

# The Patriot

Vol. 3 Issue 4

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

February-March 2007



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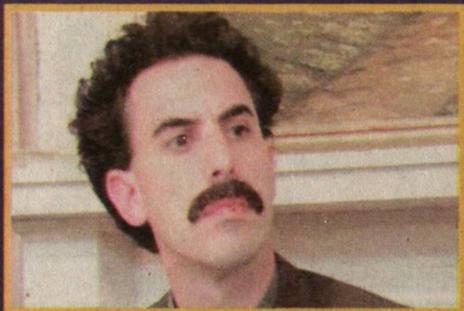
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# USG Passes ALIRRT Act



Photo courtesy of Rachel O'Brien.

By Rachel O'Brien

Can't afford that \$19 train ticket to get home to see the 'rents this weekend? Gotta visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art for your modern art class? No fear, the USG Senate is here. On November 28 the senate unanimously passed the ALIRRT Act (Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets) Act, giving Stony Brook students over a 50 percent discount on LIRR tickets to and from the Stony Brook train station and Penn and Jamaica stations.

The bill, written and introduced by Senator Joseph Antonelli, was passed by the senate last semester in an uncommon unanimous vote, giving students \$19 tickets to Penn Station at a cost of \$9 and \$13 tickets to Jamaica Station for \$6.

"This will give average students the opportunity to go to the city at an affordable rate," Antonelli said in an interview

last month.

The program will allow the USG to purchase 500 peak, round-trip tickets for Penn Station and 300 peak, round-trip tickets for Jamaica Station per month to be sold for half price to SB students. This will result in a cost of \$27,400 per semester for the USG, funded by the student activities fee. The tickets will be available for sale to students at the USG ticket office in the SAC. Tickets won't be held for students at the office, but rather will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Ticket purchases are limited to one ticket per week per student with ID.

The act came into effect in January over the winter session but will provide tickets for the first time in February. The bill stipulates that tickets will be ordered for the regular fall and spring semesters and will not be available for the months of June, July, August and January.

VP of Student Life, Trevor Hirst is in charge of monitoring the program and making sure it lives up to its expectations. The act says that if the program is unsuccessful and ticket sales are not worthy of keeping the program running, it will be reevaluated by the USG budget committee and voted on by the senate.

"This program will affect students in the pocket- saving a lot of money on train fare," Hirst said in an interview last month. "This was designed to enhance the culture of the campus, making the city even more accessible for the students. I think that if it is advertised enough, it will be extremely successful."

To view the act online, go to [stonybrookusg.org](http://stonybrookusg.org), click on the "laws" tab and scroll down to view Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets Act.

# The Patriot

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

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

The Patriot is a paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:  
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# Duke Lacrosse Players Vindicated?

By Erica Smith

Charges continue against the three Duke Lacrosse players despite the prosecutor's sole support being an incredible witness, with virtually all other evidence supporting the defense. It is now evident Durham County Prosecutor Mike Nifong pursued the case only for fame and political gain. The North Carolina Bar has recently charged him with ethics violations and will potentially revoke his law license, prompting Nifong to turn the case over to the state attorney general. But how many more months will this case continue? This case should remind of flaws in the justice system, and drive Americans to push for change.

The case began last March when two strippers performed at a Duke Lacrosse team party, after which one of the women claimed she was raped and sexually assaulted. Immediately the dynamics of the accusation grabbed media attention: this poor black college student and single mother was working as a stripper to pay the bills, only to be brutally gang raped by racist rich boys from one of the most prestigious schools in the country. Nifong jumped on the case and used it to successfully get himself re-elected by a predominantly black community.

Yet as the story began to unfold, even the most sympathetic began to have serious doubts. The accuser made repeated and major changes in story, including first saying she was



It's become apparent that Durham County Prosecutor Mike Nifong went after the Duke lacrosse players to get re-elected.

assaulted by 20 men, reducing it to five, then to three, and then doubting whether or not she was raped at all. (While the rape charges were dropped, kidnapping and sexual assault charges still stand). The hospital records also said she had no injuries after the alleged attack even though she claimed to have been hit, kicked and strangled.

The accuser also did not consistently choose the same three defendants in the photo lineups and the only duke student she identified with "100 percent certainty" offered indisputable evidence he wasn't even in the same town when the alleged attack happened, and was resultantly not charged. Another defendant has similar evidence that puts him in the house with his accuser for merely a few minutes. Nifong stubbornly refused to drop charges against him

The accuser also said she didn't have sex for a week prior to the at-

tack, but had to backtrack when the semen of several men were found on her body, none of which were the duke lacrosse players (evidence Nifong deliberately concealed). This is despite her claim her attackers did not use condoms and ejaculated, and she had a rape kit administered only hours after the alleged attack; a combination of circumstances legal experts find extremely unlikely.

None of the different versions of time-lines the accuser constructed even make sense. Phone records show that in her newest version, she would be talking on the phone for three minutes during the attack. Perhaps most humorous is her recent claim that two of attackers went by multiple pseudonyms. While Dave Evans allegedly went by "Dan, Adam and Brett," Reade Seligmann used the names "Adam and Matt." Details on how ridiculous this case have become go on and on.

Not to mention the accuser's

damning history of criminal convictions, which include trying to run a policeman over with a hijacked taxicab, as well previously claiming she was gang raped, but refusing to give police an account of the alleged attack. In addition, the other stripper who attended the party reputed many of her claims and called the charges "a crock."

Nifong's role in all of this has been appalling. He allegedly allowed several tainted photographic lineups, deliberately and illegally withheld DNA evidence from the defense, and made hundreds of inappropriate statements to the media. Perhaps most shocking is that neither he nor any of his assistants had even interviewed the accuser for at least six months after they pressed charges.

His behavior should be no surprise, as power breeding corruption is an axiom. This situation, however, should remind that the justice system is far from perfect, and the only difference between Nifong and other corrupt district attorneys is that he got caught.

At this point, most reasonable people are able to acknowledge the Duke players' innocence. Although the charges persist, the defendants have recently been allowed back into school. Yet as attorneys, editorialists and news anchors rush to offer analysis and condemnation, there seems to be a perspective that is absent from the reportage.

Innocent people are accused of crimes every day, and most do not have access to the resources that

enables the Duke students to pay millions for a team of high-priced defense attorneys. If they are having such difficulty getting such ridiculous charges dropped, one can only imagine the frustration of our system for someone who is poor and uneducated.

What if the Duke accuser had pointed her finger at three impoverished African-American men instead of three privileged whites? It is likely the accused men would have been overwhelmed and plea-bargained well before this point, putting them in prison for a crime they might not have committed. And the media would likely not even know the case existed, since the media rarely covers black against black crime, depriving the accused of a guardian and watchdog.

District attorneys can be political, corrupt and arbitrary and have access to government's immense resources. Nifong spent \$23,000 of tax payer money on a private DNA lab report after he was unsatisfied with the results from the government lab, undoubtedly only a fraction of the thousands he spent pursuing the case. In contrast, many defendants cannot even afford a lawyer and public defenders are often overworked, underpaid and unmotivated. This is a dangerous combination with respect to individual rights and liberty. There needs to be a mass infusion of money to fund legal services for the poor to mitigate the glaring inequalities that have become endemic in our judicial system.

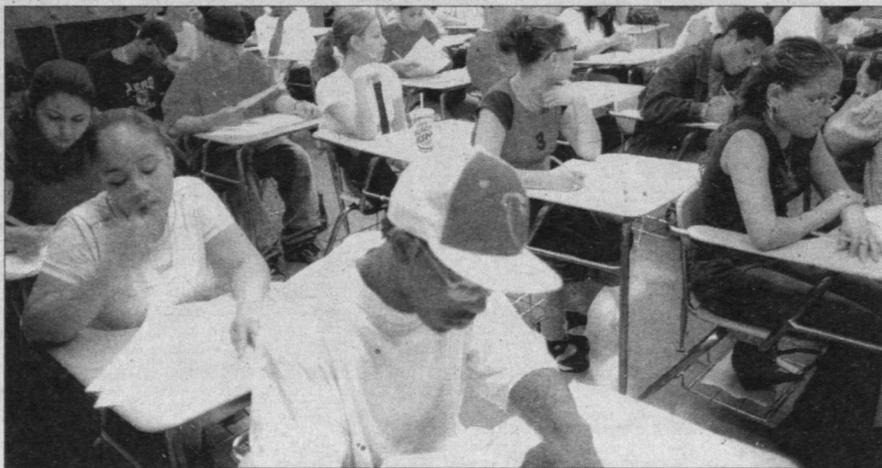
## Fellows Program Great for Teaching Career

By Alexander Ott

Graduation is just around the corner and if any of you are thinking of starting a career in teaching, especially you juniors out there, you may want to think about teaching in a New York City public school. You could also begin the long one year track to New York State certification or you could opt for the NYC Fellows Program.

The program was established in 2000 in order to fill the need for teaching professionals throughout NYC. The fellowship program upholds the conviction that public schools can work, but that they must be staffed and led by people who are the most talented and accomplished. The program provides an alternate fast track to become an educator under the Transitional B certification while completing a Master's degree program. The short, intensive pre-service training is provided by the fellows, who complete other academic requirements while they teach. The most outstanding part of this program is that the program pays for your Master's degree. In 2006 the amount a fellow had to pay for his or her Master's degree was \$4,000, and it was deducted in small bi-monthly debits from their teaching salary, which in 2006 was \$42,512 per year for a first year teacher.

The pre-service training is the key to



fast tracking your career as an educator. There are three main components which include: Master's degree coursework at an assigned university, field placement work during which fellows observe and assist New York City teachers in summer school classrooms, and attending teaching sessions during which they learn key instructional design and classroom management skills from an experienced teacher.

While the program offers outstanding benefits and is probably too good to be true, fellows are placed in high-need subject areas and in high-need schools. So, if your passion is history and your undergraduate degree is

in history, you may be teaching math or science. Of course, once you have put in your three years, you will have tenure in the NYC public school system and can pursue additional certification for your key subject area. Some fellows have been hired just as trainers for other teachers.

The process is rather simple and intense at the same time. You go to [www.nyc-teachingfellows.org](http://www.nyc-teachingfellows.org) and fill out an online application, which includes submitting a letter reflecting your view of why you want to become a teacher and fellow. This will be the letter that determines whether they schedule an interview, so, make it count. Optimistic

and enthusiastic teachers are what they are looking for. If your application qualifies, they will set up an interview which will be rather intensive. At this interview you will be required to teach a five-minute lesson plan (which has a clear beginning, middle and end), have an individual two-minute written response to a problem that arises in your first few months as a teacher, and a twenty-minute group discussion with your fellow applicants acting as teachers. This is a problem-solving session and your responses and skills in debate situations are most important here. Before your twenty-minute personal interview you will be asked to write a letter to parents who have lost faith in your teaching ability and you need to show them how you will respond to their concerns. While all of this sounds difficult and exhausting the hardest part is waiting to teach your five-minute lesson plan which they get out of the way first.

This senior has endured the processes to become a fellow and is presently waiting for a response. In 2006, the program received 17,491 applications and offered 3,494 candidates admission of which 1,700 began teaching. The program is both worthwhile and needed for New York City and the children under its educational care. So, if you are deciding on an educational career, this program is definitely worth a look!

# February In History

## February 1, 1790

U.S. Supreme Court convenes for the first time.

## February 3, 1913

The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, giving the government the power to impose and collect taxes on income.

## February 7, 1984

U.S. astronaut Bruce McCandless is the first person to 'Spacewalk' un tethered to a spacecraft.

## February 8, 1942

Congress advises FDR that Americans of Japanese descent should be locked up en masse so they wouldn't oppose the US war effort.

## February 10, 1897

New York Times begins using slogan "All the News That's Fit to Print."

## February 15, 1804

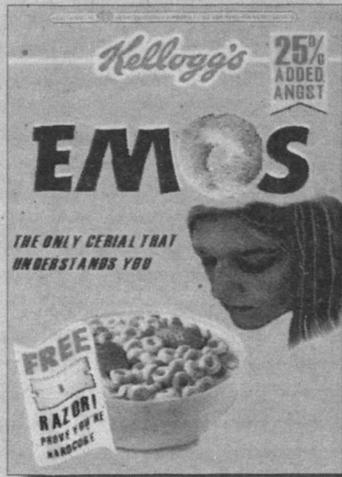
New Jersey becomes last northern state to abolish slavery.

## February 17, 1913

New York Armory Show introduces Picasso, Matisse, Duchamp to American public. The show is considered "shocking" and calls to close it are made.

## February 19, 1906

William Kellogg founds his breakfast cereal company.



## February 26, 1993

Terrorist bomb explosion under the World Trade Center, New York.

## February 27, 1879

Two American chemists announce the discovery of saccharin.

## February 28, 1854

The Republican Party is formally organized.

# Who is Rabbi Adam?

In the December issue of the Patriot I shared with you all my experiences at UMass, Amherst – informally called "Zoo Mass". The ultimate party school. For although I don an untrimmed beard, wear a black hat and am called "Rabbi", I actually grew up as the average American. In being that I grew up in the Boston area, I enrolled in the University of Massachusetts where I thoroughly enjoyed its party atmosphere, the 1,000 persons snowball fights, the building take-overs, the over-zealous riot-police, and the "hippie" dorm with the strict non-alcohol policy. (For some good stories, check out [www.StonyBrookPatriot.com](http://www.StonyBrookPatriot.com) in last December's feature of "Who is Rabbi Adam".)

So now, one must ask, if I was the type of person who would so thoroughly enjoy a campus such as UMass, what the heck happened? Why in the world am I now donning an untrimmed beard, wearing a black hat and am being called "Rabbi"?

Well, to tell you the truth, I had a bit of an epiphany – a sort of spiritual experience. As I mentioned in the last article, I had already started checking out the Chabad House Friday Night Dinner parties and I had already started to appreciate what it meant to spend a night in a more spiritual atmosphere. In contrast to the usual UMass party scene full of burps, vomit and spilled beer, conversations at the Chabad House were always clean fun. Coupled with a sense of purity in the air, there was a strong sense of family, and as such, a strong sense of belonging.

Although I was still thoroughly committed to the UMass party scene, I would always make sure to first join the Chabad House Friday Night dinner and then join up with my friends afterwards to go party-hopping. It was kind of like a nice combination between body and soul. I guess it was because of my newfound interest in spirituality that one day a flyer advertising free instruction in meditation caught my eye. Skeptical, but curious, I decided to check it out.

The meditation session turned out to be led by a grad student named Tom. Tom was a happy guy who had the kind of joy that made you know that whatever he was doing was the truth. He explained how he hadn't always been happy, but once he found meditation, over the course of some time, his demeanor changed. His whole presentation was really quite short, maybe a half-hour or so. He taught everyone a few simple breathing exercises and a general mantra. The mantra was some weird sounding word. According to Tom, the mantra loosely meant, "essence of everything". In being that I really wasn't

into accepting another religion – especially from some happy-go-lucky guy named "Tom" - I figured I would just drop the whole mantra thing and just stick with good ole Judeo monotheism. So instead of his mantra, I replaced one of my own - "G-d is the essence of everything". For who knows who Tom would have had me praying to?

As a lure to get everyone to come back



to a second session, Tom announced that the mantra being taught was a general mantra not specifically picked for each person's particular soul. However, should you come to next week's session, an authentic guru will come to campus, read into each and everyone's soul, and give them the mantra that's miraculously meant for them. A few people grumbled, "Yeah, right." I also didn't believe this stuff, but nevertheless, I was curious what it would be like to meet a real live guru.

The great day came, and I was to meet the telepathic soul-reading guru from India. It was to be a personal meeting one-on-one in the Student Activities Center. The room reserved for the guru was a nice conference room. Comfortable new chairs. Heavy table with a maple-wood veneer. Yet, oddly enough, the great guru was sitting in a robe and cross-legged on the floor. He motioned me to do the same.

Once seated, I started to size up the guru. It was the dead of a New England winter and this guy was wearing nothing but a thin robe, no socks and sandals. Look, I would have been impressed at the power of mind over matter if the guru hadn't had a glowing red irritated runny nose and wasn't sitting amongst a pile of crumpled tissues. After a couple of minutes, I got the picture – this guy may very well be a legitimate guru, but he was for sure a complete idiot. It's a good thing that my mother wasn't around, or else she'd have had him bound and gagged in a down jacket

while being fed chicken soup intravenously.

At the time, I shared my guru experience with one of the orthodox professors of the Judaic Studies Department. He smiled and said, "A Jew is one whose head is in the clouds, but whose feet are always on the ground." I.e. – no matter how spiritual you get, you just gotta be normal.

So that's it – normal it was. I went back to partying, fitting in Chabad Friday Night dinners in between and continued having a grand ole time. But by then, something was already stirring inside of me. I guess you can call it "the soul." It's like a person goes through life with two pairs of glasses. Sometimes one may check out the scene with one pair of glasses, and sometimes one may choose to check out the same scene with the other pair of glasses. However, the significance is that these glasses are so different that, depending upon which pair of glasses you choose to wear, the experience will differ dramatically.

I guess you could say that this is how one could describe the body vis-à-vis the soul. They're like "glasses" for one's sense of consciousness. If one wears the "glasses" of the body, then all of one's sensations and experiences will be defined by the pleasures of the physical – fast cars, fast money and... er... fast food. However, should one wear the "glasses" of the soul, then suddenly the same scene will engender a different sense of consciousness. And thus, instead of seeking the pleasures of the physical, one will seek the pleasure of the spiritual.

A story is told of the great and very spiritually accomplished Rabbi, Reb Aharon of Karlin. As a Chassidic Rebbe, his status was more of a living saint from whose very being illuminated nothing but moral righteousness and G-dly dedication. One day, Reb Aharon was eating an apple. And, since it is a practice in Judaism to acknowledge the blessings of G-d in all that one does, Reb Aharon made the appropriate blessing before eating the apple, "Blessed are You G-d, Ruler of the Universe who has created the fruits of the tree."

As he was eating, he noticed a certain Chassidic follower of his staring at him in deep contemplation. Reb Aharon subsequently approached this Chassid and said, "I know what you are thinking."

The Chassid was suddenly jolted out of his revelry, beheld that Reb Aharon was before him and didn't know what to say.

"You are thinking," continued Reb Aharon, "about what is the difference between you and me. You are thinking, 'Well he is a Chassid, and I am a Chassid. He makes a blessing and eats an apple, and I make a blessing and eat an apple. So why am I only a Chassidic follower and he is a great Rebbe?'"

"Well, I shall tell you the difference. The difference is – what motivates a person to eat an apple. A Chassid is a normal person. When he gets hungry, he takes a food item such as an apple and proceeds to eat. However, since according to Jewish practice, he may not eat until he makes the proper blessing, he first pronounces the blessing and then goes on to eat. A Rebbe, however, is different. A Rebbe may ponder the greatness of G-d and then suddenly be inspired to make a blessing. However, since according to Jewish law one may not make a blessing without a purpose, therefore, for me to make a blessing I must first take a food item such as an apple and then proceed onto the blessing..."

For it all depends upon which "glasses" you are wearing.

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# SEXIEST ACCENTS!



We polled the staff of The Patriot to find out which foreign (and some not so foreign) accents revved their engines the most and here is what we found.



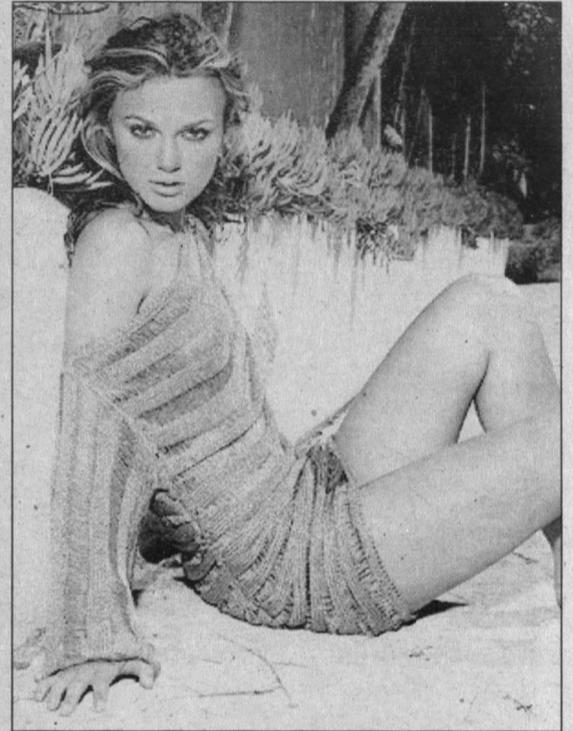
- Italian accents got a whopping six votes, tying for first place with Southern accents, also getting six votes.

- Australian accents came in second with five votes.

- British accents came in third with four votes.

- Honorable mention: Irish, Russian, German, Boston, Arab

*Accents: Keeping it sexy since the beginning of time.*



## President Bush to Request Surge

### Bush is Expected to Request 21,500 More Restroom Attendants in Wake of Athens Embassy Bombing

Satire By Damian Geminder

President George W. Bush is expected to announce a massive increase in toilet scrubbers, towel holders and arse wipers after a rocket-propelled grenade was shot into the toilets of the U.S. embassy in Athens, sources say.

Mr. Bush told the nation in his Wednesday address: "Our restroom attendants will have a well-defined mission: to help Grecians clear and secure stalls, to help them protect the local population and to help ensure that the Grecian forces left behind are capable of providing the paper towels that Athens needs."

Congressional Democrats, along with some Republicans, are united against the plan, however, and are threatening to cut off funds to what they call an escalation.

"In ordering more restroom attendants to Greece, the President is ignoring the strong advice of most of his own top generals," General John Abizaid -- until recently, the commanding general in Iraq and Afghanistan -- said. And I quote, "More American forces prevent the Greeks from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future," end of quote," Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin



said in the Democratic response.

Polls show that 55 percent of Americans support withdrawing some or all U.S. restroom attendants from Greece, with support for no change in attendant levels or an increase in the number of attendants at just 21 and 17 per cent, respectively.

Local yokel Cletus McCoy supports sending more attendants: "Well, considerin' them Greeks er responsible fer nan-unlehvun, I thank we shud go in an' nuke the whole Balkan peninsula."

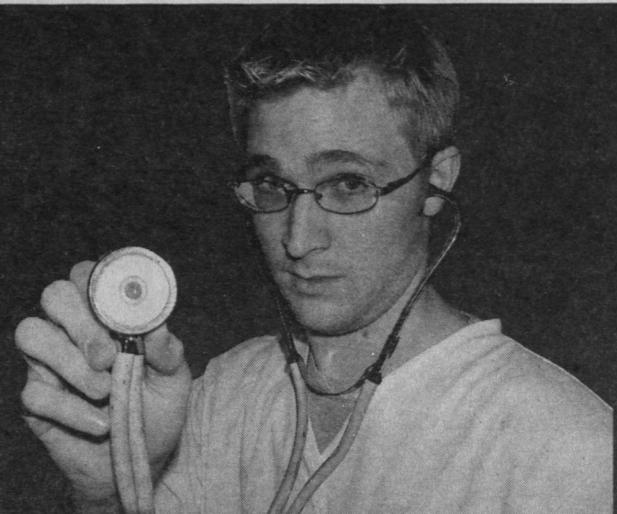
Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan paused from between sips of Jamba Juice to rant, "NO WAR! No more children must die for George Bush's illegal war for hummus!"

It is possible that Congress may vote to cut off funds to American peace-keeping efforts in restrooms throughout the Mediterranean, to which White House Press Secretary Tony Snow retorted, "Democrats are pussies," and proceeded to bitch-slap Helen Thomas with his microphone whilst screaming, "That'll teach you to grow old, you hag!"

Patriot Labs Presents:

# Medical Myths Exposed

With "Doctor" Erik



## Does Eating Chocolate Cause Acne?

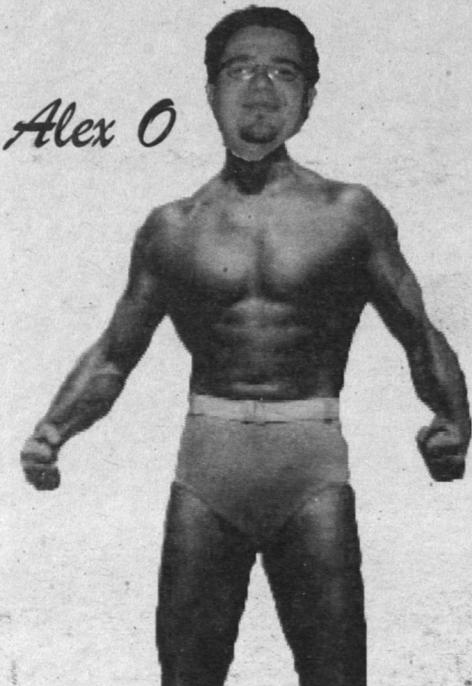
I should probably start off by saying that the exact cause of acne is not known. The usual victims of acne are teenagers, as hormones seem to be involved in the problem, but adults can also develop acne. That said, scientists have done extensive research into the topic and have found that many of the common "reasons" people have come up with for why they have acne are completely wrong. And they've also found many ways to treat the condition.

So does eating chocolate cause acne? No. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, "While some people feel that their acne is aggravated by certain foods, particularly chocolate, colas, peanuts, shellfish, and some fatty foods, there is no scientific evidence that suggests food causes or influences acne." That said, obviously, if you seem to break out after eating a particular food, stop eating it. You may be experiencing an allergic reaction.

I might also point out that scientists have found that dirt doesn't even seem to be a cause of acne. Many make the mistake of practically scrubbing off their skin to try to ward off pimples, but they're likely only making the problem worse, by irritating the skin. Instead, according to WebMD, "most doctors recommend that people with acne gently wash their skin with a mild cleanser, once in the morning and once in the evening."

There's no magic cure for acne, but for mild forms of it, medicines with benzoyl peroxide (like Clearasil) are usually sufficient. If the problem persists, a dermatologist can prescribe something stronger. But the important thing is to take care of the problem if it's severe. Though acne can't hurt you, it can leave you with permanent scars on your face. So don't wait too long before seeing a doctor if you can't keep it under control with over the counter remedies.

## Alex Ovtcharenko, World's No. 1 Man's Man, Says: Pay Respect to Anna Nicole Smith



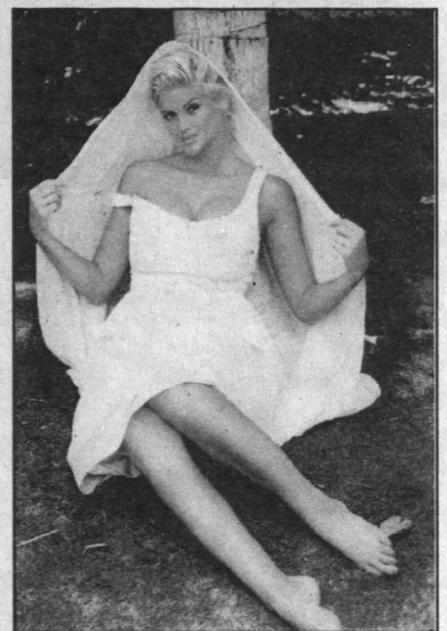
**Warning: This column should not be read by those who are easily offended and/or too dumb to realize that this article's not meant to be taken seriously.**

Unfortunately, as this issue was about to go to press, a sad event washed over our lives. Anna Nicole Smith, a former hillbilly, stripper, gold-digger and reality TV star passed away.

Now, this sad event has already upset me greatly, as I am a large fan of her and was looking forward to cleaning the bats out of her belfry, but it is what followed that really grinded my gears: ridicule of her appearance, lifestyle and so on.

Let me address this in a few short paragraphs. The first camp of objections comes from the holier-than-thou brigade. These fine folks bash Ms. Smith on the fact that she became filthy, stinking rich by marrying a walking mummy. Now, let's look at this: po' trailer trash redneck girl lap-danced her way to being a millionaire. That, my friends, is capitalism at it's finest, and I have already stated that being anti-capitalist is definitely un-Manly. Hell, she is the epitome of the American Dream! Who cares that she got where she did so with her anatomy instead of her brains, there's no provision in the Constitution that demands you can't use your slippery slide to achieve your Pursuit of Happiness. The fact that she ain't have no fancy Yankee education and still made more money than those no-goodnik critics of hers will light up a nice fire under their pompous asses.

The second group that has something snarky to say are usually unattractive females. Yes, beauty's in the eyes of the beholder and all of that jazz, but let's faces it; the people who hate her appearance are usually girls who are unfit for a proper romp in the hay. If you lack childbearing hips and make fun of her being a large lady, you look like a jealous idiot. And that's the root of the problem folks, jealousy. Women who are not of her ample shape are steaming with hate and anger, for they will never be able to land a proper testosterone-laden husband. Don't believe me? Then consider this: if your woman has the shape of a 12 year old boy, what does it say about you? Not that there's anything wrong with your preference, but you might as well drop the charade and go to this little place in Manhattan called The Cock. Once you are there, you'll know what to do. However, just to be fair here, not all skinny women are bitter hags. Quite far from it actually. But many simply do not possess the necessary proportions to attract a ravishing viking. Ladies, fear not, for I have a solution: The Manly-Man Diet. It is a very complicated process, but to give you the general idea, it involves copious amounts of fried chicken, booze and ice cream. Please contact me for further details; I might even personally assist a lucky few with their weight-gain exercises. Heck, if you even remotely resemble Anna Nicole



Smith and are willing to wear a blonde wig for an hour or so, I'm available. Email me at aovtcharenko@stonybrookpatriot.com, and we'll discuss the details.

Yeah. I like full-figured women. Got a problem with that, hippie?

In conclusion, we love you, Anna Nicole Smith. You were some of my hottest fantasy material. Now you are giving lap-dances to angels. R.I.P.

*Patriot Labs  
Presents:*

# PUTTING ROTH POND to the test

By Jimmy Davis

Each year, as part of a beloved Stony Brook ritual, teams of highly excitable college students wade into Roth Pond with barely buoyant cardboard contraptions, brightly colored and fashioned into novel shapes. High on school spirit and duct tape fumes, they proceed to race across this body of what is presumably water. Whether you're a yearly attendant at the Roth Pond Regatta, or if you just happened to catch the miraculous crossing of the clown, you probably have a few questions about the pond.

"Why is the froth brown?" "Does it always smell like that?" "Is that, um ... is that a desk in there?"

The answers to these three questions are "nobody knows," "yes," and "probably yours." Public opinion of the Roth Pond ranges from reserved disgust to all-out terror. But the question that nobody asks is: "Has the Roth Pond ever been tested? How badly will it disrupt my biological processes?" I don't know if Stony Brook has ever conducted an official test of the Roth Pond water. The website's search function is marginally functional, at best. So, armed with a drinking water test kit and a handful of rowdy lab assistants, I set out to determine once and for all just what is in that pond of ours.

As far as we know, the pond has yet to kill anyone, with dozens of students surviving each year's regatta. The test kit, however, allowed me to test for a multitude of factors that could render the water harmful, should you meet with the misfortune of swallow-

CONTAMINANT/CONDITION	TEST 1	TEST 2	ACTION LEVEL
Nitrates †	0 ppm	0 ppm	> 10 ppm
Nitrites †	0 ppm	0 ppm	> 1 ppm
Total Alkalinity †	0 ppm	0 ppm	> 180 ppm
pH ‡	7	7	<7 or >8.5
Total Hardness †	<b>120 ppm (results for this test not 100% clear)</b>	<b>120 ppm</b>	> 50 ppm
Iron †	0 ppm	0 ppm	> .3 ppm
Copper †	0 ppm	0 ppm	> 1.3 ppm
Total Chlorine ‡	0 ppm	0 ppm	Any
Coliform Bacteria †	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Positive</b>	Any
Pesticide †	Negative	Negative	> 3 ppb (atrazine) > 4 ppb (simazine)
Lead †	Negative	Negative	> 15 ppb

† EPA standards.  
‡ Tests not required by EPA, but recommended by American Water Service.  
Results in bold indicate factors that make the water unsuitable for drinking.

ing it. First up were the tests for nitrates and nitrites, harmful chemicals usually resulting from heavy use of fertilizers. The test showed no measurable amount of nitrates or nitrites in the pond. I was somewhat surprised, however, by the zero alkalinity and neutral (7) pH of the pond. I expected the decomposition at the bottom and the fish urine in the water to upset that one way or the other. The hardness test (for dissolved minerals) was a little difficult because the test strip really did not closely match any of the examples in the booklet. The closest, as I could determine, was 120 ppm (parts per million), which indicates very hard water. Don't quote me on that. It may or

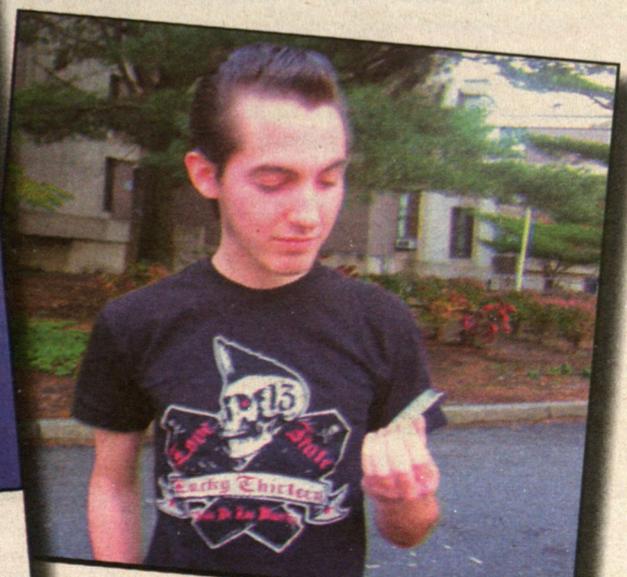
may not be harmful, but is definitely not convenient to bathe in. After this one apparent blemish on the water's record of cleanliness, I was surprised to find zero concentrations for iron, copper, and chlorine. Pesticide and lead tests also came up spotless.

Needless to say, I was surprised. As I waited for the 48-hour bacteria test, I almost contemplated having a Roth taste test. However, upon the return of the bacteria results, the water clearly tested

positive for coliform bacteria. If you're not up on your biology—it comes from feces. So the bottom line is, if that pond somehow starts looking appealing to you ... do not drink it. It will probably mess up your entrails worse than Taco Bell found in the street. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is science.



*Joe takes the necessary safety precautions to make sure Jimmy doesn't take a dip in Roth.*



*Trust us, Jimmy might not look like a scientist, but he is.*

## GAMER'S GUIDE



By Damon Vetere, with unnecessary commentary by Alex Ovcharenko

After a long hiatus, the Patriot's own Damon V. has returned to the hallowed halls of gaming to bring you the reviews for the serious gamer in all of us. After all, we're now in the dark days

of winter and the fall blitz of game releases that steamrolled into the Christmas season is far behind us. While the fall may have seen the release of both the PS3 and Wii systems, the winter is pretty quiet for software releases (especially on the Xbox 360 front). While the major gaming companies lick their wounds from the holiday brawls, we

gamers get a break from that particular release onslaught. Therefore, in this edition of the gamers guide, we search for those winter gems that will keep you busy until the sun starts shining again and the snow finally melts (if we ever get any). Three cheers for global warming!

## LOST PLANET



What's better than playing a game that takes place on a frozen planet in the dead of winter? Apparently not much, since Microsoft placed its January sales in Capcom's hands in the hopes that the Japanese-based developer would deliver – and it certainly seems they have. Many critics were skeptical about Lost Planet, simply because they felt the game would seem monotonous, with the entire storyline taking place in the snow. Add that to the fact that most action adventure games' worst moments are during the infamous "snow levels", (a.k.a the "Hoth syndrome" – Alex), and you could see how some games were less than enthusiastic. It seems that Capcom has silenced the critics, managing to pull off a solid action game with some very cool moments involving large insect-like creatures (Because, you know, THAT hasn't been done to death – A.) that inhabit the planet. Lost Planet incorporates the use of mechs in a role that stays interesting, whether it involves needing more firepower to take down the game's monstrous bosses, or using them in several platforming elements (I never thought I'd see the day a game manages to ruin both mechs AND platform action for me – A.) to break up the shooting segments. While the weapons of the game are fairly cookie-cutter for an action game, the

mechs help to scale up the carnage – and that's always a good thing. As far as graphics are concerned, Lost Planet certainly uses the power of the XBOX 360 (I would have really loved for there to be a "blows away" reference, so I can point out that it sure does blow – A.). The creatures are very detailed, and are in stark contrast to the dull, muted environments, that includes either decaying urban ruins, frozen wastelands or ice caves (yep, original thought galore – A.). In order to keep up the pace of the game, you are always losing thermal energy ('cause its cold, get it, COLD! – A.), and must kill the creatures or find thermal hot spots to fight off the cold. Essentially this game is strongest in single-player, as the multiplayer is not strong enough to pull you away from Gear of War or Rainbow Six: Vegas. However, if you are looking for a single-player campaign to keep you satisfied until the spring (because, you know, Halo players have such long attention spans – A.), Lost Planet is a game that will do that.



## CRACKDOWN



Yet another Grand Theft Auto rip-off? Not really. Crackdown involves a huge, open-ended city and gives you complete control to do whatever you want, that's where the similarities end. Scheduled for re-

lease February 20th, Crackdown puts you in control of a sort of "super cop", with genetic enhancements that allow you to use the city as your personal playground. You have the ability to level-up your stats, whether it be sniping, driving, and even jumping. Want to leap from rooftop to rooftop like that happy-go-lucky Tobey Maguire in Spider-Man? Now you can! Kidding aside, Crackdown certainly talks the talk. As your abilities develop, so do your methods of killing, which will allow players to take down gang leaders (which, to no one's shock, is the premise of the game) in any way they deem necessary and entertaining. What should also open up your wallets is the co-op slugfest, which will let you and a buddy take down crime together. This feature may be the best aspect of the game, since you and a friend can build off each other's strengths. Maybe one player is built like a tank, while the other is fast and agile. The fun could be endless, if done right. As it is now, Crackdown should definitely be



on your radar, as February is looked to be as dismal as January was in the previous years. And I wouldn't wait in picking up this title up, since Microsoft recently announced that

Halo 3 Beta will be available with all Crackdown reserves. Yep, that is correct, read that line again, put down this curiously captivating issue of the Patriot and run, not walk, to

your local purveyor of video game goodness to reserve Crackdown. One can almost hear the exquisite noise of urban warfare in the distance...

Let The Patriot's own style expert,  
Amanda Fredericks, show you what's

# HOT RIGHT NOW!

*Style By Mandy*



Has the cold weather gotten the best of you and your unique fashion sense? Have you fallen into the Ugg(ly) boots and The North Face jacket trend for "comfort," not conformity? Either way it's getting old and pathetic. Ugg boots are not comfortable enough for everyone and their mother to own a pair and North Face jackets offer the same comfort as any other down filled jacket. Not to mention how incredibly ugly and three years ago Uggs are or how incredibly simple and plain a \$300 North Face jacket is. I understand this tremendous desire to fit in with all the cool kids on campus, but I promise you can be even cooler if you show them a bit more creativity in your winter gear.

Here I give you different choices that will not only catch everyone's eye, but possibly put an end to The North Face's and Ugg's attempt at taking over the world once and for all. Not only are these knee length jackets extremely cute and fashionable, but they are WARMER than THE NORTH FACE!! Yes that's right, warmer. Here's how it works: same down stuffing, more material, therefore warmer, and considerably much more feminine and attractive. Please retire your black North Face now; it's no longer cool when EVERYONE has one!

As for the Uggs, they were ugly when they were first introduced; they are even worse now, three years later. Yes they are warm, but we did manage without them in a much more fashionable world. If you're really afraid of moving away from suede and fur, at least go for something more unique. Try this knee length, wedge heeled Coach boots. Again they offer much more femininity than the chestnut Ugg boots that make your feet look 4 sizes larger than they actually are.

Of course it's important to keep comfort in mind first in this treacherous weather; however, we have to remember to be as unique as possible at all times, and dress to make a statement rather than agree with a statement that's already been made one too many times.



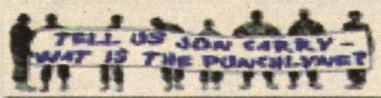
*Shauna Smith's*

# REPUBLICAN GEAR

FOR ALL THE GUYS WHO NEED A GIRL TO PICK OUT WHAT THEY WEAR



Shirt reads: Life's A Bitch, So Don't Vote For One! Show the world what you think about Hillary running for president.



John Kerry, you sir, are the stupid one. Continue supporting our troops with this great sticker.



See, what the statue of liberty REALLY means is "give me your tired, your poor, your LEGAL masses..." Other flags avail.

# When Darkkness Falls

By Robert Romano

By day, Prakis was an ordinary enough city. Resting in southern Nyanesius upon the Fiorenan Peninsula, the first to rise in Prakis were the fishermen and longshoremen, and the docks were bustling with activity and labor by midmorning when the shops and markets would open. The local temples administered education to those less fortunate, while those that could afford it, usually nobles, had purchased tutors as slaves to teach their children to read the classics and learn the ways of civic life. Those studies would not end until the afternoon, when the students would return to their homes. Otherwise, most of the youth worked as apprentices with either their masters or their parents, to one day take over their trade or store, consigned to the business for the rest of their days. Much like other cities during this period, young adults would dream of adventure beyond the city's protective walls, and hearing tales of knights, dragons, or dark sorcerers, these city folk armed themselves and ventured out into the woods seeking the riches of Ulfelwyn, the lost elven kingdom, never to return.

Ruled by a long line of Dartotian nobles, Prakis' internal government had traditionally been one of relative stability. Though, that has not precluded the possibility of a family feud or the overthrow of one brother by a jealous younger sibling, as happened most recently when Varius Nowell murdered Trudor to take rule in 897 SR. Only twenty winters old at the time, Varius slit his brother's throat while Trudor ate figs with his twin daughters, only six at the time. It was ordinary enough for the populace to accept a sudden change in ruling lords. So long as the noble family murdered each other, they would not be bothered with brutalizing the populace at large, or with raising taxes.

Such was the depraved yet inspired political vision of the regime. Despite the state-regulated prostitution and narcotics trade which corrupted the youth of Prakis and beyond, the waste of state revenue on sumptuous affairs, and a military draft which found Prakis' sons deployed throughout the region to deal with the emergence of the republic of Aten as Prakis' rival for supremacy of the Fiorenan Peninsula, the strong merchant class was allowed to profit from their surroundings quite comfortably. Even the mysterious rulers of the Darkwood, once the bright elven kingdom of Ulfelwyn, who had recently expanded their influence into Prakis, were welcomed by traders and shipping captains alike for the vast sums of bullion they invested into Prakis' economy. Even the corrupt temple to Dantuea, the cruel sister of the Earthdragon, served the ends of creating a power base for one of Danaa's most important religions, the forbidden Dantueaism. Even with their horrifying activities of raising the dead, this too could be justified since necromancers and other pilgrims often visited Prakis as a holy city, as it was in this region that the dead first rose from the grave. These visitors too brought coin and sought lodging. Allowing the business interests to continue to make money had served the ruling family for centuries as a means to keeping the peace.

If one were to ask an Atenian historian at the time, with all of his biases, he might have reported that Prakis, since the fall of the elves from Ulfelwyn, had been dominated and thus ruled by the dark forces which replaced them. Varius the Cruel, Lord of Prakis, long familiar with these slights of Aten's academia, knew better. Even at his relatively young age, he knew that his ancestors of old had premised coexistence with the elves upon beneficial trade relations and the wide protection of having a strong kingdom on one's borders afforded, and so too must he deal with the rulers of the Darkwood, even their insane cult of the undead they brought with them. Business had never been better, and as long as he controlled a vast empire of wealth, power, militias, and consorts, the surrounding lands of Prakis, and most importantly, as long as the stream of revenue continued to flow into the family's coffers, he continued to trust in the wisdom of his forefathers.

He had spent much of his childhood studying the Nowell family archives, reading of their rise to power and the assorted betrayals and power plays that had colored their history, and soon he realized that there was no reason not to seize control of the city. Trudor was an oaf anyway, Varius had reasoned, trusting of his kin even in his dying breath, and certainly was not fit to oversee the family's multitude of operations, in particular the opium trade. The shipment of poppies from the Darkwood was the Nowell's most profitable of trades, and it gave Varius comfort to know that their corruption would weaken his enemies abroad. As long as the army and militias were well-disciplined, he reasoned, the negative effects upon the city's civilian population were negligible to him.

Instead, Varius was resolved to expanding his family's influence abroad. Recent

setbacks against Prakis' barbarian neighbors to the South, the Fratenics, had necessitated a new push be made not only to retake the fortress upon Rocky Point, but to use Prakis' naval advantage to begin laying claim to villages along the coasts of the Greysea. This would in turn shore up Prakis' control of trade from the Fiorenan Peninsula's east coast to the land's north and east. Soon, Varius thought, his grip would extend southward to Aten, securing their monopoly on steel. Like his predecessors, Varius envisioned expanding Prakis' empire to bring the whole peninsula under his rule. Only then, he thought, could Prakis control trade northwest through Nappol's Sea. Nevertheless, like his predecessors, Varius stood against some of the more formidable forces in the region: the Congress of Aten, the exiled elves of Ulfelwyn who had taken refuge in Atenwood, the grey dragons of Dragon's Claw, and the insurgent barbarians of the Nyanatzian Highlands.

During the first two years of his reign, Varius had invested much time into studying the politics of his rivals in Aten. He considered their polity, the competing noble families vying for control there, and also spent much coin to influence those politics. From within, he reasoned, the light of Aten could be extinguished. The free people there were her greatest asset, and so it was they who must be broken. Their pride must be countered, and their exceptionalism destroyed. As much as he envied their wealth, he despised the idea that a commoner could become a delegate to Aten's Congress, and he feared that as republican rule spread throughout the region, so too might it one day find its way to Prakis. Varius also knew of Aten's special relationship with Danaa's greatest power, the Nyanatzian Empire. The longer Aten remained under popular rule, the more likely it was that the Empire would eventually send aid for Aten's war against Prakis. Indeed, undermining Atenian relations with the Empire was one of his main goals, since if he could rule out their intervention in the conflict he could continue to justify the costs of war to the lesser lords and ladies of the Prakitian regime. Adapting well to his role as Lord of Prakis, Varius since his ascension had been intimately overseeing the city-state's strategic interests with an eye to securing dominance over her neighbors.

The city's present engagements found its forces deployed throughout the Darkwood, along the northern borders with Thraceadonia, on the island of Myneus off the coast of Thet, protecting traffic throughout the Greysea, especially high priority shipments, and of course, embroiled in sieges on Rocky Point and on Fratenic villages across the Nyanatzian Highlands. As

the campaign was about to enter its first summer, both the Atenian and Prakitian forces were busy fortifying their positions, supplying the front, and acquiring intelligence on potential maneuvers each side, Aten and Prakis, might engage in. Varius was not impatient and he was determined to bleed the Atenian occupation of Rocky Point by infiltrating the fortress and its surrounding villages, setting up sabotage missions, and slowly but certainly ensuring scores of casualties. As the war dragged forward, it would eventually come to pass that the current political opposition in Aten would achieve a majority, and both their rhetoric of withdrawing forces from Rocky Point and leaving the Fratenics and Prakitians to their own devices could become state policy.

As a matter of diplomacy, Varius had recently reached out to Atenian Congressional delegates to make overtures of peace, offering a treaty with Aten over the terms of the Fratenics' independence in exchange for a troops withdrawal and Atenian assurances that neither Aten or the Nyanatzian Empire would invade Prakis or take any more protectorates on Prakitian borders. Though those delegates were not warmly received in Aten upon their return, he knew that merely making the offer could win him sympathy in Aten, since Prakis had not overtly threatened Aten when the Atenians had intervened on behalf of the Fratenics in 898 SR to liberate Rocky Point from Prakis' control.

The loss of the fortress, Rocky Point, was a major setback for Varius, who had barely been in power for a year when the provincial control over it had fallen to Aten. Losing the trade route through the Fratenic lands west of Rocky Point was such an emergency that he immediately began making preparations for war. Varius was determined to use Aten's invasion of Prakitian lands to secure an alliance with the Darkwood and to rally the extended Nowell family with a common purpose. These demands of liberty from the Fratenics were just the beginning, he had argued to his fellow nobles, and the outcome of the war with Aten



Continued on page 13

# American Idle

By Alex Ovtcharenko

Reality TV is filled with semi-retarded d-list celebrities, court shows with incompetent nincompoop judges, and the entire QVC network has its stable of bored valium-popping shopaholic housewives. Game Shows have contestants that make Paris Hilton seem like a literary genius. And we've got American Idol where often talent-less hacks and record company creations are shoved down our throats and regurgitated into pop idols.

Are Americans paying attention to anything BUT television? It seems unlikely at this point. When was the last time any of us turned on C-SPAN and watched the U.S. Congress debate legislation that will affect not only us, but our future offspring for generations to come? Even we, the staff of The Patriot, a very political newspaper, are guilty of falling into the black hole that is the idiot box.

Do more people vote for the American Idol than all the political elections within this proud nation? You may or may not be surprised to know that the season finale last year of the show received more votes than President Bush did in his 2004 reelection. With such horrible election turnouts, it wouldn't be too far-fetched of an idea to



suggest that celebrities eclipse politicians in their influence over the masses. We have already seen this with the elections of Jesse Ventura and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

America is idle about its own political representatives. America is idle about its future as a nation. We must start paying attention to our elected leaders more than the next episode of 24. The future is in our hands, not



in the hands of entertainers. Those who insist on trying to "educate" us about how the world should run need to be reminded that propaganda is not their job and they should go back to entertaining us. Should we really care what Alec Baldwin or Jeannine Garofalo thinks?

The cross-roads are near. We must be smarter and more involved in the democratic

process. And sometimes, just sometimes, we need to grab the clicker and turn off the television.

Now, I'm off to watch Heroes.

**Brian Holt and Robert Romano contributed to this piece.**



## THE MODERN FEMINIST GUIDE



### Chapter One: Going on a Date

By Lena Tumasyan

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

How does a modern feminist go on a date, AKA an evening out between a guy and a girl? I will begin the most confusing of matters: payment.

Rules of dating imply that in order for such an evening to count as a "date," one of the people, traditionally the guy, has to pay. Now, all you girly girls out there might be thinking "yay," and all you feminists are thinking "the horror." Why? Because you want to split the cost?

First, offer to help pay and be ready if he agrees. Second, do NOT pretend you can't find your wallet. Third, do NOT offer to pay if you already know you only have \$2 on you. If, however, he insists on paying for it himself, and unless you want to keep this guy a friend for life, then let him pay. After all, you do want the evening to feel special. How is this equal? Well, simple. After he pays (if you still want to see him again) say "Promise to let me get the next one?" This way, the rules of dating are still in effect... one partner is paying for the other with out reducing the evening to "friends hanging out" status. If there is no second date, then too bad for him; you offered, and things can't always be fair.

So, on the second date (the prospect of a second date sounds good, doesn't it?), when you call him up, offer to take him out. If he let you choose the place last time, he picks this time. Guys (are you still reading?), if a girl invites you out on another date (and offers to pay), this does not - I repeat does NOT - mean she's yearning to land on your throbbing wand

of horniness; she just wants to be fair. This does not mean you can abuse the privilege of her paying by going to a ridiculously expensive place or wasting her time for a free meal. Go only if you really want to see her again. By this time you should have a pretty good idea of what this girl can afford. If you don't, then play on the safe side by going to a place with same or lower price range as when you paid. And so... you can take turns paying and still keep this romantic. Also, take turns coming up with ideas of what you'll be doing when you meet.

If one (or both) of you are dead broke, offer to do something cheap or free. If the weather is good, go to a park, the beach, for a walk, find coupons to museums and art galleries, etc. If both of you go to college on the same campus, there are tons of free activities there. Pick one, call it a "date" out loud and go with it. Have a few dollars you can spare? Pick a coffee house with live music. You get a preview of pucking lips and also have something to discuss. Some coffeehouses may also have board games - let your wits to the rest.

Most importantly, if you're broke, be honest. Maybe he or she will help you out, and you can help him or her out later. For guys this also means that a potential money sucker won't be extending her tentacles anymore on you. Also, girls should be ready to accept that guys don't always have the cash, and it's ok. You two just need to be creative.

The second most confusing of matters on a feminist date is arriving there.

The optimal place for a feminist couple to meet is somewhere in the middle, geographically. Count by miles or the amount of time it takes to get to a set location. On the first date (unless you two already know each other well enough from before) both of you should be arriving at the meeting place independently. For the evening to count as a date it is

not necessary to have a guy picking up the girl, and it may be downright creepy if the individuals don't know enough other well enough.

After the first date, if both of you have cars, then great! You should both take turns picking each other up. Girls...if you are picking up a guy, try not to have a messy, tampon-loaded car; you want to give a good impression of your possessions. Guys, same thing, replace "tampon" with "FHM Magazine."

However, "who picks up whom" is a touchy subject for many-a-guy, because if he doesn't have a car he might be sensitive about it, he might feel inept. In a feminist couple, there is no need for such sensitivity because a feminist female won't be expecting something so traditional like a male having to pick her up (on the first date and every date thereafter).

If only one of you has a car, the person without the car should be openly willing, and offering, to make his or her own way to either the other person's house or to the set meeting spot. If the person with the car is generous enough to pick up the person without the car, then accept, but both of you shouldn't allow this to become a habit. If only one person is doing the "picking up" or "dropping off" constantly, without any compensation, this creates a very unfair situation in relation to the time/energy/money involved, and gets even more unfair as the distance between the two people grows geographically. Not only does taking turns about who picks up whom and where to meet up help people to get to know each other from different locations and in different settings, but it also creates equality for a positive, fair relationship. After all, a woman (or a man) drawn out from always having to pick up the other isn't in the mood for "other things." But we'll discuss that another time.

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

# Opinions

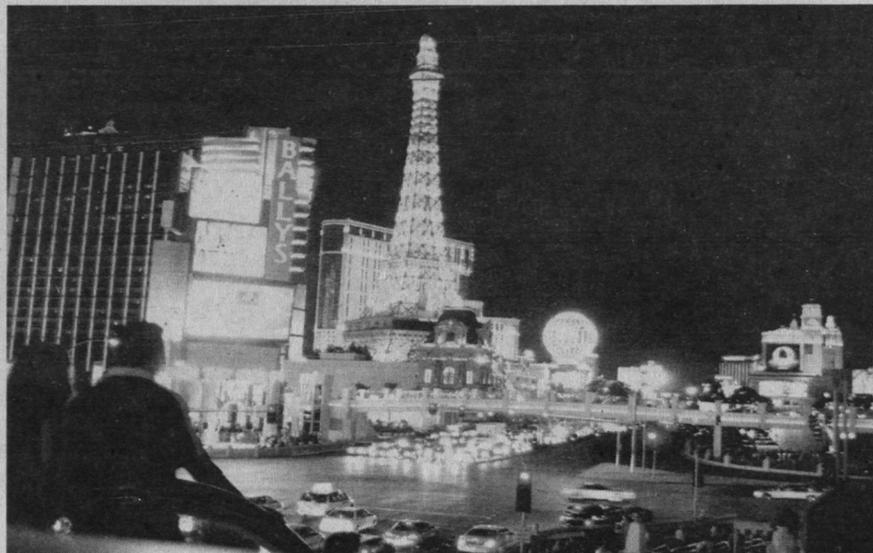
## Safety Without a Veil of Secrecy

By Bryce Cullinane

I live in California and every time I travel to and from Stony Brook I always end up laying over in Las Vegas. I made two trips through Sin City last month and each time I marveled at the sight of slot machines just 20 feet away from the terminals. As I sat waiting for my flight, trying to read, I couldn't get the sound of high pitch casino buzzers and the clanking of falling coins from my head. As I agonizingly listened, I realized how similar being a gambler in a airport casino is to being an American citizen. It is a little amusing, but true. As a citizen, especially in a political sense, political support is a gamble. Individual convictions are reached and support is given to a policy or a candidate in the hopes that it will pay off. Gallup and other companies poll Americans for our opinions on economic, social and other matters, and we hope that government leaders respond to these. We hope that our support will pay off, both for us personally and for our country.

The amount of energy and passion we invest in our political convictions vary. In some cases, if our ideologies do not become government policy, we are not overly worried because neither our security nor our system of government are placed in jeopardy. However, with other issues, the stakes are incredibly high. Some issues heavily influence the safety of our nation and our form of government. In the next few months, we will be confronted by an increasingly critical issue; the availability of information between the President and Congress. Congress often wants information, and in many cases, the executive would rather that information remain secret.

This issue is different from others, not only because it influences our security and



way of life, but because it is rarely resolved by the law. This issue is almost always decided by political pressures. Throughout American history, almost all conflicts over access to information between the President and Congress have been decided by politics. Both branches have innumerable tools with which to defend their claims. The President has precedent, the doctrine of the separation of powers, and most importantly U.S. v. Nixon. Congress has the undeniable power to investigate and inquire, the power oversight, and consequently it can use its authority to withhold funds and suspend appointments to compel disclosure. This often leads to stalemate. These types of conflict are rarely resolved by the judiciary, which usually refuses to adjudicate this political issue. Since the law cannot clearly solve this conflict, it is most often the voice of the American people that decides. It is clear that the rule of law becomes secondary, but this is an entirely different topic for another discussion. Let it

be simply reiterated that in this situation, the voice of the majority becomes the dominant factor of resolution.

Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, conflict over availability of information has not been a major point of contention between federal branches. Several Republican controlled Congresses have allowed President Bush to withhold requested information, especially where the White House has declared that the "national security" is related. President Bush has made clear that if certain information is released to Congress, the safety of the nation will be jeopardized. His rhetoric in front of Congress on September 20, 2001 seem to be continuously repeated, "Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack."

We are now in the year 2007 and we are entering a new chapter of American history. The 2006 elections gave control of Congress to Democrats and they are not as willing as their Republican predecessors to allow the

President to withhold information. Speaking of White House information, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said that "There are going to be many, many hearings." On January 9, of this year, speaking of proposed troop increases, Senator Edward Kennedy demanded that "no additional troops can be sent and no additional dollars can be spent on such an [military] escalation, unless and until Congress approves the President's plan." He spoke for the Democratic majority of Congress, no additional support would be given to the President without Congressional access to national security information.

In the following weeks, and maybe months, there will be many Congressional hearings and much White House information will be requested. Each side, executive and legislative, will ask the American people for their support. It is likely that the White House will refuse to disclose some information and will insist that releasing information to Congress will threaten the security of the nation. It will claim that releasing information can only aid terrorism. In addition, it will add numerous arguments of legal and precedential nature. In reply, Congress will likely argue that the successful future of the nation depends on access to information and that the separation of powers, along with other legal mandates, require that President Bush release information to Congressional Committees. This will likely produce a gridlock in which the opinion of the American people will likely be the deciding factor. As Americans, as patriots, what should we do?

We must contemplate, we must think and we must weigh the options. By allowing President Bush to withhold information, we are supposedly keeping our nation safe from terrorism. But what do we sacrifice

Continued on page 14

## Why Do Cultures Collide?

By Alexander Ott

Why do cultures collide? In a world of multiculturalism, cultures retain their national and cultural identity as they remain isolated as they move within their new culture. This is a direct effect from a fundamental shift from traditional American culture towards a more liberal and progressive one. We see this happening before our eyes as the Ancient Romans saw diversity tugging at their empire.

The American experiment, the very fabric of what makes America great, is being torn apart by our quest for diversity and multiculturalism. Europe has been experiencing this change for over a decade. Just ask anyone from France about their North African and Islamic population or ask a Briton about their Islamic population. Germany has faced an onslaught of Slavic and

Turkish immigrants and assimilation to German culture is a key issue in their politics even decades after the first immigrants arrived. These groups reject assimilation and reject western culture as a whole and fight a multicultural war against the western ideals and use their religious and cultural beliefs to pioneer their cause. The push towards more and more liberalism gives Islamic fundamentalists the fuel for their flames of hatred towards the west. It challenges their beliefs, and more importantly isolates America as a place full of an unwanted, decadent, and undesirable culture. Think about this... if Islamic fundamentalists are conservative and are trying to preserve traditionalist ideals, then a more liberal and unrestricted cultural America is the polar opposite of their beliefs and it is what is fueling them to attempt to convert the world to their ideology. America

is not what is on MTV or a how American life is portrayed in a Hollywood movie!

America is now facing the same cultural identity threats as Europe. No longer are immigrants assimilating into American culture as our grandparents or great grandparents did. Only a few generations ago immigrants aspired to be assimilated. These immigrants did not lose their heritage; they just combined it into the American melting pot. Immigrants of today seldom do that. They live in communities that do not assimilate into the mainstream of America. They continue to create a language and cultural divide, and reject western ideals. While America is home of the free and land of the brave, opportunity is what most of these new immigrants choose to seek. Working in America, most often sending money back to their homelands, and utilizing our

resources of jobs and education is what they do to enhance their view of the American dream.

America is the land of opportunity, the land of freedom, but this land that was made for you and me is slowing being eroded by non-assimilating cultures. We have been trained and brainwashed by ideologues to be tolerant to the painstaking feelings of every person and even every living thing. We are told to be careful about what we say, and how we are perceived in a world view. Borat, the comedic character even shows us how over-sensitized we have become, that's why his comedy is so funny. If anyone has seen the Amazing Racist on YouTube you will, have an idea of what I am talking about. In the past 10-15 years we have seen the population of Hispanic, Latin American, and Mexican immigrants explode yet there is not much effort by commu-

nities or our government to assist them in the assimilation process, in fact, they put restrictions on what we can say, do and how we may approach this most difficult problem.

How does America recover from this path of cultural destruction and recreate the American culture under attack? We should speak out on our feelings. We should insist that our government invoke English as our national language and assist people through community outreach to speak it. We have and should continue to befriend immigrants and teach them the American way of life, while they enhance it with respect to their culture. This is what makes Americans and America great. It is Americans working together, and as 9/11 showed us, we as a united country, can achieve further greatness as a model for other nations around the world.

# When Darkness Falls

Continued from page 10

would only be one-sided: either the people of Aten would be defeated and accept Praktian rule of the region, or the nobles of Prakis would have to accept rule by the peasants who would eventually come to demand their own independence. For Varius, the struggle was as ideological as it was military and economic, and he saw that the old order of noble rule was waning. Things were changing and he feared that those changes could come rapidly if he did not work to counter them.

So, Varius the Cruel, having secured the support of the noble council for a declaration of war against Aten, was presently attempting to convince an envoy from the Darkwood to establish a formal military alliance against Aten. Though Prakis was already in a partnership with the magical kingdom of Dwelwyn that surrounded the city, and had forces deployed throughout the forest, securing their aid in a general regional war was another matter entirely.

"You humans will wreck everything," Athracia, Dwelwyn's envoy, an unseele elf who had long forsaken allegiance to Ulfelwyn, hissed at Prakis' lord. Her dark, wide eyes appeared to see straight into Varius' heart. He became nervous, unsure of how to respond, and having just illustrated all of the benefits of his proposed axis, he realized that he may have overplayed his hand. He sat in his office with Athracia sitting across from him. She leaned forward and continued to express her displeasure with Varius, "I could destroy you where you sit, and my master would reward me. You are nothing to us. Your quest for power is of no interest to us, and your actions have only endangered our position. You should have consulted with us." Her dark black hair appeared to rise with static as she became enraged with him, and the light of the candles seemed to Varius to dim.

Varius' face flushed with pride, but he bit his tongue and instead of demanding the envoy to leave, he merely poured himself some Llewellynese berry wine and replied, "Aten's takeover of Rocky Point poses a direct threat to my city, to my people—"

"You care not for your people," Athracia interrupted. "You seek domination over the region. Even over us. Over the Darkwood." She glared across the room at Varius, who had begun to sweat.

"We would never dream of using our forces against you," he managed to stutter out. He drank what was in his glass rapidly, realizing that his plan was going more poorly than he had anticipated. He scratched his receding dark brown hairline and played nervously with his gold rings, and increasingly he became enraged with the impudence of this elven witch.

"Indeed," she sneered. "Instead, you seek to enlist the aid of our forces. Our magic." Athracia knew her role well, and every word she uttered along with every threat she leveled at Prakis' young lord was tailored by her superiors, a deliberate design to achieve concessions from Prakis and to test the new lord's mettle. "What next? Would you wield our power to try to conquer the dragon kingdoms after Aten? How about Nyanaxis and the Empire itself? How much of our good will would you spend before your mortal, material hearts would be contented?" She had begun to enjoy herself and her treatment of Prakis' lord, and dared a smirk.

Varius, from his own position, was feeling increasingly desperate to save face. "The Nowell family has long had good relations with your master. We have supported your religion, protected your lands, and provided you a market that reaches the many corners of this world. We even look the other way when your denizens come out at night to—"

"Enough!" she exclaimed. "Your place shall be at our feet, High Lord of Prakis, if we so desire it. Good relations with my master are dependent upon her will alone. You have been summoned by Lenore, Queen of the Darkwood of Dwelwyn. You should hope that your mortal curse, arrogance, may be forgiven." She unraveled a scroll of perfect, ivory-toned parchment.

Varius' complexion had gone to stone. He fell back into his father's leather chair and awaited his fate. He had overreached his bounds of authority. Never before had a lord of Prakis been commanded in such ways, he thought. Or had father been, too?

Varius thought back to his late father, Pathas, and thought about the look in his eyes whenever Trudor would aspire to be lord. It was one of dread. Could this have been what he feared? he worried. For years, my forefathers had made common cause with these dark magicians, and on the surface it had paid off, but at what cost? The young noble wondered.

"By order of the Queen of Dwelwyn," she read from the scroll, "Realm of the Undying, her Majesty Crisilus Lenore hereby summons the Fifty-Third Lord of Prakis, his Excellency Varius Nowell, for an immediate dialogue of the highest urgency." She rolled up the scroll and placed it upon his desk, and continued, "You are to leave for Dwelwyn upon the hour. We have sent for your carriage." One of Athracia's servants, a thin man robed in white, including his face, entered Varius' office and brought what appeared to Varius to be his own matching luggage.

"But how did your servant know where my belongings are in this house?" Varius pondered aloud. "There are scores of bedrooms—"

"Because," Athracia chided as she removed her servant's hood, "he is your brother. He is Trudor. He has come to take you to our Queen." She began to cackle.

Varius fell backward in fear from seeing his murdered sibling. His eyes were sunken into his skull and his face was badly eroded from decay. The noble's screams were heard throughout the House Nowell as Trudor quickly grabbed his hand.

Read more at [www.childrenofthegravepress.com](http://www.childrenofthegravepress.com).

# The Liberal You Love to Hate

By Nicholas Katchen

"I guess they're called women's issues because if women did not focus on them there really wouldn't be any chance of [getting something done]." — Nancy Pelosi in Ms. Magazine.

Nancy Pelosi has finally cracked the marble ceiling of the Capitol. As speaker of the house, she is the first woman to ever hold that position. Not too shabby for a woman who chose her first career to be a stay-at-home mother. As the most powerful woman in the American government, she decides which legislation comes to a vote. She decides which issues to tackle. As Democrats took a sigh of relief after the midterm elections, Pelosi took a deep breath before she was about to be thrust into the forefront of American politics. And Pelosi did so with her grandchild in hand (she could be seen holding him after her first day). It was a good day for women in this country and a great day for feminism.

Various problems face the country. Obviously, Iraq has been a disaster from day one. However, minimum wage, health care, the economy, environment, abortion are all issues that Congress must face without trepidation, which is good news for women in America and these issues do not affect women alone. Women's issues are intertwined with male issues and vice versa. These are issues that affect families. In urban areas, single mothers are the bread winners, and those single mothers have the most to gain from an increase

in hourly wages. Those families living near or slightly above the poverty line can no longer rely on Medicaid for medical and dental services without reform. Cavities among children are the most wide spread infectious disease as they are five times more common among children than asthma. The right to choose affects women in this country everyday. However, abortion affects the family as well. The health of any family member does not only affect one person but also those that care about her. America needs a female voice with a different perspective than it has had in the past. With the recent introduction of the HPV vaccine targeted at decreasing the rate of cervical cancer, conservative voices (mostly those of Christian organizations run by men) are calling for its removal. American needs a fresh female perspective to make sure all Americans are cared for, not just those who support the Bush administration.

While it was a step in the right direction towards increased diversity in government, there still is work to be done. Of the 435 members of the House of Representatives, 68 are women and 42 are black. There needs to be a more diverse range of voices trying to improve this country. Not just democratic liberal voices, but any voice that comes from a different perspective than the status quo. So while we should take note of what an accomplishment it is to have a woman as the Speaker of the House, it is also important to note the sea of white male faces she will stare at every day.

## Movie Review

### Children of Men

By Damon Vetere

Anytime a movie explodes onto the scene with massive critical acclaim, I find I usually don't think the film is as good as the critics say. In fact, most of the time, movies with such hype are vessels for the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes, and are simply directors and actors showing their "artsy" sides. The movies end up lacking the story and substance that drives a true classic. Still with me?

Fortunately for "Children of Men", the story is just as good as the direction, which is just as good as the acting. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón and starring Clive Owen and Julianne Moore, "Children of Men" takes place in a future England where the world has become infertile. For 18 years a new child has not been born, and the world is coming apart at the seams. The government of England is essentially martial law, where immigrants are placed into camps or killed on site. Through a miraculous event, a girl becomes impregnated and it is up to Theo Faron (Clive Owen) to protect her and preserve the hope of humanity.

One of the stronger aspects in "Children of Men" is that it is a sci-fi film without aliens, laser blasters, or Chewbacca. It feels somewhat real, and it helps that Will Smith isn't running around punching aliens in the face. Sci-fi can exist and be effective without Jerry Bruckheimer or George Lucas ramming CGI down



our throats.

"Children of Men" has some very impressive scenes, with Alfonso Cuarón having a few sequences without cuts for minutes. When the chaos begins, his talent really shines, and the audience feels as hectic as the characters running around on screen. There are some quick surprises, and the action really picks up in the third act. Once it picks up steam, it doesn't stop until the credits roll.

If you've been itching for a good sci-fi movie with the impending end of the world, doom and gloom feel, this will definitely fit the bill. By the time this issue comes out, "Children of Men" will probably be out of theatres (since it was released in 2006), so keep your eyes peeled when it's released on DVD or add it to your Netflix list. You won't be disappointed.

# You're With Us or Against Us

By Anthony Perez

Everyone here is no doubt familiar with the Bush Doctrine. "You're either with us or against us." If you're not with me, you're my enemy. This mentality has been decried, mocked, and ridiculed by the left constantly. I wonder, then, why they don't mind applying it to another, older, debate: marriage.

I will elaborate. I've been unfortunate enough to have known few leftists of the classical tolerant disposition, and some (okay, many) of the "brainwashed" disposition, you know, the sort that will make all kinds of intolerant, bogus, and blatantly ignorant claims about your views, call you names, then put your ideas out of mind as "intolerant" and "ignorant." In no debate is this pattern worse than the one over marriage. One can't say anything against gay marriage to these people without being called a hatemonger. If you point out that gay marriage in Sweden has led to declining marriage rates coupled with an increase in out-of-wedlock births, they will use it to claim you "hate gay people." If you say that you tolerate gay couples, but you believe marriage is so weakened by new age feminism and easy divorce that it couldn't survive a redefinition, they will use it to claim you "hate gay people." If you believe the natural order of things is that a child needs a father and mother figure, which I've learned from experience, they will use it to claim you "hate gay people." If you say you favor a flat tax over a graduated tax, they will use it to claim you "hate gay people." And if you say a war claiming 50,000 lives to overthrow a dictator whose presence was leaving more than that dead per year is justified, they will use it to claim you "hate gay people." In short, if you have a conservative view on anything, they will call you all kinds of names that would make a real homophobe blush, discount your views as bigoted, generally act as though you have no heart, and claim you "hate gay people."

Not only is this against the very principles of tolerance and diversity they claim to value... it's adopting the mentality that is the theme of this rant. You're either for gay marriage, or you're against gay people. If you're against gay marriage, you're closed-minded, and you want to exterminate the gays, hope they die of AIDS, and want to see the Nazis bring about a new world order. I'm sure you've all heard or read the slogans like "straight but not narrow." I can see the logical representation of the thinking leads to this kind of idea, and it's incorrect, but taught by so many children of the '60s to their children and students today that the children unquestionably assume it's not only true, but the compassionate side of things.

Here is the explanation of their thought process:

1. If a person has compassion, the person will not hate gay people. (We

will assume this is true, because technically to hate anyone is wrong, especially as a Christian.) - Given. P ---> ~Q

2. If a person does not hate gay people, they will not be against gay marriage. - Given. ~Q ---> ~R

3. If a person has compassion, the person is not against gay marriage. Chain Rule, 1. and 2. P ---> ~R

4. Therefore: If a person is against gay marriage, then the person has no compassion. Contrapositive of 3. R ---> ~P

The problem with this "proof" should be easy for anyone who paid attention in introductory logic when they took it in high school math, or even any person with common sense. The flaw is in "given" statement number 2; a person who is against gay marriage doesn't necessarily hate gay people. Such a person can simply believe marriage is already a weak institution, or can believe it already really was defined as "one man, one woman" by God, or, like God, can hate the sin without hating the sinner, or can even favor gay civil unions while wanting to not call them "marriage." But with this flawed and deceptive thinking, these "tolerant" people will discard all of those possibilities, automatically granting any who oppose their twisted thinking as heartless bigots. And the sad part is, they honestly seem to not only believe it, but also believe their thinking is full of heart and compassion. They think this way because they're discounting the use of logic, even as they think with it, and for some reason society seems full of this theory that logic and emotion are mutually exclusive.

Back to my theme, I find it a wonder, even for the Left, that they can condemn Bush's "for us or against us" mentality while not condemning it within their own. And that's really what this is about; if you're against gay marriage, you're against gay people, gay rights, etc. I have gay friends, who by the way have never accused me of hating gay people, and I am entirely in favor of gay rights: that is, the right to life (including, I'm sure, for some of those babies you're advocating tearing apart or burning alive in their mothers' wombs), the right to vote, the right to live in peace, the right to live in America, the right to earn equal money, the right to be free from public harassment and violence, the right to claim whatever religion they choose (as long as they abide by its standards), the right to free speech and assembly, the right to safety from foreign killers, the right to be themselves, the right to bear arms, Miranda rights, the right to go to an unsegregated school, and countless others. I have worked overtime to show the greatest possible compassion and tolerance towards any person who told me they were openly gay. And as a child victim of that easy divorce your ancestors were promoting a generation ago claiming it couldn't possibly harm the institution of marriage, I am proud to say: I am against redefining marriage once more.

## Executive Privilege

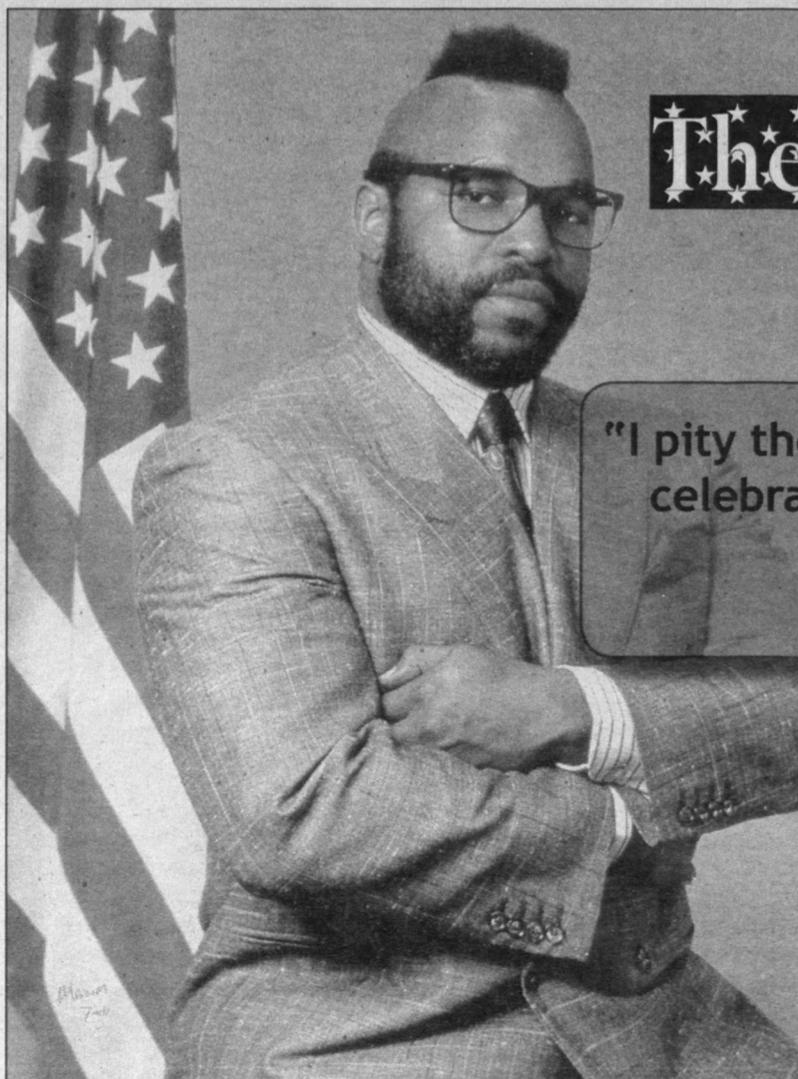
Continued from page 12

if we do this, if we turn our head and allow President Bush to withhold information that he has deemed to be related to the "national security?" The sting of Watergate resounds well enough to answer this question. We recall the Nixon White House, just one day after the Watergate burglary proclaiming that the criminals "involved were not operating on our behalf or with our consent. There is no place in our campaign or in the electoral process for this type of activity, and we will not permit or condone it." As we know, not only did the Nixon White House condone the break-in, but covered it up. This is what we risk when we allow President Bush to withhold information from Congress: an abuse of power. When we accept executive branch claims at face value we render ourselves powerless to verify the validity of the statements.

On the other side, what do we risk by demanding that President Bush supply national security information to Congress? According to the White House, we risk insecurity in the United States. President Bush argues that releasing information to Congress could mean wider dissemination to the enemies of America. However, what senator or congressman would reveal information of national security? What politician would ever think that he or she could be re-elected or stay out of jail after revealing information of the national security? What Congressional representative would put his or her sons, daughters, and other family members in danger to reveal national security information? We live in a patriotic nation, and one governed by the rule of law. In my opinion, there is nothing to be lost in allowing a select number of senators and Congressional representatives to view the contents of "national security" information in the possession of President Bush. If nothing else, allowing Congressional representatives to view White House information will verify that information truly is related to the national security. Furthermore, they can ensure that the President is leading this nation down a safe and enlightened path. A free exchange of ideas between Congress and the White House would enhance the success and safety of the United States.

Some may say that strong executive leadership is necessary in the United States, and that withholding information is paramount to this objective. I would disagree, I think that a world of rapid communications technologies, no time or energy will be lost by sharing pivotal information with Congressional representatives. Good communication is absolutely necessary to the formation of successful foreign policies. Congress is our principle defender against the aggrandizement of executive power, and we must allow it to fulfill this role. As James Madison declared, "A popular government, without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or both."

We have two choices, and our opinion is immensely powerful, let the President withhold information and risk concealment of unsavory information, or allow Congressional representatives to view national security information, and ensure that our nation is being led in the right direction, and more importantly, being led by honest and faithful leaders. This is an important choice to make. In the slot machine that is American politics, we gamble much in the game of governmental access to information.



## The Patriot

"I pity the fool who doesn't celebrate Black History Month."  
- Mr. T

# Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month

Satire By Virginia Morgan and Rachel O'Brien



## Cheesecake

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

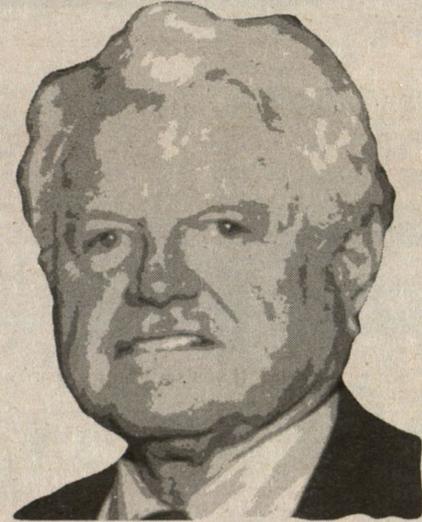
Each month this column will highlight one of Senator Kennedy's favorite drinks. This month's drink: Cheesecake

### Ingredients

3/4 oz Bailey's irish cream  
3/4 oz Pineapple juice  
1/4 oz Grenadine

### Directions

Mix equal parts of irish cream and pineapple juice in mixing tin filled with ice. Don't shake, just stir lightly. Pour genadine in glass and layer mixture on top.



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



## Picture of the Month



*"We're being invaded by stencil aliens from the 1950s."*

*"Think Big Brother is watching your every move? How about FBI agents melded into the walls?"*

*"Marvel Comics is trying to cut their budget. They've decided cement is the way to go."*

Conservative?

Libertarian?

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# The Patriot | Sports



Sean Martin

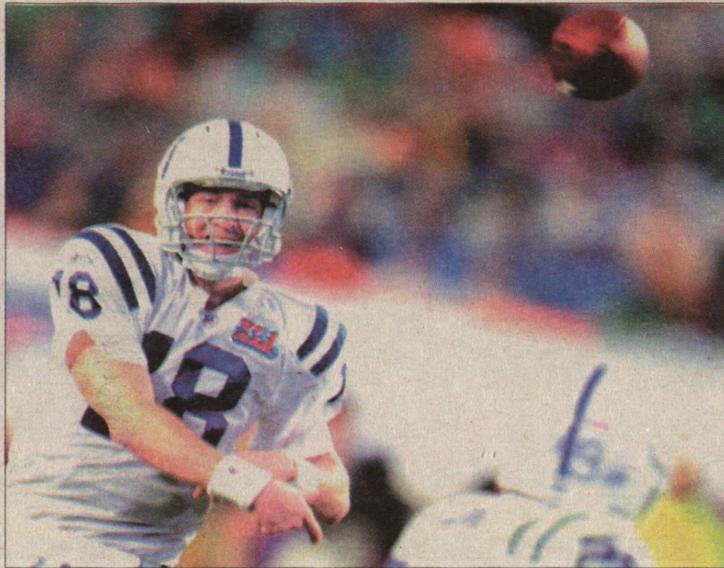
## SPORTS MINUTE

**O**n a rainy Sunday night in Miami the Indianapolis Colts used a total team effort to physically dominate the Chicago Bears. Thanks to the Colts 29-17 victory over Chicago, Colts Quarterback Peyton Manning and Head Coach Tony Dungy will never have to read about how they 'can't win the big one' again. Here are my thoughts on Super Bowl weekend.

Those who work in marketing for the NFL and for Disney were hoping that Peyton Manning would emerge from this game as the MVP. Manning is simply the face of the NFL and is used to market the league in countless commercials on television and radio daily. So with a solid effort Manning was the obvious selection for the Most Valuable Player Award. Frankly, however, Manning was not the MVP of this game for the Colts.

The MVP of Super bowl XLI should have been shared by the Colts running backs Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes. The duo Addai-Rhodes combined for over 50 touches and over 250 yards of offense for Indy. The effectiveness of the Colts running backs allowed them to dominate the time of possession and wear out the defense of the Bears. By the middle of the 2nd quarter the front seven of the Bears already appeared to be exhausted and they were never able to recover even with the extended half-time break.

It was to be expected that if the Colts won this game with Peyton Manning playing well that it would be the superstar QB appearing in the Disney commercial. Yet without the physical pounding provided by Jo-



seph Addai and Dominic Rhodes it may have well been one of the Bears that were heading to Disney World.

Thanks to a couple interceptions, one lost fumble and several comedic falls on his face, Bears Quarterback Rex Grossman will be replaced by Steve Bartman as Public Enemy Number One, at least for a while. Grossman will be facing heavy criticism in the coming weeks and will more than likely have to fight to retain his job when next season starts. Much of this treatment will be deserved, but both the Bears' defensive line and head coach Lovie Smith are equally responsible for the defeat.

The defensive line of the Bears was manhandled for the entire game. They were never able to make a stop when they had to and as a result, the Bears' defense was continually unable to get the ball into the hands of their offense. The Colts ran right at them continuously and when they did throw, the Bears were never able to put any pressure on Peyton Manning. Manning was able to sit back in the pocket and pick apart the Bear Secondary.

The defensive game plan of Coach Lovie Smith also allows for significant second guessing. It was obvious very early on that the rain and wind were going to cause trouble for the offenses of both teams. De-

spite this fact, the Bears continued to drop their secondary very deep in coverage play after play. The Colts adjusted to this fact by relying heavily on the run and when they passed they picked apart the Bears with short, crisp routes underneath the Bear secondary

I am not defending the job done by Rex Grossman; he simply does not possess the confidence necessary to be successful on that type of stage. However, when you are faced with story after story ripping his performance on Sunday, keep in mind that the all of the Bears were responsible for that loss



Personally, when my team is eliminated in sports I find it extremely difficult to have interest enough to root for teams in the Super Bowl, but Tony Dungy made it very easy to root for the Colts this year.

The image of the pro football coach held by most people resembles Vince Lombardi. They are virtually interchangeable with military drill sergeants and discipline is their way of life. Those that don't live up to these stereotypes are often labeled 'player's coaches' and are passed off as soft and lacking the fire to moti-

vate teams enough to win big games. This Sunday, Colts coach Tony Dungy proved that you don't need to lose your voice from screaming and have pages of silly off the field rules in order to be a successful coach.

Every year it becomes increasingly difficult to defend one's love for professional sports. So it is important that we celebrate those in sports that justify our love. So Congratulations Tony Dungy for becoming the first African-American head coach to win a Super bowl. Congratulations for silencing your critics without ever compromising your morals.

## Post-Superbowl Pastimes

By Sean Martin

So now that the Superbowl has passed and two months remain until baseball begins, what does the New York sports fan have to get us through the rest of winter?

Both the Rangers and Islanders have been up and down this season. Both teams will factor in the playoff race in the upcoming months, however. The two teams will play against each other four more times this season.

The Islanders have discounts on tickets for college students as well. With your Stony Brook ID you can purchase tickets for as low as \$15.00. The Islanders have also introduced the Student 'Havoc' section behind the goal. For select games with your student ID you will be able to purchase ice level seats behind the goal for only \$19.00. Just be prepared to get to the arena early because I have heard that the lines for these events can get quite long. The Islanders play home games against the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals in the coming weeks, and if you have never watched these teams play you are truly missing out. The Penguins Sidney Crosby and

Capitals Alex Ovechkin are two of the most exciting athletes you will ever watch.

It is only a few more weeks until March which means that college basketball is ready to take the spotlight. If the season were to end today, the four number-one seeds in the NCAA tournament would probably be UCLA, UNC, Wisconsin and Florida. These teams all have tough conference games remaining though. Keep an eye on the Wisconsin/Ohio State game which takes place on February 25th. Wisconsin is one of the most disciplined, experienced teams in the NCAA while Ohio State has the NBA bound superstar Greg Oden. The winner of this game will be one of the favorites to win the tournament. Two other teams to take note of this season are the Air Force Academy and Hofstra. Hofstra has something to prove after watching their conference rival George Mason go all the way to the final four last season and are prepared to make some noise of their own. Air Force, meanwhile, possesses the ability to shoot the lights out in the gym on any given night. They have several double-digit wins against quality opponents this year, including a 36 point win over Wake Forest and a 34 point win over Stanford.