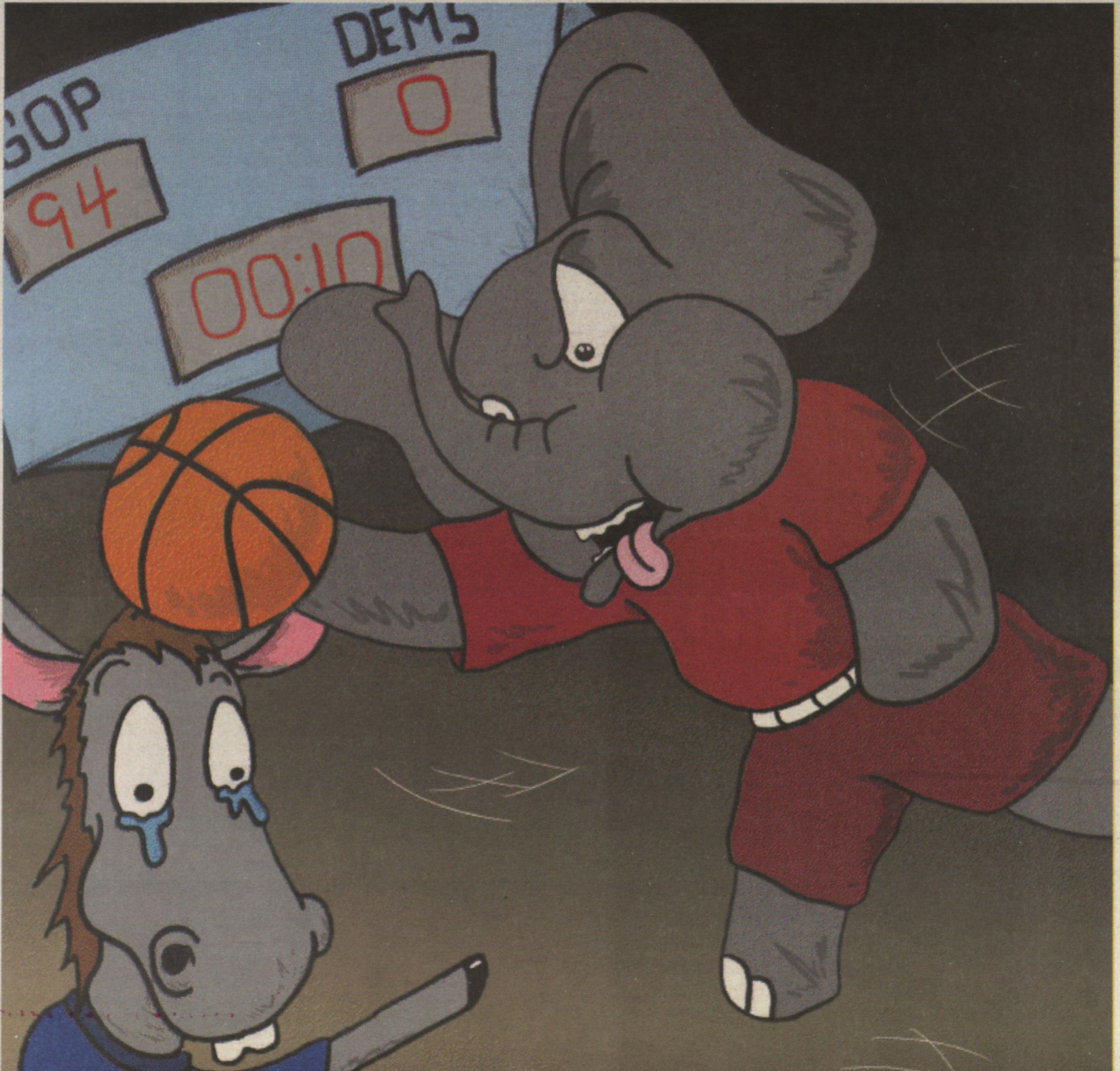


The Patriot

Vol. 6 Issue 5

March 2010



MARCH MADNESS

No Assists For Bad Policies.
GOP Poised For Fast Break.

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

Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Thanks once again for making the right choice and picking up the latest issue of *The Patriot*. We have some exciting articles and stories for you this month and we hope you enjoy them all - even if you don't agree with everything, we hope to at least make you think.

We appreciate everyone's feedback and encourage all of you to write to us. Again, even if you disagree, we never shy away from a good discussion. Don't be afraid to submit articles either.

There has been a flurry of left-leaning activities, seminars and events on campus lately and we have learned that there will be several more in the weeks to come. You'll see throughout the issue some of the ones we've covered and we hope it brings to light for you the true colors of Academia. It is truly disturbing hearing and seeing many of the things we've seen and heard at these events. Hopefully, our articles will inspire some of you to attend the next one you see or learn about and let them know that their indoctrination seminars will no longer go unchecked.

All in all, we have some big plans for the (hopefully) upcoming warmer weather. As always, be on the lookout for us and our doings.

In Liberty,
Derek Mordente



The Patriot

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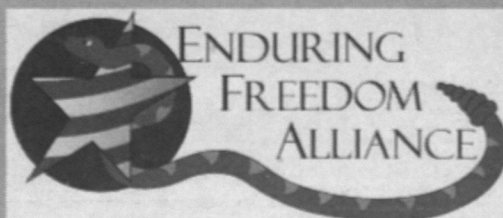
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Our Mission: The goal of *The Patriot* is to offer an alternative point of view to the students of Stony Brook University. It is a paper dedicated to raising awareness of student issues on campus, and conservative/libertarian issues on the national 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 sbpatriot@gmail.com

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

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

Dear Editor

I would like to express my opinion about the article entitled Stony Brook Students for In-equality, published in the February 2010 issue of The Patriot. I agree with you; changing the name of the Lavelle stadium really won't do anything. At most, it might help some hurt feelings. But there is a BIG difference between civil unions and marriage. 1,049 rights to be exact. Marriage allows partners to share health benefits, adopt children, make medical decisions for each other, and in the act that one dies, it gives the partner the right to the body. None of these rights are included in a civil union, not to mention, gay couples are restricted to a handful of states because of these laws. For example if you decide to visit friends or relatives in a state that doesn't recognize civil unions, your rights no longer exist. I would also like to point out that I was the host of the rally mentioned in the article. Let's talk illogical....I can be a middle aged man, leave my wife, and marry a girl who is barely 18 and it's perfectly legal. The marriage rate is declining and succumbing to divorce. I have encountered couples who have waited 40-50 years for the right to be legally married. Let's remember that the whole institution of marriage was a purely political act. We are not looking for the right to "force..." or "disown...." We are simply looking for the right to live our lives. It wasn't all that long ago when it was illogical to think that a woman could vote, or that a bi racial couple could get married. So ask yourself, if I marry my boyfriend does it really have an effect on you? So in the words of Congressman Ed Fallon "What are you trying to protect heterosexual marriages from? There isn't a limited amount of love.... It isn't a non-renewable resource. If Amy and Barbara or Mike and Steve love each other, it doesn't mean that John and Mary can't.

Sincerely yours

Chris Moran

Chris,

Thanks for reading the article and for the letter. I respect and appreciate the civility with which it is written.

However, some of the information you present is not quite accurate, misleading or, in some cases, both. The difference between a civil union and a marriage is not 1,049 rights. In fact, up until 2004, the total amount of rights and responsibilities that came with marriage was 1,049 – the update brought that number to 1,138. Many, many of these rights are included in civil unions – including "making medical decisions for each other," "rights to the body," and issues regarding insurance. Perhaps we can exchange sources and see where the discrepancy lies.

With respect to the adoption of children, same sex couples are only prohibited by law to do so in Florida and Utah – which, in the name of states' rights, is their prerogative. The beauty of the Federal System of the United States is that it is also your prerogative to go somewhere else if you don't like certain laws in the state in which you live. Further, you can choose to stay in that state and seek to peacefully change the law. I do not like how the people of California choose to run their state; however, it is not my right to force them to run it in a way that pleases me from 3000 miles away.

I fail to see how your example involving the middle aged man marrying the eighteen year old girl is illogical. Also, to say "the marriage rate is declining and succumbing to divorce" is a common misconception. In any given year, while the number of divorces may be, say half, as large as the number of marriages, this is not indicative of what you're trying to say. As Dr. Thomas Sowell states, "The marriages being counted are only those marriages taking place within the given year, while the divorces that year are from marriages that took place over a period of decades." Following such logic would be like saying that half the population died in a given year if deaths were half as large as births.

Overall, I feel you've severely missed the point I was trying to make. Based on the way you argue your case for "gay marriage," the result would be, whether you believe so or not, to force others to disown a commonly accepted reality for a particularistic minority view of it. That is, why should your conception of marriage, which is an extreme minority view (and which has lost in every state where it was put to the public for a vote, including California) be allowed to trump the majority accepted view of what constitutes the reality of how "marriage" is defined and not someone else's? What then stops someone else from making the case for "child marriage", "polygamous marriage", "incest marriage" or "interspecies marriage"? What makes the LGBT community's particular view of marriage any more credible or authentic than the one's I've just mentioned? There isn't a limited amount of love.... It isn't a non-renewable resource. If Mike and his sister Barbara love each other, it doesn't mean that John and Mary or Tom and Bob can't.

Finally, per your statement, "So ask yourself, if I marry my boyfriend does it really have an effect on you;" yes, yes it does. But it has nothing to do with love, religion, morality or my personal feelings about the issue. It has to do with equal rights. As I've stated, one cannot simply redefine reality per ones own sexual predilections and/or social policy whims. To do so is a demand for superior rights, not equal ones.

Regards,

Derek Mordente

So Much For "I Have A Dream..."

By Derek Mordente

The opening ceremony of this year's Black History Month at Stony Brook is divided in two. During the first half, there were some basic remarks, a really impressive rendition of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (the black national anthem) and a really, really impressive performance from the Stony Brook Gospel Choir.

Then there was the second half: the keynote speaker – Dr. Joy Degruy, author of the book "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing." In it, Degruy describes a multi-generational anxiety disorder explaining reasons why many black people suffer from things such as "vacant esteem," a "marked propensity for anger and violence," and "residual stress related issues [that have been] passed along through generations as a result of slavery."

Let us first address how she laid the foundation of her talk. She made it a point to start by saying that she did not buy it and actually found it odd when people tell her "I do not see race." She equated this statement to saying, "I do not see you." Following this logic, a person is his race and race itself trumps everything else about that person. So much for Dr. Martin Luther King. I'm sorry Dr. Degruy, but I tend to see a person in terms of "the content of his character" and not "the color of his skin." Seeing people solely in terms of race, as Dr. Degruy seems to do, is denotatively racist.

Throughout the speech, she gave the "white" responses to her studies – always spoken in a mocking tone that not so subtly conveyed some sort of contempt. She also didn't seem to be a fan of the Jewish population – she

cracked a few too many jokes at their (and Moses') expense.

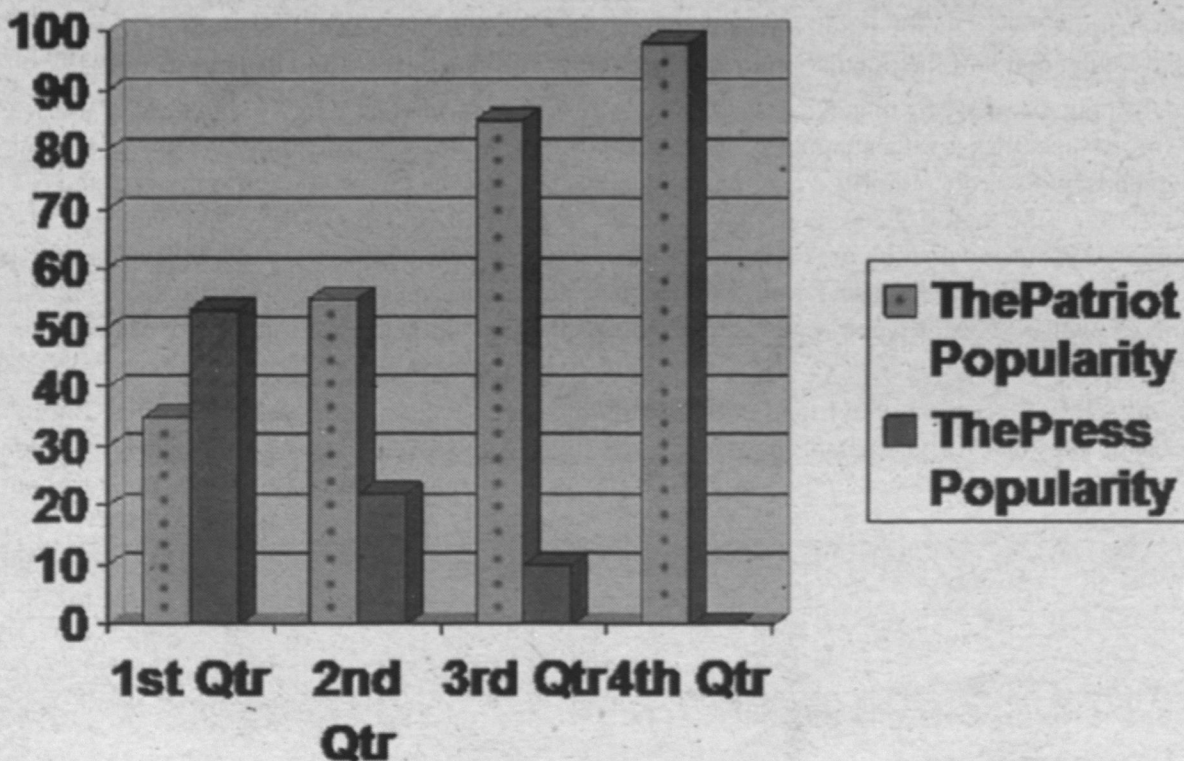
Let's get back to the Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome business. Degruy argues that many anxiety disorders, such as the ones mentioned above, have emanated through generations of black Americans as a result of slavery. She also argues that these multi-generational negative effects are not applicable to other peoples/cultures who have been enslaved because the nature of American slaves was unique in that Africans were not forced into slavery as a result of war/conflict. She cited the Romans as an example of "normal" slavery. Okay. I suppose there was no conflict when the Europeans marched into Africa and started "taking" slaves. Everyone just signed up...right? No, of course not.

Degruy's bias causes her logic to be so flawed that it negatively impacts her credibility. Throughout history, many, many (far too many) peoples and cultures have been forced into slavery. An obscure example that comes to mind (which also fits Degruy's ridiculous criteria for "unique slavery") is that of the Helots (who were ethnically Greek) in ancient Greece, specifically IN the city-state of Sparta. I wonder, do their descendants suffer from P.T.S.S.? At what point, if ever, does Dr. Degruy think such groups stop suffering from this affliction, based as it is on an extremist and racist view of history?

As one final testament to how flawed this talk was, Degruy spent a good deal talking about John Newton, an eighteenth century English Anglican clergyman. John Newton is most remembered for writing the song "Amaz-

ing Grace." Degruy pointed out how Newton, a clergyman and man of God, owned and abused (particularly women) slaves. This is despicable, detestable and John Newton no doubt deserves to be condemned for his transgressions. However, Degruy decided to leave out some very pertinent information about John Newton in her presentation. Yes, John Newton owned slaves. But he also realized the error of his ways through a religious revelation, stating that as a slave owner he was not being a true Christian. Newton also went on to become an important abolitionist and even wrote a pamphlet wherein he described the horrific conditions of the slave boats during the middle passage. He apologized in "a confession, which... comes too late.... It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders." Perhaps this is not enough. Perhaps, on this Earth, Newton's actions are unforgivable. However, to an audience who most likely knew nothing about (or had never heard of) John Newton, the leaving out of these important details about his life reflects a desire on Dr. Degruy's part to shape the facts to fit her particular bias.

In a perfect world, Dr. Joy Degruy would not hold a Ph.D. and would not be cheered and clapped for. Personally, I'll stick with the words and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King and Jesus Christ – life is rendered much happier when one judges people as individuals on their own merits, not as stereotypical groups force-fit into the racial pre-conceptions of a misguided pseudo-intellectual ideologue.



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TUESDAYS AT 6:00PM IN SAC 312!

Open Season: Latinos

Highlights From The Social Justice Alliance Immigration Mixer

By Jon Pu and Aditya Ramanathan

The Social Justice Alliance (SJA) recently held a mixer on illegal immigration; it had none of the alcohol and all of the arrogance and ignorance. In case you missed the festivities, we've taken the time to compile a list of the most memorable moments.

"Men can hunt Latinos."

- Luis Valenzuela; LI Immigrant Alliance

Mr. Valenzuela's claim may seem frivolous, but consider this: in the 2000 census, roughly 1.5 million Latinos were living in Long Island. As per Mr. Valenzuela's estimates, there are 350 thousand Latinos in Long Island today. That's over one million Latinos that Valenzuela's hunted already!

"There is no line [to come into this country]."

- Luis Valenzuela; LI Immigrant Alliance

Why would anybody get in line to be hunted? In fact, what are all these legal immigrants doing standing in line?

"Education is a basic human right guaranteed in the US Constitution."

- Student in Audience

It's okay, sometimes I mix up the US and USSR constitutions too.

"Republicans won't let any kind of leg-

islation involving labor to move -- they use the filibuster."

- Roger Clayman; LI AFL-CIO, Executive Director

Oh, do you perhaps mean the filibuster that the Republicans didn't have until recently with the election of Scott Brown?

"Even with a degree, your undocumented status doesn't change."

- Martin Lopez; NY Student Youth Leadership Council

It's almost as if your degree is also "undocumented." I wonder if your status would change if you got enough pokemon badges.

"Undocumented workers get no financial aid."

- Martin Lopez; NY Student Youth Leadership Council

They shouldn't. They should get documentation. Then pokemon badges.

It takes 1.2 hours to grow a ton of corn in the US, it takes 18 days to grow a ton of corn in Mexico. (paraphrased)

- Dr. Deborah Little; Associate Professor of Sociology, Adelphi University

And it takes 3 days to grow corn in Farmville!

"Border control is not the solution."

- Dr. Deborah Little; Associate Professor of Sociology, Adelphi University

You think your border control can stop our magic corn?

"The name 'illegal immigrant' objectifies, attacks, and robs them of their humanity."

- Luis Valenzuela; LI Immigrant Alliance

Sorry.

"Next time you see an illegal immigrant, you should walk up and thank him for paying your grandma's social security."

- Dr. Deborah Little; Associate Professor of Sociology, Adelphi University

Hey! Stop objectifying them!

"[Forced immigration is] exterminating entire communities in Mexico... it's economic and cultural genocide."

- Dr. Deborah Little; Associate Professor of Sociology, Adelphi University

But if we don't force them, then how are we going to bridge up that social security budget gap? Taxes?



JOIN THE PATRIOT! MEETINGS
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Tiny Israel's Large Contribution

By Benjamin D. Heller

A few weeks ago, I excitedly attended a Global Studies class with a special guest lecturer, a representative from the United Nations. The class lecturer would discuss a highly volatile and stimulating topic that was close to my heart as a Jewish person, the Middle East. My excitement soon waned as the esteemed lecturer's format turned away from open and honest discussion of the Middle East and into a vehement anti-Israel and anti-Semitic tirade. The representative even stated that Israel purposely destroyed UN humanitarian warehouses. It reminded me of the spurious remark of a former French ambassador to England who stated that "Israel is nothing but a shitty little country". Having traveled to the State of Israel numerous times and having seen the conditions there first hand, I am writing this article in hopes of shedding some light on the facts surrounding the State of Israel. Israel is an ancient country, infinitesimal in size, which has deeply, and positively, impacted the world at large.

The country of Israel dates back to 1300 BCE, roughly 2000 years before the rise of Islam and Christianity. Israel, the 100th smallest country, has less than 1/1000th of the world's population. Israel would fit into the United States 768 times (see map below). The United States' population is 30 times greater than that of Israel. Similarly, the combined territories of the twenty-one Arab countries are 650 times greater than Israel (see map below). The population of the Arab countries is 50 times greater than that of Israel.

While the people of modern day Israel share the same language and culture with the Israelis of 3300 years ago, Israel has ironically been at the forefront of advancements in technology, spreading democracy, environmental rehabilitation and humanitarian aid.

Could you imagine not having your cell phone, not chatting online, or having to hand-

write your class assignments? This would be life without tiny Israel. The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel. Most of the Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by Microsoft-Israel. The Pentium MMX Chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel. Both the Pentium-4 microprocessor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed and produced in Israel. The Pentium microprocessor in your computer was most likely made in Israel. Voice mail technology was developed in Israel. The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.

America founded modern day democracy over 200 years ago. Israel followed the guidance of the United States and was the first Middle East democracy and remains the only liberal democracy there. Americans have many courageous women who have fought hard for equal rights for women. Recently, Hillary Clinton was a contender for the United States Presidency. But did you know that Israel elected its first female leader over 30 years ago. In 1969, Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel, which is Israel's equivalency of the Office of the President of the United States.

Going green is a term we are all accustomed to hearing. Its implementation is the message on many commercials and corporate websites. Despite that, not many countries or corporations can actually boast about its green initiatives. Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert. An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant, in southern California's Mo-

jave Desert.

I am proud to say that America is the land of hope and opportunity, which has always accepted new immigrants. Many people do not know, however, that relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come to both the United States and Israel in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity. In 1984 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopians (Operation Solomon) at risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel. Israel took in hundreds of refugees from Darfur, that were rejected by other countries.

Were you as astonished by the facts behind the movie Blood Diamond (starring Leonardo DiCaprio, who happens to be dating Israeli supermodel Bar Rafaeli) as I was? I know I certainly was unaware of the human suffering resulting from diamonds mines in Africa. What the movie didn't tell you was that Israel was the first nation in the world to adopt the Kimberly process, an international standard that certifies diamonds as "conflict free." Everyone is aware of the horrible nightmare that just engulfed Haiti. Did you know that despite the difficult logistics, Israel was the second country to respond to the crisis (the U.S. was first) and operated the largest field hospital in the country.

Israel, one of the world's smallest countries with almost no natural resources has contributed vastly to the world. While this article is just a glimpse of Israel's contributions, I hope it has broadened your knowledge about the tiny country that is constantly in the news. Yet through all of the good that Israel does on a global level, there are still those who hate it and use every opportunity to smear its name. I know that I will always stand up to defend Israel when it is unfairly castigated. Hopefully after reading this article you will as well.



Wishbone: The Curious Case of The Missing College Democrats

By Aditya Ramanathan

On February 9th, Lauren Thoden lost an open seat election for New York's third assembly district in Patchogue-Medford with 49.07% of the vote. The district has long been held by Democrats, yet the current anti-Democrat climate gave opportunity for Republican Dean Murray to challenge and win the seat. The results of the contest aren't surprising. What is questionable, though, is that Stony Brook's own College Democrats failed to assist Thoden, a former Stony Brook Alumnus. Moreover, despite expressing ire at votes cast by standing State Senators, the group has been inactive in aiding any of the party's own local candidates. It's also not as if the race was insignificant - it got significant national media coverage in outlets ranging from *The Huffington Post* to *Fox News* as an important precursor to the upcoming 2010 mid-term elections.

This all comes a year and a half after College Democrat President Alex Nagler celebrated the victories of State Senator Brian Foley, Town Supervisor Mark Lesko and President Barack Obama, taking partial credit for the

nearly 2000 votes cast on the campus alone. In a post submitted to thealbanyproject.com, a democratic campaign headquarters, Nagler himself gloated over his ability to "laugh at his sad, dejected friends over at the College Republicans table, who realized their \$32,000 meant nothing without manpower and interest." Further, he stated that his College Democrats would be "a force to be reckoned with." Where that force has gone is an important question as the College Republicans gear up for an election cycle which will test every one of the Democrat's local seats.



"A Lie Told Often Enough Becomes The Truth"

~Vladimir Lenin

By Alex Niculescu

This year's Stony Brook Black History Month had a start of epic proportions as we welcomed Dr. Joy Degruy as she spread her wisdom and knowledge regarding her specialty of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome.

America has always been a melting pot for diverse cultures. Lately, many Americans have found themselves at a loss for culture once they have been fully assimilated and no longer bear strong cultural ties to their ancestors. Obsessed with finding answers and cultural obligations, a lot of Americans spend time trying to see if they are actually, say, 5% Native American and 25% Dutch. It seems as if everyone wants to find an ethnic identity and everyone wants to claim a culture as their own. Following this typical American tradition, Dr. Degruy tries to undermine thousands of years of Western Culture in order to expose her multigenerational trauma for which the white man is to blame.

She aimed straight for the foundation of our society when she blatantly "exposed" Aristotle as someone who felt blacks to be naturally inferior. She also used this analogy with Thomas Jefferson. Aristotle is one of the greatest thinkers and Jefferson one of the most important signers of our constitution.

She also did a great job adding credibility to her talk by throwing in a rather insensitive remark discrediting the Holocaust.

She threw around the names of a lot of scientists I have never heard of and made them out to be crackpots and dishonest people. This straw man fallacy ended with calling Carl Von Linnaeus criminally insane. As the whole crowd erupted in disgruntled approval, I was thinking to myself who is Linnaeus, and why should I clap because your research shows him to be criminally insane. I instantly felt relieved when I realized that I'm not obsessed by matters of race.

Another good point was that, apparently, white people were made ignorant and unafraid to stand up to respected blacks; showing a sort of natural disrespectful attitude/superiority complex. Then she did a great job by tying together her hysteria with Ellis Island and her homeland. As we all know, Ellis Island shows part of the American dream. It was a harbor that was used by poor Europeans where they were checked for tuberculosis and allowed entrance into this country. Our lady liberty was somewhat of a mockery, but representing promise. It shows that Europe can send their worst and

their impoverished and we can provide them with the opportunity to make a better life. Ellis Island represents a dream that many families can say belonged to their parents, grandparents and so on. However, why would it matter whether or not "they [black children] feel no connection with Ellis Island." I don't feel any connection with the place and it doesn't make me have some kind of lost racial identity.

The way Dr. Degruy argues her case makes it inevitable for fingers to be pointed no matter the situation. This is the goal of these kinds of theories, that is, to be able to blame a given group of people for another group's problems. Such is a technique straight from some of the most evil phenomena of the twentieth century.

There isn't a universal welcoming for skin pigment or looks. Those obsessed with race just believe that so they can promote their own agenda. I would call Dr. Degruy a racist, but she never made it clear what race she belonged to. It was more "pro-dark-colored-skin" and "anti-white and Jewish." Nonetheless, for the first time in this woman's life, she declared she was proud to be black.

Save The Fun!

By Jason Schaeffer

Some people would like to say that Stony Brook's students just are not happy. I personally would beg to differ and I know that I don't feel that way. Moreover, it is the various student activities that we have on campus that make this a great place to go to school. Everyone is involved in something, ranging from the great diversity of ethnic and religious organizations we have on campus, to sports and hobbies and political groups and student media organizations such as this paper. Stony Brook students are also constantly encouraged to delight in information fairs, carnivals, chocolate shows, film festivals, and so many other diversions. Unfortunately, even though many of us are not grateful for the small miracles, we would certainly miss all of this were it to disappear.

All of what makes this a great campus stands to be put in peril with the upcoming USG Senate Election. In addition to voting for the Senators to represent us in USG, students will be asked to vote on a proposal as to whether or not to make the Student activity fee mandatory or voluntary. The fee is an extra \$100 added to tuition and this money is used by USG in a variety of ways to facilitate student life. USG apportions most of the money into the budgets of the clubs and organizations we have on campus. Another fraction of this money goes into sponsoring all of the fun university events that we see on the academic mall and in the residential quads on a regular basis. Naturally, there are arguments for and against having a mandatory student activity fee, but I feel the only way to make this whole thing work is for everyone to pay.

The case for a mandatory student activity fee is quite transparent to me. I want to start off by saying that it is great that we have a vote on this issue and that we

are fortunate to live on a campus where the student body as a whole can make such an important decision. If students collectively feel that the services that USG is providing them with are adequate, then they should consider their money well spent and vote collectively to pay the fee. However, if the student body as whole feels that the state of student life on campus is unacceptable, then we should all vote not to pay the fee. Their need not be an intermediate. If the fee were to become an option and not a requirement a problematic quantity of them would no doubt refrain from paying the fee and this would make all clubs and organizations completely impotent by gouging huge sums from their budgets. A small proportion of good SBU denizens paying the fee would not make a difference.

If we were to have a voluntary fee, I also question what would happen to students who didn't pay. It seems to me that the only just thing to do would be to not allow them to participate in any clubs or organizations since they didn't contribute and would be too much of a strain on the scarcity of resources they helped create. Naturally, one can see how this becomes a sticky situation. The question also has been raised about students who simply cannot afford to pay the student activity fee. I argue that this is not the case. Students who demonstrate adequate financial need are already sufficiently assisted in paying their tuition and an extra \$100 added to what these students wind up paying after aid and scholarships really appears to be a trivial sum.

The arguments to the effect of having a voluntary student activity fee do have their merits. First off, the mandatory fee is something like a tax. It would force all students to contribute money towards a greater good that they may or may not choose to partici-

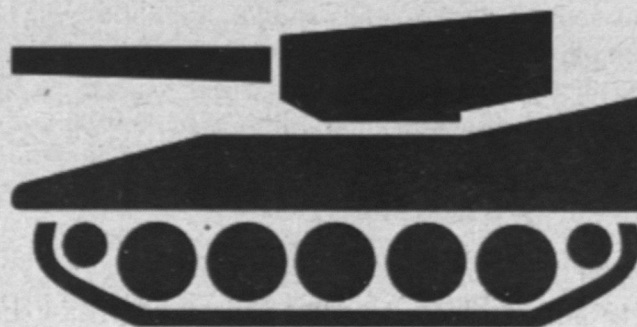
pate in. The arguments of course are that everyone benefits from a campus with a better student life either directly or indirectly since it improves the image of the university and the total morale of its students. I admit, this is a politically liberal take on the issue. Then there is the fact that we only vote on this every other year, presumably out of fear that the measure might fail sometime. This, in my opinion, is wrong. The student body should not be allowed to dictate policies for a class of the students that isn't coming in for almost two years. They should have the privilege to experience what stony brook has to offer and decide if they can consider it worthwhile to vote for the fee. Also, the student body doesn't directly control what things the money is used for. Just like in Congress, USG committees and student bureaucrats decide how much funding to give to each club and each activity, but they cannot control how the clubs use their money so long as what they do doesn't violate any university rules. Of course, they have as much control as possible and some control over budgets is better than inadequate budgets...at least I think so.

Although there are some reasons to be in favor of having a policy that gives students the freedom to pay or not pay the student activities fee, I argue that in a university community it just simply does not work. I am not in favor of having higher taxation for social programs and community events, which technically are analogous to the clubs and events we have on campus. I urge you to vote in favor of making the fee mandatory during the elections. In addition, to learn more about USG and the processes related to the delegation of the fee, I urge you to read my interview with former USG Senator and Treasurer Matthew Anderson.



FIRE BACK! JOIN THE PATRIOT!

Tuesdays
6:00 PM



SAC
Room 312

What's The Deal With USG?

An Interview with Former Treasurer Matthew Anderson

By Jason Schaeffer

* As you know, there is a vote coming up on whether or not to make the student activity fee voluntary or mandatory. Approximately how much money does the student activity raise for the university?

The student activity does not raise money for the university per se. The money goes to the undergraduate student government which distributes it to the clubs and organizations. The approximate amount it raises is \$2.7 million.

* Do you think this amount is sufficient?

Student clubs and organizations are constantly in a budget crisis. Clubs can always use more money in their activities. For example, animated perspectives has been asking for money to buy new couches for quite some time now, but budgetary constraint have prevented us from giving them the increase. So while there is enough money to maintain most of the clubs and organizations at operating level, there is not enough to maintain them at a level they actually deserve.

* Do you think this money could better be spent in other areas?

Students at Stony Brook have historically been very unhappy and I believe that student life has been very important in reversing this trend. I believe that any student that participates in student life gains well more than their money's worth.

* As a former USG treasurer, what do you think the consequences would be of having a voluntary student activity fee?

There would be a tremendous decrease in the amount of money collected for the student activity fund and because of that if the student activity was made voluntary there would be a tremendous decrease in the amount of money available, negatively impacting student life and causing student to feel more detached from our campus.

* Can you give us some history about the student activity fee and how some previous votes have gone?

The student activity fee, for as long as I can remember, the votes have been massively in favor of keeping it mandatory. I believe that this is because most people understand how important it is to protecting the student life on this campus.

* Do you think that this issue should be put up for a vote annually instead of biannually? Is it justified to have a student body decide the policy not only for themselves but also for a future class of incoming freshmen two years away?

While I do think that it would be fairer for the vote to be an annual vote, I believe that it is a legal requirement and thus the time table cannot be adjusted.

* If the student body decides to make the activity fee voluntary, should students who do not pay be allowed to participate in all of the organizations and events that the university offers? What could be done to make this fairer?

Under our current law, it states in article 2 section 1 of the undergraduate student government constitution that "all under-

graduate students at Stony Brook University shall be members of the undergraduate student government." Furthermore, in the financial bi-laws section 102 definitions under the term students, the term students shall mean only current undergraduate students a stony brook university and therefore members of the undergraduate student government. This is relevant because in section 107 a2 it states that as part of the eligibility for funding it states a club must be open to all undergraduate students. Therefore, under our current law we may not deny non-fee paying students from participating in student activities. As for making it fairer, if the students desire to deny non fee-paying members the ability to participate there will need to be a substantial change in USG law, which I doubt will actually occur.

* Do you believe that scholarships and financial aid make up for the fact that some people might not be able to afford the fee, or do you believe that for certain students the fee should be waived on basis of need?

There already are policies and procedures in place for waiving the fee under certain conditions. Of the conditions that I am aware of, under certain circumstances commuter students may have their fee waived.

* In conclusion, how would you encourage students to vote on the issue of a mandatory student activity fee?

I would all students in order to preserve the integrity of student life and to allow themselves and others to have a fulfilling college experience to vote in favor of a mandatory student activity fee.



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A is A, 2+2=4 and Bipartisanship Is A Fraud

By Erich Mauer

Two plus two cannot equal five.

But such a simple axiom cannot encompass the plague that has infected politics for decades. More appropriately, two and two cannot equal anything but four.

No matter the cries, the aureate language or denouncement of opposition, the simple fact remains - and that simple fact has long been forgotten in Washington.

The concept of "bipartisanship" has been thrown around by both parties, primarily the left, as if it were some sacred golden-egg laying goose that could heal all ills. Bipartisanship is nothing but compromise, and, surely, if there can be compromise there can be success and positive accomplishment on Capitol Hill.

Taking this theory to its logical conclusion would mean the following: if you say two plus two equals four, and Nancy Pelosi says two and two make five, then in the name of bipartisanship and compromise, two plus two now equals four and a half.

That is why Washington is currently incapable - as it has been for years - of achieving anything meaningful and positive. Certain things cannot be compromised away and retain their value. Reality cannot be mixed with fantasy and still be called reality, just as a healthy person cannot be stricken with cancer and still be called healthy.

Take healthcare. On one side, the American people are presented with a government behemoth whose stated intention is to reduce the cost of healthcare by bringing more people into the system and guaranteeing healthcare for all. The cost when all is said and done will be near two trillion dollars, spread out over 2,500 pages of incomprehensible legislation modeled after systems that have failed time and time again all over the world. The greatest healthcare system ever conceived will be blown up to cover a relatively small number and will ultimately end up making the entire process more expensive, time consuming and inefficient for everyone.

By contrast, the other side presents none of that, instead focusing on two key issues. The first is cross-state competition for health insurance, which, as common sense would tell us, will significantly drop the cost of healthcare, and the second, tort reform,

which not only has common sense on its side, but history as well. Both Texas and Mississippi have enacted some form of medical malpractice reform and not only have doctors insurance costs drastically been reduced (lowering the costs to the patients), but doctors have rushed to those states, improving both access to doctors and quality of care. These two reforms cost exactly zero dollars to enact and can go into effect immediately, rather than years down the road. (And for good measure can be written on a handful of pieces of paper.)

Why would something so simple, so good, so right, sacrifice itself to something clearly inefficient and damaging all in the name of compromise? The resulting merger would be disastrous and of no help to the American people. Any merger would still create a government monstrosity that can be built upon in the future, an institution that would limit personal liberty all the while making our healthcare system less effective and more expensive.

Author and philosopher Ayn Rand succinctly summarized the reason for the entire bipartisan conundrum. "In any collaboration between two men (or two groups) who hold different basic principles, it is the more evil or irrational one who wins."

Basic principles. Conservatives and liberals have such differing basic principles, core beliefs which encompass all that they are, that it is impossible to be bipartisan and attain "compromise" without sacrificing their very selves.

What compromise can be had regarding abortion? You are either for protecting innocent life or against it. You are either for the right of gays to marry or against it. Any compromise will ultimately lead to the unraveling of a core principle on at least one side.

Supporters of a constitutionally limited and small government can have no compromise with supporters of an all encompassing government, an ever growing nanny state. The core principles are far too different, and as Ayn Rand alluded, if the supporters of the former allow the irrational and evil into their design, it will ultimately end up destroying the core principles of limited government.

You cannot negotiate with cancer. Once infected, it must be completely eradicated or you will die. If the facts are on your side, if you are right, why would you compromise with those who hold no facts? Does an 'A' student benefit by letting an 'F' student do their work for them? What do supporters of proven-to-work free market solutions to healthcare gain by being 'bipartisan' with those whose ideas have not only been proven to fail time and time again, but will irrevocably damage the country? The free market, tort-reform-supporter gains nothing, for the irrationality of the opposing side will only continue to grow and suffocate once given position in the law. Liberty cannot compromise with tyranny and still be called liberty.

And that is why the left loves to tout compromise and bipartisanship. Rather than having a full fledged debate on facts and history to see who is right and who is wrong, the left would rather just take a handful of incompatible ideas from both sides and senselessly throw them together. They know they can never win a discussion of facts and logic. But if they continue to chip away at what is right, at what will work, by slowly implementing the irrational and evil in the name of 'bipartisanship,' then they can slowly but surely see the reshaping of American society and government to what they desire.

To members of both sides, stand for what you know is right. But remember, opinion must end where facts begin. Gather all your facts, take all of history into account, and be as objective as you can. Then stand for what you know to be right.

Two plus two can equal nothing but four. Do not cave to others just for the sake of being 'bipartisan.' Compromise for the sake of compromise is an utter fallacy, a means for the irrational to destroy the rational, just like cancer unchecked will destroy its host.

Two plus two can equal nothing but four. Facts are facts. A is A.

(Erich Mauer is the host of Welcome to Reality, a political talk radio show airing Thursdays 1-2 pm on Wusb Stony Brook 90.1. Contact him at welcometoreality@gmail.com)

THE PATRIOT



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- His Homeland Security chief declaring the "system worked" after an attempted jihadist bombing
- Bestowing Constitutional rights on enemy combatants
- Not supporting the Iranian people's protest of Ahmadinejad's dictatorship
- Signing an executive order to close Gitmo
- Allowing CIA interrogators to face special prosecutors
- Referring to jihadist attacks as "man-made disasters" and "overseas contingency operations"
- Bowing down before dictators and other foreign leaders

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The Power of Love

By Deborah Machalow

It is through the most painful experiences that we, as human beings, grow and mature, and learn the most about ourselves and our potential. It is through these heart-wrenching occurrences that we learn what we are and what we want out of life. Over the past year and a half, my grandparents have taken turns checking in and out of the hospital and various rehab facilities. Through this troubling time I've observed what true love is and how it can truly work wonders.

The August that I started at Stony Brook, I took my first solo vacation – I flew down to Florida to spend a long weekend with my grandparents. Little did I know it was going to be one of the scariest weekends of my life. They picked me up from the airport and we proceeded to go to lunch at their favorite restaurant. While my grandmother was getting her soda, I turned to my grandfather and asked "So how've you been, Grandpa?" He looked at me, opened his mouth and tried to answer but couldn't find the words. A little while later on, he apologized, explaining that he had been unable to form the words. After hours of convincing him the necessity of an emergency room visit, we finally proceeded to the hospital, where he was told he had had a minor stroke – a transient ischemic attack (TIA). Needless to say, he was admitted to the hospital. My grandmother and I trekked out to the hospital each day to spend time with him in his hospital room. On my last full day in Florida, when my grandmother left the room for a moment, my grandfather turned to me and asked

"How's she doing?" I proceeded to tell him she was just worried about him. He smiled and said "I'm worried about her; she's too thin." It struck me as amazing that here he was, lying in a hospital bed after having a minor stroke, and he's losing sleep over the fact that his wife was too thin.

My parents, brother and I rushed down to Florida for Thanksgiving this year after my grandmother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Shortly thereafter my grandparents were both admitted to the hospital, one for shortness of breath, the other for anemia. They were released together, and my grandfather was started on a special antibiotic for an infection he got while in the hospital. Not too long afterwards, she started telling my father that my grandfather was acting strangely: he would complain of hearing "the company" in the living room (despite there not being anyone over and his being mostly deaf), and his wanting to shower and shave at 4AM. His loss of lucidity continued until he fell and couldn't pick himself up. He was admitted again to the hospital, before being transferred to a rehab facility. He was completely out to lunch. My grandmother visited him every day, even when he had no recollection of who she was. She would hire a car service to drive her to the rehab facility everyday, so that she could sit with him, even though he didn't know who she was. She was besides herself, convinced that he'd never remember who she was. On New Year's Eve, at 5AM, my grandmother got a call from my grandfather (still in the rehab place) to ask her

how chemo was going. Sixty-four years to the day that they met, my grandfather remembered who his wife was. His memory and lucidity returned! Love can work miracles – love never lets you forget yourself or the ones you love.

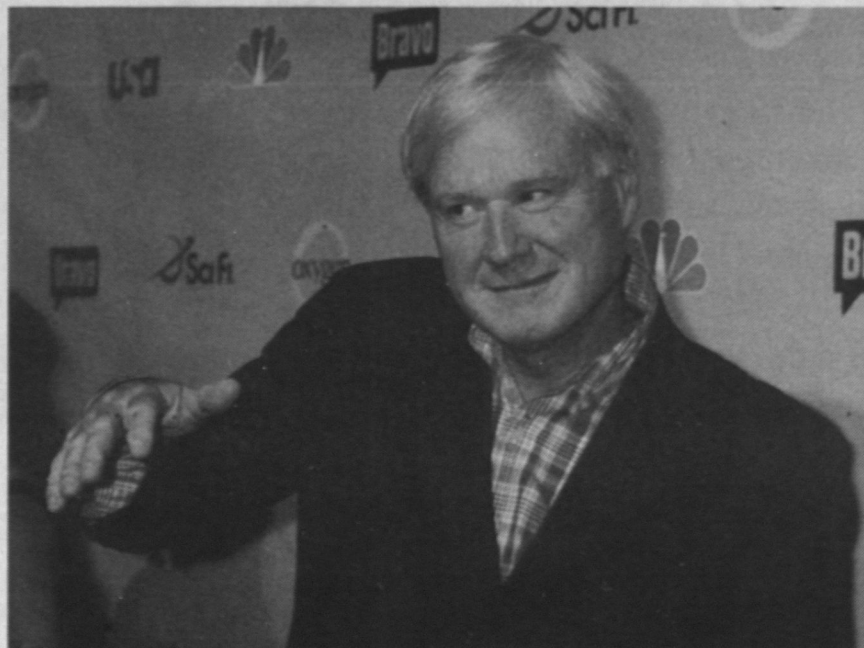
After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and starting chemotherapy, my grandmother would complain weekly to her oncologist that her ankles were swollen and that they hurt her. He ignored her. The built up phlebitis in her ankles caused a stroke the first weekend of this semester. After a week in the hospital, she was transferred to a hospice. My grandfather was besides himself when told she was being transferred to a hospice. When he called to tell us of this, he sounded like he was crying. Needless to say, hospices don't scream "good sign." She consciously made the choice not to eat or drink. It's been four weeks; she hasn't had anything to eat or drink. Everyday he's gone to visit her. Love has sustained her in a way that sustenance never could. Love is all you need to survive.

As painful as all of this has been for me to witness, I have at least learned from it. I used to want to find a guy who would be the perfect political match: love would just be something to get in the way of what would essentially be a business deal. Thinking about the love my grandparents share, and how it has lasted them for sixty-four years, I've realized that I no longer want to settle for a loveless sham of a marriage; I want what my grandparents have.

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BECAUSE CHRIS MATTHEWS REALLY SUCKS!

What To Do With An Ineffective Government

By Pierre Albert

The people of the United States of America should be angry with politics, and rightfully so. In the greatest era of needed leadership with two wars and a sinking economy, the people aren't seeing it. As usual, Washington is polarized by politicians, political groups, lobbyists, executives, judges, party leaders, bureaucrats and more who are all on the lookout for their own personal interest. Is it time that we amend the Constitution to adopt some aspects of a Parliamentary system? This seems like the only possible way to break out of the cycle of a Congress that is against a White House, a White House that is against the Supreme Court and all factions suspicious of the military. In a Parliamentary system the likes of Joseph Biden (D), Hilary Clinton (D), Barack Obama (D), Rahm Emanuel (D), Kenneth Salazar (D), and Hilda Solis (D) would still be powerful members of Congress that could add to a needed supermajority in the Senate and be able to bulldoze legislation through the House of Representatives. Furthermore, in a Parliamentary system almost all of the legislation proposed would come from the White House, which should have been the case in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act before it was polluted by money hungry representatives in the

House. The Supreme Court would not be able to decide what is constitutional and what is not. Thus the awful decision to repeal the law blocking a ban on corporate political spending would never have been made to open the floodgates to more personal interests in politics.

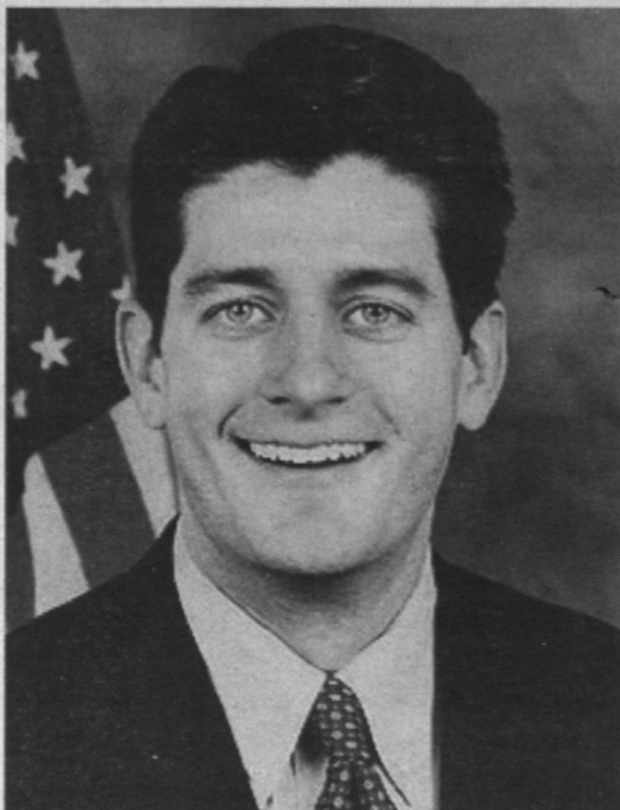
The separation of powers (as the founding fathers had intended) is a good idea but maybe it is too much of a good idea for imperfect humans. Checks and balances on other institutions are used today to create divisions and delays like the filibuster. If we were in a parliamentary system, the President could make policies which truly benefited the whole economy like raising taxes on those who are already filthy rich. The President could simply bring the point that challenging his policy is a vote of no confidence and I doubt Republicans would want to call a general election. They are too concerned about their seats in the first place with the rise of growing independent voters. Maybe the answer of what to do with an ineffective government is to change it. Let the people call for a referendum to alter federal laws. Perhaps a serious attempt to change the government would get the attention of those who refuse to vote on Presidential appointees

because they are holding out on funds for local projects. An ineffective government is no government at all. There is still three years left in the first term of Obama so maybe there is hope yet; maybe the Republicans will learn to play nice instead of holding out until the next general election. I mean really, how many times can you use tax-cuts as a solution to every problem?



Patriot of the Month

CONGRESSMAN PAUL RYAN (R)



This past month, President Obama held, in the name of bipartisanship, a "Health Care Summit" between Republicans and Democrats. The goal was to bring both sides of the debate together to formulate a plan to bring Health Care Reform to Americans. The Republicans dominated the summit, most notably Republican Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Ryan "methodically dismantl[e]d the falsehoods" of Obamacare. Rep. Ryan fired a devastating argument against the Democrats and their ideas for "reform," and, accord-

ing to the same WSJ article, "no one in the political class has even tried to refute Mr. Ryan's arguments, though he made them directly to the President and his allies, no doubt because they are irrefutable."

For his valiant defense against the Socialist Junta, Paul Ryan is our Patriot of the Month.



Our Parents, Ourselves

By Rhoda Feng

World life expectancy is rising. A report by the US census bureau reveals that in upcoming years, the number of old people will eclipse the number of young people. According to the United Nations, one-of-ten persons worldwide are currently age 60 or older. In 2050, that ratio will increase to two-of-nine. In developed countries, one-of-five persons are currently age 60 or older and in 2050, one-of-three persons will meet that threshold. Besides presenting significant challenges for policymakers, the shift towards an older population portends that today's teenagers will have to deal not only with the practical exigencies and demands of work and home, but with the by-no-means-small responsibility of caring for their aging parents. To what extent the wave of aging will alter the parent-child bond remains to be seen.

In 1892, then-president of Bowdoin College William DeWitt Hyde wrote that "Children owe to their parents obedience, and such service as they are able to render. Parents owe to children support, training, and an education sufficient to give them a fair start in life." Most of us acknowledge that grown children should care for their parents, ministering to their needs and providing them succor in old age, but do most of us also use such terms as "debt" and "owe" when discussing parent-child relationships? Do we, in fact, "owe" anything to our parents?

Gratitude and Filial Piety

In Confucian tradition, the relationship between parent and child was more important than the relationships between ruler and subject, husband and wife, friend and friend, and older brother and younger brother. Children, who were considered physical extensions of their parents, incurred an enormous "debt" due to the notion that they "owed" their existence

to their parents. To repay their parents' *zi*, or nurturance, children were expected to practice *xiao*, or filial piety. They had an obligation to obey their parents, respect them, look after them in old age, and perform elaborate rites of ancestor worship after their deaths. In *The Analects*, Confucius even condoned breaking the law if such a transgression was necessitated by filial obligations.

I find fault with the ontological basis of filial piety. I do not accept as apodictic the notion that children "owe" their parents filial love simply because they are the fruit of their parents' loins. In "Are Filial Duties Unfounded?" Nancy Jecker rejects what she calls the "Law of Athens," which establishes a debt of gratitude on the part of children to their parents for begetting them. Aristotle and Saint Thomas Aquinas supported such a view, but Jecker claims that children should treat their parents with filial piety as a token of gratitude for the beneficial and supererogatory acts their parents performed out of love for them rather than for the mere act of begetting. Jecker's refutation of the "Law of Athens" is sound and sensible, given that the "Law" is oblique shorthand at best and a sophistry at worst. Suppose, for instance, that parents have babies for the sole purpose of eating them (as in Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic world) or selling them to others as food (as per Jonathan Swift's modest proposal). Doesn't it then make sense for such children to loathe their parents instead of being grateful to them for the "gift of life"? The "gift of life" is not enough to warrant the gratitude of children. A parent's continued nurturing of and love for his or her child is the only solid basis for filial piety. Adopted children express filial piety to their adoptive parents despite the absence of a biological bond. However, a child who is deprived of love from

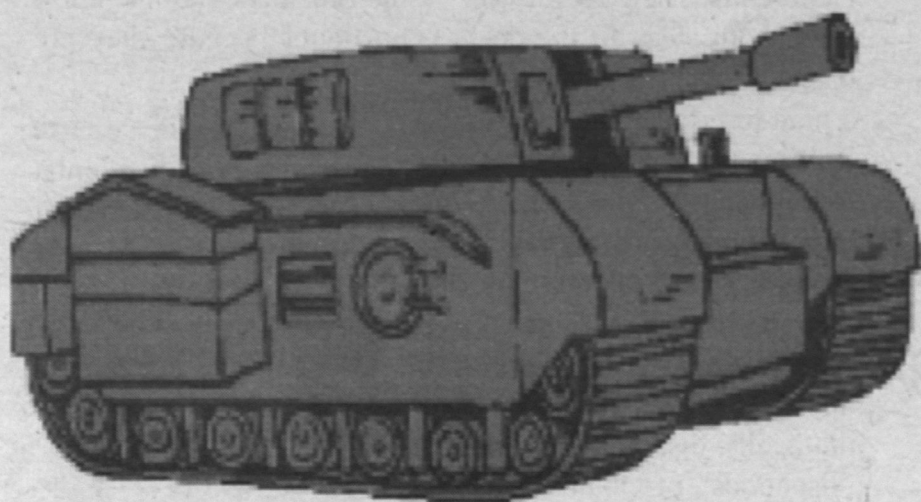
his or her parents is not obligated to care for them. Since Frankenstein denies love to his rebarbative creation, the monster is under no obligation to love or obey its creator.

Friends Don't Owe Friends

So what exactly does one make of parent-child relationships? Why are certain terms not appropriate in describing such relationships? In "The Friendship Model of Filial Obligations," Nicholas Dixon contends that a parent-child relationship should be based on the friendship model, which seeks to foreground the voluntary and loving aspects of such a relationship. He says, "Central to the friendship model is that the extent of filial obligations is determined by the extent of our friendly relations with our parents. Exactly the same holds in the case of peer friendships, where deeper friendships generate more extensive duties of friendship." The word "duty" is more appropriate than "debt" because it is not annexed to the notion of a burden that can undermine parent-child relationships. In J. M. Coetzee's fictionalized memoir, "Boyhood," the author recounts, "The thought of a lifetime bowed under a debt of love baffles and infuriates him to the point where he will not kiss [his mother], refuses to be touched by her."

Confucians perceive filial piety as the wellspring of other virtues. Building upon this idea, Philip Ivanhoe urges us to view filial piety as a "cultivated disposition" rather than a duty, and as an irreducible virtue distinct from friendship and gratitude. In her seminal essay "What Do Grown Children Owe Their Parents?" Jane English argues that one should avoid using words like "debt," "favors," "investment," and "owing" when talking about a parent-child relationship. Such a relationship should be viewed as a friendship that is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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THE PATRIOT

The American Collegiate System

By Alex Niculescu

The American collegiate system is a reflection of the class-ism that poses a threat to our society. It is the perfect example of what your country can do for you rather than what you can do for your country.

College, no matter who it is for, is becoming impossible to pay for. A family of a modest middle class background is excluded from any sort of financial aid and they have to fork up \$200,000 dollars over the course of four years for their child's bachelor's degree. I don't know how many middle class families can provide that much worth in assets over their child's life. Not to mention, growing up it was always poorer people that invested more money in such assets and commodities in the first place. So where is this amount justified by being available for the lower class and not the rest?

This country was built around the middle class. The middle class workforce is the core of this country and provides a lot of innovators as well as a bulk of the workforce. This country has made it harder and harder for the mid-

dle class to continue doing what they do while rewarding the poor for absolutely nothing. Class-ism has torn our country apart because, let's face it, the proletariat always outnumbers the rest. Marx said this because he saw revolution as inevitable due to this size difference. Since the proletariat have a right to vote and the democratic party of America realized how to swindle votes they have redistributed more than just wealth.

This country has gotten too comfortable and built a nest around the fruits of the successful. Leisure and laziness are the least of our concerns as the incapable are granted more and more every year. The left wingers have realized that Bill Gates can make 40 Billion in innovations, and if taxed properly he can help everyone else. If you keep feeding a squirrel in the park, the day you stop feeding it, it has trouble finding food. The goal of this country was not to extend the safety net, but provide opportunity. The land of opportunity is watered down and in the process loses a lot of the work incentive that has helped make this

country great.

There is a redistribution of effort and privilege. If a caregiver spent his life working hard to provide his child with the same Ivy League education he had, he has to make sacrifices. Not all Ivy League graduates become millionaires; most of them feed into what is known as our huge middle class and upper-middle class. Both of these categories are full of capable people and is a reflection of the hard work and effort people put into this country. The chance for a caregiver who spent his life flipping burgers to send his kids to an Ivy League school is a lot more rewarding in the sense that they make something out of nothing and are given success without a drop of leverage or influence. Stony Brook is therefore acting in the name of this terrible system. There are only a handful of truly merit based scholarships and very few of which review financial information. It is the burden of those who have persevered to be held down by those who haven't. This is our new American dream and Stony Brook offers it in all its malaise.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

founded on love instead of the exchange of favors that occurs between people who are not friends. English supports her revisionist position by saying, "The terms 'owe' and 'repay' are helpful in the case of favors, because the sameness of the amount of sacrifice on the two sides is important; the monetary metaphor suggests equal quantities of sacrifice. But friendship ought to be characterized by mutuality rather than reciprocity: friends offer what they can give and accept what they need, without regard for the total amounts of benefits exchanged." Strangers, not friends, exchange favors, which engender debts, which can be repaid, canceled, or discharged. Once a friendship ends, the demands of mutuality end as well. Sacrifices are vital to sustaining friendships, but the root of filial obligations is friendship itself rather than the sacrifices that are the nourishing agents. Friends perform voluntary acts of kindness for their friends out of the kindness of their hearts, so to speak, rather than being motivated by "mutual gain" or the promise of return on investments.

Nota bene: To love one's parents is not necessarily to follow all their advice. If my parents pushed me to become a professional pianist or artist, I could resist their requisition, without eroding our friendship, by claiming that I would be happy in neither of the vocations.

I believe a child's love for her parents nat-

urally grows in accordance with the amount of sedulous love bestowed upon her. The "amount of love" is, of course, unquantifiable, but the full weight of its import impresses itself upon the subject through the Wordsworthian power of memory. Recalling the attentive care she received as a child, the grown woman (or man) seeks to care for her valetudinarian parents out of love, friendship, gratitude and the cardinal virtue of filial piety.

Lessons in Love

In asserting the role of fiction in instilling moral virtue Thomas Jefferson once said, "a lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading King Lear, than by all the dry volumes of ethics and divinity that ever were written." The filial love and respect Cordelia naturally feels for Lear stems from all the love, education, care and nurturing he has given her. Her recalcitrance to her father's love contest is more poignant than any fulsome answer could ever be. She tells him, "You have begot me, bred me, loved me / I return those duties back as are right fit / Obey you, love you, and most honor you."

Consider one last example in which a man's morals are tested. In Euripides' *Alcestis*, Apollo privileges Admetus by allowing someone else to die in his place. Neither of Admetus' parents, despite their old age, volunteers to save their son. However, Alcestis – Adme-

tus' wife – agrees to the substitution (and enters a defining liminal state between life and death and is subsequently replaced by a simulacrum). Is Alcestis' sacrifice morally defensible? Do we inveigh against Pheres, Admetus' father, for refusing to sacrifice himself for his son? Apollo, Heracles, the chorus, Alcestis, and Admetus himself certainly do. Pheres' agon with his son, whom he considers selfish and craven, centers on his refusal. Should Admetus' mother have sacrificed her life for her son even though she birthed him? Suppose that Pheres were to die instead of his son. Does the loving relationship between parent and child, father and son suggest that Admetus is under a moral obligation to give up his life to preserve the life of his father?

By Confucian standards, I fall short of being a perfect daughter. Too often have I acted in opposition to my parents' wishes, qualifying my errant behavior as a quest for *eleutheria*. When I was younger, I believed that my parents' prudential wisdom was all the reason I needed to blindly follow their advice. With the recognition that friendship, love and gratitude form the actual bedrock of my relationship with my parents, I have become more appreciative of all they have done to raise me. And so, I welcome the upcoming years of personal growth and continued devotion to my parents. I hope you do too.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell...Don't Repeal!

By Lindsey Claps

If President Barack Obama's recent call for a repeal of the long-standing policy "don't ask, don't tell" is honored, there will be a change of great magnitude in the United States armed forces.

In 1992, President Clinton suspended the military's policy that kept gay, lesbian, and bisexual people from serving. In 1993, congress passed "don't ask, don't tell," which prohibited anyone who "demonstrate(s) a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts" from serving in the armed forces of the United States.

The prohibition of only openly homosexual people was not meant to curb gay rights, but instead to promote them. Letting them serve openly would "create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

At the State of the Union Address, President Obama promised Americans "this year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."

"...Who they are?" That's funny, Barry, because I thought while serving in the armed forces, it was necessary to conform to mili-

tary edict. Since when is individualism encouraged while serving in the military?

Byung Sa, a 26 year old history major at Stony Brook, and Iraq-war veteran who served two tours, one in 2003 and the other in 2008, believes that this decision to repeal the DADT policy "has not been made in the best interest of the military and its service members."

"The 'don't ask, don't tell' policy is not discriminating against homosexuals. Just as Stony Brook is not discriminating against unintelligent people when denying applicants when standards are not met, there are necessary requirements to be met while serving for the United States armed forces," said Sa.

Sa believes the main purpose and continual goal of the military should always be to "maximize the effectiveness of its fighting force." He is upset with the plan to repeal the DADT policy because "it will not assist these goals, but instead hinder the effectiveness of others."

It is no surprise that Obama chose to appeal to the far left. But in this instance, it is becoming apparent that he does not care for the morale of the service men and women - those who forgo their individual rights to

protect ours back home. This decision isn't based on the needs of the army, but instead of the needs Obama's political popularity with the masses. Those who have not served as a service member should not dictate how a service member should have to live.

One's identity is subordinated for what is best for the military. If one cannot deal with the conformity that is necessary to serve in the military, one needn't apply, nor continue serving.

This is not an issue of gay rights. Homosexuals are allowed to serve in the military, just not if they are open about it. The military is simply not a place where individual rights are honored- in any form. This social experiment has come at a most inconvenient time; we are busy fighting two wars, and these distractions are the last thing we need to further disrupt the order and unity that is the fundamental nature of a well functioning military. Once these restrictions of the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy are lifted, the armed forces will be headed down a slippery slope of acknowledging every form of petty individual aspects. The military is not the place to serve as a Petri dish for gay activism and advancement.

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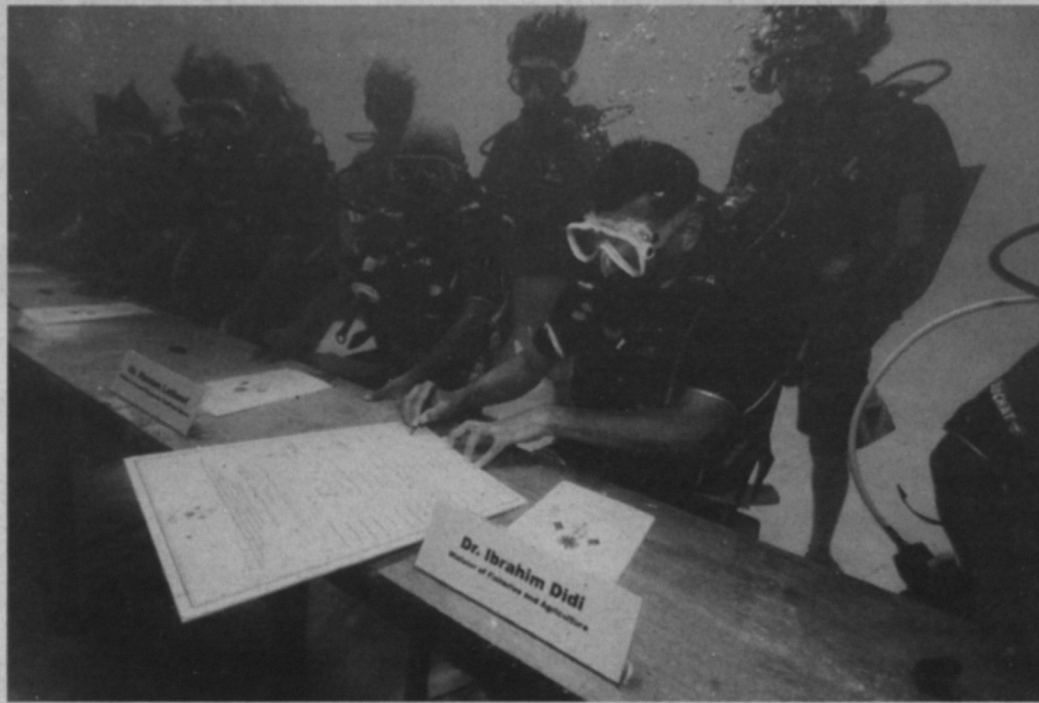
THANK GOD I DON'T LIVE IN: THE MALDIVES

Happy with the way things are going in the United States? According to a recent Gallup poll, 63% of Americans would answer that question with a resounding no. For those of you in this somber majority, *The Patriot* invites you to join us each month in exploring some countries which may just reinvigorate your faith in the good 'ol red, white and blue.

Imagine that you are on a beautiful tropical island. Now imagine that your paradise is slowly sinking into the ocean and the only person that cares is Al Gore. That's pretty much what living in the Maldives is like - making Al Gore cry with your imagination. Of course, convincing Al Gore of made-up threats is about as hard as convincing the staff of *The Stony Brook Press* that their paper is witty (Boom) - the real trick is proving to the rest of the world that you're definitely sinking. Just to be clear, by "proving" I'm not talking about using science but something far more effective: acting. For example, Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed has not only taken his case to Copenhagen but also underwater with an under the sea themed cabinet meeting to signify the island's future fate. And TNT thinks they know drama. President Nasheed, however, is not one to walk away without making sure he's sold his audience, so he's

committed the Maldives to a ten year plan designed to make the island the first carbon neutral country in the world. His plan cuts 715 tons of CO2 per year from the environment at a cost of only 180% of the working population's wealth in one year. The gov-

ernment already spends 67% of the yearly wealth, so why not spend the rest? Nasheed has already begun looking into alternate ways to save the Maldivian people's land from sinking, such as making laws prohibiting private land ownership. Technically, then, it wouldn't be *their* land sinking. I mean, what's forcing environmental views and wealth spending on a people that are already constitutionally required to be Muslim? If you had to choose between handling rising unemployment, massive tourist waste disposal issues, rampant government corruption and .00000286% of the world's yearly carbon output, you would deal with the carbon first, right? So call your agent, grab your snorkel and hop on the next submarine to the Maldives. Academy awards here we come.



The Little Mermaid Signed Next

The Patriot Wants You!

Join The
Patriot's
Ranks and
Be Heard!



Tuesdays
at 6:00PM
in SAC
Room 312!

Who Wore It Better?

THE FACE LIFT



Rocked It!!

Nancy Pelosi



Joan Rivers

In a raging battle filled with nipping, tucking and colygen, this month's "Who Wore it Better" pits House Speaker against Talk Show Speaker. House Speaker Pelosi sports her face lift with a stretched, creepily wide-eyed and puckered lip expression, while Joan Rivers, who once said that she's "seen more knives than a Benihana," sports hers with a more relaxed, yet still unnaturally taut, countenance. After some deliberation, we feel Speaker Pelosi rocked the face lift (as well as doing an incredible Medusa impersonation) and is putting far more effort into her cosmetic miracles.

MatchGame 2010!

- 1.) "In my White House, we will know who wears the pantsuits."
- 2.) "I think with a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court, you can't play, you know, hide the salami, or whatever it's called."
- 3.) "You know, if I were a single man, I might ask that mummy out. That's a good-looking mummy."
- 4.) "I am the terror that flaps in the night. I am Darkwing Duck."
- 5.) "I voted for the war before I voted against it."
- 6.) Obama's speech caused a "thrill going up my leg."
- 7.) "At this moment I do not have a personal relationship with a computer."



A) Bill Clinton



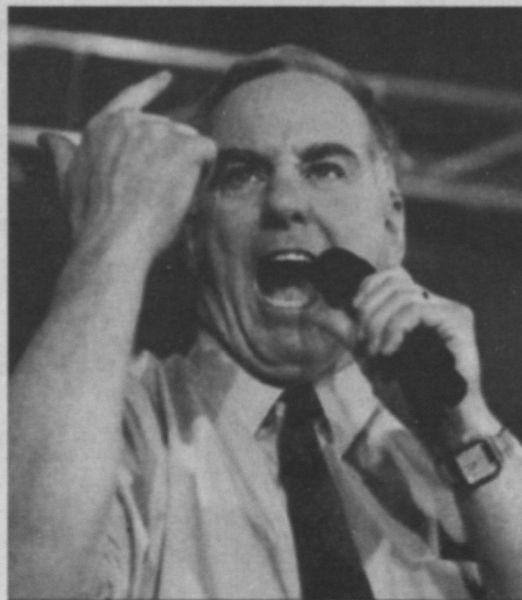
B) Janet Reno



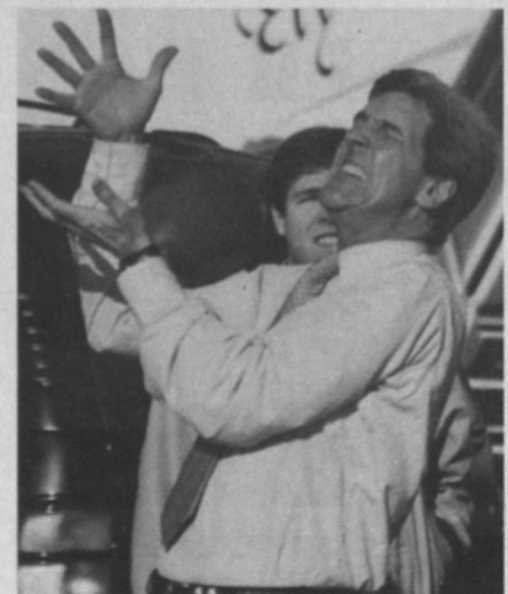
C) Hillary Clinton



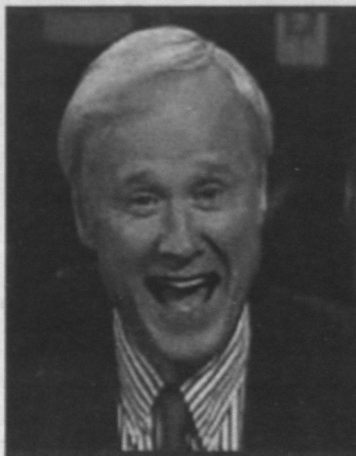
D) Darkwing Duck



E) Howard Dean



F) John Kerry



G) Chris Matthews

Answers:

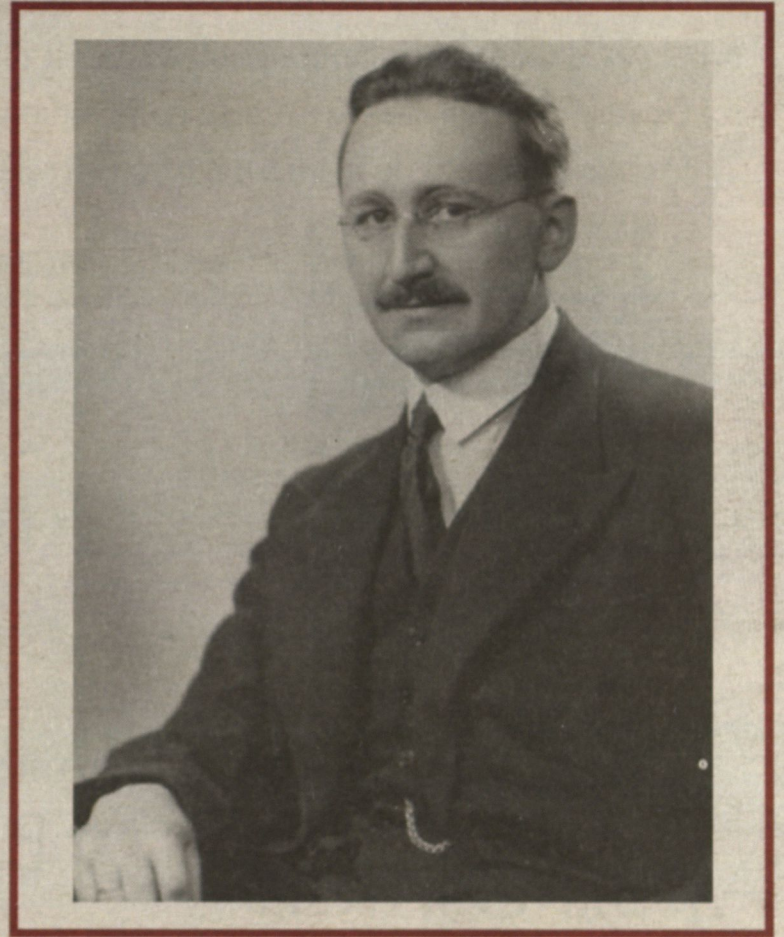
1) C 2) E 3) A 4) D 5) F 6) G 7) B



The Last Word

"PERHAPS THE FACT THAT WE HAVE SEEN MILLIONS VOTING THEMSELVES INTO COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON A TYRANT HAS MADE OUR GENERATION UNDERSTAND THAT TO CHOOSE ONE'S GOVERNMENT IS NOT NECESSARILY TO SECURE FREEDOM."

F.A. HAYEK



HULK HOGAN SAYS: RECONCILE THIS!!!



ALL YOU HULKAMANIACS, TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO SAY **NO TO HEALTH CARE RECONCILIATION!!**