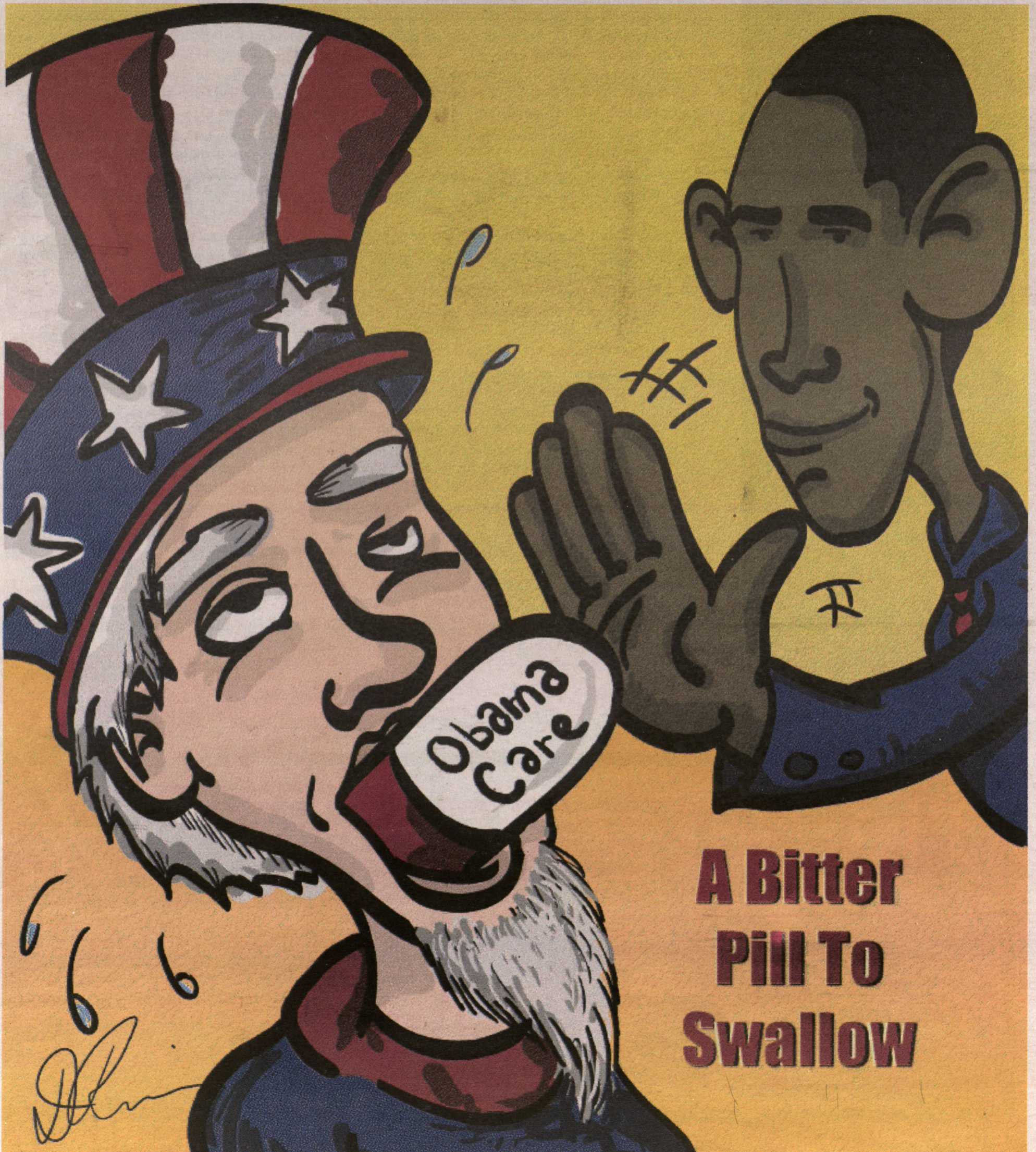


# The Patriot

Vol. 6 Issue 1

September 2009



# 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 10

## Commentary

Opinions about current national and international affairs

Page 11

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

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

**OR JOIN US!**

**MEETINGS TUESDAYS  
6:00-7:00 PM  
SAC 312**

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Hello! Welcome back everyone! Greetings to all of you freshman and transfers out there as well. For those of you who may not be familiar with our club, "The Enduring Freedom Alliance" and our monthly publication, "The Patriot," let me first take a minute to introduce ourselves. The EFA is a club dedicated to the Founding Principles of our great republic and named in honor of all those in the armed forces who have fought and continue to fight for its safety and survival. Most of us tend to be part of the conservative/libertarian persuasion, but that does not mean that someone who falls somewhere else on the political spectrum is shunned away. In fact, quite the contrary is true. We have had (and still do have) moderates and democrats who are enthusiastic members of our club and contributors to our newspaper.

For those of you who were here last year, we hope to continue right where we left off. We will continue to offer an alternative point of view to things on campus, as well as things affecting the national scene, from what you may hear throughout the rest of the campus. We hope to host some guest speakers this year, perhaps a formal debate and provide the campus with a useful, thoughtful and informative newspaper.

Something new we will be doing this year (and hopefully for many years to come) is participating in the 9/11 Never Forget Campaign. From Thursday 9/10 to Sunday 9/13, we will have constructed in the Academic Mall a display of flags in remembrance of those who fell victim to the attacks. Anyone interested in helping out please do not hesitate to contact us. I have to thank Dr. Susan DiMonda, Associate Dean and Director of Student Life, for all of her help in making our participation a reality. It was only with her help and dedication to adding to the Stony Brook environment that the project moved along, so once more, thank you Dr. DiMonda.

We will also be continuing with our work with "Adopt-A-Platoon," an outside soldier support/charity group. As a reminder (or introduction for everyone new), by working with Adopt-A-Platoon we write weekly letters to a small platoon of soldiers stationed in Afghanistan and occasionally send them little care packages filled with books, toiletries, candy, and anything else that we take for granted that they may not have out there on the front lines. If you have been watching the news, you may have noticed that conflict in Afghanistan has really escalated for the first time since the start of the war right after 9/11 and now, more than ever, the soldiers could use our support. I implore any of you reading this who may be even half interested in participating to do so. E-mail us at sbpatriot@gmail.com for any information about the project.

We are looking forward to a great year filled with excitement. The political scene is currently on fire with an array of important issues and it is a great time to get involved. I encourage any and all to come down to our meetings on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in SAC 312 to get involved. We have a myriad of different things to do, from working with local politicians to being on our radio show on WSBU. I look forward to hearing from many of you and seeing you at our events this year! I wish everyone a great healthy and happy semester!

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

Jon Pu

Zachary Kurtz  
Jon Pu

#### Opinions Editor

Gaby Jusino

Jason C. Shaeffer  
Deborah Machalow  
Drew Art

#### Contributors

Maroof Ali  
Amanda Gerani  
Tom Schlageter  
Geordan Kushner

#### Enduring Freedom Alliance

President: Britany Klenofsky  
Vice President: Aditya Ramanathan  
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

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.

# NEVER FORGET



From,  
The Patriot Staff

# Albany Wants YOU To Pay Its Debt

By Derek Mordente

Suffice it to say that the people up in Albany comprising what is known as the New York State Government aren't exactly pristine examples of what a governing body should be in America – in fact, quite the opposite is true: they are a glorified organized crime syndicate. But that is par for the course and is to be expected when, from top to bottom, corruption and criminality run rampant in both political parties. It almost seems as if some sort of criminal offense is a requirement on the resume of anyone in office in Albany.

As you all may know, your tuition has been increased. According to New York State's Division of the Budget, "The SUNY Board increased undergraduate tuition by \$620 (14 percent) from \$4,350 to \$4,950 per year, graduate tuition by 14 percent annually, and non-resident undergraduate and graduate tuition by 21 percent annually. These increases are effective beginning in the Spring 2009 semester. The 2009-10 Executive Budget also recommends that the SUNY Board increase resident graduate tuition by an additional 7 percent, effective with the fall 2009 semester."

I have even better news for you. The State will take 90 percent of the tuition hikes and use it to offset a "\$1.6 billion hole in the current budget year," according to SUNY itself.

That means that Albany is trying to balance the state's budget on the YOUR backs. You – the students. Carl Hayden, the chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees, stated, "I am very upset with the fact that tuition money has been swept into the general fund to help defray the deficit. My personal view is that it is a breach of faith with SUNY students and their families." That it is, Mr. Chairman, that it is.

Matt Anderson, a spokesman for Governor David Patterson (the mastermind behind all of this), had some words of reassurance when he stated, "It is important to note, however, that this proposal represents the first time in recent state history that a tuition increase will provide for an expanded investment in the SUNY system, which is a fundamental break from past practice and an important step forward." He is referring to the fact that SUNY will be able to keep the remaining 10 percent of the tuition hikes. Gosh jolly thanks! The only problem is that Governor Patterson's proposed state budget includes a drastic reduction in the SUNY budget.

Now, as egregiously bad as this is, I find it equally horrible that those in Academia, composed largely of left-leaning and left-wing inhabitants (whether they be students, faculty or admin), have had very little, if anything at

all, to say about the use of the current tuition hikes. Don't get me wrong, I heard plenty last year about opposition to the budget cuts – but nothing about the use of the hikes.

Now, call me crazy, but is there a correlation between this lack of exposure and the fact that the Democrats are the ones in control of the money? Thought experiment: What if it was the Republicans who tried this trick? What if it was the Republicans who were robbing the students to clean up their mess? Answer: There would be mass hysteria and organized protest by the Academic left against the Republicans... and it would all be justified. Hell, I'd even support such an effort! I for one do not want to be robbed, whether it is by a corrupt Democrat in Albany or a corrupt Republican in Albany.

Let's face it: none of the largely left-wing faculty has said anything about this. Neither have groups on campus like the Social Justice Alliance or the College Democrats or the Student Advocates Party in USG. I mean, if I missed it, show me. I will eat my words if I'm proven wrong. I just thought they were supposed to be looking out for the people, for the little guy, for the students. I guess not. I suppose that for them, there really ARE no enemies on the Left.

## Join The Patriot

Meetings Tuesdays  
in SAC 312 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

# The One Party Classrooms

## By The Patriot

The general rule of thumb is that no matter where you end up in Academia, you're surrounded by clubs, people, organizations, admin and faculty that are, either overtly or covertly, trying to advance some sort of left-wing oriented agenda. Classes are no exception. We here at The Patriot have gone through the entire course catalog and picked out some classes that jumped off the page at us. Below, you will find an array of some of the classes we found being offered this semester that just seemed, as the White House put it over the Summer, a bit "fishy." If you happen to be enrolled in one of these classes, we would greatly appreciate your feedback later in the semester. Maybe we are right about these classes. Maybe we are wrong. The official course descriptions speak for themselves though. Additional comments about several classes will follow directly beneath their course descriptions.

### **AFS 277 – Modern Color Line**

An exploration of the significance of race in 19th- and early 20th-century America. Topics include forms of political organization and collective struggle; the social and psychic consequences of racist subjection; the relationship among race, racism, and culture; and the cultural politics of race and gender. This course is offered as both AFS 277 and HIS 277.

### **AFS 310 – American Attitudes Toward Race**

An historical examination of the growth and development of racism in America from the arrival of the first Africans to the continent to the present day. The focus is on African Americans and their relationships with the American system, its institutions, and culture. References are made to other ethnic groups in order to give balance to the examination of social conditions and attitudes shaping American society throughout.

### **AFS 319 – The Politics of Race**

An analysis of political concepts often associated with racism and the tracing of the origins of the concept of race. Forms in which racism manifests itself today are identified and discussed showing the similarities and differences where they exist.

### **AFS 394 – Black Nationalism in America**

A study of the history of black nationalism in America. Centered around racial pride, unity, and self-determination, black nationalism has been a potent strain within African Americans' long struggle for liberation within America's shores and beyond.

The Patriot: For a post-racial society, the AFS (Africana Studies) classes sure seem to focus a lot on race. It almost seems obsessive.

### **AFS 393 – The Caribbean Immigrants in the United States: Dreams and Realities**

This course analyzes the forces that shape Caribbean migration to the United States and the pressures that are exerted upon the immigrants to fit into the United States' social structure. It also explores the immigrants' responses to these pressures as they choose among the following possibilities: total assimilation into the ranks of the existing ethnic and racial minority groups, multicultural identity, and transnational identity.

### **CLT 392 – Multicultural Comparative Literature**

This course will examine the various strategies deployed by U.S. writers to incorporate languages and dialects other than English and non-W.A.S.P. cultural experience into their literary work. In their different ways, these authors celebrate the intellectual diversity of the U.S. and resist the temptations of monolingual culture.

The Patriot: Non-WASP?! I wonder if the school would be so quick to single out other ethnic groups like this. I doubt it. Also, resist the temptations of monolingual culture?! So I guess encouraging everyone that comes to America to speak English is bad. Good luck with that.

### **ECO 301 – Sustainability of the Long Island Pine Barrens**

The ecologically diverse Long Island Pine Barrens region provides a habitat for a large number of rare and endangered species, but faces challenges associated with protection of a natural ecosystem that lies in close proximity to an economically vibrant urban area that exerts intense development pressure. In this course we will consider the interaction of the ecological, developmental and economic factors that impact the Pine Barrens and the effectiveness of decision support systems in promoting sustainability of the Pine Barrens.

### **EHI 342 – Materials in the Natural and Human World**

Course explores in depth the origin, composition, use, bioavailability, mobility, persistence, and fate of selected materials and chemical compounds. Compounds or materials, such as DDT, aldicarb, freon, plastics, organotin, nuclear fuel, antibiotics, and carbon nanotubes,

are used to illustrate how manmade substances once released into the environment can lead to environmental degradation, ecological degradation, and/or public health issues.

### **EHI 343 – Sustainable Natural Resources**

This course explores in depth the economic viability, social acceptance, and potential of sustainable natural resources to replace non-renewable resources. Examples are drawn from water resource management, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and renewable energy resources (wind, solar, biofuel, etc.). There is particular emphasis on examples of integrated, participatory and sustainable natural resources management project in less developed countries.

### **AMR 101 – Local and Global: National Boundaries and World Systems**

Introduction to the contemporary capitalist worldsystem as a complex network of unequal power relationships and its inextricable role in our daily lives. Consideration of the ways the Americas have been incorporated into the world-system through colonialism and early capitalist ventures, with emphasis on the 20th century in terms of transnationalism, globalization, and the mobility of capital and labor, especially as this creates racial formations.

### **EST 102 – Weather and Climate**

Introduces the nature and causes of common meteorological phenomena, severe weather occurrences, and climatic patterns. Topics include formation and movement of air masses and large-scale storms; techniques for weather prediction; weather satellites; hurricanes, tornadoes, and thunderstorms; cloud and precipitation types; the climatic history of the earth; and actual and potential effect of human activities on weather and climate, and of weather and climate on humans. This course is offered as both ATM 102 and EST 102.

### **GEO 311 – Geoscience and Global Concerns**

An exploration of how technologically-based problems facing the United States and the world are related to the basic scientific principles that explain the properties of the lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. The set of issues include such geoscience-based topics as global warming, fossil fuel resources, nuclear waste disposal, and earthquake prediction and preparedness.

### **HIS 302 – Environmental History**

An exploration of human-caused transformations in natural environments and in ideas about nature from prehistory to the present. Examining topics from agriculture and deforestation in classical antiquity to the Columbian encounter, from problems of environmental management in imperial India to the emergence of environmentalism as a global movement today, the course focuses on case studies from several regions, including the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, New England, and South Asia.

### **ENS (Environmental Studies) is riddled with similar classes**

The Patriot: What do we get from this batch of classes? Capitalism bad. Capitalism evil. Industry dirty. People contaminate. Great...

### **AAS 328 – Race and Comedy in Asian America**

This comparative ethnic American cultures course examines how contemporary American comedians, fiction writers, visual artists, independent filmmakers, feminist and transgendered comics deploy the language of comedy to invoke serious social matters in contemporary American life such as racism, immigration, homophobia, class biases against the poor and the undocumented, misogyny, war and other burning issues of the day. We will explore how the ends of comedy are more than laughter and how comedy confronts political issues that are constitutive of and threatening to the U.S. body politic.

The Patriot: We have no idea what this has to do with Asian Americans, but hey, there's some bigger problems with it. One of them is the NewSpeak terminology "undocumented." Do you mean ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS? And why is it so important to make sure that feminist and transgendered comics be mentioned? Why not simply just "comics?"

### **ECO 316 – U.S. Class Structure**

Investigation of the economic foundations of social class in the U.S. and connections among class, race, and gender. Consideration of both theoretical and empirical strategies to understand the working class, the middle class, and the capitalist class in contemporary U.S. society, including the implications of class analysis for social issues such as government economic policy formation, the "underclass" and welfare reform, globalization, living standards, the distributions of income and wealth, and economic ethics.

The Patriot: If it weren't for the fact that

the professor of this class is a complete Marxist stuck in the Bolshevik Revolution, we probably would not have included it. But that leads to our next class...

### **ECO 317 – Marxist Political Economy**

An analysis of capitalism as a social system of production and exchange, based on the economic writings of Karl Marx and others working in that broad tradition. The course begins with study of Marx's philosophical method, dialectical materialism, and applies this method to the historical development of capitalism and the operation of the modern capitalist economy. The course explores connections between economic power and political, cultural, and ethical issues.

The Patriot: First off, Karl Marx isn't exactly the most unbiased source to learn about capitalism. Second, the philosophy of Karl Marx has been utterly defeated by history. The things he preaches have only led to genocide, poverty and misery. How about a course about Adam Smith? Surely, *The Wealth of Nations* has done much more for the advancement of society than the *The Communist Manifesto*.

### **HIS 301 – High Crimes and Misdemeanors**

In this writing intensive class, you will read, discuss, and critically review several books that focus on the presidential scandal known as Watergate which had an impact socially and culturally as well as politically and can tell us much about America in the 1970s and since. At the same time, we will focus on the ways in which historians write history. To that end, students will respond to the assigned readings in class discussion and, in successive drafts over the semester, produce a 10 page critical review of the readings.

### **HIS 362 – Making Peace with the Sixties**

A study of the 1960's, emphasizing conflict within American liberalism between cold warriors and antiwar activists, advocates of the bureaucratic welfare state versus those favoring small-scale community operations, and technocratic liberalism versus a policy of immediacy and moral witness. Special attention is given to the paradigmatic qualities of the civil rights movement, the domestic side of the Vietnam War, and the relationship of liberalism to radicalism.

### **HIS 368 – Wealth and Inequality in the American Corporate Age**

This course delves into the dynamics by which wealth has been created in an American economy dominated by large corporations,

and the changing patterns of inequity that have followed. Ever since big companies came to dominate the economy in the late 19th century, American affluence has come in spurts or "booms." Each period has had its characteristic new technologies and companies and their entrepreneurs, which part of the course will chart, from the robber barons to the dot.comers. We will then explore impacts on the work most Americans did, on wealth distribution and political economy, and on the changing ways in which many Americans remained poor.

The Patriot: Capitalism BADD!! Money is the root of all evil!! Greedy people creating "booms!!" Corrupt corporations!! Did we mention how BAD Capitalism is?!

### **HIS 378 – War and the Military**

The causes and origins of wars, and the impact of war on social change, considered in the context of various wars and battles. Topics covered include issues of military organization, recruitment, training, morale, war planning, and the integration of women, gays, and minorities in the military. May be repeated as the topic changes.

### **HIS 414 – Industrial Hazards/Modern History**

This course surveys the transnational history of industrial hazards in the modern era, from the industrial revolution of the late 18th and early 19th centuries to the globalization of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Ever since modern industry began, it has imposed its own peculiar array of risks and dangers on people, from the workers inside plants, to those living in their vicinity, to those who consume the goods it produces. This course will cover how our notions and experience of industrial risk have evolved through transformations of technology, raw material usage, and labor movements; of markets and political economy, from industrialization through de-industrialization; of cultural attitudes and practices toward industrial risks, via changing notions such as about disease causality, gender, and "consumer" and "environmental" versus "occupational" protection. Though the focus through much of the course will be on the United States, we will look at a number of different national contexts from Britain and Europe and corners of the developed world. We will examine a number of representative hazards, from lead and pneumoconiosis to pesticides and endocrine disruptors; also epoch-defining disasters, from the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire to Bhopal. Requirements will include class readings and participation, via a variety of exercises; one short and one long paper, and a final.

The Patriot: "Ever since modern industry

began, it has imposed its own peculiar array of risks and dangers on people..." Life expectancy has also doubled. Countless diseases have been cured. Leisure time became a real concept. Oh! how "hazardous" of modern industry.

## **POL 391 – Politics and Religion in Israel and the Middle East**

In recent years, the State of Israel has experienced a series of severe political crises which have left their mark on the ability of the Israeli government to continue to function efficiently. There are a number of salient reasons for this: the lack of a constitution, the absence of a democratic tradition among the adult population and the lack of an ethical and normative consensus regarding the state's character. Temporary factors may be added to these, including the lack of agreement about control of the West Bank and the un-professionalism of some of the current policy makers. The course will investigate these issues with emphasis on the behavior of principal actors in Israeli poli-

tics. We will discuss the reciprocal relations between the three main governmental authorities in Israel and their influence on the electoral system as well as the public's involvement in politics. We will then analyze the main political divisions in Israel and inter-party politics, the formation of governmental coalitions and how these are maintained, and implementation of public policy. The way these topics are integrated and formulate modern Israeli politics will be discussed, and the representative character and stability of Israeli democracy will be evaluated.

The Patriot: We can only imagine what goes on in here...

## **WST 111 – Intro to Queer Studies in Humanities**

A survey of historical representations of queer difference from the late 19th century to the present. Works of visual art, literary representations and poetry are examined as evi-

dence of the shifting understanding of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered/queer identity.

## **WST 112 – Intro to Queer Studies in Social Sciences**

An introduction to the field of queer studies from the perspectives of the social and behavioral sciences. Themes include the construction of sexual and political difference, heterosexism and the nature of oppression, race/class/gender and sexuality, psychological theories of sexuality, and historical roots of these issues.

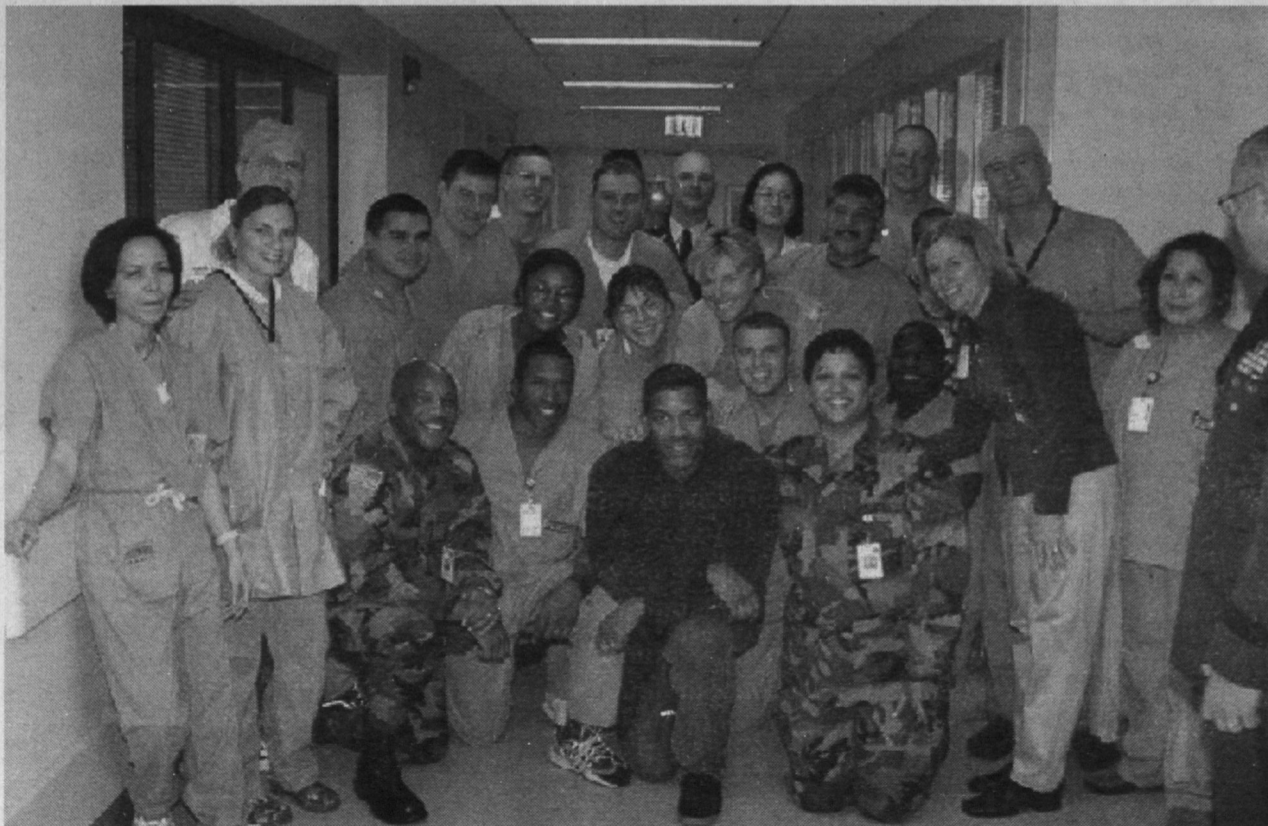
## **HIS 266 – History of the American West**

Cancelled.

The Patriot: I wonder why...

# Patriot of the Month

DENZEL WASHINGTON



Denzel Washington and his family visited the troops at Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas. It is a place where injured soldiers go for treatment and rehabilitation, especially burn victims. There are special buildings on the grounds called "Fisher Houses." A fisher house is a sort of hotel where soldiers' families can stay for little or no charge while their loved one is being treated at the hospital. They are almost always filled to capacity. Denzel Washington passed one on his visit and asked how much one of them would cost to build. He then took out his checkbook and wrote out a check for the full amount right there on the spot. He is a true patriot.

# A Conservative Freshman's Survival Guide

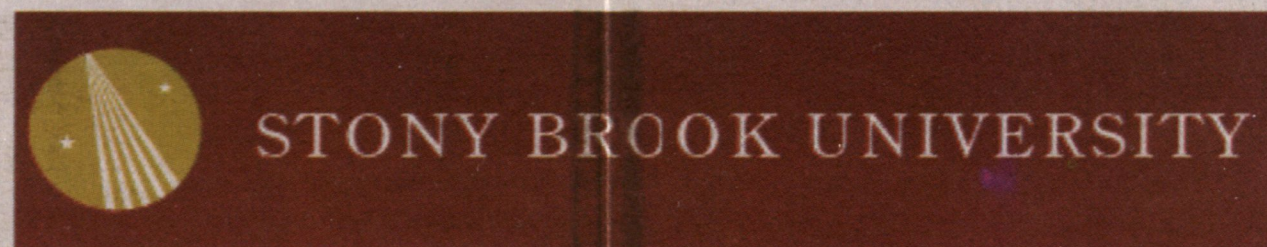
• Know Your Surroundings – Pinpoint Your Allies

If you are conservative, libertarian, Republican or think FDR isn't quite the cat's meow, a college campus is hardly a safe haven. That being said, Stony Brook University is far from an exception to the rule. Outside of a few groups, the people against you will always outnumber the people who support you, and sometimes you might even find yourself fending off the opposition by yourself. Granted, Stony Brook is a science oriented school, but even in this open-minded learning community, the majority of students, faculty and admin are closed-minded and against your beliefs – some will even be out to get you, with most simply willing to dismiss you as a person. We at The Enduring Freedom Alliance and other groups such as The Stony Brook College Republicans, The Rifle Club, etc., though the "etc." doesn't go very far, offer sympathetic views and a chance to act.



• Know the Facts – They are on YOUR Side

You may have heard it time and time again, but the facts are your best friend and as former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher put it, "The facts of life are conservative." Know them in and out. Those on the left, especially fellow students, tend to rest on emotions and feelings alone and are quick to end any debate with a simple "I'm not really interested in politics." Cut and run at its best. Read up on the issues to get the facts, whether they are on current events, the Vietnam War, or the 1648 Peace of Westphalia. Try to read one or two pieces against your position as well, this way you can get a feel for what types of counter-arguments will be thrown at you and know why they're wrong. Your opponents will outnumber you, but not in the willingness or ability to argue and debate the facts.

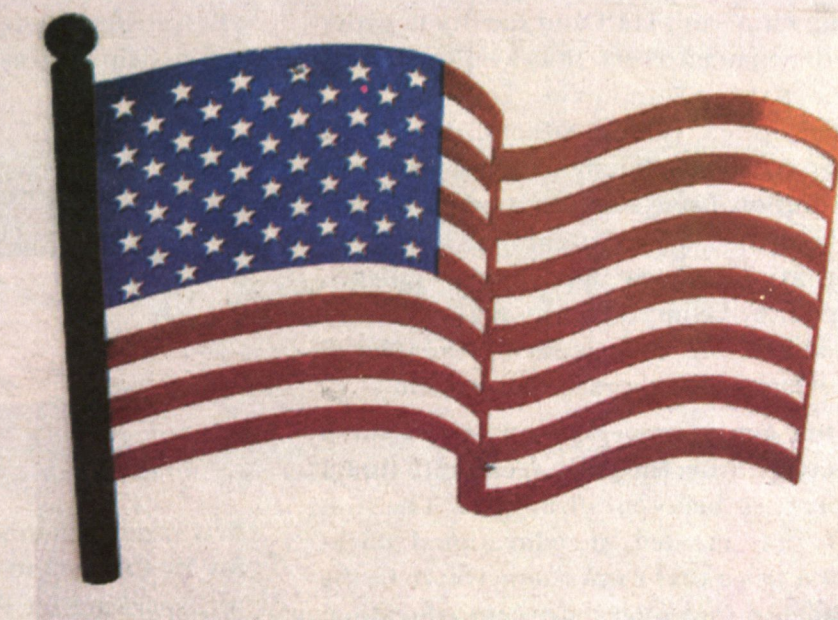


• Stand Firm – Stay True – Fight Back

Being on the Right isn't an easy thing on a college campus. In fact, it's quite daunting and the opposition is relentless. Don't get rattled. Don't feel hopeless. Don't give up. Groups like ours and the College Republicans (and the one or two others) are here to help and offer refuge from the political hell you'll traverse through these next four years. Between our two groups, there is ample opportunity to do a number of different things such as writing for this newspaper, working with local politicians, attending our campus events (we hope to bring several guest speakers to campus this year), participating with the Right Wing Radio Show on WSBU, going to tea parties around the area or just sitting quietly in the back of our meetings to get a breath of fresh air. Stand strong, stay true, and never give up on the values and country for which we're fighting for.

• Don't Be Afraid or Intimidated

Don't be afraid to call someone out on something they say, whether be a student or a professor, in or out of class. This is a great tactic, especially with professors accustomed to speaking and lecturing in echo-cham where most don't care and the rest agree. Don't be afraid to disagree. them out on it when they go too far. With most liberal arts professors, you find they almost always teach with a left-wing twinge or, in more dangerous cases, agenda. You'll probably get a snippy response like "Oh, there's always one of you in the crowd." Ignore the quips. It's just a ploy to make you uncomfortable and the students will know when you've made a point. pound the issue at hand. Be careful not to get suckered in by leading questions. REALLY take control of the dialogue. I suppose it is worth mentioning to do this only when you feel comfortable with the issue at hand. As big and wrong as they may be, your professor isn't the kid sleeping with his back to the chair next to you. But again, if you know the facts in and out, you be just fine.



• Be Aware of the Classes You Are In

If you're in the sciences, you probably will not run into politics too often in the classroom. If you're interested in politics, history or other liberal arts though, I suggest you strategically pick which of these classes you take. I suggest you look at the course description and try to find out about the professor teaching it. For example, if you wish to take a class in Political Science, I suggest you take one that Professor Norpoth is teaching. You'll find the open and balanced discussions, and the fact that he keeps his own opinions out of the equation is quite refreshing and far from the norm. That's the way teaching and learning is supposed to be. If you're not in the sciences, well, then you're in for a bumpy and frustrating ride. Keep with it, push your points and the ride will be considerably less frustrating.



# Grades For Flunkers

*Public University Seeks Alternative Method to Boost Academic Performance*

By Jon Pu

Even as the economic downturn begins to recede, public universities are predicting major problems in their upcoming years. With low sales numbers in the past months, state governments are seeing massive holes in their tax projections and have no alternative to patch them up. Instead, it has become commonplace for states to simply drop less necessary programs in order to properly fund others. Unfortunately for many state universities, academic funding has not made the cut.

Recently, many universities have seen outrageous tuition increases which make it harder for students to make their way through higher education, despite proposals of federal help in grants and loans. Other universities have opted instead to downsize, cutting numerous staff and faculty in order to better manage costs, thus keeping tuition increases at a minimum. Unfortunately, neither option comes without flaws. The former creates such a demanding economic contribution from students that many are simply turned off to attending. The latter may continue to seem appealing to students, however the reduced faculty make for very crowded classes thus reducing the overall effectiveness of their education system.

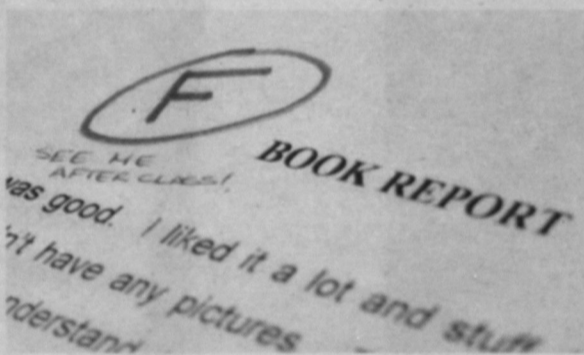
One public university has opted for a completely different path, seeking to find a compromise between all options. The university has created an educational package at a price that comes somewhere in the middle and that offers a decent education. In order to attract students to this "middle-of-the-road product," the university is starting a new program this year referred to as Grades for Flunkers.

What is Grades for Flunkers? Quite simply, it is a program designed to help the university propagate its popularity amongst its target consumers: college-bound students. Being that the university's price tag is not the greatest and that its education would not be as top notch as the leading schools in the nation, the school's directors opted to create a program to ensure that more students would flock to their school, thus increasing the school's popularity as well as its economic viability. In short, the program will allow existing students, as well as incoming freshmen and transfer students to have the option of swapping out as many as 24 credits of poor grades in exchange for better ones by the last month of their senior year.

All things considered, this program can only possibly do good for both students and the university. While the students receive

grades more likely to enroll them in graduate school or to help them find jobs in an ailing economy, the school garners a steady income with higher matriculation rates as well as building its reputation as a strong provider for a good education. As a result of the announcement of this program no more than a month ago and its recent ratification last week, the university is already seeing thousands of applications being rushed in just before the deadline for the Spring semester. With such a popularity spike, the university's board of directors is now considering extending the application deadline by another two weeks.

Of course, with any great program, Grades for Flunkers does not come without a handful of strict regulations. For one, not all transfer students immediately qualify to participate. Instead, other schools must



first meet certain specific demands in order for its students to qualify. One administrator, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that these demands were designed so that the university could ensure that any success coming from Grades for Flunkers would remain attributed to the university. Of these demands, there is a specific one that is getting a lot of attention and resistance from other schools. "We expect some of our students to eventually transfer out after benefiting from this program. All we ask is that in these cases, other schools recognize that it's our program on the diplomas of these students," explained the administrator. Without such a provision, he surmised, other schools would undeservingly reap the benefits. "Only if all these schools accept our provisions can we be certain that they're working with us and not against us," the administrator summarized. "We've got to keep these foreign competitors from stealing our rightful market."

While it is currently a difficult provision to pass through other schools, there is confidence that this "diploma clause" will be accepted by other schools. "We have hopes that news of this program will spread and

student movements will spring up around campuses everywhere to put pressure on these reluctant schools," said another administrator. To that end, the school has enacted a program to help establish student organizations in favor of pushing their respective administrations to accepting the demands as laid out by the university. The largest of these movements, Students Emphasizing Equality as a Duty, or SEED, already exists on dozens of campuses. "Our platform is simple," said a SEED member, "We expect our school to give us the same equal access to the Grades for Flunkers program that other schools are already signed onto. Only with this properly engineered social movement can we be certain that we will all benefit properly from this opportunity."

Other restrictions involve the limit of swapped credits with an emphasis towards the mathematics and true sciences. While these departments are allowed the 24 credit limit of swapped grades, departments within the social sciences and humanities are limited to only 12 credits, and in rare cases as little as 6. A professor of biology at the university claimed that is only made sense as the programs intention "is not only to allow students to exchange poor grades for better ones, but also to create incentive for students to engage in better majors in hopes they will see more fruitful and efficient results when they graduate." The professor continued to explain that strong mathematics students and true science students are always needed in the job market. The difference between a D and an A in a science field, he reasoned would easily mean the difference of tens of thousands in starting annual salary as well as diminishing the effectiveness of research in that field. "We're shooting for taking less efficient grades and replacing them with more efficient ones that make for a better scientific environment."

Other administrative details exist within the program that makes it fall short of perfect. As one senior put it, "The amount paperwork is overbearing and the wait times just to get an appointment with the secretaries are nauseating. I've been waiting over a week." Administrators have been scurrying to correct these problems, doing as much as hiring extra secretaries for the department of academic records to help receive and process the requests. Despite these minor administrative hurdles, the Grades for Flunkers program is expected to revitalize the campus with more students and more success.

# A Bitter Pill To Swallow

By Derek Mordente

So much for the supposed divine mandate granted to President Obama and his administration by the American electorate. Yes, it's true that Americans voted for "hope and change" last November, but, just as the Mandate of Heaven in Ancient China could be revoked from a given emperor as easily as it was granted, so too can the President's to "change" America. The President is finding out that his Big Government "change" isn't exactly being swallowed by the American people as easily as he thought.

Recent polls show some striking numbers with respect to support for the President and his policies. In a recent Gallup Poll, "51% say the government should have spent less" with respect to the Stimulus Bills. Now, fifty-one percent is only a majority by one percent...but it's a majority nonetheless. Rasmussen Reports show that "Thirty-three percent (33%) of voters now believe the economic stimulus plan has helped the economy." That leaves 67%, an overwhelming majority, who are either undecided or think it did not help the economy. Another Gallup Poll revealed that "68% expect an income tax hike under Obama," and, let's face it, no one, left or right, enjoys paying taxes.

According to another recent Rasmussen Report, "29% of the nation's voters Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as President. Thirty-nine percent (39%) Strongly Disapprove giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -10." Perhaps Americans are finally seeing how hollow "hope and change" really is. Perhaps they are growing weary of thousand page, Big Government Spending

legislation that no one reads, including the President himself, but who are told by the people passing it (who have not read it either) that it is immediately necessary. Perhaps Americans are just plain tired of having Washington shove its agenda down their throats.

At the epicenter of this right now is HealthCare Reform and the proposed bill making its way through Congress, which (no surprise) the President and his administration are calling immediately, urgently, unequivocally and absolutely necessary. Since the American Government is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, let's take a look at what the people think. MSNBC, unabashed PR firm for the President and the left, reported that "a plurality believes Obama's health plan would worsen the quality of health care" and that "only four in 10 approve of the president's handling of the issue." Now, you know it's bad when even MSNBC is reporting things like this. They went on to say that

bers. A recent Rasmussen Report found in a national telephone survey "that opposition to the [HealthCare] plan has increased to 53%, up nine points since late June." Fifty-three percent?! That's a majority!! The report also found that "44% of voters strongly oppose the health care reform effort versus 26% who strongly favor it," which is even more striking. Finally, Rasmussen also reported that "78% believe that health care reform is likely to lead to middle class tax hikes." The American people are finally catching on.

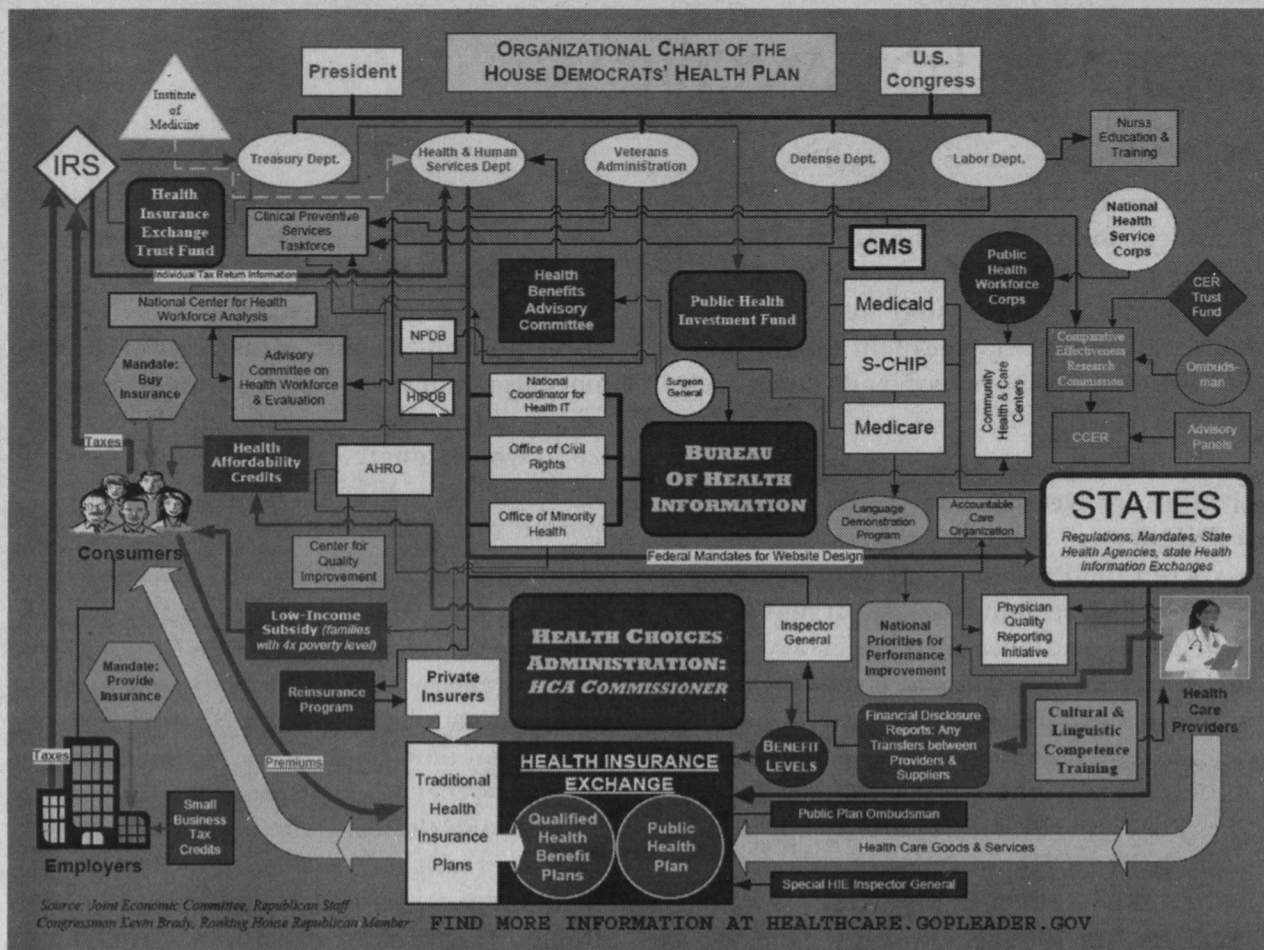
It seems we have our answer as to why the Obama administration is shoving their legislation down America's throat – it's the only way they'll get it through. With each passing day, those numbers of opposition get bigger and bigger. As this opposition grows, the administration becomes more and more desperate and responds to its critics with toxic McCarthyite accusations that they are un-American. The real questions for the future are 1) How far will the administration go to get its way and 2) How much will the American people take?



"a majority — 54 percent — is more concerned that the government will go too far in reforming the nation's health care system."

Let's take a look at some other num-

JOIN THE PATRIOT  
TUESDAYS SAC 312 6:00-7:00PM



Don't Understand the HealthCare Reform Plan? The government has provided us with this easy-to-read chart to explain how everything will work.

## Long Island Business Refuses To Be "Capped"

By Aditya Ramanathan

It's been said that the debate over man made climate change is over. Whether or not that's true is debatable; however, the dispute over HR 2454, the House's climate change bill, is far from over. The bill seeks to reduce industrial carbon output by capping emissions and reducing the allowance annually. Companies are given incentives to be under their granted carbon levels and trade their excess allowance to companies unable to meet their limits. Theoretically, the trading industry should compensate for the lost production output and push the market towards low carbon industry.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman is far from sold on the bills positive market effects, arguing that "an offset program will depend to a great degree on where the producer is located, what he or she grows and if his or her business can take advantage of the program." Long Island Farm Bureau executive director Joe Gergela, echoing the same concerns, states that "Many on the Island have mixed feelings regarding being able to trade credits and a lot of farmers are looking to make a profit there, however, we have very little animal agriculture. Most of our agriculture is high land value, grape, veg., greenhouse, aquaculture and a lot of ornamentals which would not benefit at all from trading." The Long Island Farm Bureau itself, like many other farm bureaus across the country, has come out openly against the bill. "We're worried that it will make farming costs go up on the Island as a result of a lot of the process-

es we use involving oil based products. A lot of our fertilizers, for example, are made in the Middle East using oil whose costs are going to rise as less and less is made in the country. Many of our pesticides are made with oil as well, I'm not an expert, but I know that these costs will naturally rise as well," argues Director Gergela on behalf of farmers across Long Island. Agriculture in Suffolk County alone produces more revenue than agriculture in any other country in New York State and totals nearly one billion dollars in gross product.

Farming, however, is not the only industry on Long Island worried about HR 2454. Margaret Turner, executive director of the East Hampton Business Alliance, for one, has voiced her own issues with the bill. Though her organization does not have a formal stand on the legislation she knows that her colleagues and she are, in her words "Very worried. Very concerned. The bill puts a lot of pressure on small businesses here at the east end in the Five Towns area," she contends, "Its all small businesses here. There are no big corporations to survive the pressure and its the mom and pop stores which are going to be squeezed. Its a smaller population out here and especially for the times, honestly its scary. I wonder where they believe businesses will get the money for this? The MTA tax has already hit us hard and to have all these taxes being put on us we are going to lose a lot of small business around here. We are all for protecting our environment and waters for local fishing, but

they can't do it on the backs of small businesses and expect to be responsible for everything that happens. Frankly, I think the government could use some cuts of its own."

Mrs. Turner voices the concerns of many across Long Island who are either worried about the bill and/or are unsure what exactly is inside it's 743 pages. Jodi Giglio executive director of the Riverhead Business Alliance, reaffirming Turner's statements, cites companies fleeing New York State, such as Long Island's OSI pharmaceuticals, due to excessive taxes and regulations as evidence that such policies rarely aide the market or the areas which they are designed to help. Long Island, she stated, is no longer known for being "business friendly," where the MTA tax has already taxed many businesses to the brink, such as In Group Home Living for disabled children which has suffered a million dollar payroll tax as a result and nurseries which pay almost \$25,000 a year in extra payroll. The train stops in Riverhead less than five times a day. In the same manner Director Giglio does not believe that the environmental incentives not the market trading will bring benefits to Long Island. "This just makes business go overseas where they can't be controlled. We act as if we expect them to simply follow regulations without any indication from them that they will. Pollution will still be happening, just somewhere else. Local Legislation simply impasses local business."

# The Summer of '09

By Tom Schlageter

Apologies to the disappointed **Bryan Adams** fans who got excited reading the title, this is neither about the best days of our lives nor the old six-string, but rather a rundown of the events which took us from finals week to the first week of classes. The summer itself, coincidentally, started with a similar bit of disappointment as those tuning into **Jay Leno's** Tonight Show found **Conan O'Brien** as the new host, the rating reflected the disappointment. **David Letterman** seeing an opening to take the ratings lead also saw an opening to make a "knocked-up" joke about "slutty flight attendant" **Sarah Palin's** 14-year-old daughter Willow. Those who see nothing wrong, this is different from the traditional "knock-knock" joke. **Sarah Palin**, perhaps in defense of her family, resigned as governor of Alaska, but not before the majority of South Carolina would call for governor **Mark Sanford's** resignation for failing in every way to defend the traditional family.

Conceivably seeing the mistake **Bill Clinton** made when confronted with his affair, Sanford took an opposite course from perjury and could be accused of being a little too honest. Failing to apply any damage control, Sanford pointed his finger to the power of love, though neither Huey Lewis nor the News were available to comment on the situation. An-

other family dissolved over the summer, **Jon and Kate's** legal proceedings over Jon's affair began June 22. Strangely, the show designed to showcase family bonds has nearly doubled its viewership since the split. Attempting to cash in on the broken family angle, Fox aired "**Octo-Mom: The Incredible Unseen Footage**" on August 19th, though the two hour special failed to give birth to the desired ratings, finishing fourth behind first place "America's Got Talent." Across the Atlantic, UK sensation **Susan Boyle** found that perhaps she did not have the most talent, losing on "Britain's Got Talent" and suffering a subsequent mental breakdown.

Back in the States **Paula Abdul** quit as a judge on American Idol, facing scrutiny for being too lenient, just as **Sonia Sotomayor** was confirmed as a judge on a less popular council, facing scrutiny for being too lenient to minorities. Having Sotomayor, a self-proclaimed wise-latina, confirmed was a big win for **President Obama**, especially with comedian **Al Franken** being sworn into the Senate only a month earlier; however, he would have to end the summer on a loss watching his child, the public option die. **Madonna**, unwilling to lose a child or fail to keep up with the latest fashions, fought for three months to buy a second Malawi baby to match her first and get back

into the third-world children race with **Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie**. Increasing the size of her family the traditional way, untraditionally, **Céline Dion** became pregnant with an Embryo frozen in liquid nitrogen for eight years. **Ryan Jenkins**, contestant on VH-1's "Megan Wants a Millionaire," looking to reduce the size of his own family murdered his wife, mutilated her body then after running from the law committed suicide.

The show died with him, denying Megan of the love she may have had and likely leaving her with the feeling she had just dodged a major bullet. Other notables who were not as fortunate were **David Carradine** who died of accidental asphyxiation at 73, **Michael Jackson** who suffered cardiac arrest at the age of 51, **Farrah Fawcett** who was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 fought hard until she succumbed to it at age 62, **Billy Mays** who died of heart disease at the age of 50, **Ed McMahon** who died from multiple causes at the age of 86, **Ted Kennedy** who died of brain cancer at age 77, and **Walter Cronkite** who died of cerebral vascular disease at the age of 92. Rest assured, the media mourned each of these icons with equal compassion and air-time, kind of. Maybe not.

## Nothing "Inglorious" About The Basterds

By John Galt

There's a saying that goes, "the only good Nazi is a dead Nazi," and Quentin Tarantino's latest film, *Inglorious Basterds*, really hammers that home. Like his other films, Tarantino utilizes a dialogue based plot on minimal sets with hard hitting action/violence sequences in between. If you're not a fan of gruesome blood, guts and gore, you don't have to worry. There are some pretty violent scenes but excessive gore is completely left out.

The movie is broken up into chapters and flows more like a good book than a blockbuster movie, but then again, different is to be expected with Quentin Tarantino. By different, I also mean that most of the film is spoken in French and German, with English and even a little bit of Italian sprinkled in.

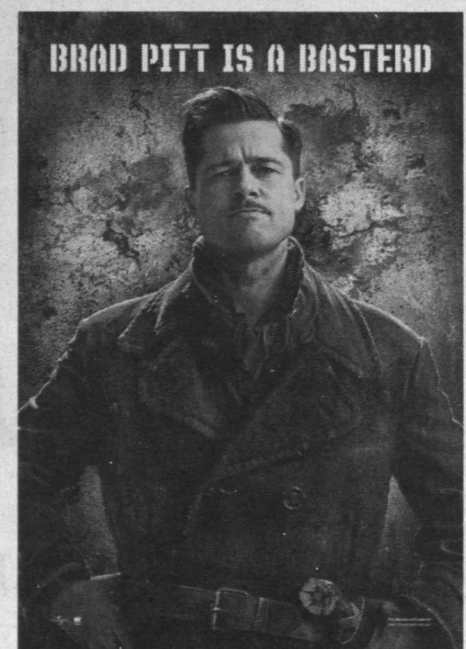
The film opens with an utterly gripping and thrilling interrogation of a French farmer harboring Jewish citizens by a cold, goofily evil SS Colonel, played perfectly by Christoph Waltz, who turns out to be the film's main antagonist to the heroes, *The Inglorious Basterds*, a group of Jewish American commandoes with one mission: to kill Nazis. Led by Lt. Aldo Raine,

played absolutely badass with a capital B by Brad Pitt, the Basterds wreak havoc on the Nazis throughout Europe instilling fear of mythic proportions amongst Nazi soldiers spread by stories told by those whom the Basterds "let go." You'll see in the movie why the quotes are necessary. Chapter two of the film details quite nicely what the Basterds are all about.

From Chapter three on, the film focuses on the separate (but with the same goal) plots of the Basterds and a young Jewish girl, Shoshanna Dreyfus (played well by French actress Melanie Laurent), owner of a small French cinema, to kill Joseph Goebbels, Adolph Hitler and a large group of high ranking Nazis in one fell swoop. The stars align for Shoshanna to take her revenge on the Nazis as a young German war hero crushing over her, Frederick Zoller, convinces Goebbels to have the premier of his propaganda film about Zoller's exploits at her small cinema. Shoshanna resolves to play along secretly maneuvers a plot to burn the cinema down and lock the Nazis inside. The Basterds find out about the premier and who will be attending and take a more direct

approach to killing their targets: infiltration and dynamite.

Overall, the film is gripping and exciting, has a great plot, is hard hitting without the nauseating gore and, come on, who is going to argue with killing Nazis?



---

# JOIN THE PATRIOT

Meetings on  
Tuesdays From  
6:00-7:00 PM  
in SAC 312.



---

## Cartoon of the Month

By Eric Allie



Eric Allie is a regular contributor to TownHall.com.  
Find more of his work at [www.furiousdiaper.com](http://www.furiousdiaper.com)

---

# THANK GOD I DON'T LIVE IN: **CUBA**

Happy with the way things are going in the United States? According to a recent Gallup poll, 63% 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.

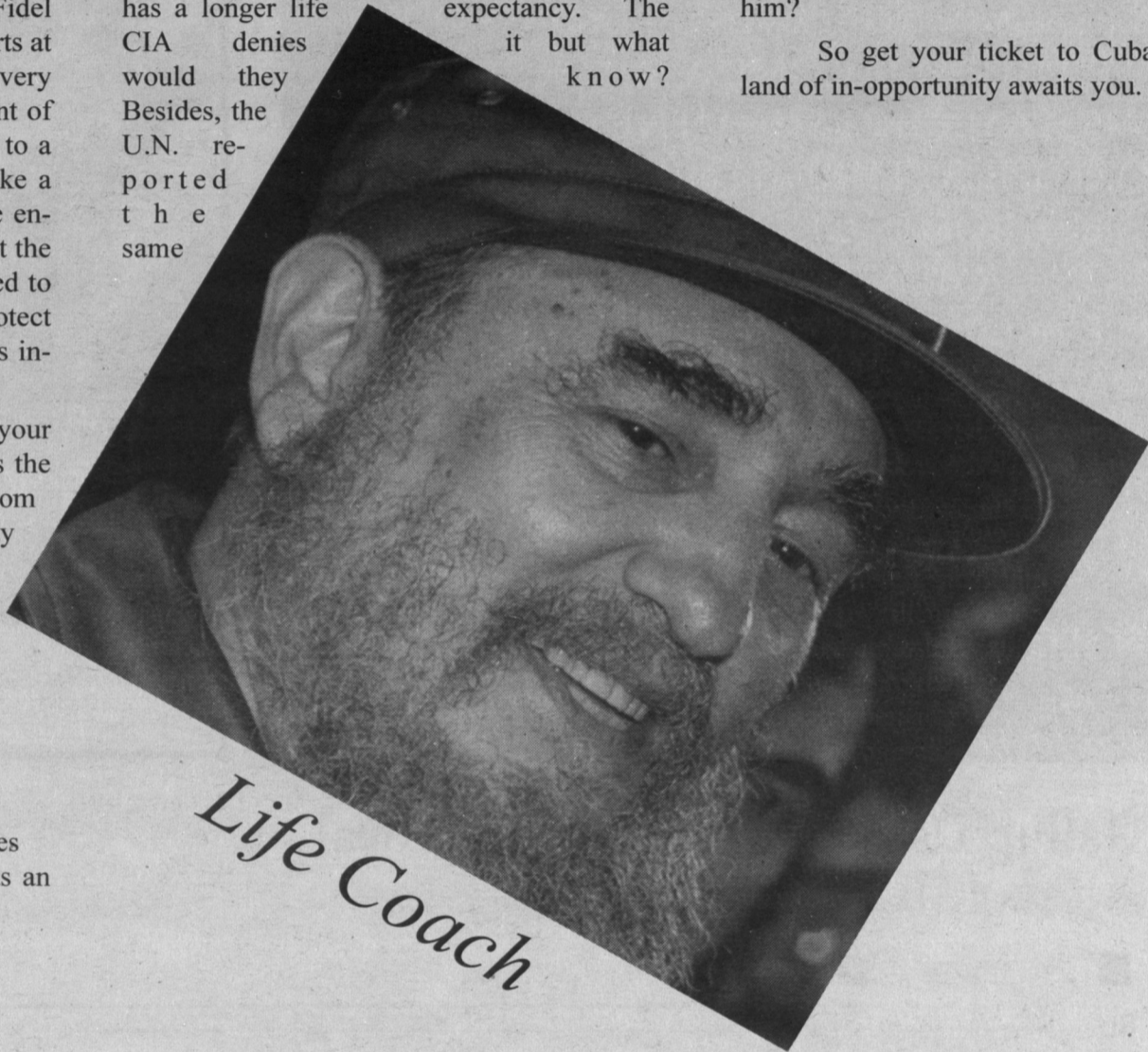
Has anyone ever told you to take command of your life? Why not let someone else take over for you? My suggestion - Raul and Fidel Castro; These brothers have become experts at running the lives of others, employing every Cuban whilst leaving a whole 27.4 percent of GDP untouched. Everyone has the right to a job. They also have the right to not make a profit, a right which Fidel and Raul have enforced with rigorous price controls against the greedy. Investments are closely monitored to prevent waste, wealth creation and to protect you from foreign investment. Who needs investors anyway?

Another great thing about handing your life to somebody better suited to run it is the time you save on things like voting, freedom of expression, earning a living and property ownership. Leave that stuff to the greedy. You can leave behind worrying about healthcare too as Cuban healthcare has become the envy of the United States. Well, at least according to CNN. With its .71 abortions per birth, Cuba boasts an infant mortality rate even lower than its capitalist neighbors to the north. A baby that dies within a couple of hours doesn't count as an

infant mortality...right? According to Michael Moore, the CIA even reports that Cuba has a longer life expectancy. The CIA denies it but what would they know? Besides, the U.N. reported the same

thing based on the numbers Fidel gave them and why should anyone trust the CIA over him?

So get your ticket to Cuba now! The land of in-opportunity awaits you.



---

## Top Ten Reasons to Humanely Put Grandma To Sleep

By Dan Rubin

1. Obama says she's far too expensive to keep alive. That Glaucoma medicine doesn't come cheap and Obama can't be wrong.

2. She needs help getting up and down the stairs. What a pain in the ass that is. Move it or lose it Grandma.

3. She's always making those damn cookies. I don't know about you, but I'm trying to watch my figure here.

4. The world would be a safer place to

drive without Grandma on the road.

5. We can take back bingo night with that old bag out of the picture.

6. Grandma doesn't know how to text. This results in her calling me, how annoying. Who calls anymore? So '90s.

7. It's completely unfair that she pays less than me at the movies.

8. I'm tired of hearing her tell her outdated stories about how everything back in her day

was a nickel and how she had to walk everywhere in the snow with no shoes. It's played out. We gave you long enough to find some new material and you failed miserably.

9. She voted for McCain. She is, therefore, a racist and has no place in modern society.

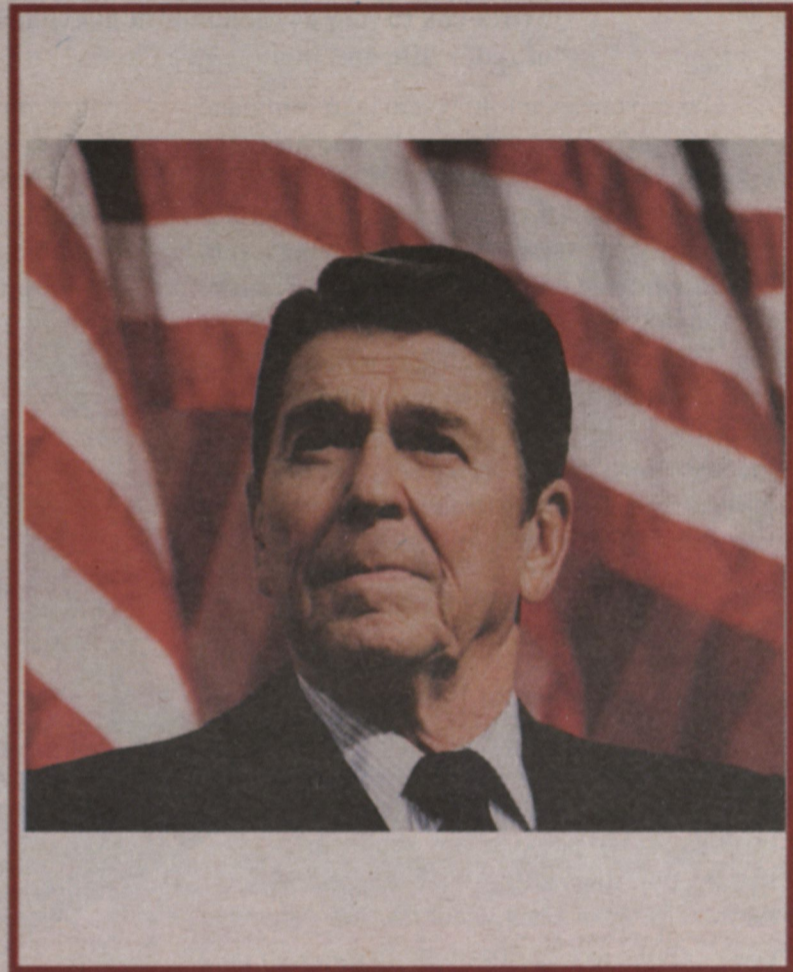
10. It's the green thing to do. Just think of all of the energy that can be saved by pulling the plug on Grandma's life support.



## The Last Word

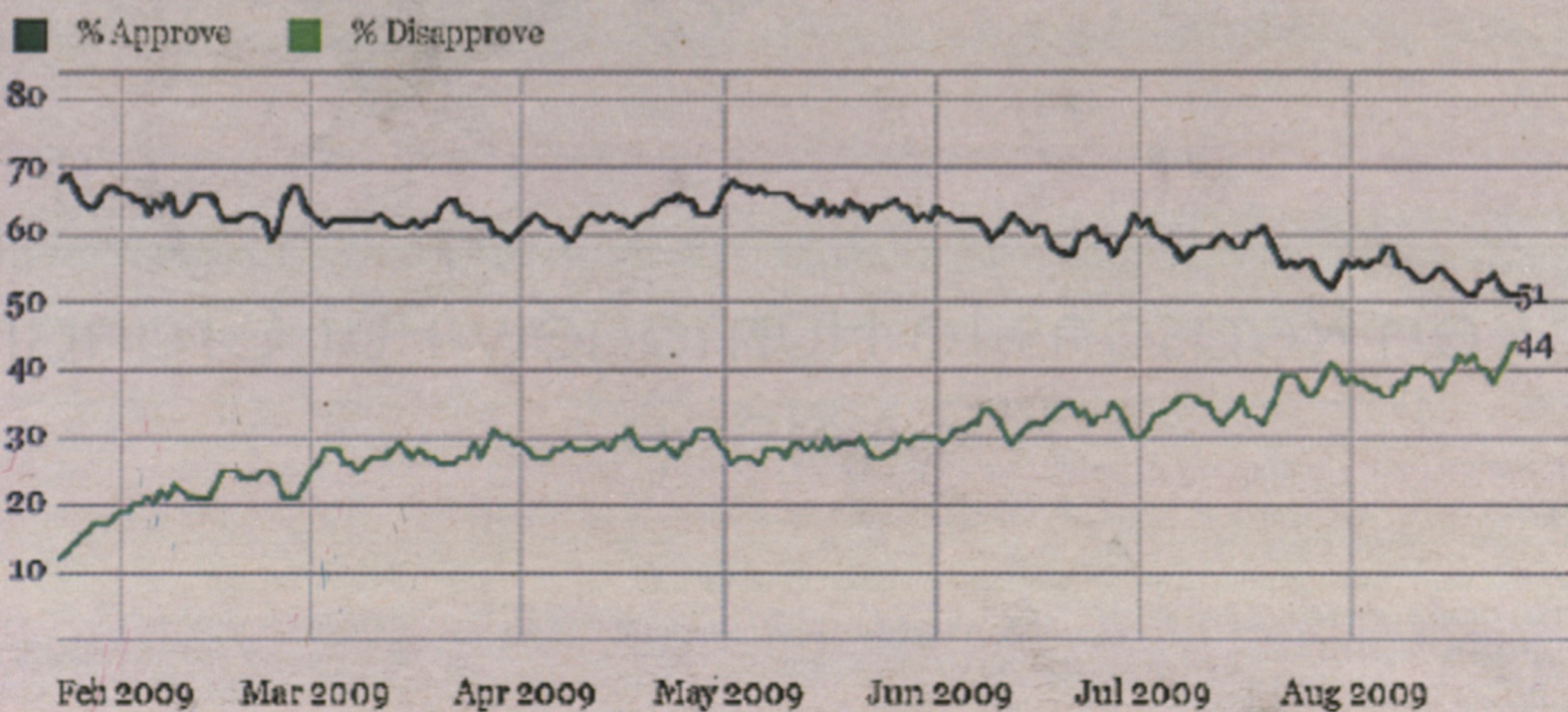
"GOVERNMENT GROWING BEYOND OUR CONSENT HAD BECOME A LUMBERING GIANT, SLAMMING SHUT THE GATES OF OPPORTUNITY, THREATENING TO CRUSH THE VERY ROOTS OF OUR FREEDOM. WHAT BROUGHT AMERICA BACK? THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BROUGHT US BACK -- WITH QUIET COURAGE AND COMMON SENSE; WITH UNDYING FAITH THAT IN THIS NATION UNDER GOD THE FUTURE WILL BE OURS, FOR THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE FREE."

~RONALD REAGAN



### Gallup Daily: Obama Job Approval

Each result is based on a three-day rolling average



On Jan. 21, Gallup began tracking daily the percentage of Americans who approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president.

# CHANGE WE NEED