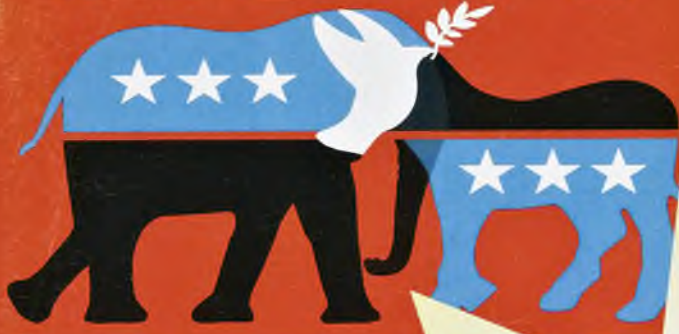


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2012

FINANCIAL CRISIS



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Wanting free healthcare makes you a

SLUT!



Armed repression at a peaceful protest

contents

Spring 2011

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The state of language
in America

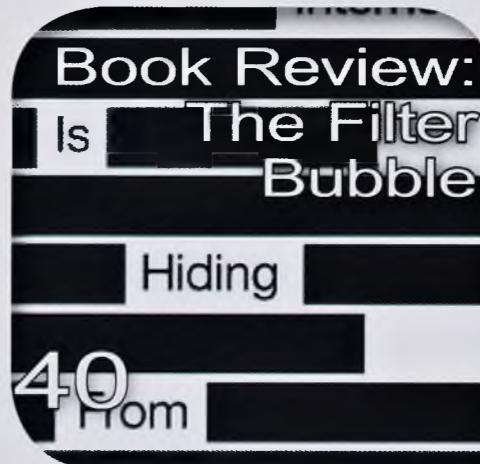
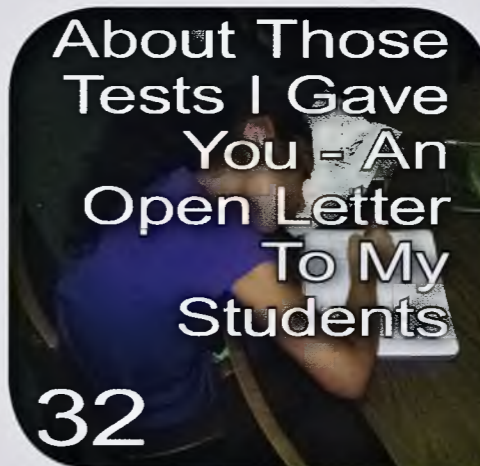


2008
**GOLD
MEDALIST**



You ruined our wars
The tards have done it again
We can't have nice things

- Anthony Guaneri



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Accessible Higher Education
Expansion of Financial Aid
Mass Transit Improvements
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Third Rail

EDITORIAL

A Missive From Oceania



It was a bright cold day in October and the clock was striking thirteen. The newspapers tell us of how fortunate we are to live in a land of such abundance, while millions are unemployed and have no access to effective healthcare or barely able to survive. While the top ten percent control nearly seventy percent of the wealth, we are told they deserve it and we deserve the pitance we get. We believe that 'War is Peace' and 'Ignorance is Strength.' In short, we already live a version of *1984* that George Orwell wrote about those many decades ago. Which terrifyingly enough seems to have been crossed with the *Brave New World* of Aldous Huxley.



Hyperbolic? Not by much. Newspeak and doublethink have come to dominate the America discourse. Orwell described doublethink as:

“The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one’s mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them...To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just as long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies - all this is indispensably necessary. Even in using the word doublethink it is necessary to exercise doublethink. For by using the word one admits that one is tampering with reality; by a fresh act of doublethink one erases this knowledge; and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth.”

The point of doublethink is to get people to accept two different ideas at once. An example of this is the belief of the American Right Wing that President Obama is a devious America hating Nazi-Socialist-



Fascist-Kenyan-Muslim, *ad infinitum*, while simultaneously being an incompetent moron incapable of achieving anything. In the words of Umberto Eco, "Thus, by a continuous shifting of rhetorical focus, the enemies are at the same time too strong and too weak." We see this pattern in other absurd ways as well. For example, Craig T. Nelson (of *Poltergeist*, *Coach* and the *Fox Business Channel*) said, "When I was on food stamps, no one helped me out" or during the healthcare debate when critics insisted on lawmakers' "keeping their government hands off of our Medicare." Ironically, Medicare is a government

program.

This is the point of doublethink; to remove the problem of cognitive dissonance and to create a worldview that merges illogical beliefs with logical rationalizations. It has come a long way to coax Americans into ignoring facts. Returning to the idea of Obama as a Leftist, many might be surprised to know that, when judged on the political scale of the rest of the world, Obama is firmly centrist on social issues and center-right on economic issues. This

**This text is PURPLE;
It is BLACK**

is actually one of many larger problems in our two party system. Democrats and Republicans are almost indistinguishable from each other. They differ slightly on social issues, but on economic issues, both parties are nearly identical with one slight difference; Republicans think the rich should keep us bent over without wasting money on lube, whereas Democrats think the right could at least spring for a dab of KY.

The way the arguments are posed to us by the mass media further increases the false idea that one party is for the working class and the other is for the rich. In actuality, it comes down to one party for throwing the working class the bare minimum of scraps, while the other party is for turning the poor into a renewable resource. Both adhere to neo-liberal economic policy, which entails the constant privatization of governmental services and tax cuts.



In 1984, Orwell explained that Newspeak is a language invented by the Party in order to make independent thinking impossible. Returning to Eco, in his essay *Eternal Fascism*, he says of Newspeak:

“Newspeak was invented by Orwell, in Nineteen Eighty-Four, as the official language of what he called Ingsoc, English Socialism. But elements of Ur-Fascism are common to different forms of dictatorship. All the Nazi or Fascist schoolbooks made use of an impoverished vocabulary, and an elementary syntax, in order to limit the instruments for complex and critical reasoning. But we must be ready to identify other kinds of Newspeak, even if they take the apparently innocent form of a popular talk show.

Ur-Fascism is still around us, sometimes in plainclothes. It would be so much easier for us if there appeared on the world scene somebody saying, “I want to reopen Auschwitz, I want the Blackshirts to parade again in the Italian squares.” Life is not that simple. Ur-Fascism can come back under the most innocent of disguises. Our duty is to uncover it and to point our finger at any of its new instances — every day, in every part of the world. Franklin Roosevelt’s words of November 4, 1938, are worth recalling: “If American democracy ceases to move forward as a living force, seeking day and night by peaceful means to better the lot of our citizens, fascism will grow in strength

in our land.” Freedom and liberation are an unending task.”

Newspeak in 21st century America is not like Newspeak of 1984 Ingsoc. At least, not yet. It is no surprise that politicians label bills with misleading names, but the George W. Bush administration took this practice to new heights. For example, the U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T Act stands for “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept





and Obstruct Terrorism” Act. This legislation has eroded our civil liberties and our democracy by embodying ideas that run counter to American patriotism. Another example is the Right to Work Act, which would give all Americans the right to work for less pay and less job security. Right to Work laws are not only extremely regressive, but also rabidly anti-labor. There are many more examples of this sort of mislabeling, but these strongly illustrate what Newspeak is about. Imagine the criticism one would get for being opposed to something called the “Right to Work Act”. The attack ads write themselves. What type of person would be against an American’s ‘right to work’? Or the Patriot Act. Aren’t you a patriot?

The purpose is to limit what is acceptable in political speech. Over the last thirty years, American political discourse has been on a steady march to the right. It has drifted so far that in the modern Republican Party Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan could not pass the Republican purity test. As mentioned earlier both parties follow neo-liberal free market capitalism. With the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act 2012, the NDAA (or the [as I like to call it] the No Democracy Anymore Act) we see the bill presented as one thing, but it means something else. This bill allows for the imprisonment and murder of American citizens based on protesting! Yet, both Republicans and Democrats supported this bill. When President Obama said

he didn't agree with it, he signed it anyway. If he didn't agree with it, he could have vetoed it. Instead he got to have his cake and eat it too.



As students of CSI, we need to wake up. The solutions of The Establishment do not work. We the students are already feeling the effects of the failures of current orthodoxy; extremely high unemployment and low wages for those of us lucky enough to find a job. With CUNY planning to raise our tuition by one hundred percent, yes 100% over the next five years, can we truly afford to believe the Newspeak surrounding our economic hardship? The answer is no.

We can no longer afford to be apathetic. We can no longer afford to be mindless consumers. Action must be taken. The status quo needs to be overthrown. Let us cast off the shackles of deception that Newspeak and doublethink have clamped upon us. Let us truly be free and think for ourselves. Not to do so spells doom for the average American, for all Americans except the owners of our places of employment. It is high time we cut those strings and reassert ourselves in *our democracy!*

As Ever,
Comrade Mike

By: Anthony Guaneri

For many people of my generation, it's hard to remember a time when your favorite song or movie was nothing more than a simple click away. For as long as there has been internet piracy and file-sharing, there has been controversy over how to confront it at every corner. A perfect example of this is the Napster



lawsuits that took place over a decade ago. However, Napster was just a precursor to the culture of internet file-sharing that would blossom in the 21st Century. Numerous file-sharing websites, servers, and protocols have popped up over the years.

These have included: BitTorrent, Limewire, Frostwire, Mediafire, Rapidshare, etc. Recently, the legal troubles with the website MegaUpload have been at the forefront of this online culture.

In light of the recently proposed SOPA/PIPA bills, one might have reason to be alarmed when MegaUpload mysteriously disappeared this past January. Instead of searching for files to download, visitors were greeted with a message from the United States Department of Justice stating that the domain had been seized and several individuals had been indicted and charged with federal crimes. According to the US Department of Justice's website:



“For more than five years the conspiracy has operated websites that unlawfully reproduce and distribute infringing copies of copyrighted works, including movies – often before their theatrical release – music, television programs, electronic books, and business and entertainment software on a massive scale.”

The online community did not meet this stunning shutdown quietly. Notorious hacking group “Anonymous” responded by taking down the websites of the US Justice Department, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA),

and Universal Media Group. People from all over the world cried out against the blatant attack against file-sharing.



As an avid music listener, I fully support websites such as MegaUpload. Granted, they can be viewed as harming record sales and are often in violation of copyright law due to songs uploaded without the proper consent of owners. Nonetheless, downloading music allows for the sampling of songs before deciding whether or not it warrants a purchase. Physical record sales might not be very impressive; truthfully, the compact disc is a dying (if not already dead) medium of technology thanks to the rise of digital media. Yet, ticket sales for live shows and demand for merchandise have skyrocketed. For most

artists, this generates more profits than the proceeds from record sales. Furthermore, don't expect me to feel bad because I'm putting a slight dent in the pockets of bigwig record executives who are intrusive on the creative process.



Many artists get their start through the independent route. Very rarely do you see them storm out of the gates as a major label star *a la* The Beatles or Michael Jackson. Even Nirvana had to pay their dues independently before the name Kurt Cobain became synonymous with 90s pop culture. If anything, file sharing allows a wider range of musical acts to reach audiences with cheap recordings made in a basement or bedroom, rather than expensive and decked out recording studios. In the past, you had to catch the radio or turn on MTV at just the right moment to hear that new

band that all your friends were talking about. Nowadays, you turn on your computer and all of it is at your fingertips at all times.



Even major recording artists have come out against the greed of the record labels in favor of file-sharing. In 2007, upon learning that his album *Year Zero* was being sold at nearly \$30 USD in Australia, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails urged fans to bootleg it. To quote Reznor verbatim, “Steal, steal, and steal some more and give it to all your friends and keep on stealing.” Also in 2007, the enormously popular rock band Radiohead self-released their album *In Rainbows* to the Internet and allowed fans to pay whatever price they desired for it.



In an interview with Time Magazine, lead singer Thom Yorke stated, “I like the people at our record company, but the time is at hand when you have to ask why anyone needs one. And yes, it would probably give us some perverse pleasure

to say ‘fuck you’ to this decaying business model.” Radiohead would go



down the independent route again in 2011 with the release of their album *The King of Limbs*. Both albums have performed fairly well commercially. Other notable examples include rock legend Elvis Costello telling fans to bootleg a recently released box set of his music that had a retail price of \$225.



MegaUpload was an unfortunate casualty of an attack on a booming online culture. Never before has so much artistic vision been available with such ease. Why should greed stand in the way of artists who genuinely want to share their work with the masses for free? If an artist objects to their work being shared for free, then they have every right to have it removed from a website. However, many of them want to have their work made available for exposure and they should continue to be allowed this outlet to do so.

A moment of silence for Megaupload





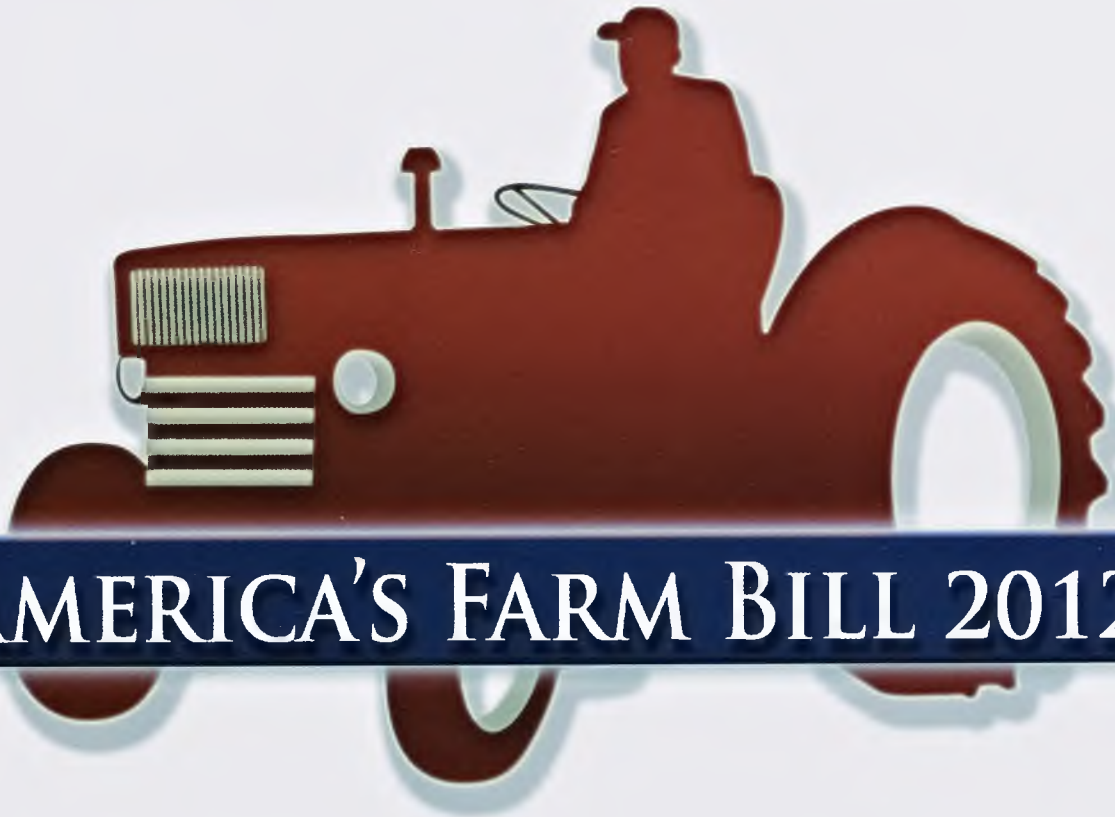
AND SO...



People Who Haven't Heard Of The Farm Bill Say... What?

By: Andrea Curry

One of the most amazing things about our country is the citizens' ability to attain information, despite our government's attempts at restricting it. The Farm Bill is one such document that they wish we'd just forget or ignore; but why?



AMERICA'S FARM BILL 2012

In 1933, the Great Depression caused over a 50% drop in gross income for farmers. With the whole country in a state of collapse and chaos, the Agricultural Adjustment Act was born. This act was our very first taste of the living breathing Farm Bill; meant as a temporary means to an end, this bill promised subsidies to farmers who purposely left part of their fields unplanted. The purpose was to control supply in order to receive fair prices on the crops being grown. It was supposedly voluntary, but those who opted out would have to face lower value on their products making the incentive to join pretty steep. Higher taxes were put in place to help ensure revenue for farmers. These taxes were later overturned as unconstitutional on the grounds that they only targeted help for one group of people.

The Dust Bowl (1935) set into motion a whole new set of problems for farmers. The need for conservation was now immediate. This brought forth a second draft of the Farm Bill known as the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment act of 1936. This bill had some upsides, but they were quickly over-run with many downsides. Farmers were called to replace soil-depleting crops, such as corn and soy, with soil enriching crops, such as legume and grass. Keep in mind that the farmers were receiving more money from the government for these surplus crops (wheat, corn and soy) and they only had to replace seven of their soil-depleting crops. While farmers did replace these soil-depleting crops in the areas of their acreage with lousy soil they continued to plant them in their fertile soil in order to continue receiving the big bucks from these cash crops. In turn, the surpluses grew rather than shrinking.



As we approached the 1940's, the American producer was introduced to a hungry world market. During this period conservation was put on the back burner, surpluses were encouraged. The Agricultural Act of 1956 set to straighten out the loose ends left by World War II. The Soil Bank was meant to do just that. However, rather than solve the problem it caused prices on crops to increase. This trend has continued up to present day.

This brief history of the Farm Bill leaves out years of other acts set in motion to “improve” our food system.



That's a lot of corn

First, there is the surplus situation. Specifically, the huge corn surplus we had and still have. This has a great effect on many parts of our food system. For one thing, it is inedible to both humans and animals, and gives us little nutrition. Yet, our cattle feed is predominately corn based. This causes irritation and leads to infections in the cattle's stomach, causing them to be pumped full of antibiotics.

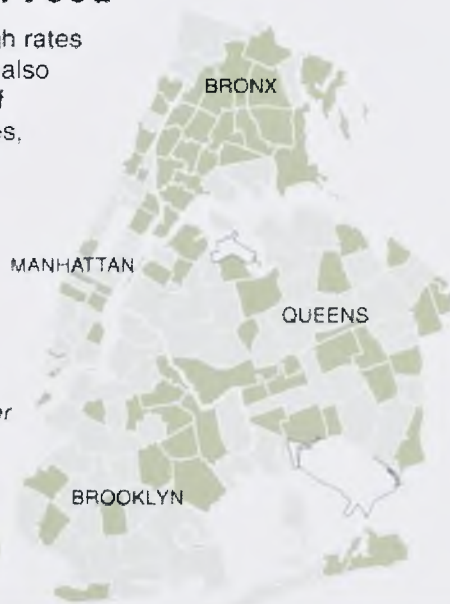
Then why use corn to feed them? Because it's cheap and that is all.

What happens when these cows and other animals are butchered and we eat them? We in turn ingest numerous amounts of antibiotics! I don't know about you, but that explains a lot to me. For instance, in the past few decades puberty has hit our youth earlier with girls receiving their period on average at the age of ten compared to the usually standard of 14. Also, our ability to affectively fight disease has been lessened. People are getting sicker because their immunity is lower from eating so many antibiotics.

Obesity and Fresh Food

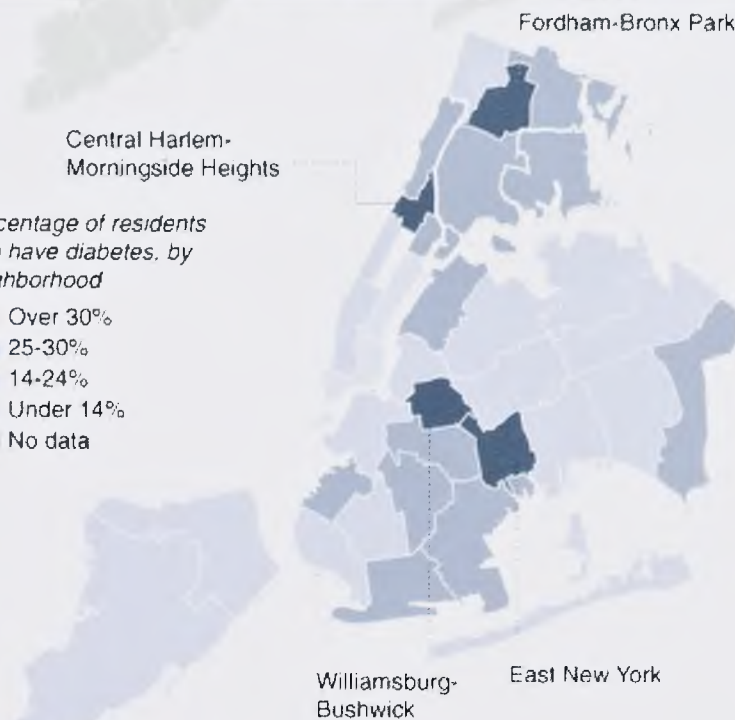
The neighborhoods with high rates of obesity and diabetes are also those with concentrations of drug and convenience stores, and small numbers of fresh-food purveyors like supermarkets, fish markets and produce markets.

ZIP codes in which less than 25 percent of food retailers offer fresh food



Percentage of residents who have diabetes, by neighborhood

- Over 30%
- 25-30%
- 14-24%
- Under 14%
- No data



Source: New York City Department of Planning

Also, these surpluses of soy and corn show up in all processed foods. Processed foods therefore become cheaper as the steady increase of prices on healthier crops continue to grow. This brings me to the biggest problem I see with our Farm Bill.

As we try to lessen our surpluses by cheapening the price of unhealthy food items they are unfairly dispersed and made more available in lower income neighborhoods. Meanwhile, fresh vegetables and fruits are scarcely available.

The obesity epidemic in our country can be linked to this lack of availability of fresh foods. The map below shows the differences in New York neighborhoods according to incomes, fresh food availability, and obesity.

If you look closely at the more shaded areas you will notice that they are all lower income neighborhoods. This is a hideous trend. The previous Farm Bill of 2008, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act is most certainly to blame. Previous bills called for farmers to lay aside parts of their land this act actually calls for 80% of farmers crops to be destroyed. Why? To keep prices "fair," but for whom? Only those lucky enough to

afford it apparently; if that's not clear by the so called "fair" pricing it is definitely shown through availability.

Through all there is still hope (or at least I hope so). Many organizations have stepped forward and said enough is enough and it's time for a Farm Bill that benefits the people. An example of a few of these

groups is the Green Chart Organization, which works to bring charts of fresh produce to neighborhoods with little availability. Also, there has been an uprising of farmer markets popping up all around the



A Green Cart at Wyckoff Ave in Brooklyn



Farmer's Market at Union Square in Manhattan

city.

However, much is still needed to be done. This is the year of the Farm Bill and aside from some little tidbits in the news; coverage of it is going unnoticed and leaving millions in the dark about their food resources. The Farm Bill is not only about vegetables and fruit; it covers all of the FDA's food policies. This includes the cleanliness of food facilities, but that's a topic for another time.

If you're sitting here wondering what you can do, first educate yourself on our food policies. Then, take some time and visit a farmers market, meet your local farmers and ask them about it. Take 30 seconds out of your day and check your representatives, let them know that you say "No" to the "Secret Farm Bill." Finally, if you leave this article with anything... leave knowing that there is some serious injustice in our food policies that affect us all. Ask yourself, why don't I know about this bill? Most importantly, why is our government okay with making it's people sicker?

Reasons For Wearing A Hood

Real Life

To shield your eyes from the sun

Keep your head dry in the rain

Prevent your ears from freezing in the cold

To the police

Intended rape

Intended robbery

Intended murder

Geraldo

Getting yourself shot

Being responsible for your own murder

Being a racist stereotype



Hi! I'm Barry O'Bama, America's first mixed race president. It was pretty hard growing up listening to the same lame jokes over and over again, so it's actually been a breath of fresh air being made fun of as President. People actually made up new jokes just for me, like I was born in Ireland and am secretly Catholic!

In order to show my appreciation for all the attention I've gotten in my first term, I thought it'd be nice to give a little back to the party that was responsible for getting me elected; the Republicans.

T. Robme



Prick Sanitarium



Newt Gingrich



Dr. Grandpa Rambley, PhD



If there is one thing Mitt Romney has accomplished by his candidacy, it's disproving the myth of Republican unity. Mainstream GOP voters love him enough to keep him comfortably in the front-runner spot (and why wouldn't they? He's got more money than a medieval sultan), but the talking-puppets on all the news channels keep asking who will be the candidate to take down this man with the easy charm, deep pockets, and voter appeal. Seems like he should be their go-to guy!

Here's the rub; if the GOP admit to supporting this guy, then deep in their brains they'd have to deal with the fact that they would be supporting a guy they secretly hate for two reasons: he's the former governor of a blue state a flip-flopper, and he believes in the Wrong Jesus. As much as Republicans love money and making poor people fight each other for scraps, they hate people who believe in Wrong Jesus more. A vote for Mitt Romney might send you directly to Hell.

There's an old saying in the election game; it's better to be for something than against something else. Rick is trying to rewrite that adage to include the clause "unless you're against everything."

Santorum believes that Satan is running America, and so the only way to solve our problems is to create a theocratic state where everything is forbidden (you know, cause it worked so well in Iran). Any woman, homosexual, Black, Hispanic, Middle-Eastern, non-Christian, non-millionaire, or Dutch person on the planet is actually acting against their own self-interest if they even just know this man's name. So is anyone with a job who expects to be paid for their labor. This guy's ideas are so backwards that cavemen are turning over in their graves, which threatens to destabilize a crucial geological strata. If Santorum is elected, the cavemen will spin continuously for four years and the ground upon which you're standing will open up and all of civilization will collapse directly into the resulting hole. Admittedly, by the end of four years of a Santorum presidency, all of civilization collapsing into a sinkhole would actually be an improvement.

This guy has some obvious shortcomings that aren't even worth satirizing. His name is Newt and he looks like a failed attempt to build a muppet out of corn fritters and pudding. He one time divorced a cancer-ridden wife to marry a shiny new healthy wife. The shiny new wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, so he asked her for an open marriage. She said no, so he dumped her for a newer shiny new healthier wife. Makes you wonder what his idea of "in sickness and in health" means?

That's not even taking his political record into account!

During the reign of Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich quit as Speaker of the House because the Republican Party was gearing up to throw him out for ethics violations. I'll repeat that; The Republican majority in Congress during the term of a Democratic President got together and said "Electing this guy was a mistake, he's too shady for us." In order to regain his 'good' name, Gingrich now plans on cutting corporate taxes to help pay for a moon-base.

Darn! I forgot to make fun of him, and I've run out of space...

This guy is like a nerdy, elderly Mitt Romney in that a lot of people want to vote for him but none of them want to get caught doing it. In fact, Dr. Paul may be the closest thing the world has to a GOP hippie. Unfortunately for him, no Republican would ever knowingly vote for a peacenik. They couldn't reconcile their living Right Jesus with a candidate who wouldn't open up the world to His love through strength of arms.

But he is a Libertarian (which for some reason is *en vogue* with the GOP these days). His strident demands that we "return to the Constitution" resonate with the voter base, despite the fact that none of them seem to be able to tell you when we ever left the Constitution in the first place. Apparently, most of Ron Paul's supporters long for either the days of their youth (when there was no income tax and women couldn't vote) or long for the glory days their great-grandparents used to spin their tall-tales about (when there was no income tax and women couldn't vote). Although there is a third group of Ron Paul supporters; World of Warcraft subscribers. Ron Paul rallies seem to happen just as frequently in Stormwind as in Washington. Looks like Dr. Paul's main appeal is to people who don't live in the same reality as the rest of us.

Double Plus Ungood

By: Joseph Potenza

Throughout history, human beings have developed language, the sophistication of which has been a defining factor in the growth of culture. In the English language, there are hundreds of thousands of words, and with time that number keeps growing. It is and has been a living language for centuries. While the body of the language has grown, the use of it has fallen to the wayside; a fact that is becoming more apparent as society evolves.

We are murderers.

A harsh truism, but fitting for the up-and-coming generation of people who have grown up in the information age show a trend of shortened attention span and decreasing sophistication of language.

When we look at language, there are two key facets; the written word and the spoken. Each is vital to the life of the tongue, and in the use of each we see aches and pains. The written and spoken word are losing the power that they have had for generations.

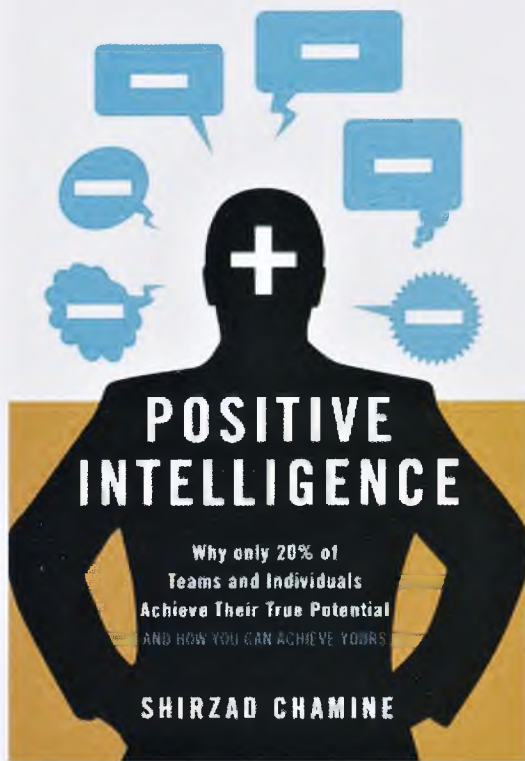


As we examine the written word, we notice terrible trends. Books are losing influence and precedence in our society and are even taking on stigmas. When a child first learns to read they are overwhelmed with joy having opened a new door in their mind. Not much later, reading becomes a chore. Between forced assignments, testing, and ready availability of other stimuli, young people begin to look down on reading. It is a painful stigma that builds up as the individual grows.

Even the sources of the things we read are losing their fare. Borders, one of the most prevalent book retailers in the country, recently went out of business. This was a major shock to avid readers that would frequent the retailer, as it is a severe cut to the availability of new and old books alike. Thankfully, Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble are still doing well. Part of the struggle that most book retailers are dealing with is the competition of E-readers. These two companies are aided by the success of their own proprietary lines of E-readers, the Amazon Kindle and the Nook by Barnes & Noble, which show a trend for adapting for business sake as well as for the technology. Smaller booksellers who cannot release their own devices or profit from selling media for them will find an even smaller consumer base and a harsher market.



When we look at the top selling books of the last two decades (according to *USA Today*) there is a depressing trend. Besides the Harry Potter series, most of the top selling books are self-help and dieting books. Other top sellers include the *Twilight Saga* by Stephanie Meyer (whose content is directed to older audiences, but is written at a fourth grade reading level) as well as an extensive amount of books with movie



adaptations. The sales of these books show a give-and-take relationship with the movies made about them. As the sales of the book inspire making of the movie, and the announcement of a movie inspires more sales.

Newspapers are a dying source of information. Beginning with the advent of news networks on television and nightly news programs, the downward trend has hit an all time low now that most people search for current events on the internet. This has put a huge strain on those that dispense information. While the competition among newspapers was once between writing quality and spin, now in most papers, the battle is over who can dispense the day's events most quickly.

The internet gives anyone from the general public the ability to disseminate their own opinions, which may or may not be mistaken as news by the reader. What the internet does not provide is proper competition. When working for a firm, journalists were competing with other writers for his or her place in the paper, to have his or her story read on the nightly news, or for the money of a public that is willing to spend money for a paper. On the net, ease of access and lack of cost eliminates the limitations that used to inspire competition between writers. It costs the reader nothing to thumb through a dozen different sites, harshly decreasing the need of the journalist to vie for the attention of the reader.

It is the age of Twitter; where life is lived in 140 characters or less, and everyone shouts at once while no one really says anything. Political statements now have about as much content as a fortune cookie, and the cookie seems to have a better message. As we drown in seas of trivial information, we as a population are finding ourselves desensitized to it.

George Orwell, the author of *1984* and *Animal Farm*, established the concept of Newspeak. For those not familiar with the term, in *1984* the omnipotent and totalitarian government, known as IngSoc, personi-

STOP THE PRESSES

THE DEATH OF THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY



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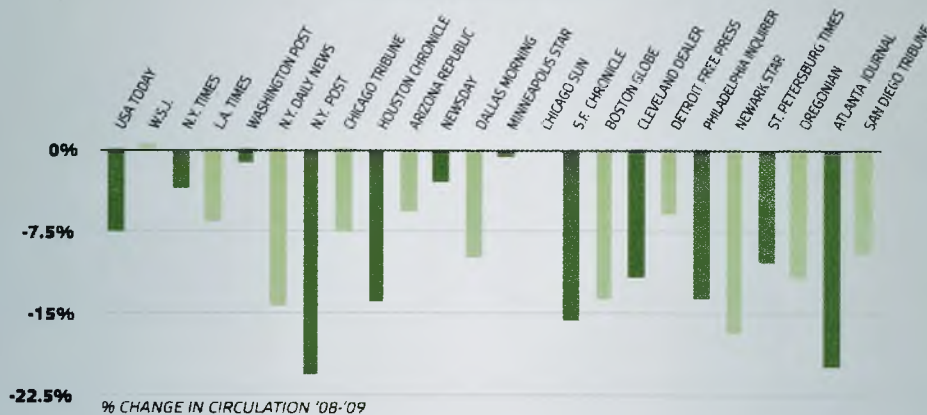
NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS CIRCULATED IN MILLIONS



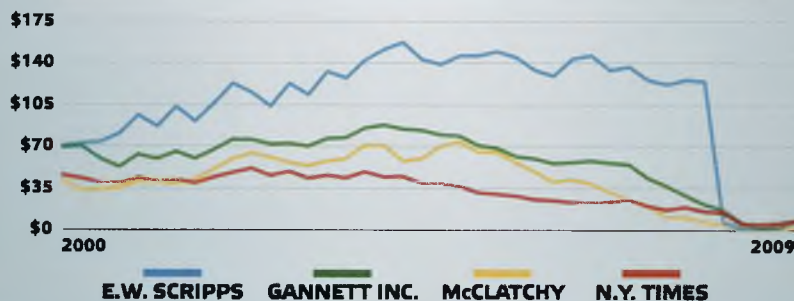
THE FACTS:

- 1 On February 27, 2009, The Rocky Mountain News printed its last edition, just two months shy of its 150th anniversary.
- 2 Barclays Capital projects US newspaper advertising revenue will decline 22% in 2009 and another 10% in 2010.
- 3 Year to date there have been 13,636 newspaper employee layoffs and buyouts while 2007 saw an estimated 16,000.
- 4 In the worst quarter in modern history for American newspapers, advertising sales fell by an unprecedented 28.3% in the first three months of 2009, plunging sales by more than \$2.6 billion from the prior year.

AMERICA'S TOP 25 PAPERS:



STOCK PRICES OF MAJOR NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

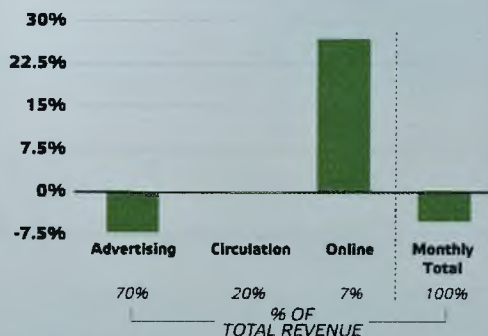


EXPENDITURES ON NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING:



NEWSPAPER REVENUE SOURCES:

% CHANGE YEAR OVER YEAR



SOURCES: NAA.ORG / BLOOMBERG.COM

fied as Big Brother, a seemingly omniscient character that watches over the lives of everyone his unblinking eyes gaze upon, developed strong control over people through various means. One of the strongest actions they took was also one of the sneakiest. Big Brother destroyed the English language by removing words and simplifying the way everyone communicated. Things that were once 'marvelous' or 'stupendous' were simply 'good' or 'plus good'. Conversely, 'horrible' or 'torturous' became 'ungood', or 'plus ungood'. IngSoc's logic was that without the proper words to describe an idea, the idea would have no power. How could one effectively complain about the government when they would have to use the same words that would describe a stale danish?










BIG BROTHER



IS WATCHING YOU

What is limiting our speech is not an organization that is systematically ripping pages from the dictionary, but the personal limits that we place on society and on ourselves. We are taught in school the vocabulary we should use. In the name of accessibility it is not used often enough. As words fall into disuse they lose prevalence in the collective conscious. In a terrible snowball effect, this leads to even less use since the word is not as accessible as it once was.

The concept of reading levels also plays their part in this limitation. With so many books clearly defined for specific age groups, one would be hard pressed to encourage a student to read above their level. This builds an illusionary barrier that prohibits young readers from exploring "more challenging" and engaging stories and vocabularies. While a student may learn their vocabulary from a teacher through rigorous assignments, the best way to establish a word in the mind is for the reader to actively

READING LEVEL	1-1.9	
READING LEVEL	2-2.9	
READING LEVEL	3-3.9	
READING LEVEL	4-4.9	
READING LEVEL	5-5.9	
READING LEVEL	6-6.9	
READING LEVEL	7-7.9	
READING LEVEL	8-8.9	
READING LEVEL	9-12	

want to learn the word by encountering it and figuring out its meaning through context or research.

The victims of this trend in speech are the younger generation. As soon as kids are learning to read they are being immersed in the faux-language brought about by internet chat and texting. To make matters worse, dialogue and wording in “age appropriate” television does very little to enhance the vocabulary of its audience. Of course there are exceptions, but these fail to invalidate the rule instead of bending it. People are only exposed to the words we hear, and the visual medium of television limits the exposure to the wonderful adjectives and adverbs that can transform a simple thought to a truly eloquent one. Even the conversation and narration on the most popular television shows lacks substantive vocabulary.



I am not here to denounce television and preach the evils of the device. It is a valuable item for entertainment and education. It cannot, however, replace books and there seems to be a developing mentality that watching television and movies does. It is not an intentional shift, but it has been present for years. It comes with the format. To access shows and movies, all that is required is the press of a button and a monthly fee. Books require effort to obtain and provide no instant satisfaction. E-readers, such as the Amazon Kindle, have streamlined the process, but for some people the cost is still prohibitive. Libraries are oft forgotten, and until recently had the threat of a forty million dollar budget cut looming over them.

The largest crossing of the line of sophistication can be heard when “netspeak” enters the normal vernacular. One of the most popular commercials of the last few years was affectionately referred to as “IDK My BFF Jill” in which a mother and daughter argue. The mother uses proper language and her daughter rebuts with acronyms, initialisms and shorthand speech. While there was only one generation between them, the characters seemed to speak two separate languages, a fact highlighted by the use of subtitles to “translate” the daughter’s dialogue. One of the reasons it was so well received was how relatable the advertisement was. Most of the younger viewers were able to understand both characters without the subtitles while the older generation was sympathetic to the plight of the mother.

It is not uncommon to hear people use netspeak in conversation. People will often say “L-O-L” now instead of actually laughing, or say “b-r-b” to excuse themselves from the room.

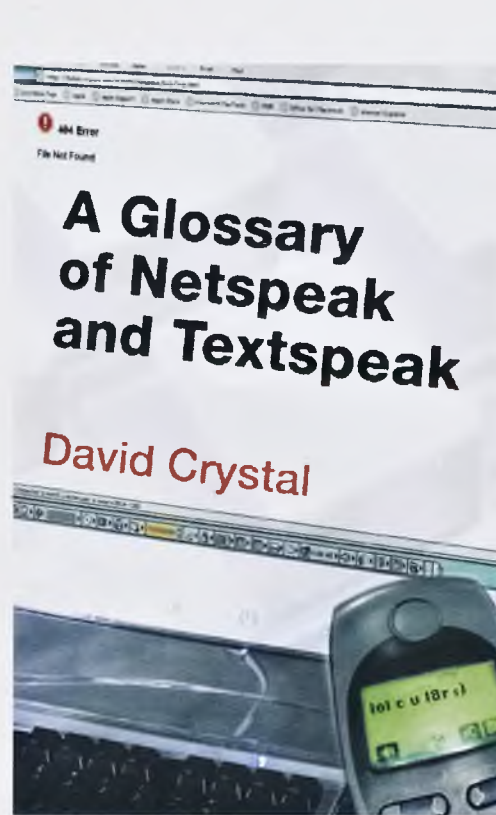
It is not limited to commercials, and not used just for irony or entertainment. Recently overheard on a sports news program was a reporter stating that the New York Jets had decimated the Miami Dolphins. I do not know if the broadcaster intended to imply that the Jets had indeed killed ten percent of the Dolphins’ players, but when used properly, that is the proper meaning of ‘decimate’. This is the effect when words begin to lose their meanings.



People of all ages still have problems with grammar, and find it an insurmountable academic obstacle. Modern speech is plagued with tense and word confusion, run on sentences and subject/verb disagreements. It also suffers from new interjections, the most painful of which is “like” which pollutes the conversation of the younger generation. It seems inconsequential, but “like” already has several meanings, and the use of it as an interjection steals from it. It may come from a lack of education, but also playing a hand in this downtrend is the stigma of grammar. People see it as an optional aspect to a language that only

nerdy people pursue. This lack of education, on the part of schools, and the student, leaves people with a misunderstanding of the functions of speech. These misunderstandings lead to miscommunications due to a lack of solidarity and consensus on the rules that we should all follow. To see it better, imagine playing poker, but no one at the table can decide whether a flush beats a straight or not because everyone has their own rules.

This brings us to a strange imposition that people will have to overcome: censorship. Unlike governmental or religious censorship, this is self-imposed. We limit our own words, our own works, and our own betterment. Society is fighting against itself by limiting its vocabulary and its base. If the world wants to improve, it should start with ideas, and language is the foundation of those ideas.



About Those Tests I Gave You • An Open Letter to My Students

By: Ruth Ann Dandrea

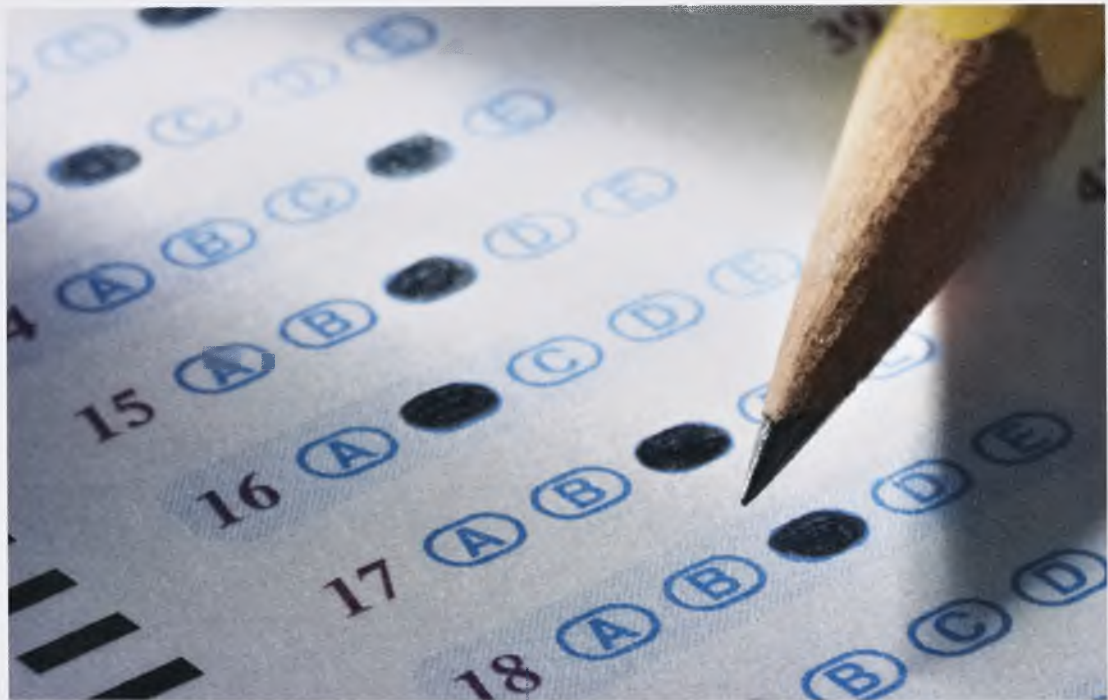
Dear 8th Graders,

I'm sorry.

I didn't know.

I spent last night perusing the 150-plus pages of grading materials provided by the state in anticipation of reading and evaluating your English Language Arts Exams this morning. I knew the test was pointless—that it has never fulfilled its stated purpose as a predictor of who would succeed and who would fail the English Regents in 11th grade. Any thinking person would've ditched it years ago. Instead, rather than simply give a test in 8th grade that doesn't get kids ready for the test in 11th grade, the state opted to also give a test in 7th grade to get you ready for your 8th-grade test.

But we already knew all of that.



What I learned is that the test is also criminal.



Because what I hadn't known—this is my first time grading this exam—was that it doesn't matter how well you write, or what you think. Here we spent the year reading books and emulating great writers, constructing leads that would make everyone want to read our work, developing a voice that would engage our readers, using our imaginations to make our work unique and important, and, most of all, being honest. And none of that matters. All that matters, it turns out, is that you cite two facts from the reading material in every answer. That gives you full credit. You can compose a "Gettysburg Address" for the 21st century on the apportioned lines in your test booklet, but if you've provided only one fact from the text you read in preparation, then you will earn only half credit. In your constructed response—no matter how well written, correct, intelligent, noble, beautiful, and meaningful it is—if you've not collected any specific facts from the provided readings (even if you happen to know more information about the chosen topic than the readings provide), then you will get a zero.

And here's the really scary part, kids: The questions you were asked were written to elicit a personal response, which, if provided, earn you no credit. You were tricked; we were tricked. I wish I could believe that this paradox (you know what that literary term means because we have spent the year noting these kinds of tightrappings of language) was simply the stupidity of the test-makers, that it was not some more insidious and deliberate machination. I wish I could believe that. But I don't.



I told you, didn't I, about hearing Noam Chomsky speak recently? When the great man was asked about the chaos in public education, he responded quickly, decisively, and to the point: "Public education in this country is under attack." The words, though chilling, comforted me in a weird way. I'd been feeling, the past few years of my 30-plus-year tenure in public education, that there was something or somebody out there, a power of a sort, that doesn't really want you kids to be educated. I felt a force that wants you ignorant and pliable, and that needs you able to fill in the boxes and follow instructions. Now I'm sure.

It's not that I oppose rigorous testing. I don't. I understand the purpose of evaluation. A good test can measure achievement and even inspire. But this English Language Arts Exam I so unknowingly inflicted on you does neither. It represents exactly what I am opposed to, the perpetual and petty testing that has become a fungus on the foot of public educa-

tion. You understand that metaphor, I know, because we have spent the year learning to appreciate the differences between figurative and literal language. The test-makers have not.

So what should you do, my beautiful, my bright, my intelligent, my talented? Continue. Continue to question. I applaud you, sample writer: When asked the either/or question, you began your response, "Honestly, I think it is both." You were right, and you were brave, and the test you were taking was neither. And I applaud you, wildest 8th grader of my own, who—when asked how a quote applied to the two characters from the two passages provided—wrote, "I don't think it applies to either one of them." Wear your zeroes proudly, kids.

This is a test you need to fail.

I wondered whether giving more than 10 minutes of every class period to reading books of our own choosing was a good idea or not. But you loved it so. You asked for more time. Ask again; I will give you whatever you need. I will also give you the best advice I can, advice from the Nobel Prize-winning writer, Juan Ramón Jiménez. Ray Bradbury thought this was so important, he used it as the epigraph at the beginning of *Fahrenheit 451*: “When they give you lined paper, write the other way.”

It is the best I have to offer, beyond my apologies for having taken part in an exercise that hurt you, and of which I am mightily ashamed.



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Hello Dr. Morales

By: Jennica Perez

Hello Dr. Morales,

I am writing to you today because I am seriously unhappy with the way CSI has been as of late. It seems as if the school is focusing on becoming a mainstream, "normal" college and is completely forgetting about its roots as a commuter college. The school is not remotely geared to students who need evening or weekend classes and having a children's center does not make the school friendly for parents returning to school.

I am currently a Spanish major, with the goal of getting into the Education program. It just so happens that there is only one evening class for both programs and of course, they are on the same days and time. I have approached each program and asked if there are options and right now my only option is to choose one over the other.

The Education program was at least willing to work with me on the issue and I've made arrangements to take multiple classes in Spring 2013 if I don't get to take one now in the fall. The Spanish department, however, had the same issue last semester. When I was trying to register for this semester, there was only one evening class. I complained last semester and was assured that there were going to be plenty of classes to choose from to register for the fall. And there are, if I was a day student. There are 4 classes before noon during the week. There is 1 in the evenings. I know that I am not the only student who has trouble taking daytime classes.



That being said, I thought that maybe I could put my boys in the children's center. Do you know that it is a lottery system and that the lottery takes place a few weeks before the semester? How does that make sense? That means that I would need to register for classes in the hopes of getting them in the program and if that happens not to be the case, I would then need to change my schedule so I can watch them (if classes are still available) or rearrange someone else's so that I can get childcare.

Also, I need to point out the children's center inefficiency and lack of organization. I was hoping to apply to get my older son in the Universal Pre-K program, so I stopped by at the end of February to get information since the application process in NYC was due to begin March 5th. I was told that they had no information yet but that I could fill out a paper that would put me on the mailing list and I would get the information as soon as it was available. I waited the entire month of March and never got anything in the mail. Finally, I decided to call them and was told by the person in charge of UPK that they had been accepting applications for several weeks. When I asked her why I didn't get anything in the mail, she told me the mailing list was not used for that purpose. What exactly is a mailing list for, if not for information? The woman finally told me to download a UPK application from the board of education website. I did so and brought it in and was told by someone else that it was not what I needed. Eventually, after much back and forth, I got them to accept my application but was put on the waiting list because they only accept 20 children. They did assure though, that I could enroll him in the center anyway, which of course means I would have to pay for it. That brings me to my last point. I am not complaining that the price for the center is outrageous. It is not. It's a steal compared to other places but how many people do you really know who can afford to pay \$1000 up front at the beginning of the semester (which is what it would roughly cost me to have my boys there all semester)? It would be nice if the center offered a payment plan.

I'm not expecting any or all of this to be fixed by the time I'm expected to graduate in 2014 (in fact, there are no upper level Spanish courses in the summer or winter sessions, so at the rate I'm going, I'll be a CSI student for a much longer time), if its fixed at all. I just needed to put in my two cents and let my experiences and disappointments with the school be known.

Sincerely,
Jennica Perez

Dr. Morales' Reply

Dear Ms. Perez

I will forward your concerns and request to the appropriate staff person. They will be in touch with you. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday[.]

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Book Review: The Filter Bubble

By: Chun Hom

The Filter Bubble

What [redacted] the [redacted]
[redacted] Internet
[redacted] is [redacted]
[redacted] Hiding
[redacted] From
[redacted] You
Eli Pariser

The Filter Bubble: What the Internet Is Hiding from You
Eli Pariser
Penguin Press HC, 2011
304 Pages
\$ 25.95 (Hardcover)

When we use Google to find something, we would like to think that the results returned by Google are unbiased and fair. That, however, is not the case. Google looks into the history of your searches and clicks to give you a “personalized” list of results. If you often use Google to find movies, searching for “Wall Street” might give you results for the 1987 movie *Wall Street*. If you Google online news often the first results might be for either the “The Wall Street Journal” or for the Occupy Wall Street protest.

Eli Pariser is the founder of MoveOn.org, politically liberal, and a heavy Facebook user. As a thinker he seeks the opinions of the opposing political views on current events. One day on Facebook he found that his conservative friends’ updates had stopped showing up in his feed. It was not that these people had unfriended him or stopped posting, but that Facebook had changed the news feeds’ algorithm due numerous complaints of people overwhelmed by the number of updates from “friends” that they barely knew. For Pariser, it meant that the people he disagreed with but monitored were being filtered out effectively silencing them to him.



MoveOn.ORG
POLITICAL ACTION®

In his book *The Filter Bubble: What The Internet Is Hiding From You*, the major premise is that the internet is not a fair and impartial tool. Rather, it is one that is filtered and catered to your tastes, not your needs. It is not only Google and Facebook that are filtering the data that reaches their end-users, but most major sites on the internet. Marketers and advertisers use these sites and the apps you use regularly as predictive tools to create what Pariser calls a “filter bubble.”

Pariser describes of an incident after the B.P. oil spill of 2010, in which he calls two people and telling them to Google “BP.” One of the people contacted was shown news of the disaster, while the other was shown stock information for BP. Personalization was created to make each user happy: so is it a boon or a horror?



The author’s biggest concerns about the personalization of the internet are the social and political ramifications. He discusses how this personalization causes “groupthink”. On the individual level, personalization is isolating individuals from each other, effectively creating an island for each internet user. In the end, this creates a “feedback loop” in which your idiosyncrasies are magnified.

Different political parties generally do not get along with each other. They rarely listen to the arguments of the opposing parties, but the arguments are still sometimes analyzed critically. The system is not

perfect, but it works; just not well. Imagine a world where you never hear any news from the opposing parties, anything about the issues they represent, even their existence. Pariser believes that this level of compartmentalization is rapidly approaching and is a hindrance to democracy. Just because you do not see something, it does not mean it does not exist. In terms of the news, “thirty-six percent of Americans under thirty get their news through social networking sites” writes Pariser. With Google filtering your news and Facebook filtering your feeds, you may never hear of a political candidate until you hit the polls.

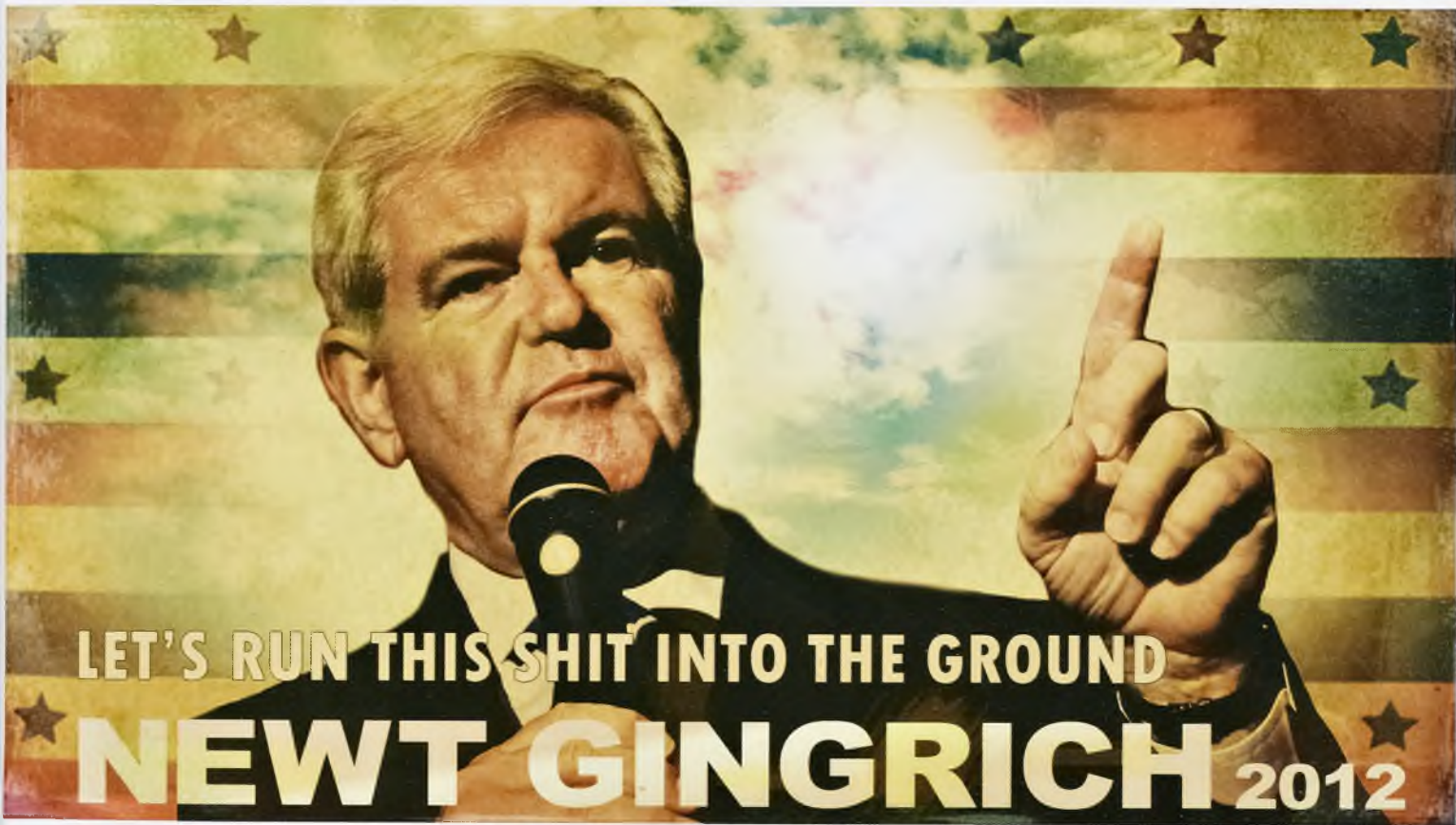


His solution to the problem of personalization is for the search engines and websites to be more transparent about how the algorithms work. This leads to problems with innovation, since the code used by Google is proprietary. There is also the problem of understanding the code and why it runs the way it does. “Even to its engineers, the workings of the algorithm are somewhat mysterious,” writes Pariser.

The other solution he proposes is that websites introduce code into the search algorithms that can promote articles/websites of cultural, political, or social significance. In simpler terms: things we should know about that we would not normally go out of our way to read. The problem with this approach is do we trust these businesses to behave in our best interest?

Pariser’s arguments stem from his belief in a utopian internet in which companies are not there to

just serve us what we are looking for, but to also give us what we do not yet know we need. The limitations of the current systems are known, and research into cybernetics and artificial intelligence are believed one day to correct them. *The Filter Bubble: What The Internet Is Hiding From You*, refreshes the dialogue of personalization in the internet.



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