

# The Patriot

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# SNOB

IT'S AN ELITIST THING  
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND

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# LONG LIVE THE PATRIOT

## Dear Reader,

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Alexander G. Chamessian  
Editor-in-Chief

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

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

# Features

MONEY



BY JESSE COLOMBO

## Five Books That Gave Me My Investing Knowledge

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

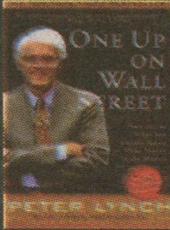
### 1) *Standard & Poors Guide To Money And Investing*

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



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

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



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

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

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



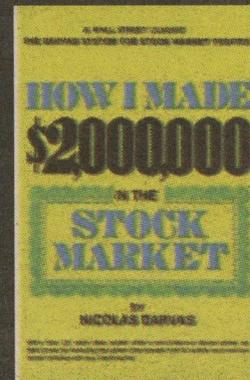
### 4) *Nicholas Darvas- How I Made \$2,000,000 In The Stock Market*

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

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

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

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



## E-Voting?

By Ryan Woltering

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

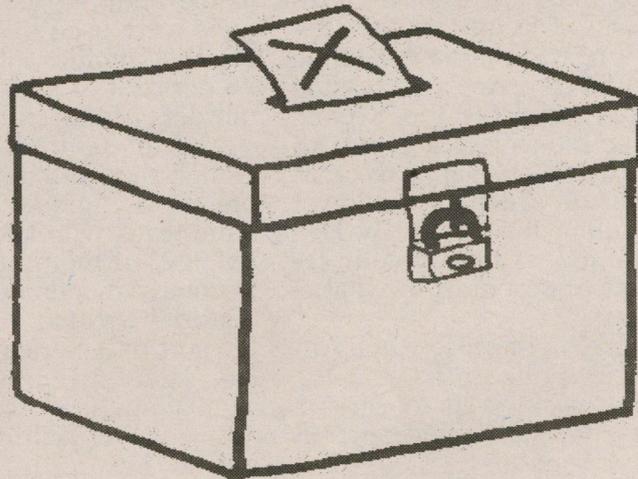
For being the "information generation," constantly connected to our cell phones, and of course, Facebook, why isn't there a better way to do this? I mean, if Facebook can pull off a poll easily, why can't our government?

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

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

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

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



## Simons Donates Sixty Million Dollars to University

By Michael Mets

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Court Hears Landmark Firearms Case

By Gregory Bernardi

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

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

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

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

The initial case heard by the district court

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ann Coulter's Visit to Stony Brook University

By Zachary Kurtz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Bittersweet

By Alexander Chamessian

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## McCain-Mates

By Jason Schaffer

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

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

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

Party blocs of voters.

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

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

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

# Big Brother Liberals

By Conor Harrigan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From those two facts, let us venture an analysis:

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

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

jail her for "insulting Islam."

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

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

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

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

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

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

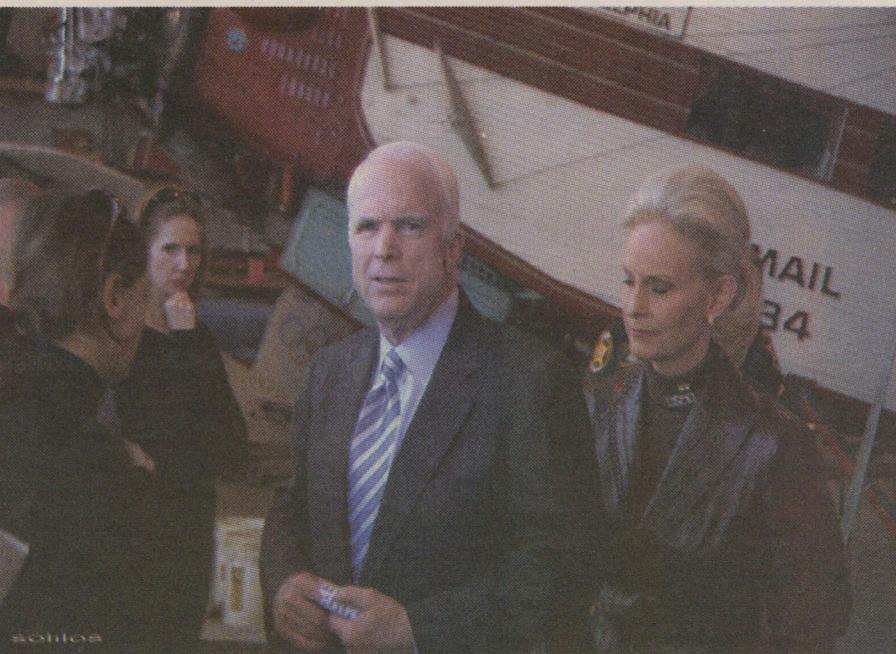
## The Paper of Last Resort

By Jason Frank

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

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

While some may attribute the drop in



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Letter To The Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Deymond Lashley

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

may have overlooked).

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



Left: Libertarian Party Logo

## Personal Politics

By Jonathan Pu

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

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

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

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

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# Response from Zachary Kurtz

Deymond Lashley:

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

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

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

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

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

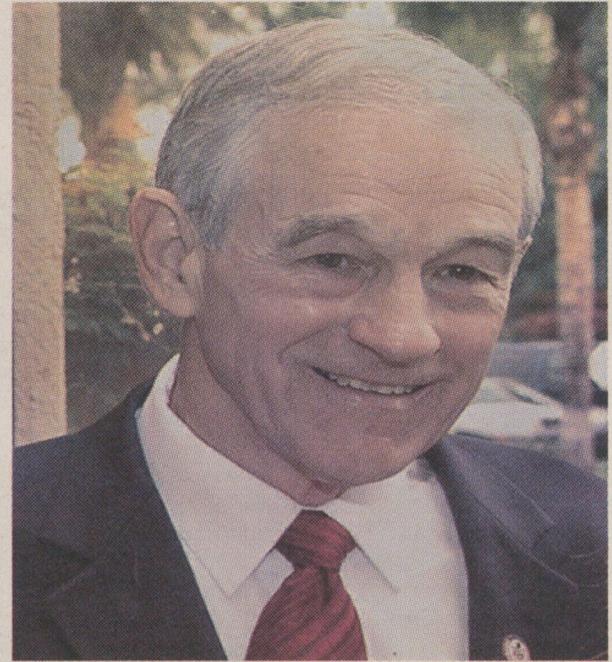
Your comments about earmarking I must disagree with, and they speak towards a larger misconception about how earmarks work. When a congressman asks for earmarks in bills, they are not raising taxes by doing so. An earmark is a tool that federal legislators can use in order to direct funds that are already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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## What Happened to Mr. President?

By Britany Klenofsky

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

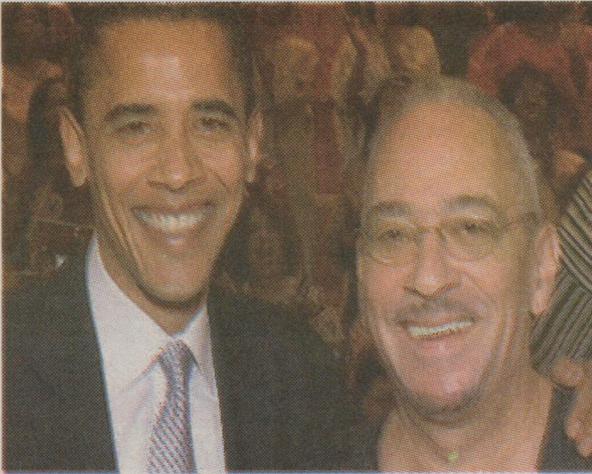
# Reverend Wrong

By Gregory Bernardi

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

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

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



comments

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

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

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

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

## Open Borders Insanity

By Conor Harrigan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bearly Stearns

By Jonathan Pu

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

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

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

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

# Why I am a Conservative

By Bridget Matikainen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## The Feminine MYSTique

By Rebecca J. Newman

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

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

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

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

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

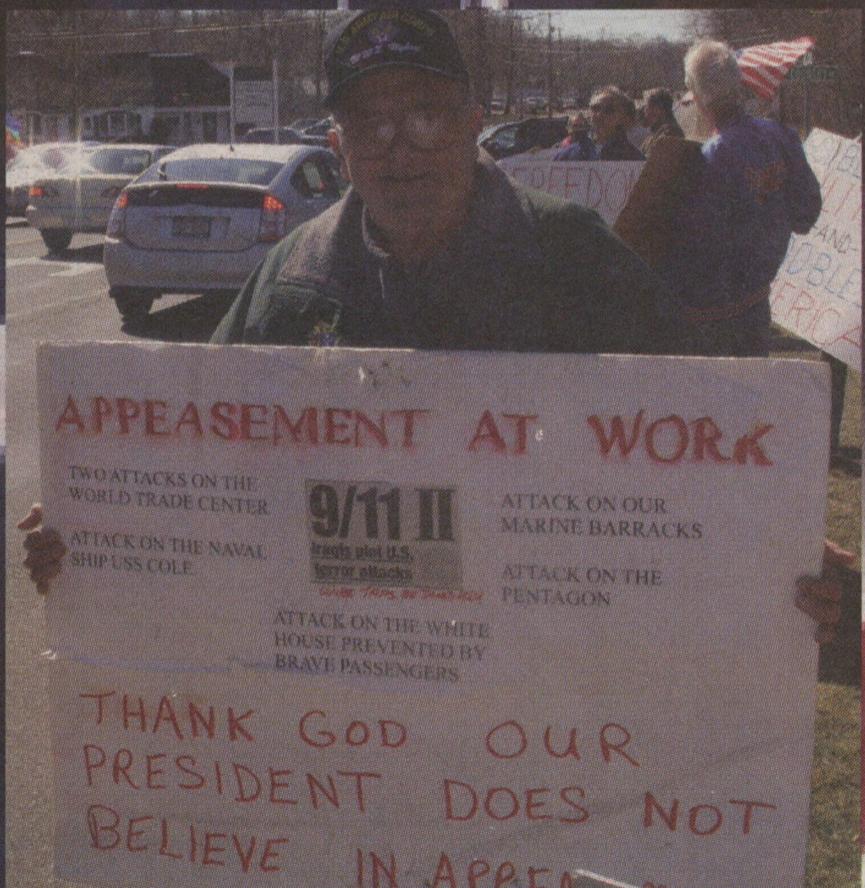
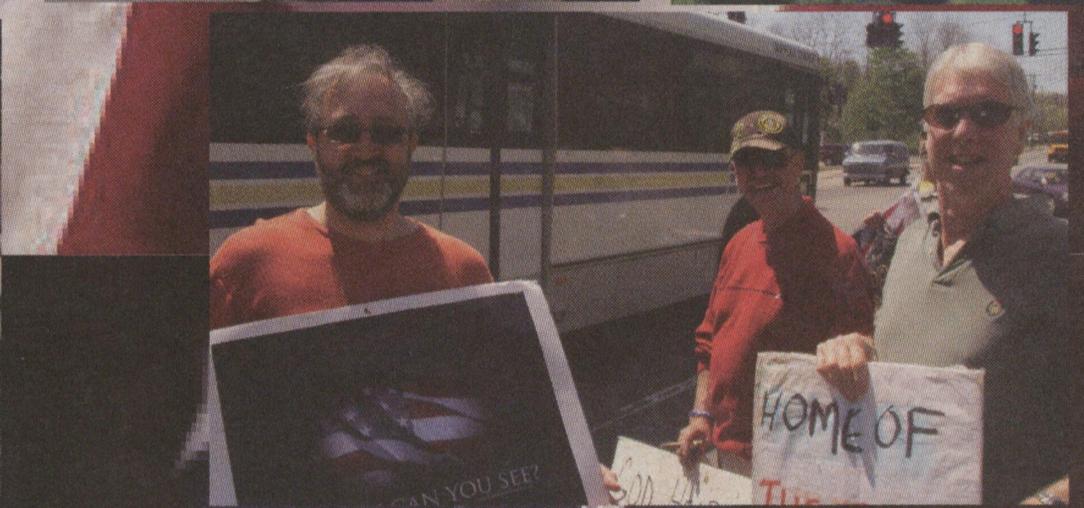
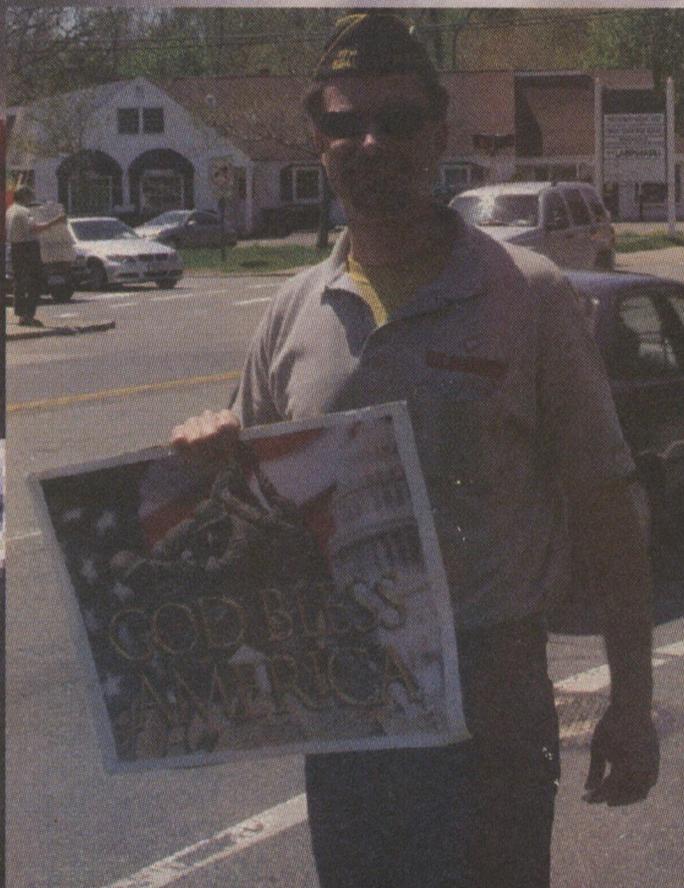


I find it ironic that in this new liberal society I have never felt more pressured and limited. I can appreciate a woman who wants to be a breadwinner, or an astronaut, or anything else. But what about those of us who still want to be homemakers? I am aware of the great opportunities I have as a woman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

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

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

# Living Tribute To the Fall



*"The tree of liberty is not refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." - Thomas Jefferson*