

Third Rail

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Summer 2009
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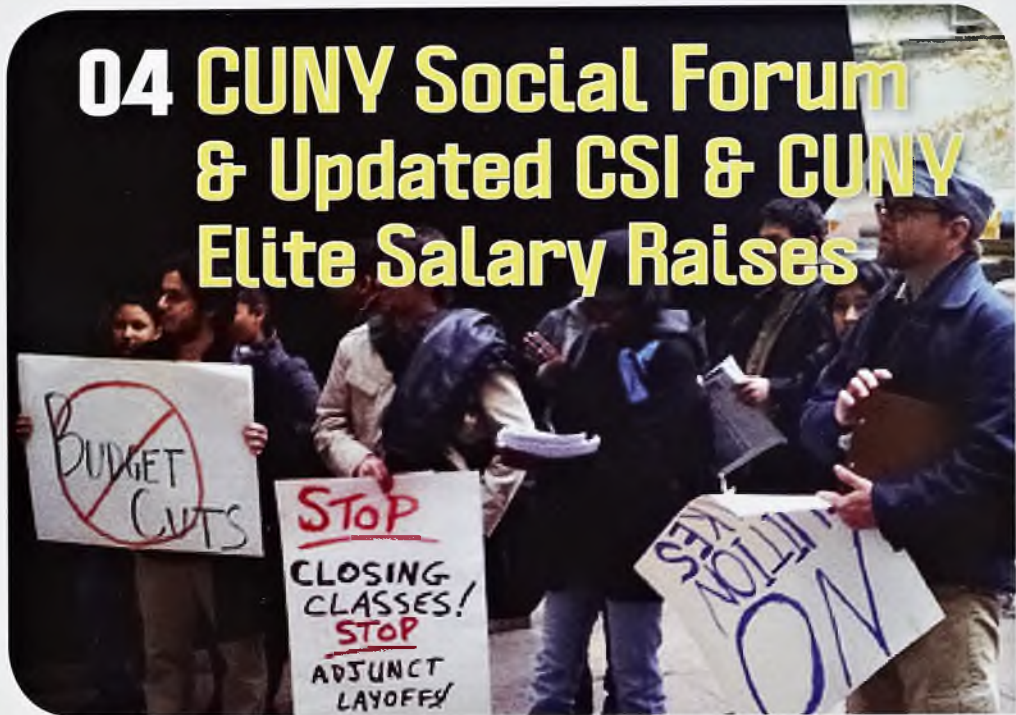
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Michael Miley explores American foreign policy failures of the post-9/11 era



Life By Design

Nikki Saint Bautista dives into designer genes

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award-winning
student publication



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THE COLLECTIVE
(in revolving order)

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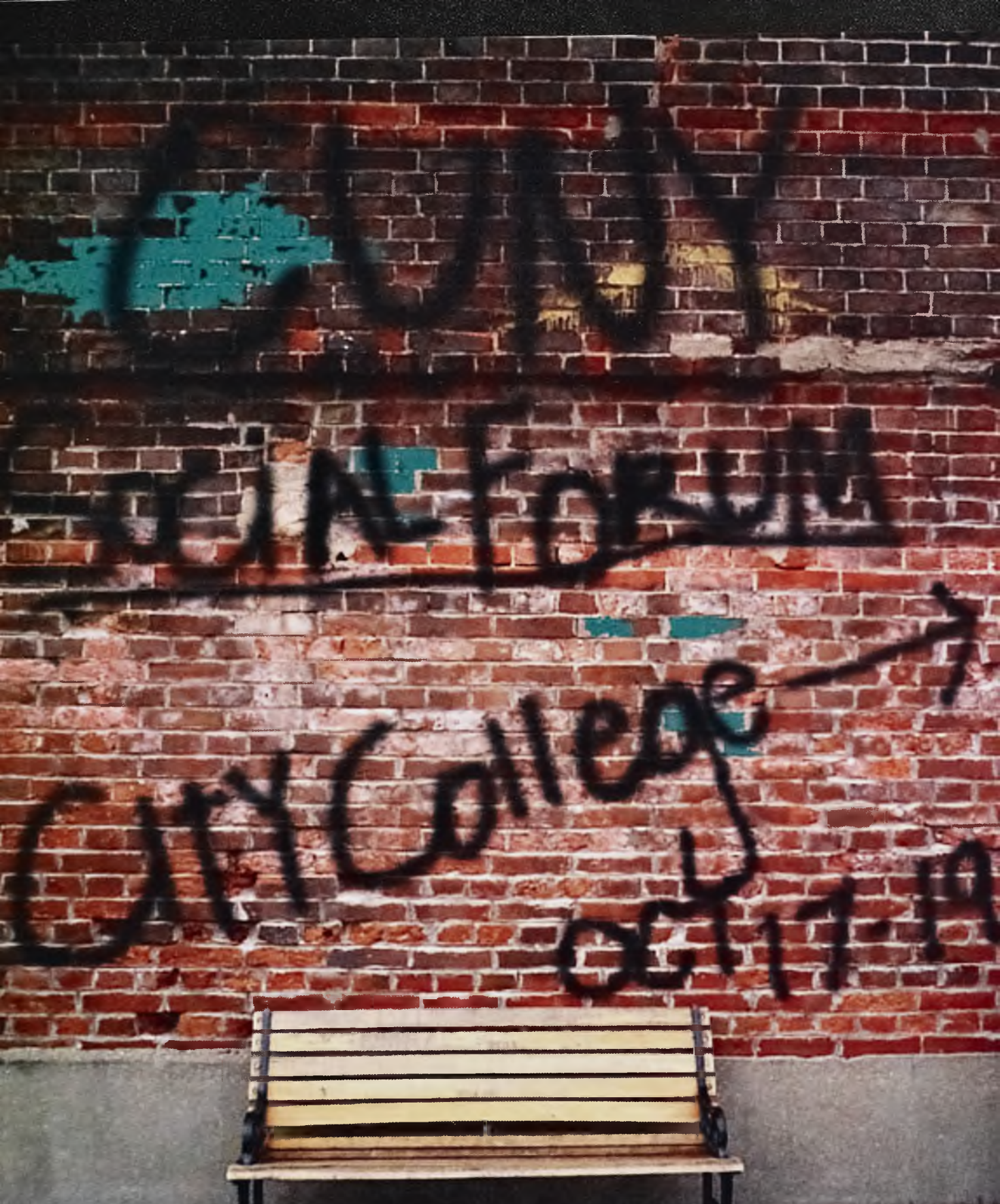
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W E L C O M E T O T H E CUNY SOCIAL FORUM CITY COLLEGE, OCTOBER 17-19, 2008

ANOTHER CUNY IS POSSIBLE.

By Maria Arettines & Leanne Murphy

In recent months there has been a resurgence of youth activism at the City University of New York (CUNY). Students are making connections between the global economy and their education in a public institution. With the recent financial meltdown, public educational institutions are in an intensified state of crisis. Nowhere is this more apparent than at CUNY, which has experienced drastic budget cuts and austerity measures for the past thirty years due to a lack of state and city support. With a recent budget reduction of fifty-one million dollars, a tuition hike of 30% starting in Fall 2010, and the threat of more cuts, the CUNY community has decided to fight back, demanding the right to high quality, accessible higher education.

The beginnings of this resistance - which included addressing institutionalized discrimination, labor issues, as well as underfunding - manifested itself long before the current round of budget cuts, and eventually became the CUNY Social Forum. The CUNY Social Forum was a three-day event which took place the weekend of October 17-19 at City College in Harlem. The intent of the Social Forum was to challenge the popular understanding of the significance and role of education in a capitalist society. This framework pushes the importance of education as something more than an opportunity to train human capital. Rather, it seeks to move the University towards a potential space of encounter and dialogue, using it as a tool for transforming the world in which we live.



In early March of this year, a large group of students, faculty, and alumni from across CUNY met at the Graduate Center to discuss reviving a student movement. Meetings continued to be held, and those attending these meetings asked themselves how they would go about unifying the students, faculty, alumni, and community of CUNY. Demands were created that focused on addressing institutionalized discrimination, budget transparency, and increasing student and faculty decision-making power within the University. The idea of putting together a CUNY Social

Forum emerged organically in these conversations. The first organizing meeting for the Forum took place in June, and the CUNY Social Forum became a reality four months later, but not without resistance from the administration. Booking the space for the Forum was a serious challenge, and security guards were curiously present and taking notes at many of the workshops the weekend of the Forum. Nevertheless, over 600 people attended throughout the weekend, and some concrete next steps were devised.

Social Forums come out of a long tradition of protest in the global justice movement. The first ever Social Forum was a World Social Forum (WSF), which took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001. The concept of a Social Forum originated in a critique of globalization and neoliberal capitalism, including unfair “free” trade agreements, structural adjustments imposed by the IMF and the World Bank, and racial, gender and economic injustices. The idea was to create an effective counter- force by organizing and networking globally. Since the first WSF in 2001, there have been other global Social Forums - again in Brazil, but also in India, Mali, Venezuela, and Kenya. Other Social Forums have occurred regionally, nationally, and - more recently - institutionally.



CROSS-CAMPUS UNITY. More than 75 students, faculty and staff from the City University of New York (CUNY) rallied outside the CUNY Graduate Center in Midtown Sept. 22 to protest recent cuts in state funding for the university. PHOTO: JAMIE LEHANE

This was the first ever CUNY Social Forum, and the workshops were appropriately a mixture of student organizing, adjunct and part-time workplace strategizing, as well as workshops from a plethora of NYC’s community organizations. The workshops discussed food security, sex work, unions, immigrant youth, and the wars in and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan among others, as well

CUNY SOCIAL FORUM

as many issues pertinent specifically to CUNY, including institutional racism, radical CUNY history, standardized testing, and student-adjunct alliances. What emerged was a strong sense of CUNY as community.

The City University of New York was founded in Harlem in 1847 as the Free Academy. The college's first president, Dr. Horace Webster, explained, "The experiment is to be tried, whether the children of the people, the children of the whole people, can be educated; and whether an institution of the highest grade can be successfully controlled by the popular will, not by the privileged few." It is currently the largest urban public university in the country, comprised of 23 institutions throughout the five boroughs, including senior colleges, community colleges, graduate schools and other programs. Over 461,000 students and 35,900 faculty and staff are a part of CUNY. That's 1 in 16 New Yorkers. An organized CUNY movement, of which the Social Forum was a recent step, would change New York City.

From its inception, CUNY was a free educational institution, even during the greatest financial crisis of the century, the Great Depression. In fact, during that time period, education was perceived as so essential to economic growth that three colleges were established within the system: Brooklyn, Queens and Lehman. Tuition at the university was implemented for the first time in 130 years, in 1976, and has since steadily increased. While state and city funding of CUNY dropped 40% between 1980 and 2000, the 1990s saw that burden placed squarely on the shoulders of students, half of whom live under the poverty line. Students' contribution increased over 150%, more than anywhere else in the country. In 1990, tuition accounted for 20% of CUNY's budget; today it funds 40%. Since the Reagan era, public higher education has been a low priority for state and federal governments in thrall to the

neoliberal ideology. Tuition at senior colleges is now \$4,000; at community colleges it is \$2,800, and is scheduled to increase \$300 this Winter and Spring, and \$600 next Fall. The severity of this increase for students remains to be seen, but it will likely prevent many from continuing their education.

The CUNY community has a rich legacy of student protest. In 1969, CUNY students successfully fought with police and the administration for open admissions. This change allowed automatic acceptance into CUNY for all students graduating from a NYC public school, resulting in a significant influx of people of color, women, immigrant and working class students. Student demands led to the creation of programs such as Black, Latino and Women's Studies. Hostos Community College, Medgar Evers College, and York College all opened up as a result of these struggles. The policy of open admissions ended in 1999, along with remedial classes at the senior colleges. Nevertheless, the positive effects of open admissions are still with CUNY today. The student body is now 62% women and 72% people of color. In 1969, the student body at senior colleges was 96% white.

Student Liberation Action Movement! (SLAM!) was a "student organization that formed during the resurgent neo-liberal attacks against the public sectors of America in 1995," says John Kim, one of the founding members of SLAM!, and an alumni of Hunter College. While active at CUNY, SLAM! defended a large number of CUNY programs, innovated youth organizing programs, fought against tuition hikes, and at critical moments organized student strikes and sit-ins.

This past August, the state legislature passed a \$51 million budget cut to CUNY funding. And yet, in September, the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a \$55,000 raise for Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, a 14% pay increase. Chancellor Goldstein's yearly

salary is now \$450,000, in addition to a housing license and free use of a car and driver, which adds an additional \$100,000 to his base pay. In the recent and hard-won contract negotiated by the PSC-CUNY, CUNY faculty raises average less than 4% annually and don't keep pace with other public universities in the region, making the retention and hiring of faculty difficult.

The final session of the Social Forum was dedicated to an assembly where attendees discussed the potential of a CUNY Student Union as well as strengthening ties between the

university and the broader NYC community. In asserting free education as a human right, the emerging CUNY movement seeks to expand access to the public higher education system, make it accountable to its mission, and use it as a means for social transformation. As a result of the Social Forum, Student Unions have already been meeting at various campuses. The potential power of the networks formed at the Forum is immense and holds within it the possibility of creating a New York City accountable to the people who make it thrive.

CUNY CHANCELLOR'S SALARY: THEN & NOW	Year	Salary
	1957	\$25,000
	1990	\$140,000
	1994	\$158,000
	1999	\$250,000
	2003	\$350,000
	2006	\$395,000

Note: The CUNY chancellor's pay package includes a \$90,000-per-year housing allowance, plus free use of a car and driver.

Source: CUNY Disorientation Guide

SQUEEZE PLAY

CUNY tuition has increased steadily over the past three decades, while state and city support for public higher education has declined.

Source: Office of the CUNY Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance

Year	ANNUAL TUITION FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES	ANNUAL TUITION COMMUNITY COLLEGES
1848-1975	Free	Free
1976	\$925	\$775
1983	\$1,225	\$1,225
1991	\$1,350	\$1,350
1992	\$1,850	\$1,750
1993	\$2,450	\$2,100
1996	\$3,200	\$2,500
2003	\$4,000	\$2,800
2008	\$4,000	\$2,800

CUNY SOCIAL FORUM



2009 PAY RAISES FOR ELITE ADMINISTRATORS

Beginning in 2008, **Third Rail Magazine** began tracking the salaries of top CSI and CUNY Administrators. In virtually every year we have reported that CSI President Tomas Morales and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein received significant salary increases, even in the current economic recession. We have warned our readers that these irresponsible salary increases would result in a CSI tuition increase. This past Fall, CUNY Chancellor Goldstein announced his intention of raising CSI and CUNY tuition in the worst economic period in American history since the Great Depression (throughout which, CUNY tuition was free). Rather than criticizing the tuition increase, CSI President Morales not only remained silent on the increase, thus intimating his support for the CUNY Chancellor's proposed tuition increase, but he gladly accepted a \$55,000 salary increase--which would be paid for by students. No wonder these top level CSI & CUNY Administrators are all smiles!



CSI PRESIDENT TOMÁS MORALES

STARTING SALARY: \$220,000 + amenities (Total Compensation Close to \$300K)

2008 SALARY: \$230,000 + amenities (Total Compensation over \$300K)

2009 SALARY: \$238,050 + amenities (Total Compensation over \$308K)

During a period when NYS Governor David Patterson called on all public executive employees to defer salary increases, CSI President Tomás Morales gladly accepted an **\$8,050 salary raise** and supported a tuition increase for CSI students to help pay for his salary increase; all this during the worst economic period in American history since the Great Depression.



CUNY CHANCELLOR MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN

STARTING SALARY: \$250,000 + amenities (Total Compensation Close to \$350K)

2008 SALARY: \$395,000 + amenities (Total Compensation: \$500K)

2009 SALARY: \$450,00 + amenities (Total Compensation: \$550K)

During a period when NYS Governor David Patterson called on all public executive employees to defer salary increases, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein gladly accepted a **\$55,000 salary raise** and proposed a tuition increase for CSI students to help pay for his salary increase.

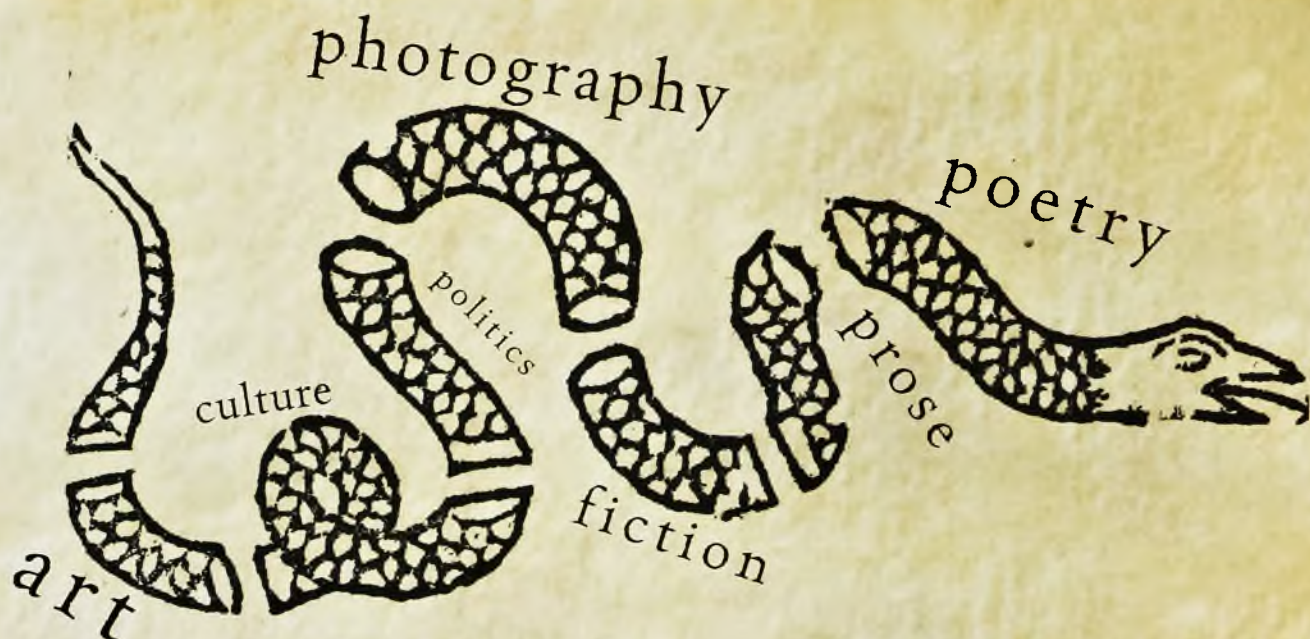


CSI & CUNY STUDENTS

STARTING TUITION: FREE (Even during the Great Depression!)

2008 TUITION: \$4,000 (Undergraduate Tuition)

2009 TUITION: \$4,600 (Undergraduate Tuition)



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Bring the Depression

Bring the Depression from Days of Old
That stripped off our clothes and robbed us of Gold
That took our cars and made us walk on our feet
That shuttered our homes and kicked us out on the
street

Bring the Depression the traded a suit
For an issue of rags and raggedy boots
That traded a steak for a bowl of hot mush
And a marble bathroom for a Central Park bush

Bring the Depression that made us cling to each other
That traded strangers for sisters and brothers
That stole all our goods and gathered our greed
And planted instead compassion's seed

Bring the Depression that opens our eyes
To our judgment and hatred and all of our lies
That strips us down naked to see who we are
Without the distraction of money and cars

Bring the Depression till the war is won
Till we learn to be thankful for a soft ray of sun
Till we all learn the hardship of being in need
And we never revert to our old selfish greed

Bring the Depression that makes me see
That another person is the same as me
The only difference is the money we make
And that never matters at the end of the day

Bring the Depression that starts in our Soul
And builds like a fire, infecting the whole
Bring the Depression that makes us all see
That our lives are all worthless while our brother's in
need.

by James Larsen



Policy Failures and 9/11

By: Michael Miley

The morning of September the 11th 2001 was... well the word terrible does not even begin to describe that day. But it is important to not be consumed by anger but to see how "we" got to that day, Osama Bin Laden, Al Qaeda, Mullah Omar and the Taliban didn't spring forward into this world fully formed from nowhere, like Aphrodite from the forehead of Zeus. We see that these movements, Al Qaeda and the Taliban were able to flourish in part because of policies, or lack thereof in the governments of the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Central Asian "Republics". We will also see how further policy failures following the attacks of September 11th have even been detrimental to the U.S.'s former "War on Terror" and global security in general. It is important for us to understand these failures, how they came about, and how we may be able to avoid the mistakes of the past, that as will be shown were committed in Afghanistan once again following the U.S. invasion, the fall of the Taliban and the hunt of Al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden.

First, let us consider the United States and its actions following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It has become a well-known fact that the Central Intelligence Agency (the C.I.A.) helped fund the Afghan Mujahideen following the 1979 Soviet invasion of the country. The Mujahideen received these weapons through the Pakistan intelligence service, the Interservices Intelligence (the I.S.I), which would be the start of Pakistan's funding and training of Afghanistan's "Holy Warriors" from then to well after the events of 9/11. That will be explained further in the paper; following the defeat of the Soviets, and then the break up of the

Soviet Union in the early 90s, has led to the accusation that the U.S. abandoned the Afghans once they had become "Strategically Obsolete." The lack of U.S. assistance in the region can be an attributed factor in the "Warlordism" that would dominate Afghanistan, sadly stretching just about to this day. At the same time in the early 90s we had the birth of Al Qaeda (The Base) led by Osama Bin Laden as well as Abdullah Yusuf Azzam, who had taken part on the Afghan Jihad. Azzam had been Bin Laden's teacher and had helped radicalize him, he cofounded Al Qaeda and in 1989, a bomb killed him, those who committed the attack are unknown². Following the Saudi's rejection of help from his Mujahideen in the first Gulf War, and the beginning of his hatred and war against the West and the Saudi government. Throughout the 1990s, Al Qaeda had attacked American targets, the U.S.S. Cole in 2000, the U.S. Embassy bombings in 1998, possibly bombings of the Saudi Khobar Towers in 1996. Al Qaeda was clearly a threat, besides these attacks; there were also several other high profile plots that were foiled, one of the most notable being the Millennium plot, when Ahmed Resam was arrested at the US/ Canada border smuggling explosives into the country to attack Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)³.

The major failing of the Clinton administration as well as the first of the Bush administration was the failure to take Al Qaeda seriously and the inability of different organizations within the U.S. government to deal with this threat. This is illustrated most effectively in the response to the 1998 East Africa Embassy bombings. At the time in 1998 President Bill Clinton was going through the Monica Lewinsky scandal, at the same time the movie *Wag The Dog* was popular, the movie was about an unpopular president who faked a crisis in order to avoid criticism. So following the embassy bombings and the U.S.'s retaliation bombings of chemical plants in the Sudan and Al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan were viewed as such a scheme⁴. This is further expanded on by statement made by Mullah Omar following the cruise missile strikes, "If the attack on Afghanistan is Clinton's personal decision, then he has done it to divert the world and the American people's attention from that shameful White House affair that has proved Clinton is a liar and a man devoid of decency and honour"⁵. There were also plans developed by the C.I.A to capture Bin Laden since the Taliban had been uncooperative in handing him over. But the senior management and Director Tenet did not believe the plan to be viable and that it had too many risks, meanwhile the working level operatives were disappointed, Gary Schroen, the CIA station chief in Islamabad

said that the plan was the "best plan we are going to come up with to capture Bin Ladin [sic] while he is in Afghanistan and bring him to justice"⁶. This problem was only exacerbated in 2000 with the bombing of the Cole when the U.S. failed to respond in any matter sending the message that we would allow people to attack the United States and get a minimal to no response. There were proposed actions to be taken, further warnings to the Taliban to hand Bin Laden over, just as was done in 1998 and 1999⁷. There were plans for a stronger response, a "phased campaign" that would attack the Taliban as well as Al Qaeda. But before he would initiate such a plan President Clinton wanted the CIA or the FBI to be as positive as possible that Al Qaeda was behind those attacks, so that they would "be willing to stand up in public and say, we believe that he [Bin Ladin] did this"⁸. But on December 21st 2000, the CIA made another presentation on the Small Group; which was made up of principals at the CIA who were cleared to know about only the most sensitive issues concerning investigations and counterterrorist activity against Bin Laden and Al Qaeda⁹, the presentation concluded that their initial judgment was correct in that Al Qaeda helped support the attack but there had been "no definitive answer on the crucial question of outside direction of the attack- how and by whom"¹⁰. President Clinton told the 9/11 Commission that this was the reason that no actions were taken against Al Qaeda and not the outcome of the 2000 election. The *Report* states, "He [President Clinton] did not think it would be responsible for a president to launch an invasion of another country just based on a 'preliminary judgment'"¹¹.

At the same time that the U.S. was attempting to cut a deal with the Taliban, that had taken control of the southern half of Afghanistan in 1996, to have an oil pipeline stretching for 1,050 miles from Chardzhou in Turkmenistan to an oil terminal on Pakistan's coast¹². But the Taliban weren't easily persuaded or talked to especially to Westerners whom they viewed as waging a war on Islam¹³. This attempt at punishing them but at the same time wooing them to allow the U.S. oil company Unocal to build the pipeline only put us in a weak position to effectively deal with the Taliban. Not that any amount of Western influence would have changed any of the policies of the Taliban, since their entrenched Wahabbi beliefs mixed with their own interpretations of the Deobandi school of Sunni Islamic thought helped isolate them from the outside world. This extreme position of theirs was only deepened as their relation with Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda moved closer together, especially starting in 1998 with Bin Laden's declaration of jihad¹⁴. Owing to these state affairs and the mindset

¹ Ahmed Rashid, *Decent into Chaos: The U.S. And The Disaster In Pakistan, Afghanistan And Central Asia*. Viking Penguin Books, New York 2009.

² Ernest R. May *The 9/11 Commission Report With Related Documents*. Bedford/ ST. Martin's Boston 2007, 27.

³ Ibid, 106.

⁴ Ibid, 81.

⁵ Ahmend Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism In Central Asia*. Yale Nota Bene, New Haven 2001, 75.

⁶ Ahmed Rashid, *Decent into Chaos: The U.S. And The Disaster In Pakistan, Afghanistan And Central Asia*. Viking Penguin Books, New York 2009.

⁷ Ernest R. May *The 9/11 Commission Report With Related Documents*. Bedford/ ST. Martin's Boston 2007, 27.

⁸ Ibid, 106.

⁹ Ibid, 81.

¹⁰ Ahmend Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism In Central Asia*. Yale Nota Bene, New Haven 2001, 75.

¹¹ Ibid, 112-113.

¹² Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism In Central Asia*. Yale Nota Bene, New Haven 2001, 160.

¹³ Ibid, 64.

¹⁴ Ibid, 75.

and the sidelining of any moderates within the Taliban by Mullah Omar,¹⁵ could not go forward. A prime example of this is when U.S. envoy Bill Richardson visited Kabul in April of 1998 in order to reach an agreement that the Taliban would stop abusing ethnic minorities, which the moderate Mullah Rabbani head of the Kabul Shura (governing council) agreed to. Only to have Mullah Omar reject it the next day, and having Rabbani go on one of his periodic long leaves, which led to rumors that he was under arrest¹⁶.

Then there have been the problems that the Central Asian Republics have experienced since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Currently all of the Central Asian Republics, with the exception of Tajikistan which had a power sharing government following their civil war in the mid to late 90s, all still led by the former Communist Party leaders of their respective republic. For example in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek President Islam Karimov, who was the former Communist Party strongman and has been President since 1991, has led among the harshest crackdowns, on all showings of the Muslim faith. Karimov has set up one of the most repressive regimes in the region, where even the most minor religious Muslims are oppressed. Even high profile, leading Islamacists in Uzbekistan had "disappeared", some notable examples include, Odbidkhon Nazarov, the imam of a mosque in Tashkent along with his 13 year old son in March of 1998, the chief prayer leader in Andijan, Sheikh Abduvoli Mirzoev and one of his assistants in August of 1995¹⁷. Uzbekistan's already harsh treatment of its religious population was only worsened following the beheading of an Uzbek army captain in December of 1997, what followed was one of the harshest crackdowns on Muslims in the nation, which led to a now infamous remark concerning tougher stances against terrorists "Such people must be shot in the head. If necessary I will shoot them myself"¹⁸. Now such a violent reaction would be understandable, there are many people in this country who expressed opinions similar to this, but in Uzbekistan anyone that disagrees with Karimov and his oppressive government are labeled terrorists regardless if they are or not¹⁹.

The extreme oppressiveness of Uzbekistan is directly related to the creation of an Islamic extremist group known as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). In August of 1999 the IMU issued a call to Jihad against Karimov and his government it states:

"The Amir (commander) of the Harakatul Islamiyah (Islamic Movement) of Uzbekistan, Muhammad Tahir Farooq, has announced the start of the Jihad against the tyrannical government of Uzbekistan and the puppet Islam Karimov and his henchmen. The leadership of the Islamic Movement confirms the following points in the declaration:

This declaration comes after agreement by the major ulema and the Leadership of the Islamic Movement.

This agreement comes based on clear evidence on the obligation of Jihad against the *Tawagheet* as well as to liberate the land and the people....

Also among the goals of the declaration of Jihad is:

"The defense of our religion of Islam in our land from those who oppose Islam.

The defense of the Muslims in our land from those who humiliate them and spill their blood.

The defense of the scholars and Muslim youth who are being assassinated, imprisoned, and tortured in extreme manners- with no rights given them at all"²⁰.

We have here an Islamic group, who among the goals of creating a Caliphate and other goals that as seen the reasoning behind it. Karimov through his oppressive policies instead of pacifying the populace, instead drive them into the arms of extremist groups like the IMU²¹. Even worse has been that the U.S. has allied itself with these regimes and has also made them target the U.S. Meanwhile the IMU's leadership sought protection and bases in Afghanistan, which brought the IMU's leadership into the same circles of Mullah Omar of the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden²².

Adding more fuel to the fire of instability that Afghanistan and Central Asia have become is Pakistan and the ISI. Pakistan has long supported terrorist groups by training them to fight in Indian Kashmir, and of the Taliban. Pakistan and the ISI had long been supporters of the Taliban, providing monetary support from itself as well as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates²³, and militarily, by providing trainers who would also train Al Qaeda operatives²⁴. These were all things the United States knew because in 1993 President Clinton placed Pakistan on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, owing to their support of terrorist supporters in Indian Kashmir²⁵. The support of terrorism was a key factor in Pakistan's foreign policy especially in regard to India. Pakistan's support for the Taliban, and through them Al Qaeda grew further following the 1999 coup that brought Pervez Musharraf to power. Musharraf was a supporter of the ISI's use of terrorist groups, especially considering that in 1999 Musharraf and several other generals had invaded Indian Kashmir around the Kargil sector. Knowing these facts, the U.S. still persists in using Pakistan and Musharraf as key allies in the "War on Terror" following the 9/11 attacks.

²⁰ Ibid, 247.

²¹ Ibid, 155.

²² Ibid, 148.

²³ Ahmed Rashid, *Decent Into Chaos*, 14.

²⁴ Ibid, 16.

²⁵ Ibid, 41.

¹⁵ Ibid, 103.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ahmed Rashid, *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam In Central Asia*. Penguin, New York, 2003, 145.

¹⁸ Ibid, 146.

¹⁹ Ibid, 150.

Two of the biggest mistakes made by the U.S. following the 9/11 attacks and the invasion of Afghanistan, were the small amount of actual U.S. troops “on the ground” in Afghanistan and secondly the U.S.’s continued support of Pakistan with out requiring any actual changes in the way Musharraf worked. One of the most glaring examples of how some of our policy post 9/11 was hurting our ability to combat terrorism was an event that a U.S. special forces soldier dubbed “Operation Evil Airlift”. Northern Alliance (NA) forces surrounded an estimated 5,000-7,000 Taliban troops around the city of Kunduz; among the Taliban and Al



Former president of Pakistan,
Pervez Musharraf

Qaeda forces were hundreds of trainers from the ISI and the Frontier Corps²⁶, who had ignored the call to return to Pakistan before the US invasion. Musharraf called President Bush and requested that he suspend U.S. bombing runs in order to create an air corridor so that Pakistan could ferry out its personnel. President Bush and Vice President Cheney agreed, and the operation was made top secret. Around November 15th 2001, NA commanders around Kunduz reported that Pakistani aircraft were flying into the city over the course of several nights, an estimated 1,000 people, ISI trainers, Frontier Corps troops as well as high ranking Al Qaeda and Taliban officials were removed to Pakistan. When the garrison surrendered to NA forces on November 24th only 3,300 Taliban came out. One Pakistani retired army officer dubbed it “The Great Escape”²⁷.

It is from these escaped men that many of the major problems that arose during the rest of the liberation of Afghanistan would come from; it is believed that a large number of the foreign fighters that escaped Kunduz would later go on to fight in Tora Bora²⁸. This was an event that was avoidable, the garrison had been fearful that if they had been captured by the NA, they would be killed and they offered to surrender to U.S. forces, the U.N. or even the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), but General Tommy Franks refused to let U.S. troops waiting in Uzbekistan capture them²⁹. The failure to commit U.S. troops to fight was a mistake that we would make yet again in Tora Bora, where many Al Qaeda fighters as well as Osama Bin Laden himself would escape the U.S.³⁰

Another of the biggest mistakes following the invasion of Afghanistan was the U.S.’s

²⁶ Which is a paramilitary force employed by the Pakistani government as a dual National Guard/ Police unit for the North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

²⁷ Rashid, *Decent Into Chaos*, 90-93.

²⁸ Ibid, 93.

²⁹ Ibid, 90-91.

³⁰ Ibid, 98-99.

policy of supporting the Warlords during the invasion to fight the Taliban and Al Qaeda, and afterwards when the interim government led by Hamid Karzai, which was a major undermining of Karzai’s authority and ability to form a strong central government capable of governing Afghanistan,³¹ instead what the U.S. did was have the CIA run the country from 2001 to about 2003, not by building a nation, or using democracy but by paying off the warlords in order to try and keep the peace, and still use them as proxies to fight Al Qaeda³². These warlords that made up the Northern Alliance, would be the ones that made their own rules for years because of their backing by the CIA, they knew they were untouchable because the U.S. and the CIA would support them as a cheap alternative to having more U.S. troops on the ground which would not only be expensive but take away for the planning for the invasion of Iraq³³. Meanwhile while the Karzai government’s budget was reliant on foreign aid, and many Ministries lacked basic supplies or room, such as pens, pencils or even places to meet because the central government lacked the funds to supply them and get a standardized rebuilding program going, the warlords were withholding taxes from the government in order to enrich themselves, and rebuild at their own pace, ensuring that there could be no comprehensive rebuilding plans³⁴.



President of Afghanistan,
Hamid Karzai

In conclusion what we see is a comprehensive failure by the United States in its foreign policy, both before and after 9/11. Before 9/11 there were failures of communications between the different intelligence organizations in the U.S. owing to a 1995 formal procedure issued by then Attorney General Janet Reno, which regulated in what manner intelligence information could be shared, these procedures were almost immediately misinterpreted and misapplied which lead to a “wall” that important information could no get to those that needed it³⁵. There was also the failure of a strong response towards Bin Laden, although this is not the fault of the Clinton administration, owing to political constraints that had made foreign “adventurism” unpopular in the U.S. at the time, there was the failure in Somalia in 1993 (a ghost that has recently come back to haunt us in the form of 21st century high seas piracy), there was the perceived notation that the U.S. contributed to such organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which led to resentment and once again a perceived notion that the U.S. was shouldering unfair burdens such as illustrated by reactions towards the U.S. in

³¹ Ibid, 129.

³² Ibid, 64.

³³ Ibid, 129.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ May, *The 9/11 Commission Report*, 69.

Serbia and the former Yugoslavia. There was the degrading of the quality of intelligence and how it was gathered, which is most highly shown by the accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during the Kosovo War since the CIA had provided NATO air forces with Cold War era maps of Belgrade³⁶. Finally there was the political division caused by the Republicans in their "Culture Wars" of the 90s, which has become symbolized especially as the



Former Attorney General
Janet Reno

controversy over the Monica Lewinsky scandal, when the Republicans in Congress tried to paint any response that Clinton could have done, such as the bombings in the Sudan and Afghanistan as just ploys to divert the attention of the American people from the scandal³⁷. But we cannot let the blame rest solely with the government, we the people are also to blame, for during the 2000 election year, Al Qaeda and terrorism were not even considered major issues that should have been discussed³⁸.

There were policy failures of the Stalinist Central Asian Republics which through their oppressiveness only proved to further the

cause of terrorism. As shown, the policies of Islam Karimov intended to break the will of the people, instead they only drove them deeper into the arms of radical Islam. Even nonviolent Islamic parties in the region such as Hizb ut-Tahir (HT), who's vision is uniting all of central Asia, the Chinese Province of Xinjiang and eventually the entire Islamic world community (known as the umma) in order to form a new caliphate³⁹. Although there have been many rumors of HT's connections with terrorist groups, owing to the organizations secrecy none of it can be proven, and its leadership has been adverse against the drug smugglers and other criminals that flock to Al Qaeda and the IMU; but owing to the repression of the Central Asian leaders might change that. In an interview with Ahmed Rashid a man identified only as Ali warns "The HT wants a peaceful jihad, which will be spread by explanation and conversion, not by war. But ultimately there will be war because the repression by the Central Asian regimes is so severe, and we have to prepare for that. If the IMU suddenly appears in the Fergana Valley, HT activists will not sit idly by and allow the security forces to kill them"⁴⁰. We see here the possibilities that continuing repressive policies will have, a further destabilization of a region that was barely stable to begin with.

Then there is Pakistan, Pakistan has made many errors in its support of terrorists as an arm in

its foreign policy. But there has also been the sad fact that Pakistan has been unable to rid itself of the burden of constant military interference in taking over the government and its support of terrorists as a foreign policy tool against India. Added onto the support that Musharraf received from the Bush White House, even though it was clear that Pakistan and the ISI were supporting Al Qaeda, the Taliban and other Islamic terrorist organizations. Former National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice would say:

"America's Al Qaeda policy wasn't working because our Afghanistan policy wasn't working. And our Afghanistan policy wasn't working because our Pakistan policy wasn't working. We recognized that America's counter-terrorism policy had to be connected to our regional strategies and to our overall foreign policy... Al Qaeda was both a client of and a patron to the Taliban, which in turn was supported by Pakistan. Those relationships provided al Qaeda with a powerful umbrella of protection, and we had to sever that"⁴¹.

But sadly the Bush administration never did anything to end the relationship between Pakistan and terrorism. It is through these failures before 9/11 that allowed that terrible tragedy to happen. Sadly it is the failures that have come after 9/11, in the name of making us safe from terrorism, that have actually laid the groundwork for further attacks.



⁴¹ Rashid. *Decent Into Chaos*, 58

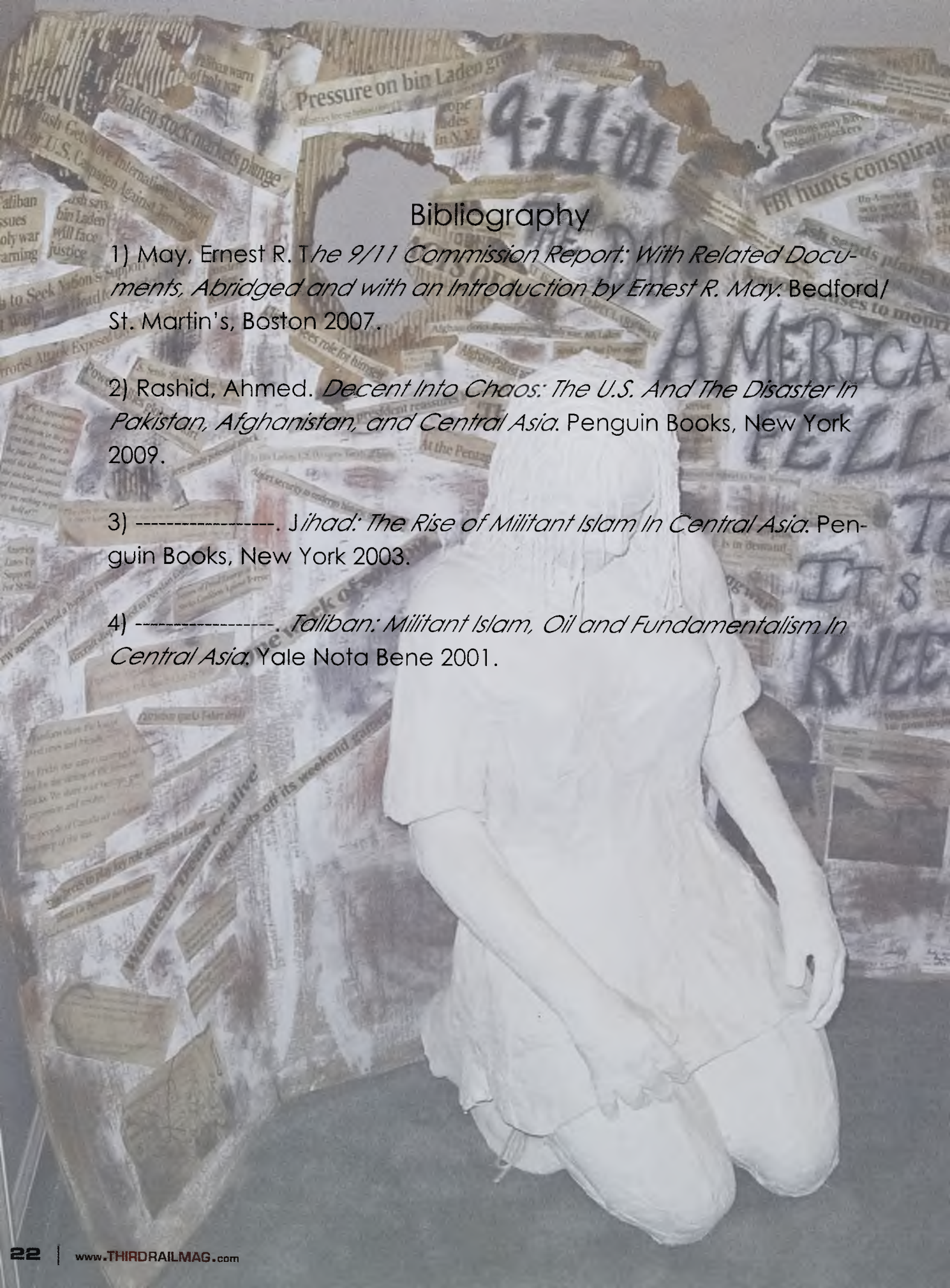
³⁶ Eric Schmitt, "The World; Smart Bombs, Dumb Maps", The New York Times, May 16th 1999.

³⁷ May, 21, 82.

³⁸ Ibid, 113.

³⁹ Rashid, *Jihad*, 115.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 133-134.



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TOBACCO SMOKE HAS CONSUMED THE AIR.

THE ROOM

IS A CHAPTER IN DANTE'S INFERNO.

REMEMBER—

BEYOND THAT WINDOW

IN A FRENZY

I FIRST STROKED YOUR HANDS.

YOU SIT HERE TODAY

WITH AN IRON CLAD HEART.

ONE MORE DAY

YOU'LL TOSS ME OUT,

PERHAPS CURSING.

IN THE DIM FRONT HALL MY ARM,

BROKEN BY TREMBLING WON'T FIT RIGHT AWAY IN MY SLEEVE.

I'LL RUN OUT.

THROW MY BODY INTO THE STREET.

I'LL RAVE,

WILD,

LASHED BY DESPAIR.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN

MY DEAR,

MY DARLING,

LET US PART NOW.

AFTER ALL

MY LOVE

IS A HEAVY WEIGHT

HANGING ON YOU

NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.

LET ME BELLOW A FINAL CRY

OF BITTER, WOUNDED GRIEVANCE.

IF YOU DRIVE A BULL TO EXHAUSTION

HE WILL RUN AWAY.

LAY HIMSELF DOWN IN THE COLD WATERS.

BESIDES YOUR LOVE

I HAVE

NO OCEAN

AND YOUR LOVE WON'T GRANT EVEN A TEARFUL PLEA FOR REST.

WHEN A TIRED ELEPHANT WANTS PEACE

HE LIES DOWN REGALLY IN THE FIRE BOUND SAND.

BESIDES YOUR LOVE

I HAVE

NO SUN.

BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WITH WHOM.

IF YOU TORTURED A POET LIKE THIS,

HE

WOULD BERATE HIS BELOVED FOR MONEY AND FAME,

BUT FOR ME

NO SOUND IS JOYOUS

BUT THE SOUND OF YOUR BELOVED NAME.

I WON'T THROW MYSELF DOWNSTAIRS

FOR DRINK POISON

NOR CAN I PUT A GUN TO MY HEAD.

NO BLADE

HOLDS ME TRANSEFIXED

BUT YOUR GLANCE.

TOMORROW YOU'LL FORGET

THAT I HAVE CROWNED YOU.

THAT I BURNED MY FLOWERING SOUL WITH LOVE,

AND THE WHIRLING CARNIVAL OF TRIVIAL DAYS

WILL RUFFLE THE PAGES OF MY BOOKS...

WOULD THE DRY LEAVES OF MY WORDS

FORCE YOU TO A STOP

GASPING FOR AIR?

AT LEAST LET ME

PAVE WITH A PARTING ENDEARMENT

YOUR RETREATING PATH

IRAQ WAR INDEX

FACTS ABOUT THE GENOCIDE IN IRAQ THAT YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO READ ABOUT BUT NEED TO KNOW



American soldiers killed:
4,316



Soldiers seriously injured:
31,354
Does not include psychological impairments



Private Contractors (Mercenaries)
in Iraq working for the U.S. Army
180,000



Iraqi civilian war casualties:
1,200,000
(Source: Opinion Research Business (ORB), an independent polling agency located in London)



Estimated Cost of War:
\$700,000,000,000
That's 700 BILLION for those who can't count. Nobel economics laureate, Joseph Stiglitz estimates the war will cost over 5 trillion by its conclusion.



Iraqi unemployment rate
when curfew is not in effect:
27%–60%

Third Rail will be updating this page every issue until this cruel & illegal war is over.



by Rudyard Kipling



If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too,
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream--and not make dreams your master,
If you can think--and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings--nor lose the common touch,

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much,
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And--which is more--you'll be
a Man, my son!

FREE SPEECH

By Michael Abromovich

The Worst
Part of
Censorship
is ~~silencing~~
~~silencing~~

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'FREE SPEECH' AND 'FREEDOM OF PRESS' IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?

Obviously we talk about our "First Amendment" rights as Americans, which states word for word, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." In this amendment we are guaranteed the right to say what we want, put what we want in print, believe whatever faith we choose, express ourselves by any means, and lastly the right to organize and protest.

However, there is a limit as to what we can say; for example saying things that constitute a clear and present danger to the nation or that may cause disorder and chaos such as yelling "bomb" on a New York City subway train. Even though these limits are defined and people know not to cross them, why do certain aspects of our society still try and create a certain form of censorship over the individual? Why does our society try and discourage a certain viewpoint and create stereotyped ideas that conflict with 'American individualism' and demonize values such as socialism?

It is granted that our government has no or very limited control over private enterprise. However, the issue is that privately owned enterprises like the media use its influence over the general public to exert a certain control over people's ideas and values. For example, radio stations stopped playing certain music deemed "unpatriotic" after 9/11, one of those artists being John Lennon, or once the Iraq War began MTV stopped playing music by (the political) rock bands System of a Down and Rage Against the Machine. The biggest culprit of this disgusting attempt of control is Fox News.



FREE SPEECH

Fox News is a news source that is known to be ultra conservative and very narrow-minded. They brutally submit viewers to their ideas of “with us or against us” ideals. They impose the perspective that either you love everything the country is doing and stands for, or you are an Anti-American traitor. Fox also looks at things like socialism (which is associated with communism, in their eyes the “devil”) as taboo and something every American should reject, thus setting two effects into play.

A certain definition is created of patriotism and it makes people feel that they are confined to a certain set of beliefs. They also feel that they will be “burnt at the stake” for believing in something different and they let it be known. This is a situation where people get censored indirectly, by which they censor themselves out of fear when the cause of this fear is an outside source. Also people try and censor each other with terms like “politically correct,” “blasphemy,” and “heresy.”

Another form of censorship that is imposed on us comes from our peers and familiars. When we express an idea that is out of the “American Apple Pie Norm” such as saying socialism is a good thing we get responses such as “you cannot

say that” or “get these ideas of heresy out of your head, they’re Un-American.”

We find this censorship more in conservative areas like the “Bible Belt” region of the United States that hold Christianity and Americana to heart. Anything deemed “Un-American” is de-



rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

monized and censored by state and local governments. Let us not forget that these are the same people who supported the Jim Crow laws and voted for former President Bush in the 2004 election. They do their best to squash liberal views and purge them from their communities. The

look at progressivism as something that leads to tyranny and dictatorships, when the reality is living in their communities is almost like living in a dictatorship. So who are they to squash liberal views? After all, isn't being American mean that you can input your perspective into the Market of ideas and not get persecuted for it?

Terms like "Political Correctness" and other labels on ideas need to be dismantled to encourage free speech.

People should have the right to say what they feel and freely discuss their beliefs and ideas. Writers shouldn't have their works edited for content when it doesn't coincide with the Ameri-

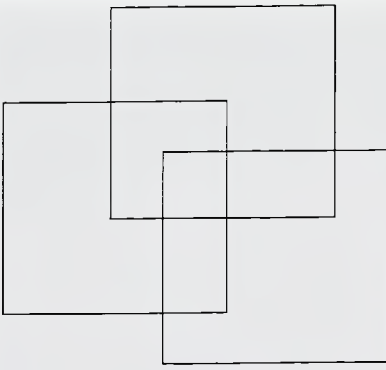
can standpoint. But what is the American standpoint? As a veteran I believe it is defending one's right to say or print something whether I agree with it or not.

In our society of an open idea market, if one disagrees with an idea, they can shoot it down by countering it. No one should feel afraid to say or print an idea, but at the same time they should expect to meet someone who will disagree with it and counter it with ideas of their own (in other words through logical reasoning, and not by giving it a stereotypical label). With that I'll conclude by reminding everyone to speak their minds because the free market of ideas (right or wrong) is what keeps American society going.



Death Plagues My Mind

by TJ



Death plagues my mind
At 4:30 in the morning -
Waken up disheveled, tired
Black and white newspaper print caffeinated
Fluorescent lighting overdose.

Bloated body - lifeless clump of meat -
With tones of inorganic piquing purples
(like the latter days of Ricky Ricardo lips)
and gray.
My body - the other to the other is another
Body - my body
Is an object.
My body - that is now bold with life
Will be colorless between the creases
Where body parts meet
The torso.

And I indulge myself the idea
Of the thought of the medical
examiner -
My body - the other to the other
is another
Body - my body
Turns into an object.

And is myself lost in time -
An element of a past?
Fights won and lost, and loves,
and heartaches,
Days of despair, sickness and
earthy brown life -
All for nothing?
Words speak no further.





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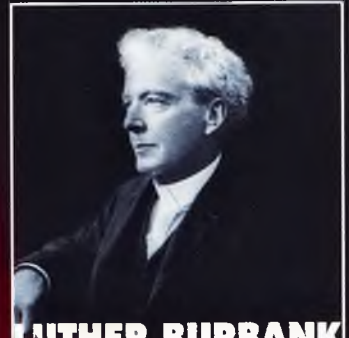
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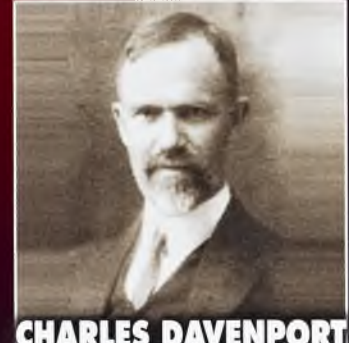
LUIS CAMPOS



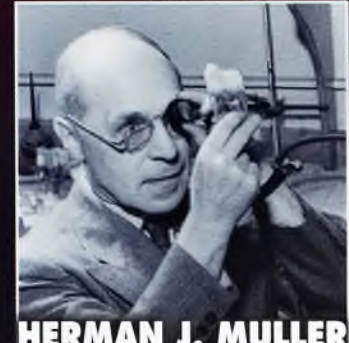
LUTHER BURBANK



LUIS HUGO DE VRIES



CHARLES DAVENPORT



HERMAN J. MULLER

THE HISTORY OF LIFE BY DESIGN

BY NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA

“We’re going to talk about intelligent design,” Luis Campos opened his talk about “Genetic Engineering from the Experimental Garden to Synthetic Biology” at the CUNY Graduate Center Wednesday evening. “No, not the intelligent design you often hear about in the news, but life by design.”

The talk was put together by the Liberal Studies Program of the Graduate Center, City University of New York, the Metropolitan New York Section of the History of Science Society, and the Section for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Luis Campos, historian at Drew University, gave a historical perspective of genetics in what he calls the “long 20th century.” In the early 20th century, there was a focus on breeding for the best traits. From the middle of the century to today, interest in genetics shifted to creating life. Although Campos does not go into the ethics or implications of engineering life, his lecture frames the historical context for controversial genetics.

Campos started by tipping his hat to the birthday boy of the year, Charles Darwin, who was out of fashion in 1900. Darwin established a theory for the survival of the fittest, but he did not have a theory for the “arrival of the fittest,” as Campos would say. Many investigators at this time looked for another way to explain heredity, for example by a divine creator on one hand.

"PLANT BREEDING IS LIKE ARCHITECTURE"

On the other hand, there was botanist Luther Burbank (1848-1926) who published "New Creations in Fruits and Flowers" in June 1893. Burbank produced new varieties of plants and fruits including the Russet Burbank potatoes used for McDonald's fries today and was used in 1871 to help combat Ireland's potato famine. This Massachusetts native was inducted to the Inventor Hall of fame in 1986. His bio reads, "His over 800 new plant varieties have been used around the world to increase the food supply."

However, Burbank's use of the words "creating new plants" left many other people uneasy. A priest was going to give a sermon on the topic of "new creations" and invited Burbank to a front row seat where he was "forced to listen for three quarters of an hour," after which, he was vilified some more by the churchgoers. Burbank referenced many different dictionaries to seek the proper use of the term "creator" and was confident that he was, indeed, using it quite accurately. His plant creations were patented posthumously.

"EVOLUTION MUST BECOME AN EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE"

Campos then moved on to talk about Hugo de Vries (1848-1935), who created a mutation theory of evolution. Darwin explained evolution as a process of graduated equilibrium in which changes occur slowly over a long period of time. De Vries' research in "Mutation Theory" added to Mendel's laws of heredity and Darwin's evolution by claiming that some changes may happen in bursts, also known as "punctuated equilibrium". Organisms might mutate via the use of radiation de Vries concluded.

A.M. Van Harten wrote in his book "Mutation Breeding":

"The word 'mutation', was coined by de Vries for sudden genetic changes, 'leaps', 'shocks' or 'salutations'. It may be interesting to mention that the term 'mutation' had been used before in different ways. For instance, in the seventeenth century, to indicate changes in the life cycle of insects and in the nineteenth century by palaeontologists/paleontologists for clear abnormalities in fossils."

"What was once called a monstrous form is now 'mutant'," Campos summarized before he moved on to Charles Davenport, a major proponent of American eugenics.

FROM GARDEN TO MAN...

Dr. Daniel Trembley MacDougal (1865-1958) was the director of the Department of Botanical Research of the Carnegie Institution in 1906. In his "New Wonders of Science in Dealing with Plants", he concluded that man might be able to change the form and color of flowers. "By injecting into the ovary osmotic reagents and solutions of stimulation mineral salts, he could cause changes in the egg cells of a plant before fertilization so that the altered eggs would give rise to a new form of species," wrote the New York Times in 1906.

Curious about human genes and fitness, Charles Davenport (1866-1944) became director of Long Island's Cold Spring Harbor Station for Evolution in 1904. Davenport determined to prove, not only the heredity of phenotypes, but also the heredity of character. Davenport published "Heredity in Relation to Eugenics" in 1911, which ignored social philosophy and the role of environment on the individual. Sadly, Davenport's eugenics was a major influence on the Holocaust. Perhaps, this is why, and rightly so, there would always be a controversy about how to proceed with genetic research.

...BUT DON'T FORGET THE ANIMALS!

A year later in 1912, Jewish biologist Jacques Loeb published the "Mechanistic Conception of Life," which showed that changing the concentration of salt in the water would cause the eggs of sea urchins to develop without sperm, also known as artificial parthenogenesis "It is in the end still possible that I find my dream realized, to see a constructive or engineering biology in place of a biology that is merely analytical," Campos quoted Loeb.

"CAN LIFE BE PRODUCED BY RADIUM?"

June 21, 1905 the New York Times published an article on Prof. John Butler Burke of Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge about his work on spontaneous generation. The article reported on Burke's discovery of radiobes, which he concluded were neither crystals nor bacteria:

"He used gelatin and radium...he boiled tubes of bouillon containing radium and tubes of pure bouillon. Nothing happened in the plain bouillon tubes but in the others, bouillon was grown like bouillon that is inoculated with bacteria. This growth, grown in the proper medium is absolutely lethal to all forms of life, consisted of minute rounded objects which looked like bacteria, thought not corresponding to any known kind...the objects were not bacteria, yet they seemed alive."

Although, the research was inconclusive, the importance of Burke's experiment was that it allowed for thought about the relationship between inorganic and organic environments. His radiobes were believed to be some sort of protein, which is the basic form of DNA.

INTERNATIONAL GENES

"Albert Blakeslee (1874-1954) paid attention to what was happening on the chromosomal level," Campos introduced this American botanist who worked with the poisonous jimsonweed to know how chromosomes affected phenotype.

Herman J. Muller (1890-1967) won the 1946 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine "for the discovery of the production of mutations by means of X-ray irradiation." Irradiation is the process by which an item is exposed to radiation. He grew up in Harlem, participated in activist peace groups, studied at a prestigious genetics lab in Germany right before Hitler rose to power and became one of Carl Sagan's teacher's at University of Indiana. During the war, he was not able to return to the United States, nor could he continue to work in Germany, so he followed his Jewish secretary to the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

EVOLUTION OF THE SUPERHUMAN

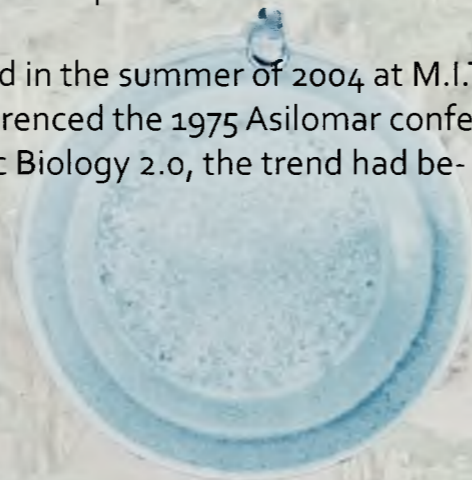
"Fast forward to 1965," said Campos. "At this time people started talking about the risks of studying genetics, especially after WWII. Scientists were interested in creating the bigger, better, stronger and faster human being."

The term "synthetic biology" entered the vocabulary in the 1970s.

Campos cited Michael Roger's coverage of the Asilomar meeting in California for Rolling Stone magazine. In his 1975 article "The Pandora's Box Congress," Rogers described the meeting's location in a church by the sea as either a corny joke or rather apt joke. The conference focused on the ethics of genetic manipulation. "Nature does not need to be legislated, but playing God does," Rogers quoted a scientist.

By the latter half of the century, scientists focused on making biology easier to engineer. Bacteria can be used to detect land mines by glowing. Bacteria can also eat oil at spill sites and be used for medicines. These are all good reasons for genetic manipulation.

The First International Meeting on Synthetic Biology was held in the summer of 2004 at M.I.T. Synthetic Biology 1.0, another name for the conference, referenced the 1975 Asilomar conference where the main interest was just breeding. By Synthetic Biology 2.0, the trend had become extreme genetic breeding.



DEMOCRATIZING BIOLOGY

From the M.I.T. and Berkeley that run conferences on genetics, we arrive at the Internet age with websites like DIYbio.org where amateurs attempt genetic engineering at home.

One of the final words of the evening came from Yale University's Daniel J. Kevles, who is also a science historian. He posited the notion of exploiting the essence of life and the conflict we have about genetics: genetic engineering is good when it leads to the production of better medicines but GMOs in food are bad because many people are allergic and the repercussions are not yet known.



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Join Third Rail

OK. So maybe we lied when we said we can guarantee you'll get laid by joining *Third Rail*. But while we can't guarantee you that, we CAN guarantee that you'll have lots of fun writing, photographing, designing, poeticizing (that's our made up word for creating poetry), investigating, debating, drawing and, oh yeah—criticizing the CSI Administration (they don't get enough of that). And if you're really lucky, maybe you won't just write about the news—you'll be the news! So join *Third Rail*! Our meetings are in the Campus Center (1C) during Club Hours. To find out when our next meeting is visit our website at www.ThirdRailMag.com, or give us a call at 718-982-3105. And who knows, you just might get laid.

Get Laid!

Honoring the Fallen

Article by Michael Abramovich

Photography by: Chun Hom

We all honor the men and women who serve our country, and go into harm's way to defend the nation. However the sad thing is that some of these brave men and women die in their service to the country. Holidays like Memorial Day are meant to honor those who have fallen doing their duty. One student here at CSI, Esther Kabalkin started a memorial project for fallen soldiers of Iraq and Afghanistan. The project is called the Fallen Heroes Memorial Quilt Project and Professor Cumisky of the Psychology Department sponsors it. The project displays quilt panels made by family members in colleges within the NYC area. These quilt panels were displayed from May 5, 2009 to May 7, 2009 here at CSI. On May 7th I got a chance to chat with Esther and find out more about her.

Me- Do you have a certain focus with psychology?
Esther- I'm focusing to be a Bereavement Therapist

Me- Could you explain what that is?
Esther- A Bereavement Therapist helps people dealing with a loss, or are terminally ill, to help deal with the grieving process or accepting their own death.

Me- What got you to start this project?
Esther- I was dealing with the loss of a friend who died in Iraq on July 2, 2006. At the same time I was taking Professor Cumisky's Death and Dying class, the exit project was to create a memorial project affecting the community. Because I had a hard time dealing with my friend's death, I wanted to do something with fallen soldiers.

Me- How do you feel when you hear about service members falling (dying) in their line of duty?
Esther- I try and keep my personal opinions out of the project, and allow people to make their own opinions about the war. I try and focus on the soldiers and not the war.

Me- How do you feel when people say Memorial Day and Veteran's Day is a waste of a holiday?
Esther- I feel there is a purpose to those holidays and they have meaning to those who have served and the people close to them.

Me- How do you feel when people say Memorial Day and Veteran's Day is a waste of a holiday?
Esther- I feel there is a purpose to those holidays and they have meaning to those who have served and the people close to them.

Me- How do you feel when people politicize the service member with the war?
Esther- I think it's important to focus on the service member; I don't have a pro or a con against opinion about the war with this project but let people make their own judgments and think for themselves.

If you are interested in having the panels displayed somewhere, are interested in submitting a quilt panel or have any questions about the project contact Esther at nycfallensoldiers@yahoo.com.

The Muppets GO MeNTAl!

By Jack Freedman

Almost all of the Muppets have some place in the DSM-IV. Look at The Count, this is a classic example of OCD. He just goes around and has to count everything in sight. Do we really want to teach our children such ritualistic behavior? Next is Elmo. He clearly has a severe case of ADHD. He's always hyper and he encourages children to touch him all over his body. I also don't think it's safe to have children speak in third person. How about Cookie Monster? Now, before this sudden need for "Sesame Street" to promote nutrition, he would have been the perfect candidate for representing somebody with a MICA problem. After all, he had to be on something to be constantly eating like that. Grover has delusions of grandeur because he thinks he's a superhero half the time. Big Bird was suspected of having schizophrenia before Snuffleupagus was found out by the other residents of Sesame Street. And with a nickname like Snuffy, it looks like we have yet another drug abuser on our hands. I also suspect a case of depression on his chart. Bert and Ernie narrowly escaped being on the DSM-IV. After all, homosexuality is no longer a mental illness, though some beg to differ. Telly has Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Nobody should worry that much, especially when it comes to crayons not being used in an art project. Oscar the Grouch clearly has Antisocial Personality Disorder. His ADL skills aren't that great either, considering that he lives in a trash can. Kermit the Frog has bipolar disorder, because one moment he's singing about how it's not easy being green, and the next minute, he's hopping and waving his arms around. Maybe he needs his own brand of amphibian mood stabilizers, like Depa-Croak or Abili-Fly.

Is "Sesame Street" a children's show or public broadcasting's answer to the Arkham Asylum from the Batman comics. You decide!

CSI's MOST WANTED



Joseph Brush



Jeff McGraham



Nikki S. Bautista



Mike Miley



Mike Gualtieri



TJ Riley



Tony Vivirito




Chun Hom




Neil & Lenin


**If you see any of these outlaws, please
report to the nearest CSI Administrator**



Your through bub!!!




THIS IS THE END!!!




HULK SMASH BUG!!!


Illustrators Wanted



Thumbs up!!!



I am glad Marie Jane isn't here to see this.



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