaming about the racial injustices faced by

## The Red Zone!

By Amanda Gerani

A brightly lit gym. Music blaring. Cheerleaders and basketball team ready to go. There’s just one problem with this picture.

The Seawolves’ stands are practically empty. Just three years ago, this would have been a typical scene at a Stony Brook University basketball game.

Perhaps this apathy is the reason why the Princeton Review, the college-rating company, ranked Stony Brook as third in the nation for having the unhappiest students.

This title resonates as unacceptable among many students on campus, including Jason Shank, the secretary of a new student organi-

zation called the Red Zone.

“How are we depressed?” Shank asks as he looks around the campus. He, along with other enthusiastic members of the Red Zone, wants to wipe away the bad reputation given to the university, and is working hard to do so, one chant at a time. “Shave your sideburns!”

A true heckle. One that can “only come straight from the students,” Jeffrey Barnett, the assistant dean of students, said.

Red Zone members are quite fond of picking out quirky features that members on the opposing team have and chanting about them. Whether it’s sizeable sideburns or an unsightly

unibrow, the Red Zone will find a way to get into the opposing players’ heads.

Heckling aside, the Red Zone’s primary purpose is to cheer for the home team, the Stony Brook Seawolves, and to get as many students involved as they can.

The Red Zone, which started in the fall 2007 semester with nine members – just enough to spell “SEAWOLVES” – is most well-known for its members painting bold red letters on their chests at sporting events.

Barnett has been leading the University Spirit and Pride Committee, which has three components: operations, marketing and fan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

development. At a football game, he saw the boisterous group with painted chests and thought to himself, "This is exactly what we want!"

The Red Zone has been growing ever since Barnett first approached them. Shank said that there is now a consistent turnout of about 25 Red Zone fans at games.

"Our Facebook group is approaching 200 members," he added.

Michael Glick, the designated "O" who has painted at all of the 17 football and basketball games the Red Zone has cheered for, both at home and away, said he is happy with the increased turnout but hopes to see more freshman next year.

As he is considering becoming the president of the Red Zone next year, Glick plans to make freshman recruiting one of his main initiatives.

One of the only freshman Red Zone painters this year was Sean Fitzgerald, who is a passionate football and basketball fan. He also wants to see a higher freshman turnout.

"You don't have to like the sport to go to the games," Fitzgerald said. "As long as you have someone to cheer for and yell your head off, you have fun."

Barnett did not expect to take on the vast responsibility in helping out the Red Zone, but said he is proud that he did.

Recently, he arranged for a fan bus to go up to Albany for the America East basketball tournament, which was difficult because of

collecting deposits from students and the liabilities involved with traveling. Barnett said it was all he thought about the week before the tournament.

"The time and effort put into this is working," Barnett said.

Although the university recognizes the Red Zone as an official student club, its members have run into trouble procuring funding.

Currently, Barnett and the athletics department have been doing whatever they can to support the Red Zone. The Athletics Department handed out Red Zone T-shirts to fans during the fall 2008 football season.

As a university-wide initiative, "people are coming together and saying, 'You know what? I'm willing to pay for this.'" Barnett said.

To receive funding from the Undergraduate Student Government, Barnett said, the Red Zone needs to better clarify its role in student affairs and acquire a higher level of communication with the organization.

Red Zone members are diligently working on their budget and also on fulfilling Barnett's dream of Stony Brook becoming a "big dog" school like Penn State, UCLA and Michigan State University, Glick said.

Barnett said that he accomplished his vision of the dance team, cheerleaders, mascot and fans all working together to put on an exciting exhibition.

Members of the band, which is now known as the Spirit of Stony Brook Marching Band, have started to paint their faces at games to

show their pride.

Alexander Joachim, a sophomore who plays trombone, said that the Red Zone has definitely helped to increase student turnout, and he has had a lot of fun joining in their cheers.

The next hurdle to pass is marketing. "Now that we have a good show we need to spread the word," Barnett said.

Curt Hylton, one of the radio announcers on WUSB, found that Stony Brook is already starting to be recognized by members of other schools. In an online forum after the America East Conference in Albany, people commended Stony Brook for having the best off-court performance.

Kristina Connors, one of the few women who paints at games, said that once the Red Zone starts cheering, people begin to converge around them and support the team.

A football player of three years, Markell Watson, said that hearing the Red Zone cheers really gets him excited, especially right before the game and at half time. When he's on the field, Watson said, he is not as tuned into it.

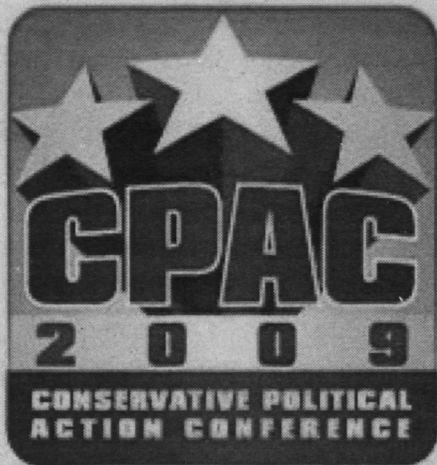
Watson hopes to see the Red Zone grow in the future, especially during the next year, which will be his last as a student.

Fitzgerald, who played soccer and ran cross country in high school, knows how cheering can affect athletes. "You don't want old people in the stands golf-clapping all the time," he said. "You want a bunch of crazy fans making lots of noise."



## CPAC = Heaven on Earth

By Maroof Ali



One of the best experiences I have ever had in college was going to CPAC this past February with the College Republicans. I was worried about the future of the Republican Party since the elections of 2008 but I found out in those three days that there was still a strong conservative base in this country. It was about a five hour drive to Washington D.C. but we got to stay at a five-star hotel which was great. We got there with high expectations, as this was one opportunity to meet conservatives from across the nation that were just as excited about our future as we were.

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich easily gave the best speech at CPAC. I was sitting in the first row because I got there at 8 in morning. Every other speaker that spoke came through the side entrance on stage but Gingrich decided to come from the back of the ballroom so he could shake hands with the audience. It was a surreal moment as he came in with the song "Eye of the Tiger" blasting. I was able to get a handshake right before he went on stage, which was an awesome moment. I just remember thinking that he looked a bit out of it when I saw him up close but then he gave an amazing one-hour speech. He went on to attack President Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Eric Holder, the New York Times and Jimmy Carter. He went after Attorney General Holder on his comment that America was "a nation

of cowards." Gingrich paid special attention President Obama, attacking him on earmarks and taxes and delivered a great line saying, "I was looking for change we can believe in." Everyone in the audience laughed at that and every other one-liner he gave that afternoon. He stressed the importance of smaller government and supply-side tax cuts.

One of my favorite moments was meeting Joe the Plumber. I was with a few of the College Republicans when we saw him about to go into a party. When one person in our group pointed him out I went crazy. I went up to him yelling, "You're Joe the Plumber! You're my hero!" He got a laugh out of that and he took a picture with our group. That night back in the hotel room, we all had a big laugh at this incident.

My favorite speaker of CPAC was Governor Tim Pawlenty. He is the current governor of Minnesota. His speech was based on faith and the free market. He must have said God more times than any other speaker at CPAC combined but it was a speech that a person of any religious background would enjoy and support. It was a speech based on family values but also on tolerance. He also talked about why we conservatives should not be afraid to talk about how the free market helps out all Americans including the middle class, working class and the poor. He referred to these voters as "Sam's Club" Republicans. A funny part of the speech was when he called his wife "hot" which got the whole crowd to get loud. Later after his speech he was taking pictures outside the ballroom with many of the audience members. What struck me was that there wasn't a big crowd around him; it may have been only 30 people at most. I saw thousands of conservatives go crazy over Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Rush Limbaugh. I was able to talk to Governor Pawlenty for a few seconds and got a picture with him. I personally believe that he will one day be a big player in national politics and I wouldn't mind

voting for him for president one day.

The two speakers I was not able to see live were Ron Paul and Mitt Romney. I went with some of the College Republicans to go site-seeing and was not able to get back into the ballroom in time for their speeches. I watched both speeches in my hotel room. It was amazing to see Ron Paul give a libertarian argument to a conservative audience and it was shocking to see the positive response he got. When Mitt Romney went on stage, everyone went crazy. He went on to gave an amazing speech that everyone loved. I personally believe that Romney is a bit of a phony. It is hard to listen to him attack President Obama on his universal health care plan when Romney passed a health care bill in Massachusetts that guaranteed everyone health care coverage. His plan had mandates and raised taxes on businesses and individuals. But you got the sense from his speech and the response that he got that he is the front-runner for the Republican Presidential nomination in 2012.

I left CPAC feeling a lot better about being a conservative. There is still a future for capitalism in America. One of the few things that concerned me was the lack of diversity at CPAC. The members of the Stony Brook College Republicans are extremely diverse which has probably more to do with the demographics at our university but the majority of the people that attended were white. The other thing that greatly concerned me was the nasty rhetoric used by some of the speakers including John Bolton, Rick Santorum and Ann Coulter. This is clearly one of the reasons why the Republican Party is soon becoming the Southern White Party. I know for a fact that the issues of family values and economic freedom are issues that many members from different minority groups will support. If the Republicans can convey the positive message of conservatism to the general public as Governor Pawlenty and Gingrich did in CPAC then we will be back in the majority again.

## Feminism: More Than Meets The Eye

By Deborah Machalow

At the very beginning of this academic year, while everyone was still just starting to get to know each other, an acquaintance after hearing about my ambitious goals for the future, asked me simply if I was a feminist. I pondered it a moment, never really having considered the possibility previously. As quickly as possible, I protested that I wasn't a feminist, realizing that it was socially unacceptable to be deemed "a feminist." Now that I'm taking the class Women and Politics, I've had to revisit

his harmless question, only now I've come to a different conclusion.

Like every little girl, I spent my childhood daydreaming of when my knight in shining armor would finally climb the castle walls, sweep me off my feet out yonder window, down a rope and unto his noble steed before we'd ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after. He'd have charged in, sword drawn, banner flying, and bouquet in hand. Like all other little girls, I had been socialized to look forward

to playing the damsel in distress and to wait for the knight to ride up on his white horse to rescue me from my solitude.

Fortunately or not, as I grew up, my daydreams and ambitions outgrew the notion of being romantically rescued by Prince Charming. Suddenly the idea of being the helpless petticoated/corseted princess about to befall a horrible fate no longer appealed to me. I no longer wanted to passively wait to be saved, I wanted to create my own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

future – I was no longer willing to play the “Damsel in Distress” role that society so adamantly wanted me to desire playing. I wanted to be the hero in my own story.

This is approximately the point at which I started to encounter the term “Feminism” in my studies. In World Politics three types of feminism were briefly mentioned in the textbook – liberal, difference, and postmodern – each postulating what would happen if women suddenly were a majority of world leaders. Liberal feminism believes that men and women only differ biologically and that the world system wouldn’t change drastically (if at all) with women leading. Difference feminism promotes the idea that there are distinct differences in the sexes, and if women were in charge there would be fewer wars, as women would be more reluctant to shed life. Postmodern feminism argued that there wouldn’t be a difference in international norms, as the differences between men and women are not at the level of sex, but at the individual level. Immediately, postmodern feminism made the most sense to me.

I let the whole idea of being a feminist drop from my mind. When it came time to set my schedule for this semester, I saw that the political science department was cross-listing a class with the women’s studies department entitled Women and Politics. Reading the little

blurb about what the class was about, I signed up. I was convinced that we’d be discovering why perceptions of female politicians were so different than those of male politicians. I sincerely looked forward to analyzing the media’s treatment of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sarah Palin. When the class began, I was quite disappointed, we went three weeks before those aforementioned names were even casually tossed out during discussion. The class, while not what I expected, has proven to be quite enlightening.

As I learned on day one of the class, according to Cott’s definition, feminism comes down to three interlocking pieces: a belief in the equality of the sexes, a belief that woman’s subservient position is neither natural nor ordained by God, and that this disadvantaged place of woman in society leads to the development of class consciousness. I’ll focus on the first two, as women have yet to form a consistent, ossified voting bloc. Men and women are equal. They hold the same promise for the future; they have equal intellect; they can share ambitions. Men and women vary only in their biological/chemical makeup and thus the roles they play in reproduction; these innate differences shouldn’t limit the possibilities for either sex. Thus, because women and men are equal, the traditions of the past that wanted women to be seen and not heard were nuances of society,

and not ordained by God.

When thinking about it logically, I realized I am a feminist. The reason the notion never occurred to me was that I had the same stereotypes of what made a feminist stuck in my head (radical, unfeminine behavior/style, etc). I might be a feminist, but I certainly do not fit the stereotypical image of one. I am not radically liberal in my political beliefs; I am a proud conservative Democrat. I do not dress like a man or in a manly way; I might not keep up with the latest fashions, and I certainly don’t dress myself like a harlot, but I dress like a respectable young lady. I do not cut my hair to a boyish length; I wish my medium length hair would grow faster. I certainly do not lack a sense of humor; I personally think I’m a hoot – I just don’t find sexist (or racist for that matter) jokes amusing: they reinforce stereotypes and negative images of the butt end of the jokes. I am not male-hating or anti-man in any way; no matter how frustrated the men in my life may make me, I have absolutely nothing against men in general. The stereotype might be what sticks in someone’s mind, but it’s not necessarily the truth.

The next time someone asks me if I’m a feminist, I will answer proudly “Yes, I am a feminist – don’t you believe in equality of the sexes?”

## Hard Times

By Sandy Cheng

Josh King had been looking forward to starting at DDB, a Manhattan advertising agency in May. Then the business administration major was shocked to learn in March that the job offer was retracted due to hiring freezes.

“My hopes were crushed and I’m back to the drawing board,” King said. “No one is hiring. I’ve gone on a few exploratory interviews but that’s really it. I haven’t heard back from anyone.”

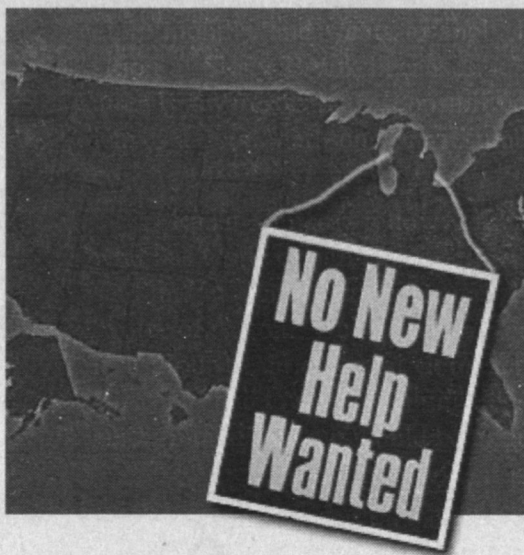
King, a senior who is graduating in May, is not alone. Career fairs are depressing, job-listing websites are posting fewer job opportunities, and the competition for the rare opportunity is more intense than ever. All of Stony Brook University’s seniors are facing a backsliding job market.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported March 6 that the national unemployment rate surged last month to 8.1 percent, its highest level in 24 years. In February, the economy shed 651,000 jobs, totaling more than 4.4 million jobs lost since the recession started in December 2007.

The New York Times report that economists expect unemployment to continue to rise for the rest of the year and into early 2010,

with the unemployment rate reaching 9 to 10 percent by the time a recovery begins.

That is the job market that this year’s graduates are entering. However, not every industry suffers in a recession. Graduate schools have seen a spike in applications.



“Because of the economic slump we’re in, it’s difficult for recent college graduates to find jobs in the private sector,” said Alex Charmesian, a biochemistry major. “Academia and

government are good places to ride out the storm because they have more stable, guaranteed funding and can offer more opportunities for employment or training.”

According to the Graduate Management Admission Council, which administers the GMAT entrance exam, over the last decade, testing year 2007-08 saw a record of 246,957 exams administered. The previous record for a single academic year was 244,655 in 2001-02, during the dot com bust.

Stony Brook’s School of Medicine saw an increase in applications to its medical program from 3,531 in 2007 to 3,699 last year. and 2008, from 3,531 to 3,699. The increased interest at Stony Brook was reflected in the national figures, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges, said Grace Agnetti, assistant dean of admissions for the school of medicine program.

Stony Brook’s medical school saw a spike in 2000, during the previous recession, followed by a decrease of 351 applications the following year. That also reflected the activity in medical schools across the country, said Agnetti.

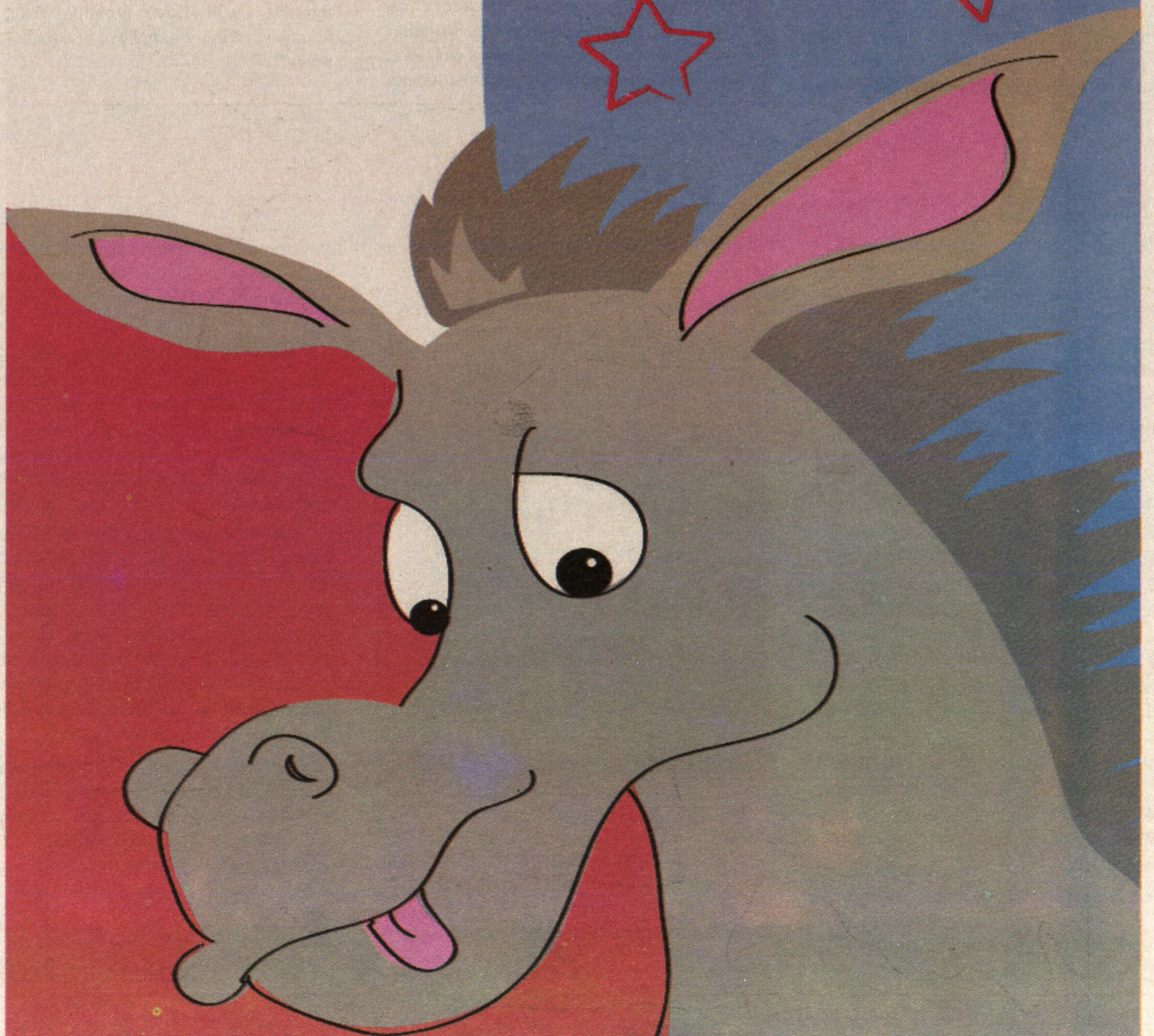
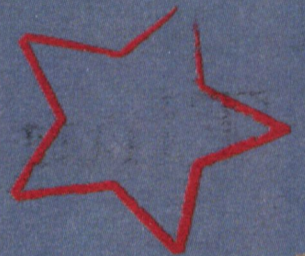
Stony Brook’s graduate program in mo-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



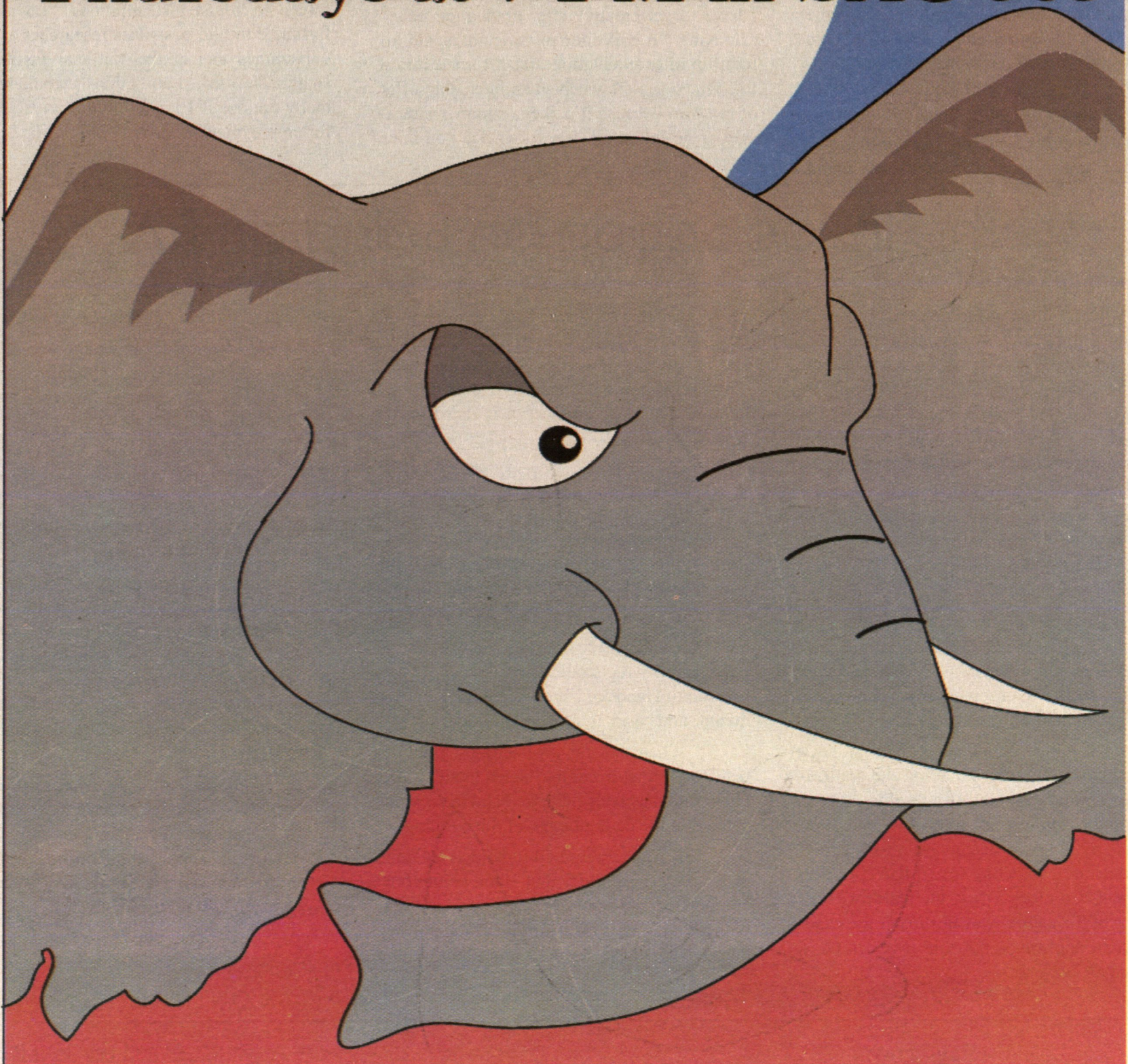
Please Don't Be a

Jack-Ass...



Join The  
College  
Republicans

Thursdays at 7 PM in SAC 305



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

lecular and cellular biology received 277 applications in 2008 and 314 in 2009.

Rolf Sternglanz, the director of the graduate program in genetics, said he would never advise seniors to head to graduate school simply because they can't find jobs. "It's hard work. Only go to graduate school if leads to a promising career. Only then, will it be an investment," said Sternglanz.

However not everyone views graduate school as a shelter from the storm because their grade point average is lower than what is required for admission.

"I was relying on getting experience after graduation then going to graduate school. So right now, I'm in a really tough position," said Dana Dwyer, an economics major. "I recently went to a career fair and a lot of companies said they're just looking for graduates to intern." The current trend of companies is to promote paid post-graduate internships or training programs rather than full-time jobs.

As an alternative, she is postponing graduation to December in hopes that the economy will improve during the intervening in seven months and the extra time will give her the chance to build her resume. "A lot of people in the workforce tell me to stay in school longer," Dwyer said, recounting how many of her friends are doing the same thing.

It's difficult for the Career Center to get an accurate count of how many graduates found

full-time jobs because students are not required to disclose such information. The center tracks student employment post graduation only through student responses to surveys on Zebrantet. "We don't get a great response, but we actively seek it out," said Kimberly Dixon, a career center advisor."

Last week, there were 46 employers present at the I.T. and engineering job fair. The upcoming job fair on March 11 for the business, healthcare, government, and nonprofit sector had 90 employers attending. The fall 2009 job fairs had a drop of approximately 30 participating employers from the spring 2008 semester.

Most significantly, there has been a pull-back in on-campus recruiting such as job fairs. "Companies are being conservative with their hiring, if they are hiring," Dixon said. "There are less people physically coming on campus because they can't afford to send people or to not have that person in the office."

Instead, they are posting jobs online. There are also more employers withdrawing from recruiting on campus or avoiding it altogether.

"My boss from my last internship told me I have to get creative after graduation now," said King. "A colleague of mine got a paid internship after graduation and it turned into a full-time job. So I accepted an internship offer of my own because it's like, a summer internship or no job at all. It's a sacrifice you have to make."

International students are also under intense pressure. Mahbumad Rahman, a native of Bangladesh, will graduate with a dual degree in business, finance and economics. Rahman said he has been looking for a job but to no avail.

"Since the economy has hurt the financial world so hard, my hopes of receiving a job offer related to the finance analysis field are rare," he said. "I was hoping to get a job here to pay off my loans faster but if I can't find a job here, I'll go back home." He believes that with an accredited degree, language proficiency, and work experience, he may have luck finding a job in Asia's financial market.

A 2006 study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded that college graduates entering the labor market during a recession suffer significant immediate earnings losses. Those losses do eventually fade, but after eight to 10 years.

However, some people have happy endings to their college career and a positive future. Charmessian had ambitions of working at a biotech firm right after graduation, but was forced to adjust his ambitions. "I was very fortunate to find posts as a researcher at some universities and at the National Institute of Health," he said. "I don't think I would have as many options if I looked to the private sector for employment."

## The Inside Scoop on Being an RA

By Amanda Gerani

It's nearly three in the morning, and yelling erupts in the hallway outside Resident Assistant Jennifer Hand's door. Contently asleep, Hand is awakened by the noise and quickly jumps out of bed to see what is causing the commotion. What started as a disagreement between two suitemates has escalated into an argument involving other friends.

Being woken up in the early hours of the morning is not an uncommon event in an R.A.'s life. "It's kind of like a 24-hour job," Hand said in an interview a few days later.

Even when Hand is not in Toscanini, the residence hall in Tabler Quad where she is an R.A., she receives phone calls from residents who have locked themselves out of their rooms or who need help filing a work order.

The job requirements of the R.A. have evolved since the 1960s, making the application process, which includes a resume submission, online application, interview, and R.A. mixer, more rigorous. Right now, Stony Brook applicants are competing for an R.A. position next year. Courtney Drew, the residence hall director of Toscanini, was unsure of the exact number of applicants, but said it is definitely higher than last year.

Hand, a sophomore, decided she wanted to be an R.A. long before she came to Stony Brook. In middle school, she read an article about a woman who sealed the deal on a job because "R.A. experience" was listed on her resume.

In her freshman year, Hand liked her R.A., but she felt that the R.A. "glossed over" community-building activities and did not take the job as seriously as she could have. Hand decided that she wanted to "do something different" and became excited about the position.

Aside from the obvious perks of being an R.A., such as free housing, a meal plan stipend, priority registration and having her own bathroom, Hand said she truly enjoys being a mentor and cares about her community.

When she puts together a program that residents are still talking about months later, Hand said, she feels rewarded and that she has catered to the demographic of the building.

R.A.s are required to hold at least five programs per semester, but Hand went above and beyond last semester, her first as an R.A., with programs ranging from serious political debates to social finger-painting that had a

turnout of more than 20 residents at each one.

"I personally think she does a fantastic job," Richard Hartmann, a transfer student from DeVry University in Florida who is applying to be an R.A. said.

Hartmann was an R.A. in Florida for eight months, and wants to apply for the position at Stony Brook because, he said, he is already aware of the responsibilities. "And it leaves a good mark on your resume," he added.

Rahat Ahmed, a fellow R.A. in Toscanini who has worked with Hand on two programs, said that in a group of six leaders, Hand is the "voice of reason." Being able to work together in a group is an essential characteristic of an R.A. "If I had to say something negative about her," Ahmed said, "it would be nothing."

According to the Stony Brook University website, undergraduate R.A. applicants must be considered full-time (earning at least 12 credits per semester), be in good academic standing, and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher.

The National Residence Hall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Honorary, a division of NACURH, Inc., has a local chapter on campus that recognizes the top 1 percent of residential leaders. Although, the standards for becoming a member of NRHH are lower than those of the R.A. application requirements.

Some of the basic criteria for membership in NRHH includes having at least a 2.0 grade point average and to have "made a considerable impact on the campus community," Ross Iosefson, the northeast affiliate for NRHH and current junior at New York University, said.

Part of the R.A. application process involves an interview, held in the last week of March, before a three-person panel, consisting of two current R.A.s and a residence hall director. All applicants are interviewed in the same room where there are multiple panels set up. "You have to yell above the noise," Hand said, remembering her interview last year. "It was quite intense."

At the end of the application process, the R.H.D.s for each quad get together and pick which applicants they want for their building, Hand said. They each select one applicant at a time from a pool of those with the most points.

Michael Minetti, who recently joined the Toscanini staff, said he doesn't know Hand well yet, but she seems "very ambitious" and he could see himself working on a program with her. "We seem to have a lot of the same interests," Minetti said, such as comic books and movies.

But becoming an R.A. is not for everyone. Hand tried to recruit Matthew Luby, a freshman on her floor, to apply for the position. "She was really practical about what she said," Luby said, but being an R.A. would be too time-consuming, especially as being on the football team is already a major time commitment for him.

R.A.s are required to be on duty one night a week, attend Hall Council meetings, update their bulletin boards monthly and join quad-wide committees.

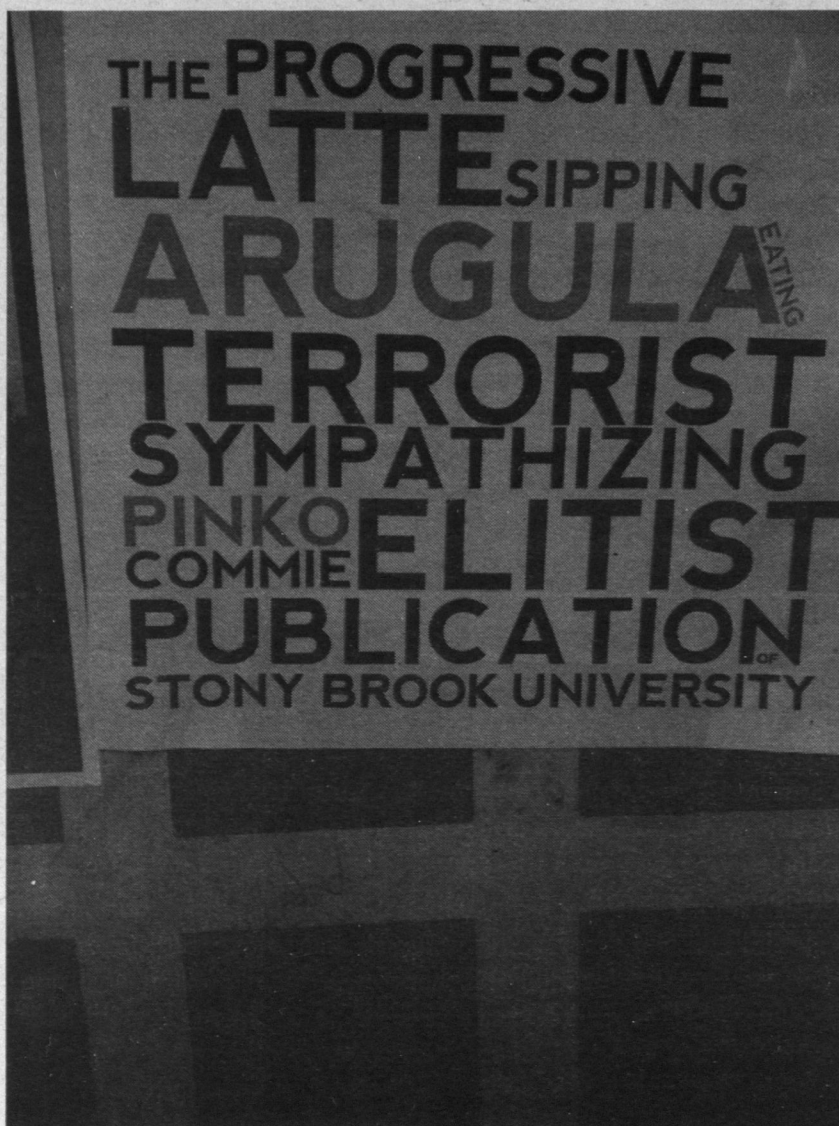
As Hand is in the hallway changing the content of her bulletin board for March – a brightly colored array of educational, yet interesting facts, about women's health and birth control, the Semester at Sea program, and upcoming events – a resident spots her and says she is locked out of her suite.

Hand has to stop what she is doing and go down to the college office for the key

to the resident's room. This is truly a round-the-clock job. In R.A. training, "they prepare you for the worst" so that if a situation arises it can be dealt with in the proper manner, Hand said. "In college, people go wild, people get depressed," Hand said, "and you need to know how to deal with that."

Although they are friendly and easy to talk to, many R.A.s refer students to the Center for Prevention and Outreach if they feel that the student would better benefit from professional attention. It can also be difficult for R.A.s to handle misbehavior involving their friends, and they are tempted to be lenient, Hand said. Sometimes, R.A.s will overlook minor infractions. "The bottom line is, if someone is in danger or is upset," you need to resolve the situation, regardless of who is involved, Hand said.

Despite the hard work, Hand plans to apply for another R.A. position next year in the West Apartments. If Hand chose to stay in Toscanini, she would not have to go through the application process again. Mediating conflicts so that everyone included comes out feeling content is "extremely rewarding," Hand said. "I really love it."



You may have noticed a new Stony Brook publication on the stands this semester. It's called "Think Magazine." After reading the articles inside, I realized this flier contained no lies. They really are pinko-Communist-terrorist-sympathizers. I guess we have to grant them one thing though: At least they aren't in denial about what they are, who they are, and where their allegiances lie.

# Hashing Out The Issues

By Drew Art

Ever wonder what that smell at the Cyprus Hill concert was? If you are forty percent of Americans or a Cyprus Hill fan then you knew exactly what it was – the illicit drug marijuana. The prevalence of this “taboo” substance, however, reaches far beyond hip-hop and funk concerts to nearly one hundred million American’s over twelve. Highly accessible due to an established black market, marijuana has become the third most popular drug in the United States, second only to alcohol and tobacco, and has become extremely popular among those in their teens and early twenties. It’s this high demand market has some legislators wondering what the sale of marijuana could do for their own state’s slumping revenues and swim teams, with California legislators going as far as introducing the bill.

**Show me the money:** The numbers when it comes to a legal market for marijuana, however, are far hazier than many figures would suggest. California, for example, estimates a \$13 billion per year revenue from the taxation of marijuana, yet alcohol taxes only generate around \$320 thousand for the states budget. In fact, alcohol, the most popular drug in the country, only generated \$11 billion in revenues total for both state and federal governments in 1999, with tobacco the second most popular drug generating \$13 billion due to higher tax rates. These numbers have changed little in the last decade leaving California’s numbers looking just slightly bloated. That is not to say to say that the taxation of marijuana would not raise revenue, with more reasonable estimates of levied taxes ranging between \$2.2 and \$6.4 billion per year nationwide. At the same time however, federal health care costs as a result of alcohol related illness in 1999 were nearly \$44 billion and tobacco related costs were nearly \$75 billion, shadowing the \$24 billion made in combined revenue. Are marijuana’s potential costs equally high?

**Reefer Madness:** Marijuana has effects on the body - that’s about as far as you can get without risking being wrong. The truth is that studies on marijuana’s effects are very well documented and very inconclusive with numerous studies contradicting one another directly, despite conducting very similar tests. A number of journals such as the British Medical Journal, for example, ran studies finding increased risks of schizophrenia in adolescent marijuana users, with younger users at increasingly higher risk. Opposing studies, not only go so far as to say that these risks do not exist, but claim that marijuana may alleviate symptoms of schizophrenia. The same goes for allegations of carcinogens in marijuana, dependence, and long term lung damage. Realistically, the British Lung Foundation’s reports on marijuana cigarettes’ damage to lungs are relatively solid, equating 3-4 marijuana cigarettes to 20 tobacco cigarettes.

Dependence is also an issue with marijuana use that is often overlooked, with dependence rates cited at nearly ten percent among users. Withdrawal symptoms, such as nausea, headaches, lack of appetite, etc. have also been well documented in association with marijuana use, and noted among teenagers. Marijuana still has far lower dependence rates than both alcohol and tobacco, yet this is no proof that marijuana is a less addictive substance; rather, that legalization may increase these rates.

**Policy v. Police:** If regulation is the most realistic alternative to prohibition, what are the costs of each path? To many, the idea of a “prohibition” is ridiculous pointing to the high costs of alcohol prohibition in the twenties and increases in crime relating to the drug. Alcohol prohibition, however, was largely unpopular throughout the United States, though public opinion on marijuana is divided throughout the nation. In addition, many proponents of legalization point to FBI figures citing 700,000 arrests related to marijuana use in 2007, ninety percent of whom were arrested for possession rather than trafficking or sale. This number may cause alarm at first, however, only 800-2,300 (.1-2% of inmates) Americans are in prison for marijuana related crimes; Further, the expected time served by the Office of National Drug Control Policy estimates is .04 days. Of the 700,000, many plead down from trafficking or intent to distribute and the figure cites the number of arrests rather than the number of people arrested. Being that very few arrested individuals are imprisoned, many marijuana users are arrested more than once in the course of a year. What about regulation?

**Medicine or Malady:** Marijuana regulation allows for medicinal marijuana, which many states have already come out openly in favor of. Studies have touted the benefits of THC, the drugs active ingredient, in nerve pain suppression, glaucoma treatment, cancer repression and appetite regulation among other things. In truth, however, the FDA, AMA, MAYO and IOM have all come out against the use of smoked marijuana as a medicine and support clinical trials of oral or aerosol forms of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Already marinol, a THC based drug, exists but is not often prescribed by doctors. Even the New England Journal of Medicine which strongly opposes current marijuana laws only endorses use in the terminally ill, to whom the health risks no longer matter.

The costs of regulation are difficult to measure. High taxes could be used to raise funds, however, would likely allow the current black market to remain intact as high tobacco taxes did in Canada. Low costs, however, increases marijuana accessibility to the young, potentially influencing development. Today in the United States, marijuana use is highest among

adolescents, with the World Health Organization pointing to the United States as the nation with the highest usage rates despite marijuana being legal in the Netherlands. The Netherlands, however, has seen teen usage rates nearly triple since legalization in 1976 despite the number of vendors remaining relatively stable. The confusion over the drugs effects has impeded the Netherlands regulatory policies as, according to Dr. Ernest Bunning, former health minister, soft drug problems have become taboo to talk about. Amsterdam’s own police commissioner, Jelle Kuiper has cited issues with denial of dependence to soft drugs leading to a failure to find treatment.

**Hemp: The new cotton or cotton-mouth?:** Regulation of marijuana also permits the growth of industrial hemp, a variant of the marijuana plant which contains only 1% THC and may be useful in textiles, food or even biomass. In fact 98% of DEA busts are often on hemp land which grows naturally throughout the United States rather than on true marijuana farms. Some proponents of marijuana use fervently believe that the government was strong-armed into banning marijuana by competitors afraid of the hemp industry. Not only is there no real proof for this, but attempts to expand the hemp market have been largely a failure. Hemp is now legal to be sold in the United States, with its growth remaining illegal to prevent true marijuana farm development. These attempts have resulted in hemp failing to compete with nylon and wood pulp and remaining unprofitable to grow. Canada, where growth is legal, has seen a decline in acres used to grow industrial hemp from 35 thousand acres in 1999 to 8 thousand today. Eating the seeds of the hemp plant has proven to be nutritious yet upset drug tests and would only hinder regulation, in the end likely being banned regardless of legalization.

**Fire it up:** So the costs of prohibition are approximately \$12 billion and another \$6.4 billion in untapped revenues, while allowing for lower drug use rates in recent years. Regulation promises a potential \$6.4 billion in revenue without the fiscal costs of a prohibition, while risking elevated healthcare costs and potential teenage developmental issues. True, it is hypocritical for the government to ban marijuana use while alcohol and tobacco use remain legal despite sever problems. At the same time it would be hypocritical for the government to acknowledge these problems, wage a legislative war on tobacco and legalize the drug. In the end it comes down to American democracy and the right for a community to choose whether or not marijuana use should be illegal, whether hemp should be grown and how it should be regulated, and it is the individual’s right whether or not to use it.



# Politicians Are Liars And President Obama Takes The Cake

By Tom Blom

The conservative base is energized. I have had the pleasure of meeting many people recently who are simply fed up with the intrusion of government in their lives. It's been only a month since the most historic event that sent Barack Obama to the White House and things are looking bleaker by the day. So, let's examine some basics.

- **The Economy:** Those who participate in the American free market economy have judged Obama's policies as failures. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) has shed about 600 points since the inauguration and the Department of Labor (DoL) shows initial unemployment claims still higher than the 4-week average [1]. This great nation is based on individual freedoms and liberties. She has done very well on that basis. Sadly, things are rapidly moving into the opposite direction.

- **Security:** The military strength of the United States of America makes relative peace around the globe possible. Granted, there will always be squabbles and battles somewhere, but the larger global balance is ensured by a strong American force that is able to respond when it is in the nation's best interest. The fact that there are enough men and women willing to fight when necessary is a fact that can never be celebrated enough. If a weakening of our armed forces were to occur, someone else will vie to take the global #1 spot. If that somebody does not have intentions as noble as we have, global peace is at risk. Americans are, by and large, loving and compassionate people and that is why our military muscle has never exerted its full force to build an empire.

- **Language:** This nation's language is English. We all see that other languages are moving into the system further and this should worry everyone. I have had the great privilege of becoming a member of this society when I immigrated in 1991. It was a personal goal and a general necessity to become a better English communicator for me. I wanted and want to be part of this society! If immigrants are allowed and even encouraged to continue living as if they are in their country of origin, they will not assimilate and therefore not invest-in or contribute-to this society. It creates polarization. American culture needs to be celebrated - not shunned.

- **Immigration:** We are a nation of immigrants. Most have come in search of a better life, prosperity and freedom. America has, throughout her existence, stood apart from

most other places on earth because she has given her population a vast range of individual liberties and freedoms. This has produced a sophisticated and advanced society and it comes with a price for participation. It is the promise that those who arrive on these shores will further, invest in, contribute to, protect, and own Americanism. A melting-pot is not a compartmentalized arrangement. It is an object in which ingredients come together to produce something better. Ingredients change when they are added to the pot; they take on a different taste or form. This is America. Our culture is based on bigger-is-better, everything-is-possible and individual responsibility. The shame is that we continue to move further away from the principles that made this country possible. Rules that treat some different than others are weakening this nation. They are divisive.

- **Taxes:** Everyone has to contribute something or there is no personal investment. If there is no personal investment, there is no sense of ownership. If there is no ownership, there is no care. If there is no care, things will deteriorate. This is a play on the "Broken Window" theory. While it might be argued intelligently that progressive tax systems are a good thing, I am becoming convinced that individual no-tax-for-some policies have already created an increasing number of broken windows. Corporations and businesses in America do not pay taxes. They simply include the money that government takes in the price of their end product or service. The next time to scream for higher taxes on evil giant corporations, think about that [2]

- **Europe:** Many people look to Europe for clues on social programs and leadership on responsible governing. Nothing could be more dangerous. It is obviously desirable to have strong alliances with the nations of Europe, but it is clearly misguided to accept European socialist governing styles as models for America. The one and only reason why Europe has been able to flourish in the past decades is the fact that they didn't have to worry about spending money on capable military forces. Each country has armies, but let's be serious.

- **Religion:** To make the argument that there is a separation of church and state is hopelessly wrong. Even Obama knows the value of America's religion. As a matter of fact, he is held in high regard by black ministers around the country [3]. We are right not to have a national religion, but that does not mean some mystical wall exists. Church orga-

nizations are well suited to help build support structures for people. The reason why there is considerable opposition to faith-based support groups among elitists is based on the fact that government has no control over it. The concept is pro-individual-choice and con-government-regulation.

- **Traditional Values:** We should not let those things we value be diluted or destroyed without protest. This applies to many traditional American values that we hold in common and which bind us together as a Nation. The so-called "Christmas Controversy" is a perfect example of this. Every year the battle around Christmas intensifies. For anyone who values Christmas and detests what is being done to contort it, take this as an action item for the upcoming Christmas season of 2009. Pick your items, go to the cashier and wish him or her "Merry Christmas." If the response from the individual behind the counter is something like "Happy Holidays" or "Season Greetings", put the items down and leave without them. Let's speak with \$\$\$\$. Bring Christmas back. There is certainly another store down the road selling the same things.

- **Republicans:** Michael Steele, we want and need people in the Republican Party who want to serve - not work - in Washington. The citizens' servants need to get their butts back to home districts and states to inform the public about what is going on. Encourage them to hold town hall style meetings regularly and speak about what happened in D.C. in the recent past to damage individual freedom and liberty. Tell the people what the effects of big government policies are. 2010 is around the corner. Use the energy in the conservative base. We want our country back! Get back to the principles of republicanism. Of the people, by the people, for the people.

[1] <http://www.dol.gov/>

[2] <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2009/02/21/AR20090221009p.html>

[3] [http://www.blackamericaweb.com/?q=articles/news/the\\_state\\_of\\_black\\_america\\_news/5644&page=3](http://www.blackamericaweb.com/?q=articles/news/the_state_of_black_america_news/5644&page=3)

Tom Blom is a guest columnist from Right Principles. Visit [www.RightPrinciples.com](http://www.RightPrinciples.com) for more information and details.

# The Farce That Is Affirmative Action

By Frank O'Neill

This is disturbing from a point of view that most would deem as racist (as racist as a "black men's leadership conference" right on your doorstep, anyway). The NAACP president got away with saying "YOU PEOPLE are terrifying when you're happy" concerning the white supporters of their cause. The rest of the sentence doesn't even matter (actually, the fact that liberals are terrifying their fellow Obama supporters is downright hilarious, but that's beside the point). Personally, I think the ACLU and the NAACP are afraid that if the nation is no longer viewed as biased bigots, then they will become irrelevant and their cause will fall from the forefront of American politics, castrating some of the liberal agenda's biggest contributing supporters. Apparently, that is the left's worst nightmare - too many smiles from whites.

Racism seems to be running rampantly through our ranks today - we all like to see the "underdog" get ahead a bit, but when is affirmative action, which was started in the very different age of the civil rights movement some 43 years ago, going to become obsolete?? We have Obama in the white house for goodness' sake, the highest position of authority in our entire country. The job market these days is not exactly teeming with new opportunities for anyone, let alone the second-best applicant who gets the job simply because his race is under-represented. Of course his race is under-represented! Blacks are labeled as a minority because they are just that - calling for a higher percentage of black workers on a job site than the actual percentage noted in the census is preposterous. Why should "underrepresentation" provide an advantage over more qualified individuals? Skill should determine quality of work, and thus job eligibility and rank in the said job, not race. We get it though, your ancestors were slaves. But that stake to fortune in the work force is about as absurd as the 4th generation grandson of an Irish immigrant demanding that people stop eating potatoes in plain view of the St. Patrick's Day parade because it's reminiscent of the potato famine.

It is funny how the liberal government tends to sympathize with the classically under-represented in the hopes of securing more votes by promising more "free money." The census bureau realized that with the explosion of the Latino population and the recent projection that blacks (and whites, mind you) will become the new top minorities in just the next few decades, the numbers will be skewed from what they want them to be. That is why the Obama administration is taking drastic measures to re-adjust how the census is taken - by estimating, instead of actually counting, the number of black citizens in the country. Stupendous idea if you want to make a minority less of a minority.

Therefore, if under-representation is the problem that calls for affirmative action to stay in place, apparently it's "the white man's" fault that blacks do not reproduce up to President Obama's standards. Margaret Sanger founded Planned Parenthood to ensure people of lesser economic status would have access to birth control. She was somewhat overtly a white supremacist, and as such decided that abortion would be an easy "out" for young black women who had been impregnated by economically under-privileged men. This was not an act of empathy on her part as many have been led to believe. According to our underlying animalian pre-disposition to give up on our young when there is a possibility of a better reproductive situation elsewhere with another individual, this would seem (to a white-supremacist especially), an easy means of minority popula-

**AFFIRMATIVE  
ACTION  
IS A  
NEGATIVE  
REACTION  
Only racists consider race**

tion control. This is government-approved infanticide at its best (many thanks to Professor Bingham for his insight into this topic during lecture). If we go by this implication alone, then yes, racism is still rampant in our society. Sounds horrendous, doesn't it?

However, if we take a step back and realize that Planned Parenthood started out in 1916, led by a socially accepted white supremacist that did not yet have the right to vote herself, then we see that there is a generational gap here. Margaret Sanger died in 1965, when there may still have been a need for affirmative action in the work place in towns where people did not like drinking from the same water fountain. The fact of the matter is, that town no longer exists today; we have made leaps and bounds, and white and black children attend the same schools, go to the same colleges, and work alongside each other. This would be a wonderful sight for advocates of the Civil Rights movement looking upon the fruits of their labor, but it is severely tainted. The taste of that fruit is made bitter by the fact that we have gone the other way these days and excluded whites from this dream of equality, forcing whites to go to different schools and find jobs elsewhere because an outdated system has given opportunities to minorities

that are no longer discriminated against. They have not themselves been exposed to real racial prejudice, but have been coerced by their teachers, professors, and the media to believe that they have been and thus they fight for rights that have already been given them 10 fold more than their white peers.

This leads one to believe that there is a huge prevalence of "reverse-racism," especially in the new presidency and its advisors (this conclusion stemming from the administration's stance on fabricating numbers in the census), and in the idea that blacks value their within-race interpersonal relationships more than their relationships that cross racial boundaries. Hence, conferences like "Student African American Brotherhood" being held at Stony Brook, along with Minorities in Medicine, and other extremely polarized organizations that exclude whites, Asians and Indians from helpful guidance and instruction. This lends to favoritism and a true form of bigotry renewed year after year by college admissions boards, condoned by the popular support of the misguided and uninformed populous. This supports the way of life that is dragging down society, bailout by bailout, which the minority refuses to integrate itself into in the first place. No wonder there are still racists on both sides. No wonder Bill Cosby is so critical of his own people and whites alike.

It is wrong to say, "We are all equal" and not deliver, as the left-wingers often do. However, it is completely backwards thinking that we should take away from those with more (skill, incentive to work, etc.) in society in order to compensate for the shortcomings of the minority community. If we are truly equal, then let Afro Americans earn their keep without the help of big brother pushing non-minorities from the arena. Why should people who have never in their lifetimes seen discrimination, never seen opposition or competition be given a leg up in a society where we are supposed to reward individual achievements and give praise based on merit? If this article makes you uncomfortable, and makes you say "this is discrimination, I don't know how this guy can say this stuff!!" then you have also fallen victim to the indoctrination of the democratic party and left-wingers around the world that purposely keep minorities down in order to get their votes. Without a working class that feels like it has been shafted, the labor union favoring, [insert lib cussword here], democrats are without a platform to stand on. So, when things are finally starting to look up for the individual, they try to take them down a notch and get more party support. They tell minorities that they are being treated unfairly and discriminated against when it was their inactivity and lack of self-discipline that kept them from getting the job they did not have the skill to fill in the first place.

# The "Employee Freedom Of Choice Act"

By Jason Schaeffer

Among the many things that President Barack Obama has vowed to do since his election is to pass the Employee Freedom of Choice Act. In reality, the legislation if passed would actually take away a choice from American workers. The EFCA would take away the right of workers to have a secret ballot when deciding whether or not to join unions. The bill would also impose harsh penalties on companies who couldn't resolve their differences with the newly-emboldened unions and would allow the government to involve itself with negotiations on behalf of the unions as well. Naturally, such legislation threatens to throw a monkey wrench in our struggling economy and will put corporations at the mercy of bloated union bosses and Uncle Sam and the average American at the mercy of frequent strikes and walk-outs.

The bill was briefly considered by the House Committee on Education and Labor in early 2007, and although it was ultimately reported to the House and was passed, Senate Republicans were able to filibuster and the measure didn't come into law. This year the bill was re-introduced by Senator Kennedy and Representative Miller, both of whom cited the measure as a step to restoring the economy. The fate of the bill now currently rests in the hands of liberal-leaning Republicans, and if

any of them decide to support the bill, then it has at least a chance of being passed.

Under current law the National Labor Relations Board will certify that a union is the sole representative of the employees of a company only if a secret ballot election was held when the workers chose whether or not to unionize. Workers fill out cards saying that they want to unionize and when 30% espouse this desire a secret-ballot is conducted. Companies can choose whether or not they want to bargain with a union formed only by majority sign up, meaning that more than half participated in card check. This is a safety mechanism in the system designed in the system to give greater weight to a decision-making process that is unbiased. If EFCA were to be passed into law, the NLRB would be required to certify the union's representation if a simple majority signed the cards. The flaw in this system is obvious; employees will be coerced into unionizing by their colleagues. Imagine if on election day a government official went to your place of business or home and asked you to say out loud who you were voting for. Naturally, many voters would feel pressured into voting the same way as their family members or coworkers. Now imagine money is involved and you will be harassed and berated by your fellow workers if you go against consensus and say you don't

see the need to form a union. Maybe you feel as though you have been justly treated by your employer, or maybe you have a deep belief in free market capitalism. You would have no choice but to go along with it and unionize, increasing the threat of going on a costly strike, having to pay large sums of money for dues, or even having to worry about having your own hard-earned wages garnished.

The EFCA bill also "marx" another dangerous transgression of the government into our economy and would continue to abet the waning Laissez Faire philosophy America was founded on. If the bill is enacted the government would become an important mediator in union-management negotiations. According to the current text of the bill, a company can be required to begin bargaining with a union ten days before the union is even certified as the representative of the employees. If the two sides cannot reach an agreement on a contract within ninety days either group can request government mediation, which could then lead to binding arbitration. The bill would also impose a \$2,000 fine on a corporation found to have violated employees' rights as per to be imposed at the discretion of the NLRB. These corporation might first need bailouts if this ludicrous law is enacted.

## Join The Patriot

Meetings Mondays  
in SAC 308 6:00PM -  
7:00PM

E-mail us at  
sbpatriot@gmail.com  
for any questions,  
concerns or general  
information



Wanted:

Staff Writers  
Contributors  
Photographers  
Advertising Managers  
Event Coordinators  
Web Designer

# Watchmen: Never Compromise

By John Galt

For those of you who haven't seen *Watchmen* yet, I'd highly recommend it. Besides the action, visually stunning special effects, captivating plot and the fact that it is based on one of the most celebrated comic books of all time (the only comic to appear on the *Time* list of 100 greatest novels), *Watchmen* also offers viewers several things to sit and think about after the film is over. Admittedly by creator/writer Alan Moore, *Watchmen* is a deeply philosophical and political film, offering us a set of characters analogous to real life politicians and perceptions with which to view the world.

Set in an alternate America in 1985 where Richard Nixon is still President, the Soviet Union is stronger than ever and all out nuclear war is perceived to be imminent by all, Moore provides "four or five radically opposing ways of seeing the world" on the very honest basis that "...too many writers go for that 'baby bird' moralizing, where your audience just sits there with their beaks open and you just cram regurgitated morals down their throat. ... What we wanted to do was show all of these people, warts and all. Show that even the worst of them had something going for them, and even the best of them had their flaws." It's actually a refreshing change from the rest of the unapologetic propaganda oozing out of Hollywood.

The character of Ozymandias is a rich elitist who is "the smartest man in the world" and who speaks deliberately and down to everyone else. In today's standards he is the Barack Obama/Nancy Pelosi type; the elitist liberal who thinks, since he has transcended all mankind, that it is his divine duty to save the world through massive intervention. The character of The Comedian is a Thomas Hobbes cynic who believes that life is short, rough and brutal. He represents those who believe the state must define its interests in terms of power, and that, in the end, no moral or legal frame of reference exists beyond that established by the state. The character of Nite Owl represents the liberal do-gooder with noble, but ultimate-

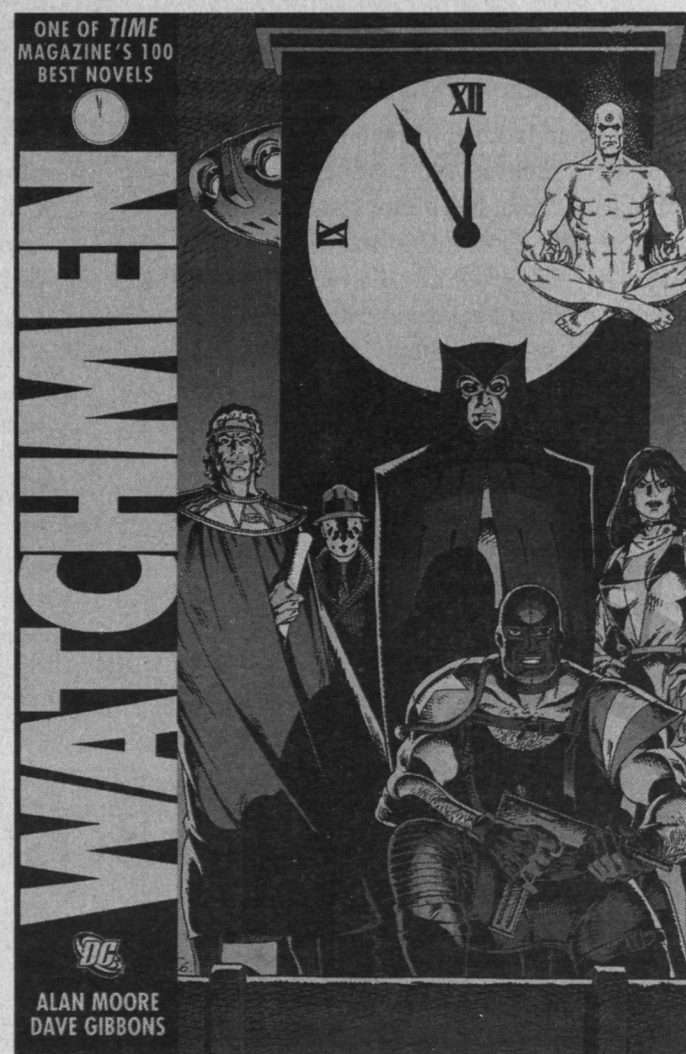
ly ineffective - and sometimes literally impotent - intentions. The Silk Spectre adds a very feminine, and sometimes emotional, take to the mix. Finally, Dr. Manhattan represents the scientist whose genius slowly, but ultimately, severs his ties with the real world and renders him completely consumed by his scientific work.

The most compelling character of the film, however, also the protagonist, is Rorschach (named so for his mask, which is a piece of fabric with a constantly morphing Rorschach ink blotch). He is a staunch right-winger and an objectivist straight out of an Ayn Rand novel. In today's terms, he would be the grassroots conservative unflinching in his resolve with no time or concern for political correctness. His morality, along with his view of the world as a whole, is black and white, cut and dry. His third best line of the movie reflects this when he says, "Never compromise. Not even in the face of Armageddon." Such a sentiment may have been what conservatives who could not bring themselves to vote for John McCain felt like on Election Day. His second best line of the movie, one that reads like something out of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, "The accumulated filth of all their sex and murder will foam up about their waists and all the whores and politicians will look up and shout 'Save us!'... and I'll whisper 'no,'" is something many conservatives should strongly consider as President Obama continues with his current trends. His best line of the movie... well, I won't spoil that. You'll know it when it happens.

Although Moore is a self-declared member of the Left, *Watchmen* displays a very conservative tendency, namely that we should not hope for and/or trust someone to come riding in on a white horse to save us all. When Moore originally wrote the comic book, he was critiquing many

people's view of then President Ronald Reagan. The same critique holds today for President Barack Obama. As *FrontPageMagazine's* David Swindle writes, it is "not acceptable... to get so wrapped up in defending your president against the constant wave of attacks against him that you begin seeing him as The One Who Will Save Us."

All in all, *Watchmen* keeps you thinking. It doesn't lead you or force agenda driven conclusions down your throat. Like I said earlier, this is a rarity in Hollywood these days so seize the opportunity to watch a movie that let's you think for itself.



# The Great *American* Pastime

By Derek Mordente

With the start of the 2009 Major League Baseball season baseball fans everywhere are reveling in the excitement of a clean slate as the perennial contenders prepare to make another push for the championship and the other slightly less fortunate teams strive to be this year's big surprise.

However, as excited as I am for the upcoming season, I have to wonder whether or not the MLB is up to the standards of holding the title of America's greatest pastime or if it

is sliding into decadence alongside America itself. The current commissioner, Bud Selig, has changed the game over the past fifteen some odd years in a way in which the founders of the game of the nineteenth century, as well as the Founding Fathers themselves, would undoubtedly not approve of.

We'll start with the idea of "revenue sharing," introduced to the league by Selig in the 1990's. It is a sort of "redistribution" of wealth, made by bigger market teams. The

redistribution goes from these bigger market teams, such as the New York Yankees, "according to their ability," to smaller market teams, such as the Kansas City Royals or Tampa Bay Rays, "according to their needs." Sound familiar? It's called Socialism. I do not recall the word "Socialism" or the concepts behind it being anywhere remotely close to phrases such as "life, liberty and the pursuit of property."

Now, although the idea has not always

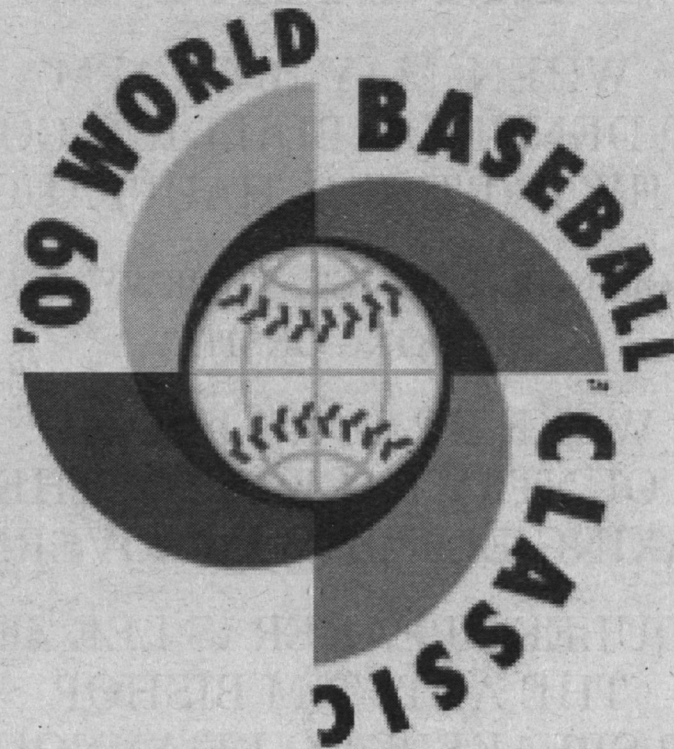
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

come to pass throughout American history (especially now), the Founding Fathers did intend for a limited federal government. With respect to the actual American Federal Government as well as the MLB's "federal government," Commissioner Selig has made strives to undermine the idea of "limited government." In 2000, Selig consolidated the offices of the American League and the offices of the National League (which allowed for each league to set its own rules, choose from its own set of umpires, etc.) into the Office of the Commissioner. Nothing like giving yourself more power, right? Unfortunately, baseball has been and still is in (although slowly coming out of) the "Steroid Era." Aside from completely botching every chance he ever had of rectifying the situation, Selig commissioned a Congressional Investigation of steroid use in baseball. I don't know about you, but I feel that the federal government has no place in the MLB. Not only that, we all know how great things turn out when the Federal Government sticks its big, cumbersome, corrupt hands in them. Needless to say, the Congressional Investigation, in the form of the Mitchell Report, did nothing to ward off the taboo of steroids surrounding the MLB but rather added more speculation, rumors and heartache without definitively solving anything.

Commissioner Selig's piece de resistance, however, came in the form of the introduction of the World Baseball Classic in 2006, wherein countries from all over the world would participate in a baseball tournament shortly before the start of the MLB season. Aside from this being yet another ploy for multiculturalism, globalization and naïve sentiments of "one

world, one people," the World Baseball Classic poses another serious problem; the majority of those participating on each team are also members of teams in the MLB...who happen to pay them inordinate amounts of money. What happens if they get hurt? I'm sorry, but the owners of their teams and the paying fans who sup-



port them are not dishing out their money for players to play and get hurt for Korea, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Japan, China, etc., or even Team USA. They are getting paid to play in the MLB. If it weren't for the great American pastime and the MLB, most of these players would still be playing baseball using milk cartons as gloves, sticks as bats and rocks as balls. They owe their livelihood to the MLB;

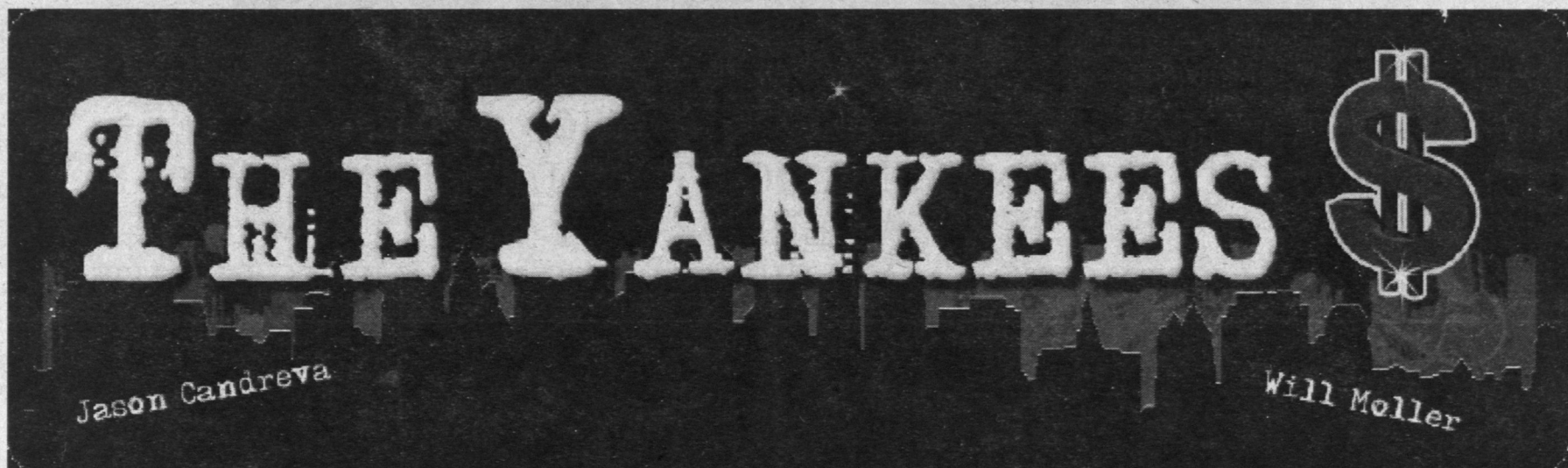
not their homeland, no matter how much pride they have for it.

How does the World Baseball Classic affect players? On March 5th, USA Today ran an article that provided some stunning statistics: in the 2006 WBC, of the 59 pitchers who pitched more than 20 innings in 2005 and 2006, 1.) 78% posted a higher ERA (Earned Run Average) after pitching in the WBC, 2.) 42% posted an ERA that increased one whole run or more, and 3.) the average ERA of the 59 pitchers jumped from 3.69 in 2005 to 4.37 in 2006. Notable players who saw their production plummet, suffered an injury, or both after pitching in the WBC in 2006 include Jake Peavy, Brad Lidge, Francisco Liriano, Luis Ayala, Chris Reitsma, Fernando Cabrera, J.C. Romero and Bartolo Colon, who was the 2005 Cy Young Award winner.

To date, in the 2009 WBC, those who have suffered injuries include Ryan Braun, Matt Lindstrom, Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia, Chipper Jones, Robinson Cano and possibly David Wright. All of these players are integral parts of their MLB teams.

I wonder if Selig will soon announce that, in the name of fairness and equality, he is mandating that "all teams have the same amount of injured players." I would be very interested to see how he would enforce this imperial edict as being the next logical step in social engineering on the baseball diamond.

For All Your Baseball Information, Rumors, and Updates, Visit "The Yankees Dollar!"



<http://theyankeesdollar.blogspot.com/>

---

---

# LONG ISLAND TEA PARTY!

WHEN: MAY 16TH, 1PM

WHERE: DENNISON BUILDING COMPLEX  
VETS HWY. (RT. 454), HAUPPAUGE, LI

EASY ACCESS FROM NORTHERN STATE PKWY., LIE, 347-PLENTY OF  
PARKING ONSITE!

WAKE UP LONG ISLAND!  
LET'S TAKE OUR COUNTRY BACK FROM THE OVERSPENDING,  
OVERTAXING ELITISTS IN GOVERNMENT!

SCHEDULED SPEAKER IS LEE ZELDIN:  
THE ANTI-TIM BISHOP  
OTHER SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

JOIN YOUR FELLOW PATRIOTS IN A DAY OF PROTEST!  
SEE THE PATRIOTIC RESISTANCE FOR MORE INFO AS IT DEVELOPS:  
RESISTNET.COM, NYS AND 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PAGES



DISSENT IS PATRIOTIC!  
PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO ALL YOU KNOW WHO LOVE  
AMERICA  
INCLUDE ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS. LET'S MAKE THIS EVENT A  
"SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD!"

VISIT: [WWW.RESISTNET.COM](http://WWW.RESISTNET.COM) FOR ALL DETAILS

---

---

---

# Thank God I Don't Live In: Mexico

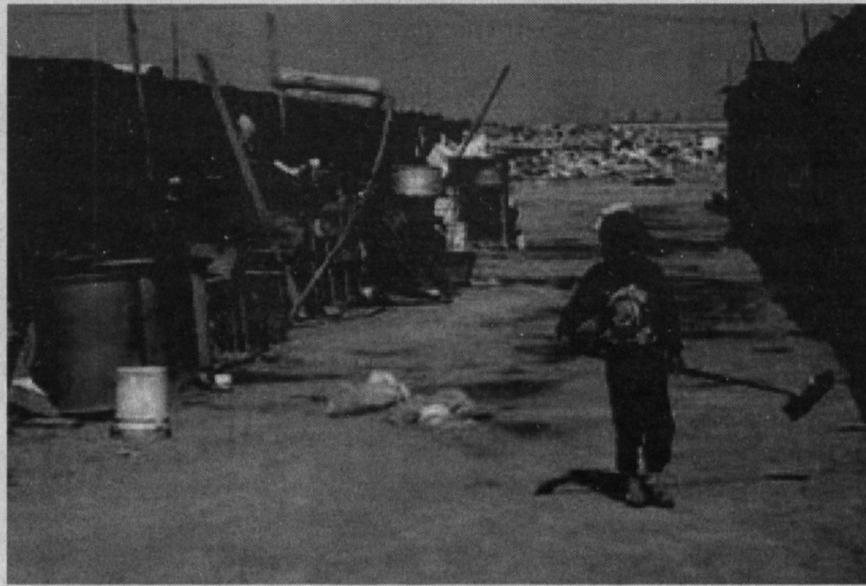
Happy with the way things are going in the United States? According to a recent Gallup poll, 83% of Americans would answer that question with a resounding no. For those of you in this somber majority, The Patriot invites you to join us each month in exploring some countries which may just reinvigorate your faith in the good 'ol red, white and blue.

Spring break is over and many of you probably feel a little cheated of the college experience. That's because you didn't go to Cancún! Never before has Mexico been more exciting, featuring a plethora of ever present drug cartels engaged in a brutal war with the police. I know what you're thinking, "Isn't a failing drug war against Mexican drug lords a bad thing?" If you think about why you should have gone to Mexico in the first place, you'll realize it's a great thing.

Of course, the times have been tough on all of us and vacations are hard on the old checkbook, so PEMEX, Mexico's state owned gas giant, has responded with incredibly low petroleum prices. Yes, some have accused PEMEX of selling low-quality fuel and using faulty pumps, however, the Mexican government strongly believes that these are not "reasons to take away the concessions." Inferior gasoline for everyone! True, Mexico's reserves are dwindling as prices drop, but what's one-fifth of a nation's budget anyway? Go Green!

Still, there's more to Mexico's tourist towns than the chance to score an eight ball,

fill up your tank and witness a public shoot-out, namely the opportunity to escape the rampant corruption which Mexico's President Felipe Calderon believes is plaguing the United States. Unafraid to point fingers, Calderon

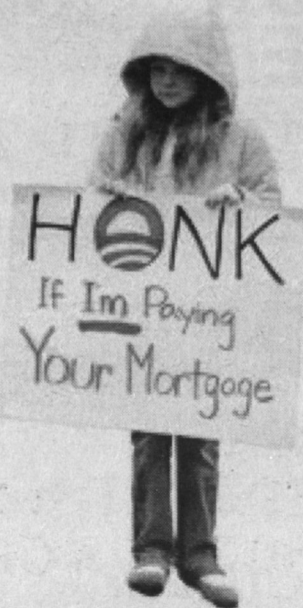


heroically declared in February that "a good cleaning is in order on the other side of the border," despite strong claims that Mexico's drug cartels are actively protected by politicians and much of the police force. It's been a long time

since we've seen a leader go back to his roots with the time tested "I know what you are but what am I" defense.

To some it may seem ironic that Mexico thrives on tourism whilst millions of Mexican's strive to leave the country, yet Mexico has no problem with hypocrisy. Former President Vicente Fox and current President Calderon have openly criticized the United States for deploying National Guard troops on the border and criminalizing undocumented aliens, while sending its own troops to seal its southern border, making illegal immigration punishable by up to two years in prison and fiercely limiting legal immigration. Still not sure what you want to do in the future? Mexico bans non-natives from thousands of jobs and positions regardless of citizenship, making your future decisions easier. So pack those bags and head down to Mexico for the ride of your life.

**She'll Still Be  
Paying On  
The Stimulus  
When We're  
All Dead.**



**Congress, Stop Stealing  
From Our Children!**

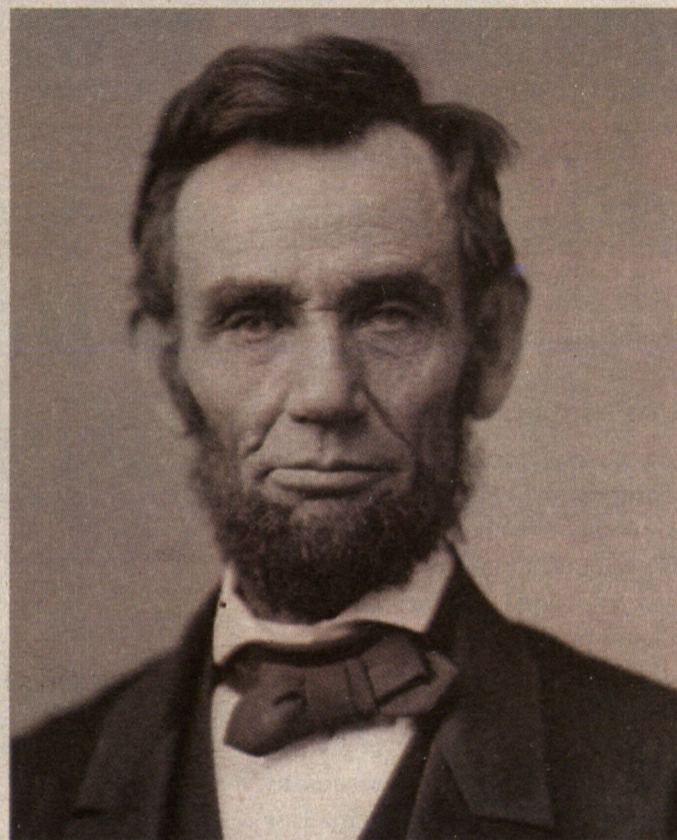
This is what The Left DOES NOT get. Does wanting to be successful make us extremists? Does wanting to keep our money make us extremists? Does not wanting to have a future filled with debt and hardship make us extremists? LONG LIVE THE TEA PARTY!!



## The Last Word

"PROPERTY IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR... PROPERTY IS DESIRABLE... IS A POSITIVE GOOD IN THE WORLD. THAT SOME SHOULD BE RICH SHOWS THAT OTHERS MAY BECOME RICH, AND HENCE IS JUST ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE. LET NOT HIM WHO IS HOUSELESS PULL DOWN THE HOUSE OF ANOTHER; BUT LET HIM LABOR DILIGENTLY AND BUILD ONE FOR HIMSELF, THUS BY EXAMPLE ASSURING THAT HIS OWN SHALL BE SAFE FROM VIOLENCE WHEN BUILT."

-ABRAHAM LINCOLN



710 RTE 25A, SETAUKET, NY 11733 TEL: 941-4545

OPEN TILL **MIDNIGHT** on Thursdays and Fridays

**10% OFF ANY PURCHASE**

-or-

**Buy FIVE 30 PACKS and get a 12 PACK of the SAME Beer for a PENNY!**

-or-

**Buy TEN 30 PACKS and get the ELEVENTH for a PENNY!**

Offer Expires 5/19/09

Certain Restrictions Apply See Store For Details



# The Patriot

Vol. 4 Issue 4

[www.stonybrookpatriot.com](http://www.stonybrookpatriot.com)

April 2008 Edition



# SNOB

IT'S AN ELITIST THING  
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND

# THIS ISSUE

## Long Live The Patriot

Page 2

## e-Voting?

Will 2012 be analogous to American Idol?

Page 3

## Simons Donates Sixty Million

Mo' Money Mo' Problems?

Page 4

## Ann Coulter Comes To Stony Brook

Is John McCain fit to be our next president?

Page 5

## Bittersweet

What Barack Obama Really Thinks About Americans

Page 6

## New York Times: The Paper of Last Resort?

The New York Times, or the New York Slimes?

Page 7

## Why I am a Conservative

Bridget Matikainen Tells Us Why She's Right.

Page 11

# LONG LIVE THE PATRIOT

## Dear Reader,

I write to you concerning a most important matter. The Patriot is published under the aegis of the Enduring Freedom Alliance, one of the many clubs and organizations funded by the Undergraduate Student Government. As is the case for any other organization on campus, the continued existence of The Patriot depends on receiving adequate funds to publish.

Among the many criteria that are used to judge whether a club or organization deserves to be funded are its relevance to its stated mission and the size of its membership. For a student publication, the size and needs of the readership is a surrogate for our number of members. That The Patriot is committed to its stated aim of presenting alternative views and opinions to the Stony Brook community is not in question. However, the importance of this newspaper to the student community is not as obvious to those who are in the position to provide us funding. Consequently, it is critical that our readers express to the USG representatives how much they value the existence of The Patriot on the Stony Brook campus, and that they want to continue to have access to it in the coming years. As Editor-in-Chief and President of the Enduring Alliance Freedom, I urge all of you who enjoy reading The Patriot and who want to have it around in the future to let your USG officers know how you feel.

Contact information for your class representatives can be found at the following website: <http://www.stonybrookusg.org/officers.html>. Time is of the essence, so do not wait to make your voice heard. Please be polite but assertive when voicing your concerns, for we want the USG representatives to know that readers of The Patriot are mature, upstanding, serious people who won't stand to see The Patriot perish.

Sincerely,  
Alexander G. Chamesian  
Editor-in-Chief

# The Patriot

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Alexander Chamesian

**Managing Editor**  
Greg Bernardi

**Senior Editor**  
Jason Frank

**Copy Editor**  
Kerry Keegan

**Opinions Editor**  
Conor Harrigan

**Staff Writers:**  
Rebecca Newman  
Bridget Matikainen

Zachary Kurtz  
Erik Berte

**Columnists:**  
Pulkit Saxena  
Ryan Woltering  
Kerry Keegan  
Jesse Colombo

**Enduring Freedom Alliance:**  
President Alexander Chamesian  
Vice President Conor Harrigan  
Secretary Krishna Sarma  
Treasurer Pulkit Saxena



**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 [sbpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:sbpatriot@gmail.com)  
The Patriot is a paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:  
<http://www.stonybrookpatriot.com/dotnuke>

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in the opinions columns are not necessarily the opinions of *The Patriot* or its editorial staff as a whole.

# Features

MONEY



BY JESSE COLOMBO

## Five Books That Gave Me My Investing Knowledge

My friends frequently ask me how they can learn to invest successfully. My advice is to read the five great books that have given me the majority of my investing knowledge. I will present these books to you in the same order that I've read them. I am highly confident that anyone who reads these five books will have enough knowledge to even start a lucrative career on Wall Street, regardless of your major! Every one of these books is a classic and is readily available on Amazon.com and in Borders stores.

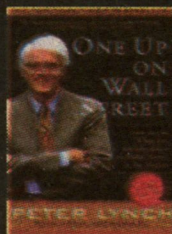
### 1) *Standard & Poors Guide To Money And Investing*

This was the first investing and personal finance book I read. Don't let the simple name fool you. You will learn everything from practical economics, finance, currency exchange, stocks, bonds, banking, interest rates, real estate, mutual funds, and foreign currency trading. As a ninth-grader, I was fascinated to learn the causes of inflation and how economic recessions occur. The book even explains how some traders make millions of dollars per year trading arcane commodity futures, such as pork bellies, frozen orange juice, and copper. Reading this book is a great prerequisite for the more advanced books I recommend in this article.



### 2) *Peter Lynch - One Up On Wall Street*

I have pleasant memories of this book because I first read it on the beach in the sunny South of France during the summer of 2001. The author, Peter Lynch, was a highly successful mutual fund manager



who made billions of dollars for himself and his investors in the 1980s. Written in a personable, narrative style, "One Up On Wall Street" details Peter Lynch's approach to finding new, fast growing companies that are in the process of becoming household names. Some of Lynch's biggest scores were companies such as Volvo, Subaru, Dunkin' Donuts, Limited Brands, and L'eggs, before they became the well-known products of today. Peter Lynch dispenses homespun investing wisdom that can be applied by anyone with just a basic investing education.

### 3) *The Motley Fool Investment Guide*

Yet another gem with simple name and a powerful message. This guide explains how to drill down into the important financial statements of a public company and find the most profitable stocks. You'll learn how to calculate and interpret critical financial ratios that act as a barometer for stocks that are about to explode upwards. Additionally, you'll learn how to avoid stocks that are unprofitable, cash-burning, toxic waste. The Motley Fool authors are brilliant in their ability to dispel ineffective investing myths and decry the investing fads that are ever-present in the financial world.



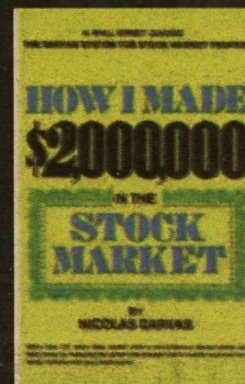
### 4) *Nicholas Darvas - How I Made \$2,000,000 In The Stock Market*

This book was written in the 1950s by Nicholas Darvas, a professional ballroom dancer, who discovered the keys to successful trading and investing and turned a \$5,000 investment into \$2,000,000! Following Darvas'

"box method," you can effectively trade in stocks without the need for any complex financial analysis and economic forecasting- or even checking your stocks every day. I found this book to be very entertaining, as Darvas tells us of his world travels and how he managed to trade stocks from remote locations such as Thailand.

### 5) *Stan Weinstein - Secrets To Profiting In Bull And Bear Markets*

This book will benefit you most after having read the other four books I've discussed. Weinstein, a professional trader, teaches you effective technical analysis, or analysis of patterns in stock charts. As it turns out, there are many parallels between Weinstein's method and Nicholas Darvas' aforementioned method, and each method greatly complements the other. The reader gains the ability to do "stage analysis" of stocks in order to determine whether they are in an uptrend, topping pattern, or downtrend. Weinstein further elucidates upon the process of picking the most favorable stocks, in the most favorable industries, at the most favorable time.



## E-Voting?

By Ryan Woltering

So check this: it is estimated that only fifteen percent of our generation will actually get out there and vote. Crazy, right? I know that I voted in the last presidential election. Did you? I can certainly understand why you didn't get out there and vote. It's a hassle! Having to wait on long lines (most of the time), not to mention the overall hassle of the general process. The paperwork, the information required; UGH! Back in the state of Colorado, which is where I have been living for the past five years, they don't exactly have the voting concept down to a science. Everything is done the old fashioned way - pen and paper. Their "electronic" voting machines never worked properly and caused major problems and back-ups. Even states like New York use some older techniques to gather votes. I can remember going into the booth with my mom and pulling the big red handle, finalizing her vote. Why are we using such antiquated techniques?

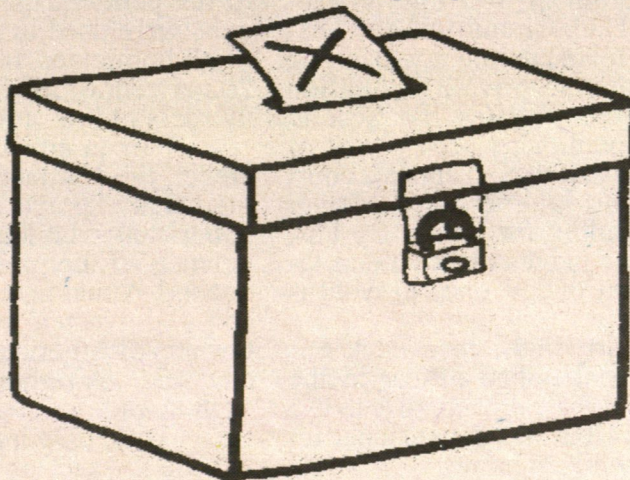
For being the "information generation," constantly connected to our cell phones, and of course, Facebook, why isn't there a better way to do this? I mean, if Facebook can pull off a poll easily, why can't our government?

So here's a novel concept: "e-voting." It really can't be that hard. It should be possible for me to enter my information into a government funded and managed website. If the government were to allow users to register themselves, get a background check on those registrants, and ensure they are legitimate citizens, we could vote electronically. Could you imagine voting for your next president with the simple click of a mouse? Heck, even the local elections would see an increase in the number of votes.

Granted the system would need some way to check for fraud; we have all entered JoeBlow@Yahoo.com to enter a website at one

time in our lives. So, of course, a system to check each user would need to be put into play. Still, this idea needs to be done, and soon! What is the point of democracy if the people don't have an easy way to cast their vote? I would hope that in the not so distant future, we could even text our votes for candidates. Heck, we text the word "IDOL06" to vote for our favorite American Idol, what about sending the word "BUSH1" to "FREEDOM?" I can foresee it.

The point is, we need to do something about how voting is handled in this country. It would be very possible to get "e-voting" started. Well, I am off to cast my vote on Facebook as to which state is the best... of course New York is going to win that one!



## Simons Donates Sixty Million Dollars to University

By Michael Mets

On February 26, 2008 it was announced that James Simons and his wife, Marilyn were making a donation of \$60 million to Stony Brook University. The money will be used to construct a new building, named the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, much like the Wang Center, which was the result of a \$50 million donation from Charles B. Wang to the University.

Jim Simons was the head of the Stony Brook Mathematics departments from 1968 to 1978. He left academic work to apply his knowledge of math to investment fund managing. In 1982, he found Renaissance Technologies, a hedge fund company, which seeks out relationships between economics and mathematics. By analyzing stock data, Renaissance discovers stocks which have clear positive trends, and purchases those positive stocks. The result has been a very successful hedge fund which produces some of the best returns of any fund available.



Admission to the fund is highly exclusive and subject to substantial fees because of its success in the market. Today, Forbes Magazine lists Jim Simons as the 214th richest person in the world with a wealth of approximately \$4 billion.

The new building will be constructed adjacent to the Math Tower on the main campus. This would place it on the far side of the Academic Mall, across the road from the Sports Complex. The rest of the donation will be used to improve faculty, fund visiting scholars, and hold workshops and conferences. With this donation, James and Marilyn Simons have given the university a total of \$85 million over time.

The couple gave a \$13 million donation to Brookhaven Labs after the institution received federal budget cuts in 2006.

The presence of then governor Elliot Spitzer at the announcement of the donation came less than two weeks before the announcement of his involvement in a prostitution ring. It was one of his last actions relating to SUNY schools as the Governor.

He praised the donation as an "investment in New York's future" at the press conference. Stony Brook is currently engaged in a \$300 million pledge drive; the Simons donation puts the school at approximately \$260 million. The pledge corresponds with the recent 50th Anniversary of Stony Brook University and celebrations thereof. Avalon Park & Preserve, located near the campus, is a 130 acre nature preserve that the Simons Foundation created in memory of Paul Simons, who died in a bicycle accident over 10 years ago. The park is not affiliated with the university, but is located in Stony Brook off of Harbor Road. Various activities, primarily geared towards young children are held at Avalon Park. The impact of the donation will be more profound with the construction and completion of the building, provided the building is used frequently in a manner that students and faculty can appreciate. The overall impact of the pledge should improve campus and its effects can be seen in the frequent construction the school undergoes.

## Court Hears Landmark Firearms Case

By Gregory Bernardi

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on March 18 in a landmark case that challenges the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The case of the District of Columbia and Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor of the District of Columbia v. Dick Anthony Heller is the first case in which a federal appellate court calls upon the Second Amendment to invalidate any gun control law.

The Second Amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

According to the appeal filed by the petitioners, the District of Columbia "seeks a review of an extraordinary decision by a divided panel of the D.C. Circuit that the District of Columbia's longstanding law banning handguns but authorizing private possession of rifles and shotguns violates the Second Amendment." The petitioners seek a writ of certiorari, which is a writ that an appeals court issues to a lower court in order for the lower court to review its ruling for errors. By law, four of nine appellate judges must vote in favor of granting a writ of certiorari in what is called the "rule of four."

The second party in the case, Dick Anthony Heller, a special police officer in the District of Columbia, is allowed to carry a firearm while on duty, but was denied a permit to carry a handgun while at home.

The initial case heard by the district court

concluded that handguns are, in fact, "Arms," as stated in the Constitution, and therefore, the District cannot lawfully ban them.

The petitioners cite gun control laws in the nation's capital from as early as 1858, which assert that it is unlawful to "carry or to have concealed about their person any dangerous weapon." This marks the first time the court will address the Second Amendment since 1939, when it issued a unanimous ruling that respected the interpretation of the Second Amendment and the effectiveness of "militia" forces.

The current petition cites the regulation of firearms by the Council of the District of Columbia in the 1970s as support. According to the petition, the council found that handguns were used in approximately 54 per cent of all homicides, 60 per cent of all robberies, 26 per cent of assaults, and 87 per cent of all murders of law enforcement officials.

In an amicus brief filed in support of Heller, the National Rifle Association (NRA) predicted "grave harm" to "law-abiding Americans who keep and bear arms for self-defense" if the protections guaranteed by the Second Amendment are compromised. An editorial written by attorneys for the Gun Owners of America and published in USA Today, said, "A right that can be regulated is no right at all."

Walter Dellinger, an attorney representing the District of Columbia, called the law banning handguns "extremely reasonable."

During oral arguments Chief Justice John Roberts asked Dellinger, "What is reasonable about a total ban on possession?"

The original lawsuit filed by Heller and his fellow plaintiffs (now dismissed as "unreasonable" complainants) said that a "set of laws" banning the ownership of handguns violates the "plaintiffs' individual rights under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution." Alan Gura, the attorney representing Heller, issued a statement in January regarding the Supreme Court's decision to hear the case. "The Bill of Rights does not end at the District of Columbia's borders," he said, "and it includes the right to keep and bear arms." He continued, "We are confident the Supreme Court will vindicate that right in Washington D.C. and across the nation."

Republican presidential nominee John McCain showed support for the Second Amendment while in the Middle East. "I am proud to have joined an amicus brief to the Court calling for a ruling in keeping with the clear intent of our Founding Fathers," said McCain in a statement, "which assures the Second Amendment rights of the residents of the District of Columbia are reaffirmed." A ruling in the case is expected by late June.

## Ann Coulter's Visit to Stony Brook University

By Zachary Kurtz

As a popular conservative pundit Anne Coulter's talk at Stony Brook, entitled "Liberals are Wrong about Everything" was revealing about many current ideas held by conservatives. The event was introduced by College Republican President Kevin McKeon, saying "It's not particularly popular to be a conservative on campus... We'd like to change that."

From that perspective, Coulter had some good points about the spreading of the conservative message. The old leadership of the conservative movement is either gone or ineffective or can't call themselves conservatives any longer. Therefore, to prevent the conservative movement from dying out, it is our younger generation which has to spread its ideals.

This means seeking out nontraditional ways. Coulter suggested getting involved in not only

news media, but Hollywood as well. The liberal stranglehold in cinema and television has helped to popularize the liberal philosophy, essentially letting its pseudo-socialist tendrils grasp onto an unsuspecting populace. However, we can learn from this "enemy" by employing similar means to re-introduce conservative, small government ideas and let them take hold.

However, I must disagree with Coulter on one important aspect of what these conservative aspects should be. That is, of course, foreign policy. Though I concede that Islamic terrorism is a threat to our freedoms, I disagree with Coulter that we should meet this threat with a large, offensive military force. Such a thing defies the conservative sense of a small government.

Expensive military concentrated overseas results in large bureaucracy here at home, wasting tax dollars that the federal government shouldn't have in the first place. The federal government should be primarily interested in self-defense, rather than pursuing ineffective combat in a foreign arena.

Aside from this, Coulter was right on the money with some of her other remarks. I agree with her that "John McCain is a fragile vessel for important ideas." McCain offers Bush's large foreign policy without trimming the fat here at home. His support for illegal immigrant amnesty is, at best, ill advised and he proposes to waste taxpayer money in dealing with global climate change.

Another popular point was Coulter's bashing of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001, better known as (big surprise) the McCain-Feingold act. Campaign finance 'reform' put caps on what individuals can donate to politicians. As

Coulter put it, this effectively limited the presidential playing field to "only fat nerds and self-made billionaires." This is a big problem that has resulted in consistently poor presidential candidates.

Had the McCain-Feingold been passed back in the 1980s, Ronald Reagan, who was not an obscenely wealthy man, could never have successfully run for president. Even if a candidate could be an effective leader and have a great platform, if they cannot raise funds, they are doomed from the start. These days, a candidate's time, particularly early in the election cycle, is devoted almost entirely to fundraising events, where they must try to connect with thousands of people, personally.

On the whole, although the talk was interesting, I think the Young America Foundation probably overpaid Coulter. \$20,000 is a bit much to pay, especially since Coulter began her talk 20 minutes late, but managed to finish as scheduled. Also, much of her lecture sounded more like one liners strung together rather than insightful political philosophy. In addition, some of what Coulter presented was historically inaccurate or at least misrepresentative of historical fact.

However, I think her presence was healthy for a relatively, politically apathetic school like Stony Brook. Her presence stirred up a little controversy and debate, which can only be a healthy thing. It also spawned some interesting discourse on what conservative philosophy is, what it should be, and where will it go from here.

*Below: Ann Coulter, conservative author, columnist, and commentator*



# Bittersweet

By Alexander Chamessian

If you've been living under a rock for the last few weeks, you may have missed Senator Obama's latest political gaffe. The source of Obama's recent troubles is the following remark he made to a group of supporters in San Francisco:

*"You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. And they fell through the Clinton Administration, and the Bush Administration, and each successive administration has said that somehow these communities are gonna regenerate and they have not."*

*"And it's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."*

Obama's statements have set off a storm of criticism, causing many to accuse the senator of harboring elitist views and tendencies. As is standard practice for politicians who make impolitic comments, Obama has been trying to "clarify" his remarks about the bitter, gun-toting, god-fearing, xenophobes he finds in the small American towns and cities on the campaign trail ever since.

Clarification, however, was unnecessary. Senator Obama's message was perfectly clear the first time. Although Barack Obama does not speak for every liberal Democrat, his explanation as to why blue-collar Americans value certain traditions and attitudes encapsulates the modern liberal's view of the citizenry in general.

Small town Americans have been bitter for the last 25 years, says Obama, because of government's failure to ameliorate their economic circumstances. Underlying this opinion is the notion that individuals living in these small towns are incapable of improving their own circumstances, either by seeking employment elsewhere, or by using their own talents and ingenuity to rebuild their languishing local economy. Instead of relying on themselves, the liberal view – so clearly enunciated by Senator Obama – is that most citizens are devoid of the will, discipline and intelligence to support themselves and to elevate their station in society. In other words,

they are dependents, relegated to the position of having to grovel for the table scraps from the Washington liberal elites. When government doesn't come with the goodies to bail out these people, this is not a signal to look elsewhere or within for help; it's a reason to get angry.

But this perspective is no secret. A lack of confidence in the self-sufficiency of the majority of Americans has long been at the heart of the modern liberal doctrine. Every time a liberal politician proposes a new social program or safeguard against the contingencies of life, it bespeaks their mistrust for individuals and demonstrates their infatuation with themselves and their perceived talents. But I digress.

More troubling than the fact that Obama views small-town Americans as bitter is the ease with which he is able to write off the culture and attitudes of these people as knee-jerk responses to their economic woes. Sadly, Senator Obama's thoughts in this regard are not inconsistent with the general liberal ethos.

Guns, whether for use in defense or in recreation, are a constant source of unrest and anger for liberals. In their minds, there is no legitimate reason for someone to want a gun, much less possess one. So much for the second amendment.

So too with religion. Much more than keeping the religious and political realms separate and distinct, many liberals have sought to abolish any kind of authority that traditional institutions still have over individuals – authority that they would much rather claim as their own. To many liberals, religion is dangerous, doing more harm than good. Accordingly, they view religious people with suspicion and disdain. At the same time, the liberal's supreme confidence in human reason makes the idea of submission to an invisible god unimaginable. Anyone who does look to religion for guidance must have been duped. According to Senator Obama, the folks in Pennsylvania have been duped by their own resentment. God is just an outlet for angry people with light pocketbooks.

In light of Senator Obama's thoughts on the way of life of millions of Americans, he is no position to talk about their antipathy to people different from them.

Liberals talk about tolerance in the abstract, but in reality, they are often the most intolerant people imaginable. In other words, they are only tolerant when you agree with them. Obama's remarks vividly exemplify this intolerance for people who don't subscribe to his – the liberal – worldview. How can a man who holds the ideas and habits of so many Americans in such low regard be the next president?

Obama's poll numbers have taken a hard hit since his thoughts were made public. Apparently, that is the price a politician pays for being honest for the first time with voters. All is not lost, however, for Senator Obama has done tremendous good for the American electorate: He has told them how he and his cronies really feel about them. For the disillusioned passengers of the change train, truth is bittersweet.



Senator Barack Obama (left) found himself in hot water after his recent comments regarding middle-class voters. Obama, who leads opponent Hillary Clinton in delegate count, has emerged as the national front-runner in the race to the White House.

## McCain-Mates

By Jason Schaffer

Like it or not, Senator John McCain has become the presumptive Republican nominee for President in this year's campaign. Although the primary contest was exciting in the beginning, it quickly took on a clear direction, and the speculation is now solely switched on who the vice presidential candidate is going to be. If McCain chooses correctly, we will soon be able to smell the carrion of the Democratic Party. However, it proves to be a very difficult decision. He is up for election in a year with very non-traditional democratic candidates, and also needs to try to pick someone who is more amenable to the views of the Republican Party. McCain claims he has narrowed his list down to about twenty candidates, though personally he has already made up his mind. This is a smart move, because it will have the effects of delaying the attacks by his opponents and the media.

So long as Clinton and Obama, who have been fighting a nasty and protracted primary, do not choose to team up, it seems as though a large block of Democrats will likely feel disenfranchised. In particular, if Hillary Clinton narrowly sneaks or wins by super delegates, Obama supporters will likely cry racism and take umbrage that the nomination was decided by party insiders and not the voters. On the other hand, should Obama receive the Democratic nod, many women may not be inclined to support his candidacy. In fact, a recent report on CNN stated about one-third of Clinton supporters would cross party lines and vote Republican if she is not the nominee. The numbers are slightly lower for Senator Obama. Republicans can exacerbate this problem for the democrats by choosing a vice presidential candidate who appeals to both groups.

Specifically, I believe that one of the best choices for McCain is Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. With her articulate nature, and hard line foreign policy initiatives, she is by far one of the shining stars of the Bush administration, and has definitely played an integral role in the successes we have had in the war against Islamic terror so far. Rice is also extremely well versed in the arena of political science. She currently is a professor of political science at Stanford University, and has a masters degree from Notre Dame. Rice also has a doctorate from the Graduate School of International Relations in Denver, Colorado. In addition to her academic credentials, she has a wealth of experience that qualifies her for the position. Rice began as an intern in the State Department in 1977. Besides her part in the war on terror, and determining Bush administration foreign policy, Rice also served in the first Bush administration during the end of the cold war as an expert on Soviet Russia on the National Security Council. Some polls indicate that a McCain-Rice ticket could win big, even in some neon blue states like New York. Dr. Rice is both African American, and a woman. This could cut into two major Democratic

Party blocs of voters.

There has also been some speculation about some of the former contenders for the nomination taking the Vice Presidential spot. One of the most alluring would be a Huckabee-McCain ticket. Although I am a strong believer in many of the things that governor Huckabee stands for, I am not sure this would really be in the best interest of the party. Huckabee's core voting bloc is composed primarily evangelical Christians and southerners in general. I can't help but think that these loyal Republican groups would vote for McCain anyway, as opposed to someone like the liberal Barack Obama or even Hillary Clinton. Former New York City mayor and Republican front runner Rudolph Giuliani has also been rumored as a possible choice for McCain. Although this selection would not surprise me because they have a close friendship, I personally think Giuliani would slant the ticket even farther to the left than it already may be, with his pro-choice and pro-gay marriage view points. Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts is also said to be one of McCain's contenders, although considering the sharp ideological differences between the two, and the bitter primary fight that took place, I don't think this is who McCain will pick.

Finally, there are also a few lesser known possibilities that might surprise us before convention. One rumored pick is Thomas Coburn, the junior Senator from Oklahoma. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1955, and quickly became one of the most conservative senators in the House. Coburn is a member of many committees, including the Senate Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. However, he is controversial in many ways due to his comments about homosexuality, allegations of medicaid fraud, and even a malpractice lawsuit. He is also under fire in the senate for holding up a whistleblowers protection bill; that has broad bipartisan support in congress. Another surprise VP pick might be JC Watts, a former representative from Oklahoma. Watts is a black congressman, which might help the Republican party in picking up black voters, a group in which the Republican party has had a hard time courting. Watts is also a Southern Baptist youth minister. Interestingly enough, Watts became the first black congressman not to join the Congressional Black Caucus. Also, Florida governor Charlie Crist has been another name thrown around the political watering hole. We also can't forget former governor Tom Ridge, former head of the Department of Homeland Security. Although he kept us safe during his term, he is still relatively unknown, and was associated with the Bush administration very closely.

Whoever John McCain chooses, I strongly urge Republicans to rally behind the ticket. Let us hope that it is someone who is qualified, well liked, known, and can bring about a realignment in normal voting blocs.

# Big Brother Liberals

By Conor Harrigan

In the UK, it isn't "Islamic terrorism," it is merely "terrorism." It isn't a Muslim man, in the UK media; it is an "Asian," who tries to blow up the entrance to Heathrow airport.

In the United States, it is not an "illegal alien," who is sucking dry our medicinal and public school systems along the border, it is an "undocumented worker" who is doing the "job an American won't do."

Partial birth abortion is not "murder," it is the "termination of an unwanted pregnancy."

Pulling out of and accepting defeat in Iraq is not "defeat," "withdrawal," or "cowardice," it is "strategic redeployment."

Declaring that the war is lost, comparing our soldiers to Nazis, accusing them of terrorizing women and children in the dead of night, and refusing to credit them with the success of General Petraeus's strategy is not "unpatriotic," but "supporting the troops." Clearly, perhaps in "supporting the troops," they mean supporting "al-Qa'eda's troops."

"Bipartisanship" really means just doing things their way. A "dialogue" really means just capitulating to their demands. "Comprehensive immigration reform," is merely amnesty and the continuation of a border as loose as Eliot Spitzer is in his morals.

Do you see this sort of double-speak? It is frightening how these sorts of phrases and idioms are right out of Big Brother's playbook.

You know, conservatives take a lot of heat for supposedly bringing about the second coming of George Orwell's "1984." Supposedly, the rights and freedoms of everyday Americans are being trampled upon and burned. If you ask a liberal, the CIA and FBI are monitoring everything you do, or in Eliot Spitzer's case, everyone you do.

Conservatives should take issue with these accusations, as they do not stand up to scrutiny. Furthermore, the very people accusing you and me of bringing about modern-day Orwellianism are the very people guilty of doing it.

Let us operate on a basic premise, that an unarmed population is much more easily overtaken and controlled than a population who is able to defend itself through the means of personal firearms. From this premise, let us acknowledge that, firstly, the left wants to disarm the American people, and secondly, the right wants the American population to retain its right to bear arms.

From those two facts, let us venture an analysis:

1. The left wants to force the American people into nationalized healthcare. They want to control your medicinal choices.

2. The left wants to control what you say. You are not allowed to utter anything about Islam and international terrorism in the same thought without being labeled a racist, Islamophobe, xenophobe, or all around hater. These phrases are used to control the public debate and stifle any dissenting thought. In a more global sense, many leftists are pushing for laws to ban these sorts of thoughts, as seen in the case of Geert Wilders and his film "Fitna," and Oriana Fallaci (R.I.P.) and her ordeal in Italy in recent years, where there were attempts to

jail her for "insulting Islam."

3. The left prefers to tax the American people more and more every year, taking their hard earned money and using it on useless pork projects, and other vote accruing efforts. In other words, they love to control your finances.

The above list is limited because the examples are without end, and in the interest of time and size, brevity must be maintained.

In comparison, true conservatives would prefer you to have medicinal freedom and choice, the ability to discuss our current situation with Islamic radicals without being stifled via accusations of racism and Islamophobia, and to take less of your money, not wasting it on social projects that have proven themselves to be absolutely fruitless.

In closing, if we are to examine which side of the political spectrum is more likely to bring about the rise of Big Brother, we can rest assured that will not grow from conservatism. It will grow from liberalism. The liberalism of the West that wants to eliminate choice of medical care, choice of schooling, choice of food for our children in their schools, the ability to speak about international Islamic terrorism, label anything counter to their beliefs as racist, ignorant, xenophobic, or Islamophobic, and the left that wants to tax the American people into oblivion.

Finally, true conservatism urges that a population should remain armed as a check against government. Our modern liberals urge that a population remain unarmed as a comfort for government, should that government decide to eliminate choice from all aspects of daily life.

Well, it certainly looks like they are trying, aren't they?

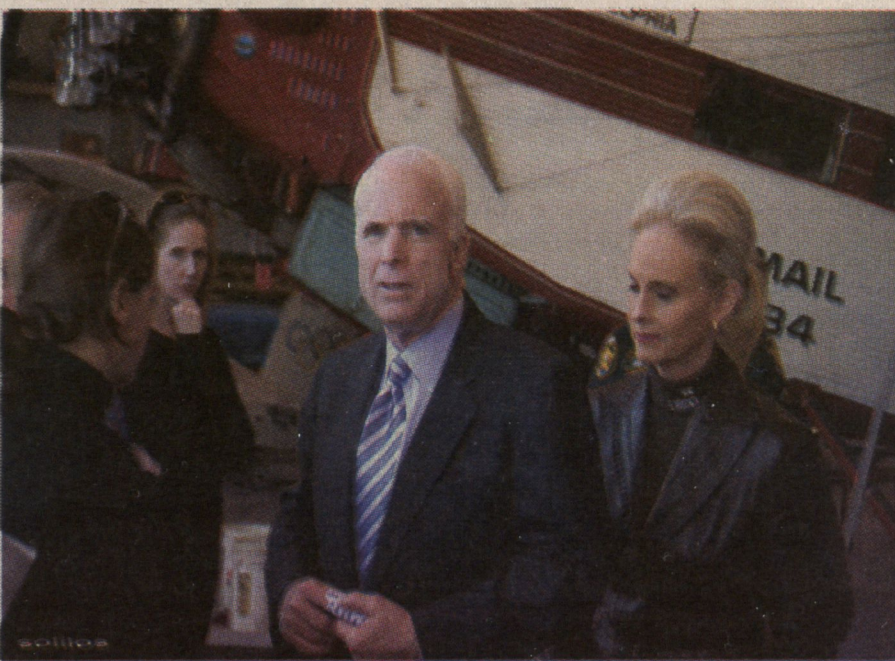
## The Paper of Last Resort

By Jason Frank

The New York Times has long been the newspaper of record for the entire nation, and perhaps, even the world. With high-brow writing style and global coverage, the Times has set itself apart from other news publications. Today, however, the New York Times is consistently losing the respect of many and quickly falling from its former grace. Despite intellectual liberals hanging on for dear life, the collapse of the New York Times' empire continues.

The reason for this has naught to do with writing style, which continues to be top notch at the Times. It has to do with content, coverage, and spin. The New York Times has seen itself transform over the years from one political leaning to another. It was once a fairly conservative newspaper and was successful. It then transitioned to a more liberal newspaper and remained successful. Now, it has become a nearly socialist publication, reflecting the views of an extreme, minority, leftist agenda, alienating many of its readers.

While some may attribute the drop in



Above: John McCain's campaign was running damage control after the New York Times published a front-page story that suggested McCain engaged in an improper relationship with a lobbyist.



Left: Vicki Iseman, a lobbyist, was reportedly involved in an improper relationship with then Republican presidential candidate John McCain, according to the New York Times.

subscriptions to a changing news landscape via the internet, some facts suggest otherwise. Though subscription rates are dropping for many newspapers, the Times has experienced a sharper decline than most, particularly in comparison to the Wall Street Journal. Since 1993, home circulation of the Times fell by 26 percent, or about 200,000 readers. The former editor of the London Times, Robert Thompson, recently stated in an interview with the Washington Post, "I think American journalism has some soul-searching to do. American newspapers generally have kept up poorly with change. . . . If there's a presumption that what you might call New York Times journalism is the pinnacle of our profession, the profession is in some difficulty."

Currently, the Times has a circulation of about 1.1 million newspapers daily. Compare that with about 2.1 million daily newspapers in circulation for the WSJ and it's not even close. In the last year, the Times saw a 3.6 per cent drop in circulation, compared with only a 0.8 per cent drop for the Journal. Even rags such as the New York Post and New York Daily News have been handily outperforming the Times, both seeing modest gains in the past year. In fact, amidst all the recent job cut at the Times, the Wall Street Journal has gone against the trend of the entire market by adding newsroom employees, according to an article by Howard Kurtz appearing in the March 31st Washington Post.

All of this has carried over to the financial side of things, and over the past year, the Times has lost more than 18 per cent of its value.

The New York Times and Los Angeles Times have been sharing the spotlight as of

late when it comes to imploding. Both also share a common bond, the bond of extreme, leftist news coverage. People are fed up. From the complete lies of Jayson Blair to the daily twists and spins in news coverage that support their agenda, the Times has been steadily chasing people away for years. And there is no denying the newspaper's biases.

Even the former public editor for the New York Times admitted the newspaper's biases. In 2004, then public editor Daniel Okrent wrote an article in which he admitted that the paper had a liberal bias that far exceeded the opinion pages. There is even an entire website/organization whose sole mission is to expose the ongoing agenda of the Times, TimesWatch.org. In the "about us" section of their website, Times Watch states, "By documenting and exposing the Times liberal bias, Times Watch is committed to compelling the paper to provide balanced reporting, or risk forfeiting its standing as the "newspaper of record."

Despite all of this, the Times continues to be the paper of record at Stony Brook University, with nearly every professor I have ever had insisting that their students read it daily. The journalism department consistently praises this newspaper in various classes, even making it required reading in several. The irony is, these same classes attempt to instill the ethical responsibility that they insist journalists must have, all the while praising a newspaper that has done nothing but help soil public perception of news media for the last decade.

Should the New York Times remains so unabashedly socialist in nature, it will continue to falter, and I will continue to smile.

# Letter To The Editor

In the Special Spring 2008 edition of the *Stony Brook Patriot*, staff-writer Zachary Kurtz wrote a feature entitled "The Ron Paul Revolution: The Present and Future of Libertarian Politics." Throughout this feature, Mr. Kurtz details his opinion of libertarian politics, while offering insight into the ideology of former Republican presidential candidate, Ron Paul. Printed below is one reader's response to Mr. Kurtz. See Page 9 for Mr. Kurtz's response.

Zachary Kurtz claims that Ron Paul is the past, present, and future of libertarianism. I happen to find this incredibly insulting. I didn't learn about libertarianism from Meetup.com; I discovered it in my own mind as the natural consequence of the ideals of inalienable rights and individualism. I highly doubt that I have been unique in this sense, and I don't think that I will be in the future.

The author makes a few of key mistakes. First of all, the author points to an unquantifiable amount of libertarians, assumes they have been politically adrift, and then claims that this year "a lot" of them are Republicans because of Ron Paul (implying that he has brought "a lot" of people to the GOP). Most libertarians, although we aren't often satisfied with the choices available, are able to choose candidates. We can figure out, for example, if a candidate's inclination to raise taxes fits into our political philosophy or not. More to the point, there are not a lot of people voting for Paul. Despite having raised over 10% of the money brought in by Republican presidential contenders, he's managed to secure only 14 delegates out of 1816 (something to keep in mind before contributing to any PAC he might start). No, this is not a product of winner-take-all primaries; Paul reached 8% of the popular vote in only one primary (Washington D.C.).

Most troubling to me is the attempt by the author to paint libertarianism with a broad brush of pacifism. I can offer many criticisms of our foreign policy, I think only a true anarchist would argue that the United States has no right to defend itself against perceived enemies. That being the case, reasonable people can disagree about the lengths to which we should go in that regard. One of the misguided notions that reared its ugly head in this article is that a libertarian government should not impose upon foreign nations, just as it should not impose unnecessarily upon its own citizenry. This is a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of government. Just as the U.S. government does not exist for the purpose of promoting democracy around the world, it does not exist for the purpose

of protecting liberty outside its borders. If it is deemed necessary to our freedom to fight proxy wars, prop up dictators, or overthrow governments, then our government has not only the right, but the responsibility to do so.

Although I disagreed with his position on the war, I was initially excited to see Paul in the debates. On May 15th of last year, he spoke about a need to "change our philosophy about what government should do." That struck a chord with me, and for a moment I thought perhaps Paul would spend his campaign educating the public about the proper role of government in society. Alas, a few minutes later he saw fit to make a statement that I found offensive as a combat veteran, a New Yorker, a libertarian, and a Republican, by explaining the 9/11 attacks: "they attack us because we've been over there; we've been bombing Iraq for 10 years" (a statement the author

**"Most troubling to me is the attempt by the author to paint libertarianism with a broad brush of pacifism."**

may have overlooked).

That statement really changed my perception, along with a couple of other items that came to light. The congressman is known as "Dr. No" for his votes against spending that he considers unconstitutional. In August, it came out that he had been hedging his bets. He requested hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks for his district (to, among other things, promote and research shrimp), knowing that the bills would comfortably pass over his feigned objections, keeping both his ideological and geographical constituents happy. As Dr. Wink and Nod's fund-raising efforts gained more publicity, people started to notice that he is popular with some unpopular

groups, such as neo-Nazis and the 9/11 druthers. Given his cynical approach to pork barrel spending, it's difficult to fault these supporters (or his critics) for believing he is one of them, when he is reluctant to disavow their theories or return their donations, and teases them with predictions of a "contrived Gulf of Tonkin-type incident" leading to conflict with Iran.

Ron Paul left congress in 1985 and ran for president (on the Libertarian Party ticket) in 1988. Incidentally, he was not part of the historic 1994 elections, returning to congress only in 1997 after the work of others had moved the electorate and the congress to the right. I wondered, as I watched the debate in May, why he had chosen this election and this party to run for the presidency, when there was such a convergence of events that made him incompatible with party? But it's become clear than Paul is an opportunist of the worst kind. I believe that he

holds his political convictions sincerely, but their importance pales next to his own ego. It does not bother him that he is making libertarianism a dirty word by associating it with racists, conspiracy theorists, hypocrites, and blame-America-first foreign policy. It does not bother him that he cannot possibly secure the nomination. He prefers the spotlight that the situation provides. Ron Paul ran for president for only one reason - Ron Paul.

-Deymond Lashley



Left: Libertarian Party Logo

## Personal Politics

By Jonathan Pu

It seems to me that no one can hold a discussion on politics these days without an obnoxious comment being tossed at somebody for lack of a better retort. I know that every time I personally make a legitimate point on the behalf of conservatism, I am in danger of being ridiculed, insulted, and shunned. It is a pity that in today's "freer" and more "equal" society, we still have to be wary and curb our beliefs in fear that that others will judge us poorly on them. Why is it that politics have become so unnecessarily personal?

Politics are so commonplace in today's age and it seems that everybody has some view on some issue. There are times people become so attached to their beliefs that they are unwilling to hear any side to an argument other than their own. Unfortunately, this close minded approach to politics is the downfall of this country's intellectuals. I will be the first to say that a nation's leaders must come from the brightest pool of minds but what good are these minds if they are drawn into one camp of thought and are unwilling to consider any other beliefs. This is not a fault of the liberals or the conservatives, but a fault seen on both sides of the political

spectrum. Too often can you find people who worship President George W. Bush for no legitimate reasons. It's also rather simple to find people who insult the Bush Administration without really understanding their position.

It is not a proper argument to accuse somebody of being a "tree-hugging hippie" or for "being brainwashed by old men in DC" when engaging in a debate over politics. If you can't fight a position you believe in when it comes to a certain policy, there is no shame in listening to another point of view. Telling somebody how stupid he or she is when you're stumped only attests to your own complete lack of intelligence. To hear another position will only help expand your own knowledge and help you to form a more educated background to your argument. With more knowledge, the future leaders of tomorrow will be better equipped to put forth improved policies to better serve the American public. If you don't agree with these politics of the future, the beauty is that you'll be able to disagree and voice your own opinions without feeling marginalized.

**LIKE WHAT YOU READ?  
JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY AT  
7 P.M. IN S.A.C. 309**



# Response from Zachary Kurtz

Deymond Lashley:

Thank you for responding to my article from the previous issue of the Patriot; "Ron Paul Republicans: The Past, Present, and Future of Libertarianism". I would like to continue the discourse, partly to appreciate some of your comments and partly to dispel some points you made that I believe to be inaccurate.

When I wrote the article, I saw a bright future for Libertarianism in the Republican Party. The voting process had only begun, and I was hoping that Dr. Ron Paul would be able to gain momentum at least after the primary process, if not before it ended. I am less enthusiastic now; as I find that partisan politics has run its course as usual. Despite the fact that I have yet to find a single person completely satisfied with any of the major 3 candidates, I haven't found too many who are willing to explore third party or independent candidates either. I was hopeful that the Republican Party would be too split between Romney and McCain to reconcile their differences, which would help the libertarian wing shine through. Alas, it was not to be.

Despite all that, I still keep my Ron Paul bumper sticker on my car, because out of all the candidates still in the race (not including a few running for the Libertarian ticket) he still most closely represents my views.

The first and only technical error I'd like to point out, is that you claimed that the highest popular vote Dr. Paul received in a primary was 8% in Washington DC. In fact, Paul's best showing in a popular vote was in the Maine primary, where he won 19% of the popular vote and 35% of the delegates.

Secondly, the picture I painted of "libertarians adrift" was not meant to apply to all libertarians. I honor and respect people like yourself, who have worn the "libertarian badge" proudly for many years. However, I actually was referring to the thousands of people like myself who didn't know they were libertarians until they heard Ron Paul speak. Also, my article detailed only one branch of conservative libertarianism. Of course, like any broad political philosophy there are differences in opinion, some subtle and some enormous. Nor did I intend to paint Paul as some sort of messianic figure, for there are points that I disagree with him on. However, the main idea I was trying to convey was that Ron Paul was unusual in that he gave a home to libertarianism in an established political party, which I think is a unique accomplishment in this day and age. And, during a time where new registrants to the Democratic Party outweigh the numbers of new Republicans, I don't think this should be a resource the Republicans should ignore, as they have largely seemed to do.

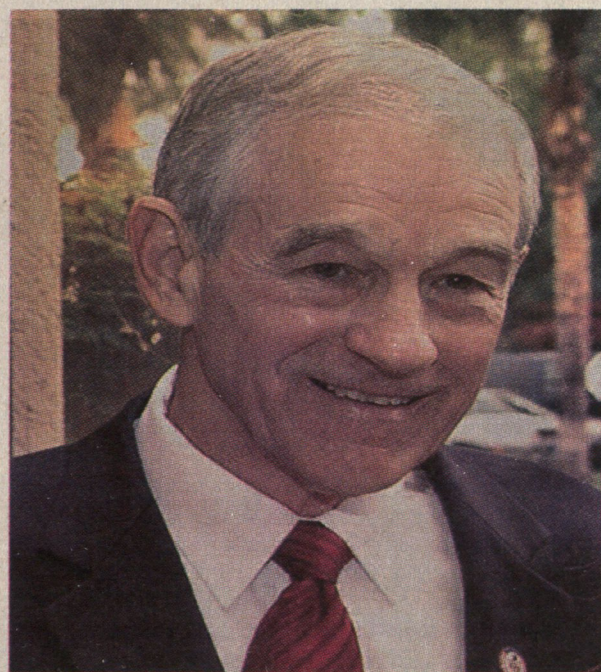
Your comments about earmarking I must disagree with, and they speak towards a larger misconception about how earmarks work. When a congressman asks for earmarks in bills, they are not raising taxes by doing so. An earmark is a tool that federal legislators can use in order to direct funds that are already in the system. Meaning, by requesting hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks, Paul is essentially bringing federal tax money back into his state. If Paul did not

request this money, it would merely be spent or even wasted elsewhere. Earmarks are a system that should be ultimately eliminated by getting rid of the federal income tax, but until we do, it's a great tool for getting money raised by federal government back to a more local level.

We also, obviously, disagree on key foreign policy issues. You state that we have the responsibility to defend freedom by fighting proxy wars or by propping up dictators, but I wholeheartedly disagree. This is not because I think we should ideologically restrict our government in its important role of self-defense, but because I believe these actions are not effective in protecting our liberties and freedoms. Giuliani wholly misrepresented Paul's comments in that debate; he does not think that United States invited terrorist attacks, and he fully recognizes Islamic extremism for the threat it is. However, what Giuliani failed to realize, and CIA reports back me up on this, is that years of US and Western powers directly meddling in the Middle East (though I think you are right about his 9/11-Iraq misspeak) has not made us any friend over there. Our military has bases in various Middle Eastern nations, and no amount of financial aid has made them any friendlier. Our consistent use of the military to protect our oil rights has dragged us into conflict, where our soldiers are forced to kill and be killed. And, judging by the 9/11 attacks, this has not made us any safer.

On the other hand, we have demonstrated our extraordinary ability to protect ourselves at home; there has not been another incident of terrorism successfully carried out since September 11th, 2001, even though our military actions in Iraq has only made the recruiting easier for Al Qaeda and their ilk. Meanwhile, we are stuck in the middle of a civil war we can't get out of, but neither can we fix. Clearly, our best bet is to focus attention on self-defense at home, and let those we consider our enemies witness how liberty and freedom works by showing how we can be prosperous and free. Additionally, in these times of economic turmoil, we can't really afford to be sending so much of our tax dollars overseas, and avoiding the problem selling our debt to China. And though I appreciate your opinions as a combat veteran, have you considered the fact that Ron Paul has consistently led Republicans in donations from military and ex-military?

Paul's association with conspiracy theorist and even racists, or rather, their association with him, only worried me because of how Paul's opponents handled it. I never took Paul for a racist or a "truther" and I never found the evidence alleging this particularly convincing (though that's another topic for a different letter). And, as for accusing him of being an opportunist, Paul could have never realized how his message would have caught on (though he didn't receive much popular vote, this number still must have been in the tens of thousands, judging by campaign contributions). He has stated that he was convinced to run by others and skeptical that anyone would listen to him; he is experienced in meeting rejection for his conservative libertarian ideas. If Paul found a home among the fringe, it is only because he was pushed there by the mainstream media, which refused to treat him as an equal candidate since day one, as is their practice with



all third party candidates. The constant attacks and misrepresentations of his ideas, only made supporters more angry and frustrated, which I think contributed to the stereotypes of them, as the lunatic fringe with strange ideas.

And while Paul's ideas seemed strange to the mainstream, people like you and I understood and appreciated his basic philosophy, which is all too uncommon in either major party. People don't understand ideas about limited government because there are such few candidates that actually preach them, and then practice what they preach. I am convinced that if small government philosophy were permitted to enter the political arena, it would be latched on to, like what happened when a portion of the internet using subculture found Dr. Paul. However, power hungry politicians (an almost redundant statement) don't often talk about small government politics, and those that do are often corrupted when they reach office.

Perhaps I would have ultimately preferred a more charismatic version of Ron Paul, who could have better captured the main stream's attention, a man without as much baggage and more willing to negotiate ideas. However, if there's only one thing I was allowed to say about Paul, is that at least he is a man who has no problem telling anybody what those ideas were. So, maybe he was just a bad politician, because he didn't try to hide his philosophy in order to win political favors or give vague answers to avoid controversy, a common practice among certain Democrats. However, he is not a man whose ideas of limited government, at home and abroad, are incompatible with the Republican Party, because these are conservative ideals too (remember GW Bush won in 2000 attacking Clinton's interventionist foreign policy in the Balkans). If Ron Paul looks odd in the Republican Party, it is only because the party has shifted far off course, and there's nothing wrong with him wanting to steer the ship back.

## What Happened to Mr. President?

By Britany Klenofsky

Respect. Where has it gone? Has anyone noticed the extreme disrespect and lack of honor that our Commander and Chief, the "Leader of the Free World," receives? It has become increasingly apparent that the President has been blamed for decisions made by Congress, natural disasters, and ongoing world struggles that have been around through many presidencies.

How often do you hear or read about President Bush, and have him referred to as "Bush"? It might be easier for me to ask how often you have heard him referred to as Mr. President or President Bush, for those instances are few and far between.

Reporters and newscasters are supposed to report the events and circumstances of our government. However, they have now become a force known as the "media," which permeates our society more often with their opinions rather than the truth. The media has taken over many aspects of society without any restraint. It is a mirror that many people reflect their opinions upon. It is my strong belief that when the editors of television news reports and news articles can not take the time to show respect in their carefully edited reports, then the average viewer or reader will not have that respect either.

Very few people have the time to or care enough to actually research what they read and hear in the media. During the course of a busy day, most people probably hear snippets of information, and are therefore incredibly influenced by the attitude of the news media. With the liberal media flouting its own opinions, it becomes increasingly easy for them to brainwash the people into believing that our government and our President deserve no respect at all.

In the wake of a new election, Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama are, of course, mentioned quite often in the news. Even with far less experience and less prominent positions, they are granted more respect in the media than our own president. Even Former President Bill Clinton is granted more respect when he participates in election events with the acknowledgment that he was once our president. President Bush is not the only person with skeletons in his closet, nor will he be the last, yet almost every mention of him includes at least one embarrassing event or fact of his past. Former President Clinton, a man with sexual infidelities while in office is granted more respect than President Bush because he once choked on a pretzel. Mr. Clinton is granted more respect and was given more support for a war that produced none of

the death camps mentioned than President Bush who wanted to protect our citizens, our lives, and our livelihood after being attacked. Not to mention, when Al Gore's son was pulled over and charged with possession of illegal drugs it was covered up and only given a small clipping in the news. However, when President Bush's daughters were in a bar all hell broke loose to criticize his daughters who were underage. It was a shameless and shocking story heard around the world, yet no one thinks twice about the fact that they were first allowed into the bar with a fake-id.

There is almost no respect for the President in the media at all. The office of the Presidency should be a highly praiseworthy job. It is one that requires someone to make quick decisions for the good of the nation when even its own citizens may not see the value of his or her work. I wonder what will happen in the next election if the new president will be granted the same level of respect, or should I say disrespect? I wonder if the next president is liberal and if suddenly the president will be given a title of office and respect once again. Do you think that people will still claim the media is not biased? Or will they finally concede the truth after all?

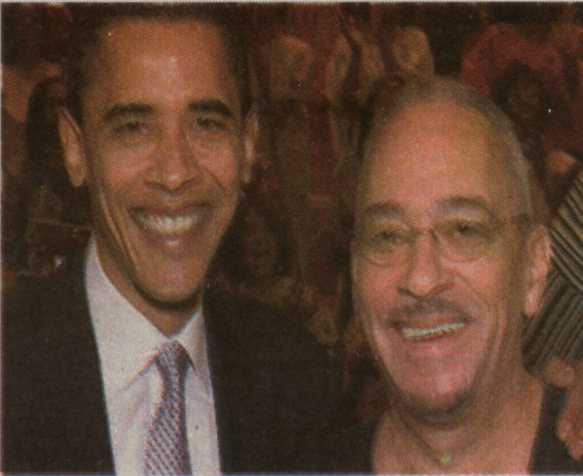
# Reverend Wrong

By Gregory Bernardi

Several weeks have now passed since the infamous Reverend Jeremiah Wright scandal. Polls have changed daily and we are still constantly inundated with politically motivated information that attempts to sway our judgment to one side of the political spectrum or the other. Yet there remains, in mainstream media, little mention of this most egregious incident, while Barack Obama seems as sturdy as ever, poised to make one final push toward the Democratic nomination. An association with such an outspoken influence would have cost any other candidate his or her bid for the White House. So why are both the news media and the general voting public giving him a free pass? When the New York Times published a story suggesting the existence of an improper relationship between John McCain and lobbyist Vicki Iseman, news organizations questioned McCain's ethics and the McCain campaign was suddenly running damage control. After Jeremiah Wright was introduced to the public as an ignorant and outspoken bigot, Barack Obama simply seemed to issue an apology and the entire situation was forgotten. It seemed to not affect Obama's campaign at all.

America seems to be jumping onto the Barack Obama bandwagon because of his personality, his eloquence, and his charm. The problem with this approach is that these same people will be casting their votes for Obama this November without a clue of the issues at stake. Rev. Wright became an issue the moment segments from his objectionable sermons aired all over the country. November's election, more than others in recent memory, is not one to be handled lightly. The short-term condition of the country will

largely be determined within the first several months after the new president is sworn into office. However, if voters are going to base their electoral choice upon the character of the candidate, then how can one disregard Jeremiah Wright's



comments

When examining Rev. Wright's sermons more closely, it becomes abundantly evident that he is not a believer in the American system and, more specifically, blames white Americans for the perceived plight of black Americans. Wright explicitly states several times that "governments lie." He said that whites intentionally infected blacks with HIV as a means of genocide. Wright's comments also included his

thoughts on 9/11. He suggested that the United States was to blame for the terrorist attacks, because, "America's chickens [were] coming home to roost," as payback for historical American war strategy and foreign policy. Specifically, Wright cites the World War II bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as support for his argument.

The intention of this article is not to accuse Barack Obama of believing in the same ideas as the Rev. Wright, but merely to expose some questionable aspects of his character. Michelle Obama, Barack Obama's wife, said a few months ago that she had never been proud of her country before. Coupled with Rev. Wright's sermons, this comment shows just what kind of influences exist around Barack Obama. If Michelle Obama's comments were not the cause of the downfall of Barack Obama's campaign, then Jeremiah Wright's comments surely should be.

One must begin to wonder, after two incidences of anti-American commentary in the Barack Obama camp, whether or not these same beliefs are held by the candidate himself. Obama is a young and relatively inexperienced senator. Regarding national security and safety, I do not want a president taking advice from destructively partisan advisors. Regardless of whether or not Barack Obama believes in or agrees with the comments made by his wife or his former spiritual advisor, one must consider these influences on Election Day. The 2008 presidential election is one of the most important elections to date, and voters must make their decisions wisely.

## Open Borders Insanity

By Conor Harrigan

On April 16th of this month, the California State Assembly Public Safety Committee voted 5 to 2 against Sara's Law, a bill that would require local police to report illegal aliens, caught driving drunk, to ICE.

The director of Hispanic outreach on the campaign on John McCain is a staunch open-borders advocate. His name is Juan Hernandez, and he is infamous in conservative circles for stating that he wants 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and subsequent Mexican generations in America to think "Mexico first." Hernandez served under the administration of Vicente Fox. Hernandez views Mexico, Canada, and the US, not as separate entities, but as "one bloc."

According to WRAL in Raleigh, North Carolina, three hundred illegal immigrants were caught driving under the influence of alcohol and placed in North Carolina prisons in 2007.

Over and over, American authorities have found underground tunnels coming from Mexico, penetrating our own sovereign border. Despite the lies propagated by amnesty loving Republicans and Democrats, Islamic terrorists have indeed come into our country through our wide-open border. In 2006, FBI Director Robert Mueller testified before a congressional committee that a number of Hizb'allah terrorists had snuck into the United States across the US-Mexico border. Investigative reporter Todd Bensman has done a fantastic job dispelling the myths and outright lie propagated by losers in our government that terrorists would never think of crossing the border illegally!

According to Steven Emerson, the first person to publicly declare the dangers of Islamic terror in the U.S. prior to the February 26th, 1993 attacks on the WTC had written that, according to an FBI affidavit, Mahmoud Youssef Kourani, a Hizb'allah operative, crossed our border illegally.

Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez of Zapata County, Texas, informed CNSnews.com on August 21st, 2006, that Iranian currency, clothing with Arabic on them, and other suspicious pieces have been found around the banks of the Rio Grande River.

The seventh century savages that brought down more than six skyscrapers on September 11th, 2001, had violated immigration laws over and over. They lived in the United States illegally.

We can continually provide examples of the consequences of open borders insanity. When will we shake off this insanity? When will we stop opining for "comprehensive immigration reform?" We don't need any! All we need to do is enforce the law already in place! We also need to shake ourselves free of the public pressure groups, the illegal alien apologists, and the communist front groups such as La Raza. Oh, speaking of La Raza, McCain's friend Lindsay Graham spoke to La Raza last year proclaiming that, "We will tell the bigots to shut up." The bigots being folks like myself, who merely want the United States to enforce its own laws.

The list of the consequences of Open Borders Insanity is a long list that never ceases to grow. Everyday, more illegal aliens are sent into our jails. Everyday, the American people are paying for these delinquents. Night after night, from North Carolina to California, illegal aliens, who are driving drunk, kill Americans. Every day, we are paying for the healthcare of more and more illegal aliens crossing into our country. On September 11th, 2001, we paid a heavy price for our lackadaisical attitude towards our borders. The blood of three-thousand Americans is not only on the hands of al-Qa'eda, but on the hands of our ignorant, complacent, and criminal politicians who have refused to do jack shit about our border that bleeds like a sieve.

Simply put, every day, Americans are paying with their money, and some with their lives. They are paying the consequences of the inaction of our government, our liberal IDIOTS and left leaning Republican gray hairs that refuse to secure this nation that they "love and admire."

John McCain, if you are truly the candidate of "national security," then I hope you are intelligent enough to realize you cannot have security without a secure border.

A mile of secured border is twice as valuable as an al-Qa'eda operative with a hollow-point round through his forehead.

## Bearly Stearns

By Jonathan Pu

If you haven't yet heard of the recent housing crisis, and the crash of Bear Stearns's stock, you need to get out of your house a little more. Here is an overview for those who haven't heard: a company by the name of Bear Stearns made many risky loans to people looking to purchase homes. These loans were considered risky because they were made to people who had a low chance of being able to make their payments. Now, some time later, these homeowners have proven their inability to pay back Bear Stearns and are forced out of their homes as the company seizes them. However, with the depreciation of value in the housing market, Bear Stearns is receiving houses valued at far lower than what they loaned out, effectively driving the company into near bankruptcy.

Now, the government has been quick to respond to the "crisis" and opened talks with Bear Stearns and JP Morgan & Chase. The talks concluded with the agreement that JP Morgan & Chase would buy Bear Stearns's stocks at a vastly reduced value with government backing. Furthermore, the government would guarantee the security of Bear Stearns's debts for a month, effectively lifting those obligations off JP Morgan & Chase for the duration. This would, hopefully, save Bear Stearns from crashing completely and allow it to recover, albeit under the directorship of JP Morgan & Chase.

"Good," you say? I think not. This is a prime example of irresponsibility on both the American government and the Bear Stearns's investments. There are those who will argue that this is a bad move by the government because they backed big business rather than the common folk who are now facing foreclosure on their homes. Call me heartless, if you will, but if anybody is foolish enough to take a loan that he or she is aware there is little chance of being able to pay off, then it is a loan that should not even be considered. Government intervention, whether to save the businessmen or the homeowners, is a sure way to cause repeat incidents of the future. An analogy, though I'm sure there are flaws that you can point out here, is that the government is like a parent and the investors, and investees are children. If a child constantly makes mistakes in judgment, but is always bailed out by his or her parent, that child will never learn. In fact, that child might become so spoiled, so to speak, that he or she will make these mistakes and expect that someone will be there to bail them out. Granted, while the government will technically always be there to bail people out, one must consider the price. Isn't it better to let these kinds of failures hit the market at its full force and teach people to make better decisions, rather than take unnecessary risks? But of course, in this day and age, responsibility is a word, and nothing more.

What can be done? At this point: nothing. The failure of the investors and homeowners has already been partially sanctioned by the government. The best case scenario we can hope for now is that this kind of crisis occurs again. Hopefully next time the government will stick to a logical course of action and refuse to play mommy and daddy for the foolish. Some might question the validity of such a policy, especially in a time of economic recession in the United States. Ironically, it is this that is the very reason why we must be vigilant in holding onto the policies of a completely free and laissez faire market. Without the American people becoming fiscally responsible, how can our government possibly hope to cut back its debts? We must no longer be part of the problem and free the government from having to watch over us like children. We have to grow up now and walk on our own two feet so the government can do so as well.

# Why I am a Conservative

By Bridget Matikainen

The story of what made me a conservative begins with the admiration I have for my father. He is the son of Finnish immigrants who fled to Canada during the second World War. His first language was not English. His mother was six months shy of becoming a medical doctor before she left for North America; due to a severe language barrier, she modestly spent the remainder of her life as a nurse's aid. His father was a machinist who worked incredibly hard to give his family a comfortable, middle class life. My father is – without a doubt – the most honest, admirable, hard-working man I have ever met. I have no recollection of him ever attempting to gain something that he felt was not his due, or accepting anything he didn't feel he deserved; the moral principals that govern his life are absolutely unparalleled. Even though his life has not been easy, he has never once thought the world owed him anything. He taught me to strive for excellence, and he did so by example. My father, in conjunction with these ethical parameters, or (more likely) because of them, is a conservative Republican.

The majority of educators I've had have been liberal-minded Democrats. Even my mother is a liberal. I've basically been surrounded by them my entire life, with liberal views on government and economics drilled into my head constantly (exponentially more so now that I am attending university). My sophomore year of high school, however, I had a history teacher with a mind of his own. He was one of the first people in my life to give a voice to right-wing opinions, confirming my suspicions that services such as health care were not a right, but the freedom to get a job to pay for them was. Gradually, this version of thought seemed to coincide with observations of how my father lived his life – as a capitalist, working for what he wanted.

Thus, it was not one experience, nor one "Eureka!" moment that is responsible for my conservatism. Rather, it was the combination of a mentor's opinions, a role model's lifestyle, and my own gut feelings that drove me down the path of righteousness (please don't mind the pun). These three aspects gently nudged my mind toward embracing the conservative ideals that I now hold in such high regard, and what sharply defined them was an abrupt acceptance of the definition of freedom. Freedom opposes restriction. The bigger and more powerful the government, the more restrictions there are. Thus, the bigger the government, the less freedom its citizens have.

**"The bigger and more powerful the government, the more restrictions there are. Thus, the bigger the government, the less freedom its citizens have."**

Before you can scream anarchy, let me state my understanding of the necessity of certain taxes and laws. Some are beneficial, and can exist as a form of fair exchange. I pay my taxes, and in return, my government fixes the potholes in my highways, establishes and maintains a military that protects me, etc. But why should any of the money I earn be demanded of me to pay for things from which I am never likely to benefit, like funds for governmental aided programs such as welfare? One of the reasons I am a conservative is for lack of a legitimate answer to that question. Most of the time, the answer comes in some form of moral reprimand, or assigned compassion (i.e., "Oh, but put yourself in the shoes of somebody who really needs welfare aid..."). This argument isn't only illogical, it's irrelevant. Of course, I'd love to help someone in need. There is no question about that. Most Americans are generally decent and I think they would partake in charitable behavior of their own accord. However, there is no justification found in legally requiring people, who earn substantial amounts of money, to pay taxes for the purpose of giving it to those who do not. My father's family, struggling as foreigners in a new world, saw no need for handouts.

This country was founded because people didn't have the kind of freedom they dreamed for, the kind for which they'd give their lives. And many laws and regulations, though fashioned for a seemingly moral purpose, inhibit freedom at its most basic level – the right of choice. I'm not saying it's wrong to say or do the things that a law currently in existence might require – I'm saying it's wrong to do them because they are required by law.

Becoming meaningful doesn't happen overnight. It's not an instantaneous metamorphosis. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a delicate, comprehensive realization of truth. I am a conservative because I believe in work ethic. I am a conservative because I believe in an innate equality amongst all men, and that governmental coddling is an insult to any human's integrity. But above all, I am a conservative because I value my freedom.



# The Feminine MYSTique

By Rebecca J. Newman

Gender roles. Feminism. Are you bored yet? I know I am. Whoever thought those two concepts could turn into academic topics to be discussed and scrutinized amongst college students? In any event, throughout my college career here at Stony Brook, I have "learned" about gender stereotypes and the roles of men and women today. We learn as students of the 21st century that women are no longer limited to maternal duties or jobs that only allow them to exercise "feminine skills." Women need to break the gender stereotypes by embracing sports and occupations such as wrestling, football, and business law. Why? Because women need to prove an embrace of the feminist movement that strives to equalize men and women in society. I think in its most general sense, feminism is not something to mock. It is important that men and women have equal rights; I see no reason why they shouldn't. But we need to remember that women can be equal with men and still actively

**"I find it ironic that in this new liberal society I have never felt more pressured and limited."**

CHOOSE not to go to work with them, not to get in the boxing ring with them, and not to radically and purposefully try to deviate from the roles their "foremothers" had fifty years ago.

Beginning in childhood, we are to start shaping our daughters (not our sons) to live a life devoid of femininity. It is important to give young girls a gender-neutral environment in which their rooms are the color orange and

their toys consists of blocks instead of Barbies, and everyone I've spoken with in my classes here agrees. Still, a few things seem wrong here. First of all, never once did I hear that boys were encouraged to watch Disney princess movies and have pink bed sheets. Also, forcing this gender neutral environment is what makes girls think femininity is wrong! Again, we need to remember choice. If these girls want to play with blue cars, awesome. But just because a girl wants to embrace her feminine side as a five-year old does not mean she is in for a life of domesticity. Maybe she just likes the color pink.

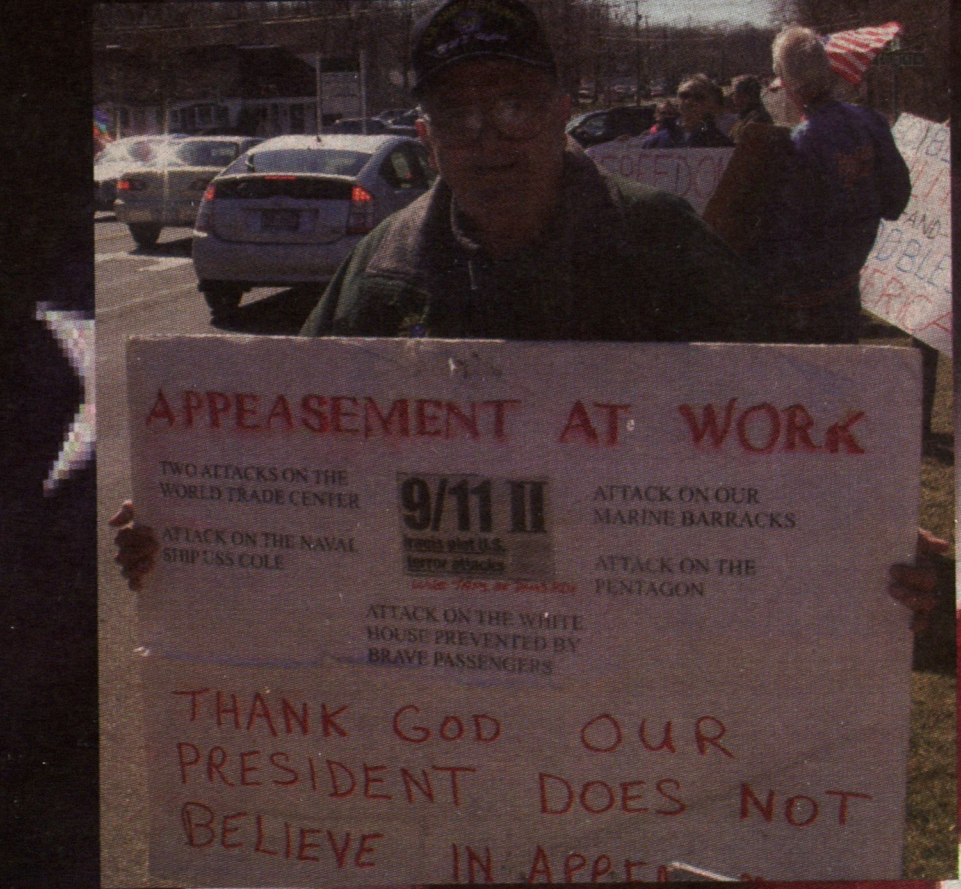
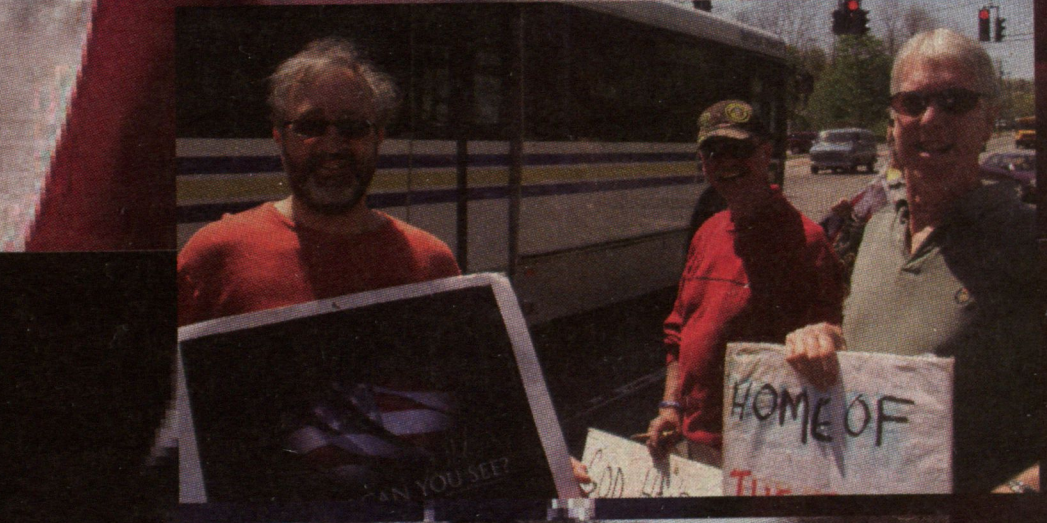


I find it ironic that in this new liberal society I have never felt more pressured and limited. I can appreciate a woman who wants to be a breadwinner, or an astronaut, or anything else. But what about those of us who still want to be homemakers? I am aware of the great opportunities I have as a woman of the 21st century, and I feel very fortunate to have them, but maybe I still want just to stay home with my kids. I don't think there is anything so wrong with that. I should not be judged because of my choice to fill traditional female roles.

This may sound controversial, but I think there is a need to study these gender stereotypes throughout history and think about why they exist. I am not saying that all women end up wanting to stay home with the kids, but maybe the ones who do are just embracing their biology. There is a part of the female brain that is hard-wired to want children! There are more explanations like this, written BY WOMEN no doubt, that provide insight into the way science can have an effect on the roles taken by the sexes. I would suggest picking up *The Female Brain* by Louann Brizendine and *The Sexual Paradox: Men, Women and the Real Gender Gap* by Susan Pinker. They will explain these theories better than I ever could.

All I am asking for is a little respect. Respect my right to be a secretary, dress my daughter in frilly dresses, and embrace this new feminist movement in my own way.

# Living Tribute To the Fallen



*"The tree of liberty is refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and martyrs." - Thomas Jefferson*