

# Third Rail

The Award-Winning Political Arts Magazine of the College of Staten Island :: 2005 :: Issue 4



***Why Feminism Is  
More Than A Burning Bra***



# CLASSY BROADS

Thank goodness  
that menfolk  
still legislate  
control over us  
gals' icky bodies!

Heavens, yes!  
I feel much safer  
knowing we ladies'  
dirty cooters are  
in good hands!



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# KEEP THEIR PLACE!



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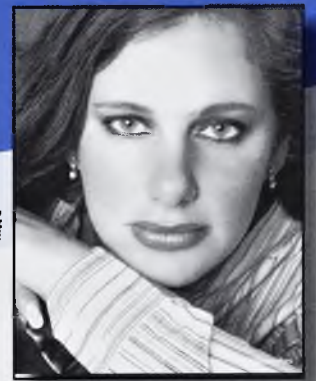
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# THIRD RAIL EDITORIAL

## BREAK THE SILENCE

by P. Melissa Fisher,  
Editor-in-Chief



**A BURNING BRA WAS A FINE AND RELEVANT SYMBOL FOR FEMINISM CIRCA 1965.**

Interestingly enough, it was also at about this time that spousal abuse finally became a crime and not just a "private matter." Unfortunately, while the burning bra has run its course and done its job, or if not, at least lost any shock value and therefore power it ever had, the dramatic but all too real images of women who have been beaten by their intimate partners have not.

I say this from experience. I am a victim not only of spousal abuse but also of spousal rape. My ex-husband would regularly beat me, call me names, cheat on me, and make me feel even more worthless than I did when I met him. He left bruises that people saw but ignored. He would punch holes in the walls of my house; we would pretend not to notice them. Even my family with whom we lived pretended not to notice what was happening. They probably did that to spare me the embarrassment of the situation, but I could have used their help and support to get out!

The sad fact is that I am far from alone. Women are socially programmed to endure these brutalities silently, sometimes even believing that the attacks are signs that their men truly love them! Others are too ashamed to ask for help. Instead, they accept their boyfriend or husbands' rules, control and abuse as punishment for being women. What can a burning bra do for them? They need someone to reach out to them, to tell them that this is not their lot in life and to show them that there is a way out. Perhaps pictures that show that others are getting out will help them see that it can go too far, especially since the first blow is already a quick start.

The media sends mixed messages. Part of the problem is that domestic violence has only been a crime for about forty years. Many of our most cherished TV icons were from before that time and they show that it was common and acceptable for a man to hit and/or threaten his wife. Ricky would often spank Lucy, and to this day, Ralph Kramden's "To the moon, Alice" is one of the most quoted lines in television history. Doesn't anybody realize that when he says this he is threatening to punch her?

Thankfully, we are seeing stronger women to set these examples. One of them became a sort of role-model for me. Bret Butler's character, Grace Kelly from *Grace Under Fire*, was a survivor of domestic violence who had thrown her abusive husband out. For this, she

suffered the ridicule of her former mother-in-law who simply refused to accept the truth - the pain of her children who didn't know or understand

what was going on - and the scars that the years she had spent in this marriage had put on her own psyche. But through it all she managed to thrive. She raised her children to be better people and followed her passion for writing to a college degree - the first in her family. Finally, a woman who had been through all of this and lived to do more than just tell the tale.

The main problem in the way society views domestic violence and other crimes against women like rape is that they are crimes of power - men's power over women - and that it is socially normal for men to have power over women. Until that view changes, every woman, all of our mothers, sisters and even daughters, are in danger. How can society protect us from these dangers if it acts as if it approves of their causes?

The best way to fight this problem, and so many other social evils like it, is education.



abuse

emotional

verbal

control

stress

FEEL

FIGHT

hell

PHYSICAL

Just as parents can teach their children not to be racist, they can teach their children not to be sexist. This means much more than just telling our daughters that “you can grow up to be anything” or that “you are just as good as the boys.” Girls ARE just as good as boys, but that isn’t entirely the point. I have been teaching my own daughter that she is as good if not better than any boy since she was born.

The problem is that boosting the confidence levels in our daughters is just not enough. We need to teach our sons that girls are not objects; they are not servants, they are

children and look perfect while doing it? I know that this is not a new revelation, but I started taking it a bit more seriously when, at the tender age of six, she’s telling me that she’s fat and that nobody likes her. If this is her level of self-esteem now and with her parents doing all they can to build her up, what will she do if a boy she likes starts to tear her down?

It doesn’t end with toys. Even children’s programming does nothing to dissuade the image that men are in charge and that women just serve them. Additionally, the media



not targets and when they say “no” to sexual contact of any kind, the answer is NO. Nor are they so weak and fragile that their only place is on a pedestal. Girls and boys are both people, nothing more and nothing less. They need to be judged with the same set of standards, allowed to participate in the same activities, and allowed to play with the same toys. If we, as parents and as a society (remember, after all, that it takes a village), do our jobs properly, they will understand this.

Now, once again, the media weighs in. How can I show my six-year-old daughter how to be a strong woman who can accomplish anything when every toy marketed toward her tells her that her place is to sit home, cook meals, raise

deems it safe to market products primarily aimed at boys to both sexes and show women assuming roles once held only by men, but still demonstrates constantly that it is wholly inappropriate for a man to step into a traditional woman’s role. Just look at the situation in ABC’s new hit drama *Commander in Chief*. This show depicts the trials and tribulations of the first female American president. It is interesting to note, however, that there seem to be more gender-based difficulties for her husband, the First Gentleman. If this is the way our children learn to socialize, no change will come.

This is not to say that the media is responsible for what happened in my or anyone else’s marriage. Nothing in the



## BREAK THE SILENCE

mentioned programs or advertising supported violence toward women, but the message that men are in charge of women in possible tandem with violence or aggression in his upbringing will almost definitely set the stage for what so many women endure in an abusive marriage.

If the media is guilty of anything in the battle to end domestic violence, it's being nearly silent on the matter. Although it has improved in recent years, it has not gone nearly far enough. Young girls need to see that this is not the way that they should be treated. The media especially shows that young women are likely to watch and emulate women on shows like *The OC* and *Gilmore Girls*. A strong female character like Buffy was good, but how about a woman just as strong, but a bit more realistic? As I said before, Grace did me a lot of good, and I doubt I was the only victim that Brett Butler's character helped get her life back in order. Reaching the survivors is wonderful, but the failure to use the media as a preventative tool is tragic.

I have talked a bit on what has influenced my daughter, but she also has the benefit of a father who firmly believes in an equal relationship. He often bears the brunt of my past and does so with all of the gentleness and understanding that he knows I need—unless he feels that it is influencing how his daughter views relationships. In her presence, he makes certain that she sees us interacting as a loving couple. If we do argue in front of her, he is careful to allow her to see only a discussion more closely resembling a debate than a fight.

My ex-husband and I have a child together also—a son. He saw nothing but wars. His psyche was wounded by the feeling that he was a failure because he was unable to pro-

tect the mother whose job it was to protect him. Adding to this was his confusion because the danger he was trying to shield me from was his own father. This is a common result of domestic violence and has even been recognized as a contributing or risk factor leading to various forms of mental illness, including depression and oppositional defiance disorder (ODD). ODD is a disorder much like bipolar disorder, but involves problems with authority and anger control. Symptoms to look for include a child or teen who is: hostile; negative; defiant; oppositional; pessimistic; aggressive; argumentative; angry; resentful; has a low frustration level; accusatory; unreasonable; blaming; spiteful; vindictive; bad tempered and foul-mouthed. Now

that I've described my son to you, let me take away the "that is just how teenagers are" comment by stating that my son was hospitalized because of ODD three times—the first when he was nine.

My son turned ten as an inpatient in a pediatric psych ward.

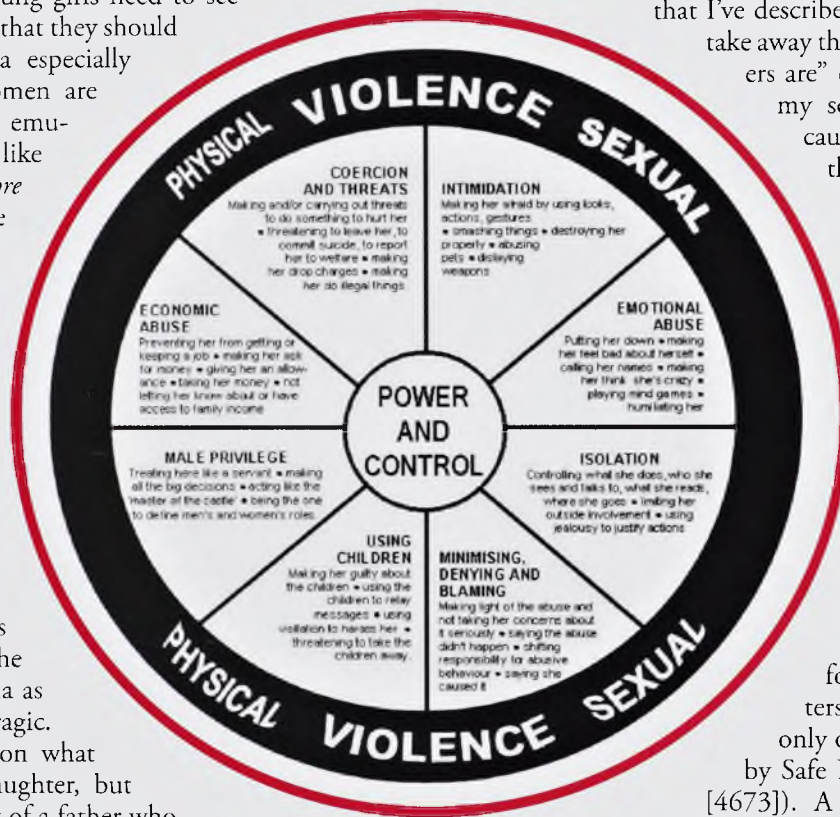
Spousal abuse clearly affects more than just the women whose husbands are abusing them, and many people seem to agree that society, as a whole, needs to help them.

Yet society places so much value on this, that an internet search for battered women's shelters determined that there is

only one on Staten Island (run by Safe Horizon 800.621.HOPE [4673]).

A similar search found five animal shelters on Staten Island.

If there is ever really going to be an end to the horrors of domestic violence we need to learn that women are more important than animals. More importantly, society needs to reexamine the messages it sends to our children. Maybe then they can be saved from ever going through this.





*I saw a girl take a chance tonight  
on something that was not her fault.  
I saw a girl take a chance tonight,  
but she failed to halt  
to see what was going on around her.*

*She rolled the die  
and all he did was make her cry.*

*His violence was sickening  
and her ignorance deafening.  
You would think that she could see  
all the hurting and suffering  
that was coming to be  
in front of our very eyes.  
"I love you" was just a lie.*

*In front of her friends,  
he'd call her names.  
When things went wrong,  
guess who was to blame?*

*Tonight, we walked hand in hand  
across the street.  
In fact, I thought that I had helped  
to make her decision complete.  
She would stand up and be strong  
and do what she knew she had to do all along.*

*Unfortunately, it didn't end up that way.  
She insisted on going home with him,  
suffice it to say.  
She took the chance and rolled the die,  
And no longer is she the only one that cries.*

*I saw a girl take  
a Chance tonight*



## RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE EDITORIAL

### TO THE EDITOR:

You need to do better research before stating that Buddhists follow the teachings of a mere man.

Siddhartha Gautama was "a man" who became "the Buddha," and a cursory reading of his journey from the former to the latter parallels in ways the journey of another man, Jesus of Nazareth, to his status as "the Christ." Both achieved, in their disciples' eyes, divinity. Indeed, it is said that Siddhartha was born "fully awake" from the moment he left his mother's womb, able to stand, walk and talk, and upon his birth told his mother he had come to free all mankind from suffering.

Sound familiar?

TC Lynch  
Former editor of CSI Ictus Review  
leatherpenguin@gmail.com

### P. MELISSA FISHER, AUTHOR OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RESPONDS

Dear Mr. Lynch:

No one is denying that there are strong similarities between the stories of Siddhartha Gautama and Jesus of Nazareth, but there are also key differences not only in their origins, but also in the way the religions they created are observed.

Siddhartha had to take a long journey of self-discovery to become the Buddha. He may have been born "fully awake" from the moment he left his mother's womb, but he was not born the Buddha, he had to earn that title and any honor or glory that goes with it. The same cannot be said of Jesus of Nazareth. He was born the Christ. Worshipers came to honor him from the moment of his birth. Had Jesus done nothing but be born, he would still have been labeled the son of god.

In the practice of the Christian faith, people worship and pray to Jesus. They believe that he is the son of god, and that he is god as well. They pray to him for divine intervention and for miracles. When Buddhists meditate, they ask only for guidance and help on their journey to self-awareness. They do not believe that this man can do miracles. He can only serve as a guide to the best way to lead a spiritual life and to reach Nirvana.

I never said that Buddha was a "mere" man. I said that he

was a man, and he was. He was a very special man, but so were Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, and Malcolm X, but they were all only human, with all the limitations that implies, including death. Jesus was not so limited. Therefore, I stand by my original statement that Buddhists follow the teachings of a man.

## RE: A STARBUCKS SOLILOQUY

### DEAR HANNAH JEAN,

Nice work, so warm and cuddly. Reminds me of a young punk beatnik I once knew. Congrats!

Luv,  
Steven Tello.  
Associate Director, Distance Learning  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

## QUALITY OF THIRD RAIL MAGAZINE

### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

I want to personally say how pleased I am with the quality of this magazine. I myself have seen quite a few student publications magazines and *Third Rail* (which my piss might offer an electric shock of creativity) by far is the best toilet paper. So thank you for your crapulous work - it does have a purpose after all.

Boris Zikowski  
CSI Student

### P. MELISSA FISHER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RESPONDS

Dear Mr. Zikowski:

It is always wonderful to hear that members of the student body are pleased with our work. We at Third Rail do strive to be thought-provoking and informative. Our purpose, as we see it, is to put the facts and our opinions of them out into the world and create discussion about them regardless of whether the readers agree or not; but, in lieu of that, we help anyway we can. If in your case, we have solved your urinary problems, we will consider it a job well done.

## RE: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS (ISSUE 3)

### DEAR MR. FISHER,

I have not read your original article but I already can tell that it must have upset this *Hillel*. I remember a year and a half ago, *Hillel* had a protest at Brooklyn College carrying posters and signs saying, "Wherever we stand, we stand with Israel!" What kind of organization gives UNQUESTIONABLE support to a state that expropriates land from poor people and doesn't allow pregnant women to get to emergency rooms?

Does *Hillel* support such actions? Do they stand with countries that violate human rights? Do they "stand" with nations that defy United Nations resolutions? Does *Hillel* "stand" with countries that ignore World Court rulings? Does *Hillel* "stand" with nations who elect known terrorists like Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon? You should ask Leebie Mallin why *Hillel* unquestionably supports Israel, while unquestionably categorizes Palestinian freedom fighters as terrorists. *Hillel* needs to look in the mirror.

Ajad Braddhi,  
CUNY Student

## RE: ERICA JONG'S CSI COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

### DEAR MS. JONG,

As a fan of yours (I have read most of your books), I was quite shocked and appalled by the commencement address you gave at the College of Staten Island in 2005. For someone as intelligent as yourself, I was surprised to discover that you dismiss the fact that the United States and our American way of life is being threatened by radical Islam. Do you think that your books would be able to be published in Saudi Arabia or Egypt, given their explicit sexual content. Do you think that you, a female, would be able to give a commencement address at a college in Iran or Iraq? Do you think that in Jordan or Malaysia you could manifest any iota of freedom of speech and assembly?

I am glad that you have exercised your constitutional right to express yourself by criticizing Administration policies, but do you realize it is these exact policies by the Bush Administration that is safeguarding your right to free speech? Do you think that if our government did nothing that everything would be OK and that you would be able to address college stu-

dents in ten years, the way you did in 2005? If our government just sits back and does nothing, it will be liberals and elitist academics like yourself who will complain in ten years time that the Bush administration did "nothing" to safeguard our constitutional right.

As a fan of yours and one who is greatly impressed with the way you have critiqued our male dominated culture and society, I would hope that you recognize that as sexist as America is, it is by FAR and away the greatest country for females to have citizenship. Please think of that before you begin to bash the American administration next time you speak before impressionable students.

With Greatest Respect,  
Lisa Van Hilder

## THIRD RAIL STAFF RESPONDS

Dear Lisa Van Hilder:

We will be forwarding your response to author Erica Jong. In the meantime, we offer you the wise words of Benjamin Franklin, who stated, "They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security."

## THIRD RAIL WILL BE PRINTING FURTHER RESPONSES TO ERICA JONG'S SPEECH IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

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# ATLAS

*I'd never learned to appreciate the world*

*Till I held it on my shoulders*

*And ever-yearned to break free.*

*Please brother Prometheus*

*Light a flame of hope for me?*



# Hope for Destiny's Mother

I wonder if she tried,  
A frightened girl feeling she had no choice,  
To do the merciful thing—  
The right thing.  
But there you were  
With your slogans  
And your dead-baby picket signs in her face  
Calling her a whore  
And telling her that she was going to Hell for  
Killing her baby  
Or did she run into just one of you?  
Perhaps a sweet old lady who  
Gently explained that there was another choice  
And asked her how  
She could even consider such a thing after  
Hearing the baby's heartbeat.  
Did you promise that the church always  
Be there to help her though her  
Baby's life?  
Did she cry on your shoulder  
And bless you for saving her soul  
And her baby?

Fast-forward six months.  
Where were you when she gave  
Birth alone?  
Was there no more room at your inn?  
Did you even offer a manger to this girl  
Who would have euthanized her child  
Months before—if not for your  
Protests and lip-service.  
So away in a dumpster  
No crib for her bed  
Little Destiny Hope  
Lay down her sweet head  
And cried herself  
To death

By P. Melissa Fisher

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LIFE



# NEWS BRIEFS

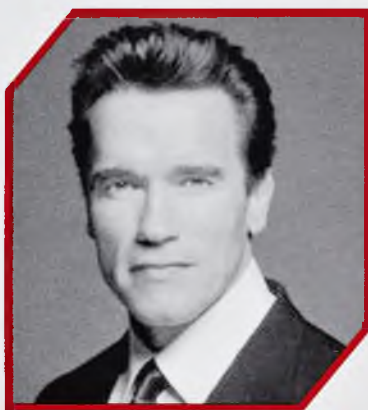
Compiled by Third Rail Staff

## TRANSGENDER'S MAKE LEGAL BREAKTHROUGH

A court in Harrisburg Pennsylvania has ruled in favor of the transgender community. Despite opposition by right-wing organizations such as the American Family Association (AFA), the court has declared that men who believe they are women may attend work in women's clothing, and use women facilities at the job site such as the restroom and/or locker rooms. This decision comes from the commonwealth court which was upholding a lower court's previous ruling that required the terminology "Sexual Orientation" and "gender identity" be added to the Allentown (PA) human relation ordinance. The previous ruling had allowed the reinstatement of a Transgendered prison guard with the support of the Teamsters Union Local 773. The AFA has promised to continue to fight against commonwealth court's ruling.

## LEGISLATURE VERSUS SCHWARZENEGGER FOR GAY-RIGHTS

In the fall of 2005, the California State Senate became the first ever such body of law in the United States to pass a bill legalizing same sex marriage. The bill had previously gone before the State Assembly where it was narrowly defeated. Now with the support of Senate the bill which rewords California's definition of marriage as being a union between to persons rather than between a man and a woman had made it through the Assembly. Unfortunately the governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has vetoed the bill, halting homosexuals in California from achieving equal rights for now. This battle, though, is far from over. Governor Schwarzenegger is a Republican who was elected into office during a special election and California is primarily a Democrat controlled state, so the next gubernatorial race will most likely determine the final out come of the Gay-Rights struggle in California.



## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS INVESTING MORE IN FASHION THEN ACADEMICS

If colleges ever offer a class in high-end shopping many of today's undergrads would most certainly receive honors in it. According to a recent article by the *Billings Gazette*, college students are putting more and more effort into shopping and following fashion trends then ever before. It is no longer uncommon for the average student to spend more the \$150 on jeans and even more on outfits that may only be worn once. According to a study by New York Alloy Media and Marketing, while students income may have recently risen they are still spending far in excess of what they're making. Part of the blame has been laid on the ever increasing popularity of celebrity reality shows where people famous for being famous, such as Paris Hilton, blur the line and egg on young men and women to try and live the same lifestyle. Whatever the full reasons are, it appears that today's college generation has neither the advertising immunity of Generation X nor the care free, non-materialistic belief of the Peace and Love Generation before that. Nowadays academic interest seems to be relegated to a Che Guevara t-shirt bought at Hot Topic.

## UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STRUGGLES WITH INTELLIGENT DESIGN

In the ongoing struggle to maintain the separation of Church and State the right wing has continued to push for the redefinition of Christian Creationism as a science dubbed Intelligent Design. In this struggle of rationalism versus irrationalism, the University of Kansas has become one of the battle grounds. In response to an ever increasing amount of pressure on the state government of Kansas by the right, the University of Kansas had announced it will begin teaching Intelligent Design as a course entitled "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design, Creationism and other Religious Mythologies." The class was originally planned for the spring semester that was until Professor Paul Mirecki the instructor slated to teach the class was attacked and beaten by two men who openly proclaim that it was over how he and the college viewed Intelligent Design so for now the new class has been canceled due to the extreme violent behavior of the radical right.



## BARBER SHOP HANGS WHITES ONLY SIGN

In a flash back to another era, residents of Lafayette, Louisiana were taken aback when Herbert Leger hung a sign outside his barber shop that read “Whites Only.” It was never the 72 year old haircutter’s intention to provoke any idea of racism he was simply



trying to inform consumers what type of hair he is qualified to cut. The difference in training has caused Leger increasing frustration in recent years as he has had to refer business to a local associate who is trained in cutting Black American hair. Leger proclaimed that the sign was posted merely to indicate his qualification and the same conversation he’s had to have many times in recent years, it was never intended to be an act of racism. Unfortunately for Leger, in an age of uber-political correctness where the extreme-left consistently tries to tell citizens how to speak he’s been left with little choice but to consider taking down the sign or modifying the language of the unintentional but still perceptively offending sign.

## STUDENT NEWSPAPER SEIZED BY ADMINISTRATION

A Tennessee high school paper and its staff recently became the victims of censorship by the schools administrators. The issue apparently contained subjects considered taboo by the administration such as an article on birth control that outlined which were safe and effective and where to get them. There was also a photograph of an unidentified student’s tattoo. In response to this type of free expression by students, the Oak Ridge Schools administration decided to impound the paper searching all classrooms, personal lockers, desks and mailboxes for copies of the paper. Their reason for their behavior was that, according to them, there were articles in need of editing.

## NORTHERN IRELAND TAKES A STEP FORWARD IN GAY-RIGHTS

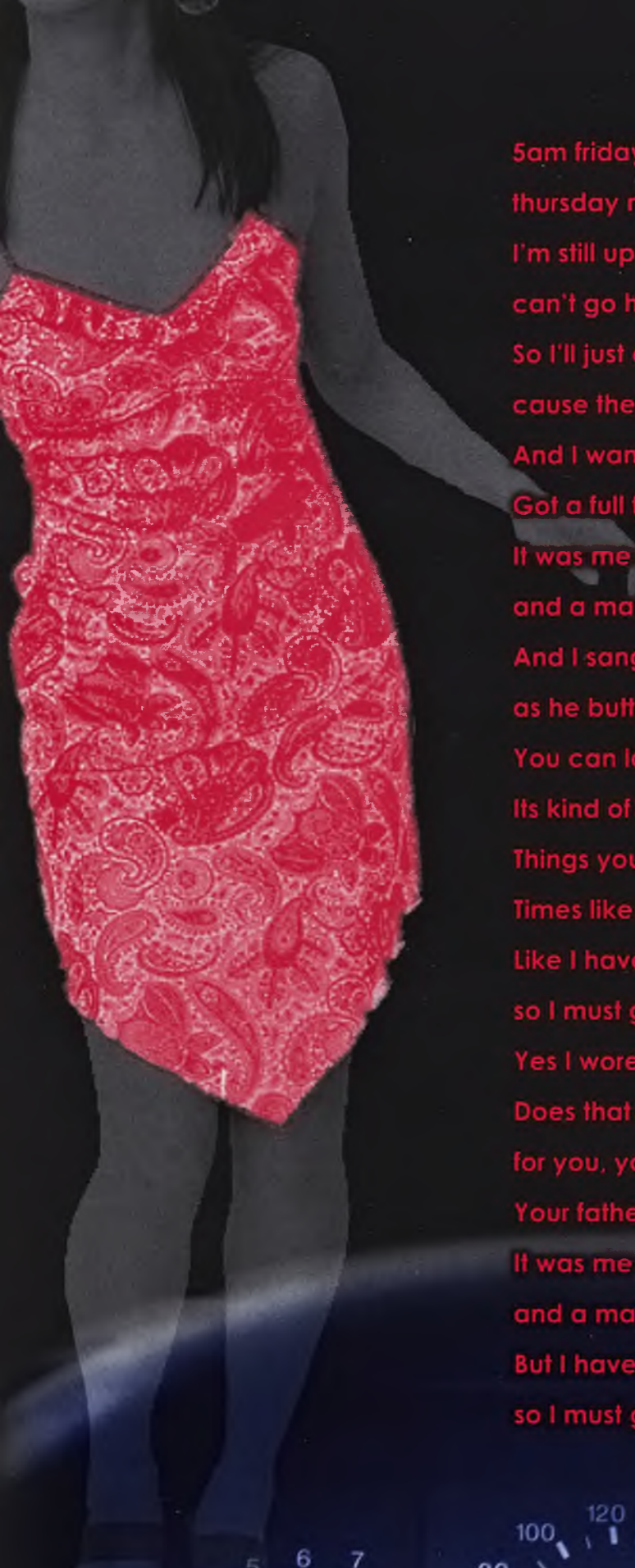
Although Northern Ireland is known to be one of the strongest bastions of traditional family values, it became the first province of the United Kingdom to allow legal civil unions for same sex couples. The first couple to exercise this right was Grianne Close (32), a social worker from Northern Ireland and her partner, Shannon Sickels (27), a playwright from New York. Their union was celebrated with family throwing flowers and rainbow ribbons, such song selections as Dolly Parton’s “Touch Your Woman,” and, of course protests. A few dozen Protestant evangelicals sang Gospel hymns and carried signs stating that “Sodomy is sin.” The people in favor of gay rights and the union countered by donning Hitler-style hats and moustaches, chanting slogans of support through bullhorns and carrying signs that read, “Earth is flat” or “Bring back slavery.”

## UNIVERSITY BANS COCA-COLA

Students at The University of Michigan were so offended by the questionable business and labor practices by Coca-Cola that they fought to have the company’s products temporarily banned from sale on their three campuses. The students complained that Coca-Cola had sold products contaminated with pesticides in India, as well as using up the groundwater near the area’s bottling plants and sending out sludge containing cadmium. The accusations of the company’s practices in Colombia are even worse than those about India. There, the company is accused of kidnapping and even murder. In response to this, such groups as the Students Organizing for Labor and Economic Equality lodged a formal complaint and pressured the school’s administration to sever its ties with the company. The university complied temporarily pending the outcome of a third-party investigation.

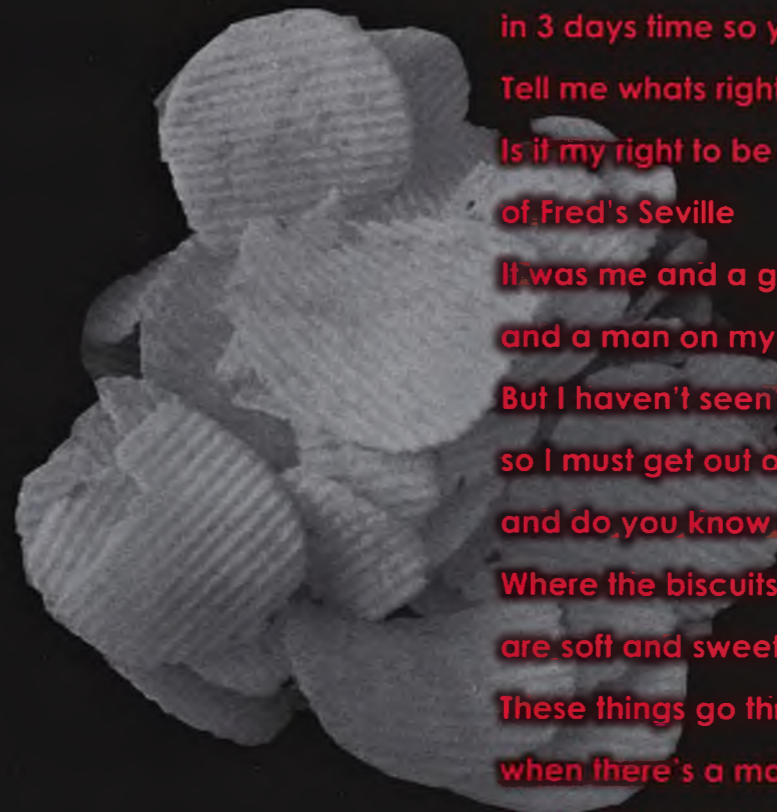




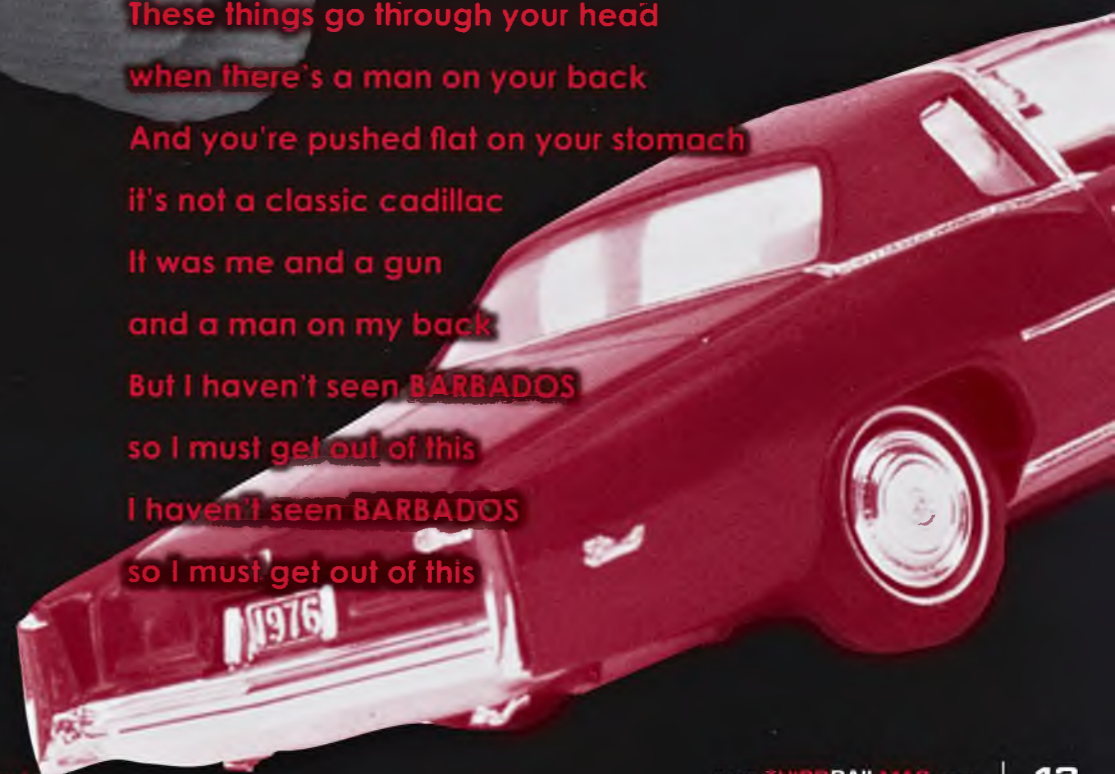


5am friday morning  
 thursday night far from sleep  
 I'm still up and driving  
 can't go home obviously  
 So I'll just change direction  
 cause they'll soon know where I live  
 And I wanna live  
 Got a full tank and some chips  
 It was me and a gun  
 and a man on my back  
 And I sang "holy holy"  
 as he buttoned down his pants  
 You can laugh  
 Its kind of funny  
 Things you think  
 Times like these  
 Like I haven't seen BARBADOS  
 so I must get out of this  
 Yes I wore a slinky red thing  
 Does that mean I should spread  
 for you, your friends  
 Your father, Mr Ed  
 It was me and a gun  
 and a man on my back  
 But I haven't seen BARBADOS  
 so I must get out of this

# me and a gun fori amos



And I know what this means  
 Me and Jesus a few years back  
 used to hang  
 And he said "it's your choice babe  
 just remember  
 I don't think you'll be back  
 in 3 days time so you choose well"  
 Tell me whats right  
 Is it my right to be on my stomach  
 of Fred's Seville  
 It was me and a gun  
 and a man on my back  
 But I haven't seen BARBADOS  
 so I must get out of this  
 and do you know CAROLINA  
 Where the biscuits  
 are soft and sweet  
 These things go through your head  
 when there's a man on your back  
 And you're pushed flat on your stomach  
 it's not a classic cadillac  
 It was me and a gun  
 and a man on my back  
 But I haven't seen BARBADOS  
 so I must get out of this  
 I haven't seen BARBADOS  
 so I must get out of this





# DATE RAPE

A THIRD RAIL SPECIAL REPORT BY P. MELISSA FISHER



**T**he word **rape** strikes fear into the heart of every woman, and statistics show that there is good reason for this—especially for **college-age women**. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) there were seventy-two rapes for every 100,000 women in America in 1995, that equals out to one American woman being raped every two minutes. But there is some good news, according to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) the number of rapes and sexual assaults has gone down by sixty-five percent. However, sadly, all rape statistics are approximate due to the low numbers of cases reported.

There are several dangerous misconceptions about rape. Many of them are included in the following ideology of a typical attack: it is usually perpetrated by a drunken stranger who lures his victim off of the deserted street and/or in some secluded place in the dead of night. The truth



is that two-thirds of victims of rape or sexual assault know their assailants. According to the *Staten Island Advance*, there were sixty-one rapes reported on Staten Island between January 1 and November 6 2005, which is thirty more than were reported the year before. The paper's November 13th front-page story quotes Deputy Chief Michael Collins of the New York Police Department (NYPD) as saying that "[o]ut of those reported this year [2005], forty-six have been so-called 'acquaintance' rapes where the victim and the offender were known to each other." That means that more than seventy percent of these rapes have been date or acquaintance rapes.

Date rape is not just the most common form of rape and sexual assault overall, it is by far the most common form of attack on women age sixteen to twenty-five, as women in this age bracket are at a four-times greater risk of being the victim of a date rape than any other age bracket. In other words, a good number of the women on the average college campus are the ages that put them at this increased risk. In fact, forty-seven percent of the victims who reported an attack knew the assailant. According to the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), for every 1,000 women attending college, there will be thirty-five incidents of rape in a given academic year. Given the fact that the College of Staten Island (CSI) has approximately 13,000 students, with more than half of those being women, the likelihood of female students becoming the victim of a date or acquaintance rape in this academic year is probable. In 2003, two forcible sex offenses were reported as having occurred on campus. How many CSI students might have been victimized off campus? And this is just a small part of what makes this crime so frightening.



Since in the case of date rape, the victim and the attacker are known to each other, it becomes the burden of the victim to prove that she was not a willing participant in the sexual encounter. Additionally, since many dates take place in bars, the assailant might have been drinking—but it's likely that the victim was too, making the case even more difficult to prove—this is true in ninety percent of date or acquaintance rape cases.

Drinking also creates another form of danger for women and date rape. The media has done a fair job at making the risk of date rape drugs well-known but has failed to adequately explain what they are and how they are used. The Federal Government Source for Women's Health Information (FGSWHI) defines these date rape drugs as those "that are sometimes used to assist a sexual assault. Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity that a person does not agree to. It can include inappropriate touching, vaginal penetration, sexual intercourse, rape, and attempted rape. Because of the effects of these drugs, victims may be physically helpless, unable to refuse sex, and can't remember what happened. The drugs often have no color, smell, or taste and are easily added to flavored drinks without the victim's knowledge." It goes on to say that although they use the term "date rape," most experts prefer the term "drug-facilitated sexual assault." These drugs have been used to help people commit other crimes, like robbery and physical assault, and have been used on both men and women.

# DATE RAPE



# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

## DATE RAPE DRUGS



Rohypnol



Ketamine



GBH

The organization lists three major types of date rape drugs on its website. They are: **GHB**, which comes in a clear odorless liquid, a white powder or a pill; **Rohypnol** a pill that dissolves in liquids; and **Ketamine**, a white powder. These drugs are all tasteless, colorless and odorless. There is a new more detectable form of Rohypnol that turns blue when it comes in contact with liquid, but the original, undetectable form is still available.

Date rape drugs will have such effects on the body as: relaxation; drowsiness; dizziness; nausea; problems seeing; unconsciousness (black out); seizures; can't remember what happened while drugged; problems breathing; tremors; sweating; vomiting; slow heart rate; lower blood pressure; sleepiness; muscle relaxation or loss of muscle control; drunk feeling; problems talking & seeing; stomach problems; hallucinations; lost sense of time and identity; distorted perceptions of sight and sound; feeling out of control; impaired motor function; convulsions; out of body experiences; numbness; aggressive or violent behavior; slurred speech; coma and even death.

There are ways of avoiding being victimized by the date rape drug. Both RAINN and FGSWHI agree that for safety reasons, never accept a drink in an open container or leave a drink unattended—even to go to the bathroom. Just as a designated driver is

a buffer against drunk driving, a designated friend can remain sober and help prevent both drugging and reckless drunken behavior. Another helpful safety precaution is to always be aware of the surroundings, particularly on dates when most of these rapes occur.

In addition to those low-tech options, science is stepping in. *Watch Your Drink* coasters were developed to help combat the crime of drug-facilitated sexual assault, more commonly known as 'Drug Rape'. On each coaster there are two separate testing areas.

The coasters are simple to use; they are coated with a reactant that changes color to Blue if the 'Knock-Out Drug' (GHB, Roofies or Ketamine) is present. The test only takes seconds to perform, and is as easy as placing a couple of drops from the drink in question onto the active test spots by using a swizzle stick or even one's finger. These coasters are a simple, convenient way to alert potential victims and end the risk of these attacks.

Perhaps the most shocking fact about date rape is men's attitudes about it. Unfortunately, the cliché about men thinking that they deserve sex in exchange for the money they spent on dinner and a movie still holds true in several cases. Even worse, RAINN states that thirty-three percent of men would commit date rape, if it could go undetected. In fact, nearly eight percent of men have committed acts that would fit the legal definition of rape, but don't realize that their behavior was criminal at all, according to





the USDOJ. All too often, the women who were their victims don't realize it either. According to studies done at Texas A&M and UCLA, fifty-four percent of the male teens felt that forced sex was acceptable if the woman said yes and then changed her mind; thirty-nine percent of them thought that forced sex was permissible if he spent a lot of money on her; fifty-four percent believed it was okay if she "led him on," and thirty-six percent believed that it was all right if he is so turned on that he thinks he can't stop. The law says that forced sexual intercourse or sexual contact is never okay, and is punishable by jail time and a lifetime as a registered sex offender.

Perhaps the problem is that the public is unsure of what the legal definition of rape is. An online legal dictionary states rape, by law, is the crime of sexual intercourse (with actual penetration of a woman's vagina with the man's penis) without consent and accomplished through force, threat of violence or intimidation (such as a threat to harm a woman's child, husband or boyfriend). What constitutes lack of consent usually includes saying "no" or being too drunk or drug-influenced for the woman to be able to either resist or consent. Defense attorneys often argue that there had to be physical resistance, but the modern view is that fear of harm and the relative strengths of the man and the woman are obvious deterrents to a woman fighting back. Most people don't realize that no physical force is necessary to fit this definition, just the lack of consent or sufficiently impaired judgment as to be unable to give consent. That's right guys, taking advantage of a drunk girl constitutes rape.

The effects of this crime on its victims are far worse. The psychological damage of rape is so severe and varied as to have been designated with their own collective name: Rape Trauma Syndrome. RTS has distinctive stages as the Rape Victims Association describes it: the acute or short-term stage manifests in two different styles, the controlled style and the expressive style.



A victim who uses the expressed style behaves in very much the way society has come to expect and even trivialize. They maybe agitated and restless, talk a lot, cry, swear, shout, and laugh. The ones that demonstrate the controlled style have a more difficult road, because their behavior makes them appear that nothing as traumatic as a sexual assault could have happened to them. They contain their emotions; most of the survivor's energy is directed toward maintaining composure. They may sit calmly, respond to questions in a detached, logical way, and downplay their fear, sadness, an-



# CULTURAL DISCOURSE

## DATE RAPE

ger, and anxiety. Both of these styles of emotional response reflect different ways of dealing with a crisis. A person may also exhibit characteristics of both styles.

Along with those issues, certain other psychological patterns are likely to emerge. The victim may turn to substance abuse to numb the pain and emotional stress of dealing

with the rape. She also is far more likely to fall victim to an eating disorder. This may be because she is attempting to regain lost control in her life by controlling her eating, or because she wants to make herself unattractive to men in an attempt to prevent another attack. Nearly half (forty-four percent) of the women who become victims of date rape attempt suicide

Brett C. Trowbridge PhD, JD agrees with this and quotes an expert witness as saying “[I]n every rape victim I have seen they exhibit consistent symptoms... For example, body soreness, guilt, shame, feelings about the trial, night-



The Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) came about from one woman's refusal to let a rapist steal her life and her power. Tori Amos, a singer songwriter and role model to thousands, became a victim in 1984. It has since become the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization and has been ranked as one of "America's 100 Best Charities" by Worth magazine.

Like so many of the women RAINN has helped in the eleven years of its existence, Amos' attacker was not a stranger. He was a patron at the bar where she had performed. He asked her if he could have a ride home after the performance and she thought she knew him well enough to oblige. Somewhere in the course of this ride home, this man raped her at knifepoint.

Although the song she wrote about her experience with rape is called "Me and a Gun," the emotions transcend the small artistic change. Amos is quoted on [http://www.geocities.com/i\\_sang\\_holy\\_holy/holy.html](http://www.geocities.com/i_sang_holy_holy/holy.html), just one of the dozens of websites setup by devoted Tori Amos fans who were also victims, to help others through this experience as saying about her own experience, "I was kidnapped and sexually violated. You feel like your boundaries have been crossed to such an extent that there is no law anymore, that there is no God. You feel like the Mother in you will

do anything to protect the Child in you from being shredded before your very eyes. You're thinking, 'I gotta get out alive, I gotta get out alive.' With 'Me and A Gun,' I hope that attackers as well as victims are listening, as well as judges and as well as lawyers. I want you to taste in the back of your mouth what it was like to be in the car with that pervert."

While the song "Me and a Gun" helped thousands of women that Amos would never see, it was the story of one young girl that she met while supporting her album, *Under the Pink*, that inspired Amos to create RAINN. After one gig, the young fan insisted that she needed to join Amos on the tour. When asked why, she told Amos that she had been raped by her step-father, would be raped by him the next night, and would be raped by him when she came home that night. Amos was ready to oblige until her producer told her that they would be crossing state lines, which would mean that everyone involved could be arrested for kidnapping the girl. Amos realized this girl needed help and she couldn't do it alone. At that moment, RAINN was born.

As an organization, RAINN works diligently to prevent rape from happening. One way they're doing this is on college campuses in RAINN's Get Carded event which supplies college students with wallet cards and information about the National Sexual Assault Hotline. On September 21, 2005, RAINN provided this vital information to one million college students on more than 1,200 college campuses in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Thanks to Prudential Financial, this program is free and something that should definitely be brought to CSI.

The backbone of RAINN's social programs is its National Sexual Assault Hotline. This hotline provides a source of comfort and advice to victims. This is in addition to an amaz-



mares and flashbacks are all common symptoms that rape victims experience.”

Unfortunately, these symptoms don't just go away. According to the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) states that once through the acute stage, the victim goes into the underground phase. In this period, the victim tries to go on with life as if nothing happened. They won't want to discuss anything about the attack; they just want to forget all about it. “Some people may remain in this underground stage of years and may appear ‘over it,’ despite the fact that emotional issues are not resolved,” reports KCSARC.

If and when the victim passes the underground stage, she is finally ready for the reorganization stage. She is somehow reminded of the attack and may develop fears or phobias. These fears and phobias may be related to the attack, but they can be more generalized, according to KCSARC. This

could lead to violent fantasies of revenge. And any eating and/or sleep disorders the victim might have overcome may return in the reorganization stage.

Women do need to be smart about rape. They need to know how to protect themselves. But men also need to learn that “no” means no; it is not just playing hard to get. Men need to realize that prostitutes, not dates, get paid for sex. If a man buys a woman dinner and a movie, he has no right to expect to be repaid with any sexual activity. They need to know that, even if the encounter was completely nonviolent, it might have been rape. Date rape drugs are not the only way to drug a woman into consent. Legally, any man that gets a woman drunk and takes advantage of her is a rapist. Most of all a man thinking this might be a good way to get laid needs to know that, for a few moments' sexual gratification, he may be destroying a woman's life forever—as well as his own.

ing website which not only provides tips and advice on how to prevent being victimized, but also helps friends and confidants of victims help these women through their ordeals.

RAINN's website, which is amazingly detailed and user-friendly, explains how their hotline works: “The concept behind the hotline is simple. When a caller dials 1.800.656.HOPE, a computer notes the area code and first three digits of the caller's phone number. The call is then instantaneously connected to the nearest RAINN member center. If all counselors at that center are busy, the call is sent to the next closest center. The caller's phone number is not retained, so the call is anonymous and confidential unless the caller chooses to share personally-identifying information.”

This website also has detailed information on date rape drugs, preventing rape, protecting children from predators, availability and locations of counseling centers and social programs. It also shows various celebrity supporters and gives information on news reports and various forms of entertainment somehow connected to rape other women's issues. For the most part, Amos remains the driving force and the face of RAINN. She also lends her special touch and her image to most of the products that RAINN sells through its website.

One of the more innovative and proactive steps that RAINN is taking to help prevent rape and sexual assault is their campaign targeted toward men on college campuses. The site states that “RAINN retained Alan Berkowitz, PhD, one of the creators of the social norms approach, to assist in developing the data set for the campaign and campaign messages and in the design of posters. Dr Berkowitz consulted with a number of other national experts in the area of social norms research and marketing during this process.”

In January 2005, RAINN distributed 10,000 posters to several hundred college campuses. They wanted to inform

men that they can play a key role in reducing the risk of sexual assault on their campuses. RAINN did this by using the limited data available. They supplied posters to communicate vital messages about the importance of consent in sexual relationships and the value of intervention in the face of a situation that could lead to a sexual assault in order to build on the schools' social norms.

Rape is a crime of power; usually man's power against women. Tori Amos was a victim of this for many years, but through her bravery and her compassion, she has started an organization that has given the power and the ability to resume a rewarding life to thousands upon thousands of women, not to mention the unknown number she has saved from going through this horrific experience at all. Thank you, Ms. Amos, from all the people RAINN has and will have helped.



**Every Two  
Minutes,  
Another Woman  
is Raped.**

**1 - 8 0 0 - 6 5 6 - H O P E**

**RAINN, 635-B Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003**



# CSI Take BACK the Night

photos by Joseph Brush



Seventy-eight percent of stalking victims are women.

Women are significantly more likely than men (60 percent and 30 percent, respectively) to be stalked by intimate partners.

(Center for Policy Research, *Stalking in America*, July 1997)

Women are often told to be **extra careful** and take **precautions** when going out at **night**. In some parts of the world, even **today** women are **not allowed out at night**.



Homicide is the leading cause of death Overall for pregnant women. **Pregnant** and recently pregnant women are more likely to be victims of **homicide** than to die of any other cause.

(Nannini, Weiss, Goldstein & Fogerty, Summer 2002.)

Men are roughly **eleven times** less likely than women to experience being **forced** to do something **sexual** over their lifetime.

There are nearly **three times as many animal shelters** in the United States as there are shelters for **battered women and their children**.



Around the world, at least one in every three women has been **beaten**, coerced into sex or otherwise abused **during her lifetime**.

(Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottemoeller, M. *Ending Violence Against Women Population Reports, Series L, No. 11, December 1999*)

Rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers are more likely to be reported to the police than rapes/sexual assaults committed by non-strangers, including intimate partners, other relatives and friends or acquaintances.



The health related costs of **rape**, **physical assault, stalking and homicide** committed by intimate partners **exceed \$5.8 billion each year.**



What is the human cost?

As many as **324,000 women** each year experience **intimate partner violence** during their **pregnancy**.



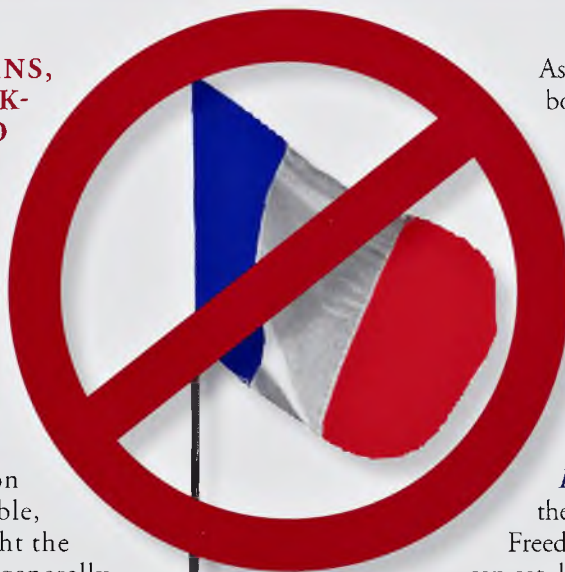




# A Need for Cultural Unity

BY TJ RILEY

**L**IKE MANY AMERICANS, I FIND MYSELF THINKING: WHAT CAN I DO TO FIGHT TERRORISM? I find myself wanting to carry around, at all times, a semi-automatic weapon and blast away at anybody that seems the least bit suspicious. But, I realize this is going too far—I would end up killing all of Massachusetts, and most of the Northeast of America for their traitorous liberal behavior. There is only one other option I can think of that would be suitable, and that all people could do to fight the terrorists—boycott a nation that generally disagrees with our foreign policy. Let's boycott france!



As all of you know, the french boycott began when we started the process to liberate Iraq and the dirty french were the most vocal in opposing our actions. Thus, real Americans, such as my hero Bill O'Reilly, started wiping out cultural references of france dealing with food. Now this is important because we all need food to survive, and changing names from french fries to *FREEDOM FRIES* really does change the aspect of how we see the fries.

Freedom fries speaks of fries that you can eat, knowing that you are eating them in freedom; but eating french fries speaks of eating something that is inherently evil and living in sin.



Now, many people already boycott items that are made in **france**. To me, this is not going far enough. We need more action. For example, I have destroyed my copy of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* because it takes place in **france**; and I have written to my congressmen about melting down the Statue of Liberty, and sending it back to **france** in American pennies. Even this is not enough. We need to purge our society of the **french** menace. We, as a culture in charge of our destiny, must destroy all elements of the **french** in our society, simply because they show us disrespect.

The first step is to get rid of all **french** influences in our language, from when those dirty un-circumcised people invaded England in the year 1066. I can hear the liberal, left-wing monster Bolsheviks screaming that this is going way too far – well, I don't care what you Bolsheviks think or say.

Some of the words that are influenced by the **french** invaders are words like **tax, government, religion, beef, jelly, blue, chair, towel, chess, poet, noun, nice, age, gentle**, etc. For English words that have a **french** influence, all we have to do is get rid of that concept, or at the very most, give it a more Germanic influence. For instance, the word **blue** could be changed to the word *bleen*, which would get rid of the **french** influence; and every time we state this word, we can state in confidence, that we are speaking a language that is not influenced by immoral **french** people. Take the corrupted word **government**, we could change it to *gavagai*; thus when we speak of our most sacred institutions, we can speak in confidence that we are not using anything that was influenced by **france**. Or take the word **religion**, we should just change the word to *Christianity*; because, let's face the facts, most Americans are Christian. Again, I can hear the liberals whining, and all I can say is: STOP WHINING LIBERAL TRAITOR SCUM!

Some words should just be erased like **poet, gentle tax**. The words **poet** and **gentle** should be erased because if men use these words, they may have the tendency to become a homosexual. The word **tax** should be eliminated so that evil liberals can stop **taxing** us to pay for things like the evil socialist Bolshevik idea of social security.

The next, and final step, is to rebuild New Orleans, all of Louisiana, without any cultural reference to **france**. Let's erase the history of that area to preserve the dignity of our country.

We would have to give a new name to the state, and new names for the cities of Louisiana. From now on we shall call Louisiana, *Reaganiana*. And New Orleans should be called *New Democracy*. *Reaganiana* would be a great new place to live in without the **french** influence it once had. I will name the city *New Democracy*, with American people doing only *American* things, without speaking a language that has degenerated by the un-circumcised **french** Bolsheviks.

America, we can make this happen. Let's go to the logical conclusion of eradicating **france** and just get rid of all of their cultural influences from our culture. Let's take some miniature Eiffel Towers and break them with an American flag waving slowly in the background, while chanting "U-S-A"





# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

# JOIN THE FIGHT!



## League of Women Voters

LMV is a nonpartisan political organization, fighting since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

[www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)

## National Organization of Women

NOW is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. Since its founding in 1966, NOW's goal has been to take action to bring about equality for all women.

[www.NOW.org](http://www.NOW.org)



## American Association of University Women

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Since 1881 the American Association of University Women has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls.

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)



## Feminist Majority Foundation

FMF is a cutting edge organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive health, and non-violence. In all spheres, FMF utilizes research and action to empower women economically, socially, and politically.

[www.FEMINIST.org](http://www.FEMINIST.org)



## Feminist Campus

The "virtual campus" of the Feminist Majority Foundation's campus leadership program, a nationwide network of pro-choice feminist activists on 173 campuses in 37 states.

[www.FEMINISTCAMPUS.org](http://www.FEMINISTCAMPUS.org)



## NOW Campus Action Network

Recognizing the positive impact feminists can have on campuses across the country. NOW activism is great preparation for ongoing leadership, organizing, and activism throughout your life.

[www.now.org/chapters/campus](http://www.now.org/chapters/campus)



## The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization and has been ranked as one of "America's 100 Best Charities by Worth magazine."

[www.RAINN.org](http://www.RAINN.org)



## Feminists for Free Expression

FFE is a group of diverse feminists working to preserve the individual's right to see, hear and produce materials of her choice without the intervention of the state "for her own good." FFE believes freedom of expression is especially important for women's rights.

[www.FFEUSA.org](http://www.FFEUSA.org)



## Women for Women International

Helps women in war-torn regions rebuild their lives by giving them financial and emotional support, job skills training, right education, access to capital and assistance for small business development.

[www.WOMENFORWOMEN.org](http://www.WOMENFORWOMEN.org)



## EMILY's List

The nation's largest grass roots political network dedicated to taking back our country from the radical right wing.

[www.EMILYSLIST.org](http://www.EMILYSLIST.org)

## FeMiNa

Created in September of 1995 to provide women with a comprehensive, searchable directory of links to female friendly sites and information on the World Wide Web.

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



## NARAL Pro-Choice America

More than thirty years after Roe v. Wade, the pro-choice movement is still fighting to protect and defend a woman's right to choose.

[www.NARAL.org](http://www.NARAL.org)



# **FORGOTTEN SOULS**

by Shawn Fisher



*Rachel & Lori  
Corrie Piestewa*

If you were to assume that a feminist is merely someone you would read about in history books, you would be wrong. Feminism is not relegated to those who would publicly seek equal empowerment through protest and politics. Often the greatest role models for feminism are those individuals who quietly, through their life choices, their jobs, their behavior and their personal moral code set a standard to inspire those around them.



The question then becomes, why don't we ever see these individuals, where are the headlines about them, where are the television movies of the week, and the A&E Specials, especially when they have died for their beliefs? The sad truth is because they don't give "good face" by the opinion of the mainstream media; they can't sell the ratings. You see, it seems more and more apparent by their broadcasts that it's more important for our newspapers, news radio broadcasts and TV news programs to put on someone that will boost sales and/or ratings. Good role models and historical relevance are irrelevant considerations in the making of a contemporary hero by the modern media.

When dealing with unpopular types of women or subjects the American media prefers not to deal with them at all. Now, "unpopular types of women" do not necessarily mean women who are hated by a large group, such as the religious Right's disdain for Senator Hillary Clinton. On the contrary, the right's extreme feelings for Senator Clinton only compel them to want even more information on her. As such, the media can package and sell more of Hillary to the public. The unsellable, the true unpopular are those deep dark secrets that, as a society, we don't like to think about or look at such as women of diverse ethnic backgrounds or political beliefs.

In recent years America has produced and then quickly forgotten two such women of substance, one a soldier, the other a civilian, both involved in unjust wars.

Take for consideration PFC Lori Piestewa. Haven't heard of her? Not surprising. Surely though you have heard of her best buddy and comrade-at-arms PFC Jessica Lynch. Yes! See you have heard of her, but did you honestly think that Private Lynch went out on her own against an army of great magnitude like some Rambo movie? Actually Private Lynch was far from alone that night, there were others who served side by side with her and died that night in service to their country.

PFC Lori Piestewa was born a true American into one of the 500 nations of the Americas that managed to survive

the Anglo founded United States movement westward. As a member of the Hopi people or Hopituh Sinom, which operates as a matrilineal (female dominated) clan, Lori was raised with a cultural belief system that strictly encompasses a concept of the individual existing in a state of total reverence and respect for all things, to be at peace with these things. Lori, like all U.S. reservation-bound Americans, was considered both Hopi and a U.S. citizen. She grew up on a reservation controlled by the Hopi, but shared by the Navajo, a poorer than poor backwater land that was given back to the Hopi after all their fertile lands were taken by the U.S. Nonetheless, she descends from a family that believed in potential of what the U.S. could become and stepped up in time of need to serve in its armed forces. Her grandfather served in World War II and her father in the Vietnam Conflict. Lori continued the family tradition by first joining the junior ROTC program at her local high school where she served as a Commanding Officer leading her classmates in drills and then later on, joining the US Army.

Following high school Lori married and mothered two children first her son, Brandon and then her daughter, Carla. Unfortunately, the marriage failed and Lori was left to raise her children almost entirely alone, save for her parents. Having always been interested in serving in the military and more importantly looking to provide the best possible future for her children Lori enlisted in the United States Army. Being a soldier for Lori as for all Hopi meant more than to serve the United States but her own people and family as well. So Lori left her children in the care of her parents and went off to serve. After boot camp she became part of the U.S. Army's 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company based out of Fort Bliss Texas. The 507<sup>th</sup> is a support group which typically stays behind the main push of the front line forces when in a combat mission. This allowed for Lori to maintain her pacifist ideals while still serving her nations.

While at Fort Bliss Lori became roommates with PVT Jessica Lynch a slightly younger Anglo-American. The two became the best of friends and when word came that their





# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

## **FORGOTTEN SOULS**



*PVT Jessica Lynch (l) with PFC Lori Piestewa (r)*

Company would be going to Iraq, Lori and Jessica's friendship was carried over there. It is in Iraq where Lori's strengths in commitment to duty and to serve truly come to light. Prior to departure from Fort Bliss Lori had injured her shoulder, this injury would have allowed her to stay state-side and avoid the horrors of war. Lori though decided otherwise and understated her injury to gain medical clearance for transfer into the theatre of war. It was from there that most are familiar with the story at least as how it was to affect PVT Lynch. Three days into the invasion the 507<sup>th</sup>'s convoy made a wrong turn and headed right into an ambush with Lori at the wheel of one of the Humvees. As the battle began to unfold, the officer she was transporting ordered her to move from the rear of the convoy to the front to confer with the unit's Captain. It was at this point that Lori was offered her second out. The Captain's driver offered to switch places with her since it was the rear of the convoy that was taking the brunt of the fight. But, she refused saying she was sticking to the mission and then promptly retook her position towards the rear of the convoy. Shortly after

that, while she was giving aid to other damaged vehicles, her Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. Three of her teammates instantly died and she and PVT Lynch were captured by Iraqi soldiers and taken to a local hospital where Lori died alone in agony and PVT Lynch was rescued by Special Forces and made a hero for living. While Lori who turned down not one, but two offers to avoid dangers, saved no less than the two lives of those who would have taken her place and is hardly remembered at all.

So if Lori is such a hero, if she lived up to the embodiment of the American Soldier sacrificing her life for others, if in her practices, whether realizing it or not, she invoked the spirit behind feminism by taking control of her life and making bold decisions to provide and serve her family and her two nations and she has, should she be considered a great icon of Feminism to The United States and The Hopi, absolutely, yet where is her well earned fame? A Google search of the two names reveals the disparity of the friends (PVT) Jessica Lynch received an astonishing 1,750,000 hits while (PFC) Lori Piestewa received a paltry 44,800 hits. This is a massive gap to say the least. All her friend Lynch did was survive, and she was vastly rewarded by the

media for her actions. Lori gave her life and at best the media used her to place PVT Lynch on an even higher pedestal.

What difference between the two personas could make one sought after as a hero and one forgotten? It goes back to giving good face, the media is only interested in ratings and often dealing in the truth means lower ratings. In the case of ethnicity PVT Lynch fits the preconceived notion of the All-American-girl perfectly she is a fair-skinned blonde-haired blue eyed Anglo, the dominant race in the United States since its conception. While Lori was Hopi a true native to this land dark hair and bronze skinned she still represents simultaneously in the back of white Americas mind anyway, both the disdain of a perceived barbaric people and the guilt of an almost successful attempt at genocide.

Let us not forget her Pagan roots. In a nation built on the concept of freedom of religion it seems that it was really meant to be implied freedom of Christian belief. Lori's Hopi ancestry is too much for this society to handle. The thought of believing in something



*The parents and son of PFC Lori Piestewa*



other than the Christian god, red state housewives would have kittens. Speaking of the red states they also have a problem with having to think about divorce and being a single parent as such Lori as a hard working, loving single mother is an abomination to their eyes and the media would not risk offending such a key demographic.

So at final glance to the left we have a the dark hair, bronze skinned single parent of Pagan origin who gave her life for two nations and in the process saved at least two lives. To the right we have a blonde-haired, blue-eyed single woman of Christian origin whose life was saved at the risk of others, and in the process probably saved the ratings of a few faltering networks. Is the real tragedy the death of Lori's body or the death of her existence?

Enter Rachel Corrie, neither a soldier nor a parent, just a college student and simply someone who saw a wrong being done and acted to correct it. This action cost Rachel her life. This blonde-haired blue-eyed 23-year-old Evergreen State College student had everything going for her, good family and friends and a budding academic career. She grew up in Olympia, the capital of the State of Washington. Her father, Craig, worked in insurance and her mom, Cindy, was a school volunteer. This picturesque Norman Rockwell candidate graduated from Capital High School, and then attended The Evergreen State College, a University known for its nurturing of liberal and pacifist beliefs, where she studied the arts and international relations. Rachel, already civic minded, however, decided that she should do more than just for herself beyond the basic requirements of academia, something most young adults in our nations universities would ever consider.

Rachel decided to join a local group called the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and participated in various activities to promote peace initiatives and environmental causes. By her senior year, she had joined the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). Corrie then took a leave of absence from College at the start of 2003 to initiate a sister city (or Friendship Town) project between her hometown

of Olympia and the town Rafah in the Gaza Strip for the purpose of mutual cultural exchange and to participate in ISM-organized demonstrations in Rafah. Upon arriving in Israeli occupied Palestine, Rachel began training in non-violent resistance or as it is more commonly referred to in the United States 'acts of civil disobedience.' This time honored tradition has been part of the back bone of modern democratic societies since the American Revolution. In the U.S. one of the most noteworthy acts of civil disobedience could be considered the civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. As Rachel would soon learn though, the alleged Israeli democracy does not necessarily respect such noble acts, most especially when it is a call for Palestinian rights and will respond with as much violence and hatred as they can muster.

As Rachel's time in Palestine progressed she participated in a number of peaceful demonstrations that were not just exclusive to Israel's military occupation of Palestinian lands. In February of 2003, she joined a massive global protest against the war in Iraq by burning not any other nation's flag but her own in protest, and she helped conduct a mock trial of President Bush.

She even served as a human shield to protect Palestinian drinking water wells from the acts of sabotage committed by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). "Nevertheless, no amount of reading, attendance at conferences, documentary viewing and word of mouth could have prepared me for the reality of the situation here. You just can't imagine it unless you see it - and even then you are always well aware that your experience of it is not at all the reality: what with the difficulties the Israeli army would face if they shot an unarmed US citizen, and with the fact that I have money to buy water when the army destroys wells, and the fact, of course, that I have the option of leaving," said Rachel in one of her email correspondences home.

As Rachel said, she had the option to leave at anytime yet she chose not to. For Rachel helping the victims of what she called an act of "genocide" by Israel on the people



# **FORGOTTEN SOULS**



# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

of Palestine was a commitment worthy of the high risk involved. "I feel like I'm witnessing the systematic destruction of a people's ability to survive . . . Sometimes I sit down to dinner with people and I realize there is a massive military machine surrounding us, trying to kill the people I'm having dinner with," said Rachel in a television interview, expressing her awareness of the danger that surrounded her. This was just two days prior to her death.

On March 16, 2003 Rachel joined up with several other U.S. and British citizens who also came to help and defend the oppressed. It was their intent to stand the line against the methodical destruction of Palestinian civilian homes by the IDF, an act many in the world (except the U.S.) view as a collective punishment for the actions of Palestine's freedoms fighters, which is actually a violation of international law. The IDF moved in with troops, tanks and armored bulldozers. One of the bulldozers that Rachel was positioned in front of lurched forward in an aggressive manner and according to eye witnesses Rachel held her ground. She stared directly into the cab of the bulldozer before her, in clear line of site to the monstrous machine. One of the bulldozers had already knocked another protestor to the side and there after taunted and mocked the injured man and the rest of the group of unarmed defenders. Then the bulldozer began to move and Rachel was all that stood between the machine and the destruction of the home of a doctor, a preserver of life. As this destructive force moved forward it pushed a wave of rumble which engulfed young Rachel who was then pulled beneath the bulldozer. Then after having already run over her once the Israeli driver put the machine in reverse and ran over her again in a second and malicious act of cruelty. Her peers ran to her and tried to render her aide and comfort her, she was rushed to away for medical treatment but it was too late. The IDF's destruction of Palestinian homes had claimed another innocent soul.

News spread of Rachel's death across the rest of the world in rapid procession, the world at large, the people of Palestine and even Yasser Arafat came out to honor this hero for peace, but in the U.S. reports of her actions were limited,



localized mostly to her home state and a mere whisper on the lips of the national news agencies. You see, Rachel had violated the discomfort clause of the unwritten rules of U.S. media. She had died in the defense of a people who are being slaughtered by one of our allies. In fact, she was murdered not just a common ally but by a nation that we had helped to found and build. Could America itself look in the mirror and take some responsibility for this horrendous act, of course not. And since the average citizen doesn't want to face the facts that our nation could be allied with any nation that would commit such war crimes Rachel was deemed not ready for prime time.

It is quite obvious that the actions of these two women qualify for the true definition of being a feminist, if not as well a defining member of humanity. They chose their paths in life; their path did not choose them. They were conscious of the risks involved and despite that went forward with their choices anyway. Their decisions both directly and indirectly saved the lives of those who may never realize that fact or have even met either woman. Now the feminist movement is without two of its greatest role models, icons that they never knew they had, nor ever realized they lost. Tragically now, even though they gave their lives to save the lives others they couldn't even get Laura Regan to play them in an NBC TV movie of the week. There will be no Saving PFC Lori Piestewa or One Day in March for them. For lack of a good publicist, Lori and Rachel, these two lost souls will fade into the oblivion of history despite the lives they saved and despite their selfless behavior. They shall be lost for never seeking fame or fortune or banners or cities to celebrate their name, they will be lost for not giving our society a politically correct, homogenized and reprocessed image of an American hero. For Lori it was always about her family, for Rachel it was about standing up for those who were not aloud to stand up for themselves, for the American media it was and is still about ratings and one person sacrificing her life alone in the dark where no one will ever know or see, just will never sell as well for them as rescued P.O.W. who can wave a flag.





*Come, Ma, Sister*

*Or you'll miss your revolution.*

*Throw back your Martha Stewart kitchen curtains*

*And do not remain docile*

*As our majorettes lead the parade to Washington.*

*Come from your humble shacks*

*And your Malibu beach homes*

*And your New York lofts.*

*Leave dishes in the dirty sink water.*

*And let the laundry fester in the washer*

*And leave the iron to set fire to*

*Forty three dress shirts.*



*Mama  
Brought  
the  
Ammunition*

*Hannah  
Jean*

*Toss your Mary Janes and Nine Wests beneath the table.*

*Even Birkenstocks cannot contain you.*

*Rip the seams of your frilled aprons.*

*Tear the buttons from your navy blazers.*

*Desert pleated trousers and boho belts and turquoise chunk necklaces*

*Because you, Sister, are naked as we are.*

*So flee your kitchens and your corner offices,*

*Your deadbeat fathers and your Senator husbands,*

*Your Betty Crocker library and your Disney movie family room,*

*Because the soles of your feet are hungry for hot pavement*

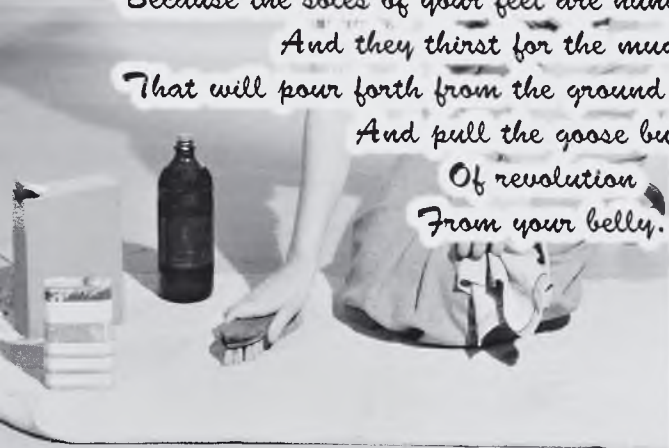
*And they thirst for the muddy water*

*That will pour forth from the ground beneath your weight*

*And pull the goose bumps*

*Of revolution*

*From your belly.*





# CONQUERING OBESITY



**by Joseph Brush**

When I was in kindergarten, I was ninety pounds. Oblivious to myself and my size, I did not care about my weight. That is how it all starts, denial at its prime. The kids around me pointed and laughed as if I was some kind of freak. They treated me as if I had had no heart and no feelings. I asked my mother once about why everyone was looking and poking fun at me. She replied saying, “Joseph, you are different and no one can take the best of you, ever.” Those simple words changed my outlook on life and slightly made me a bit more oblivious. Life went on and eating became my best friend and my cancer. Going on through elementary school, I was eating my life away and taking other people’s lunches like I was the garbage disposal. I graduated fifth grade weighing two hundred-thirty pounds.

At eleven years old and two hundred-thirty pounds, I was the largest kid in the graduating class, double the size of the next biggest kid. The pain penetrated me like a dagger to my throat with all the name calling and looks. No pain could pierce through the armor of my self-esteem that was built up by the simple words that my mom had said to me. I was still fighting strong until the fatal day when the savior became the enemy. The same person, who told me no one could take my indifference away, became my mortal enemy by turning on me with those utterly cruel words, “You’re a fat shit.” My mother told me the only thing that I did not

want to hear. She had been my only defense and then she took it away from me!

For years, I did not speak the same way or look at her the same way again. Going through junior high with my own mother ranting on about my weight was becoming unbearable; I could not take much more. My only salvation was the Lord and what He did for me. God gave me the courage to continue on. In the eighth grade, I became even bigger. Graduating at three hundred and sixty-six pounds was not pleasant. Although I eventually found the word of Jesus, I was considering committing suicide. Jesus was not the only person

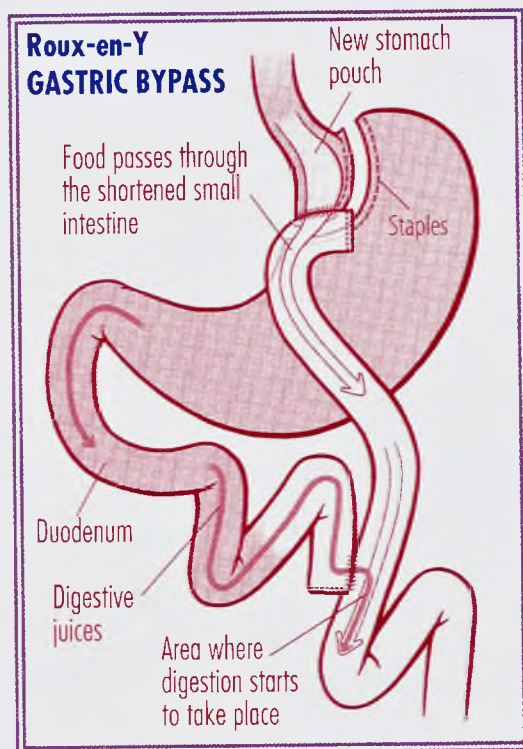


watching over me. My grandfather also gave me strength. He said to me, "Joe, do not give up. Never let weaknesses like suicide get to you."

I felt that considering that I went to an all-boys high school that it would be easier. Of course I was wrong. They were nastier. By this time, I was peaking at four hundred pounds and I began to realize my weight problem. Sitting in chairs was very difficult and getting up stairs was very hard for my breathing. Eventually I tried losing weight. I went on Weight Watchers and the Atkins diet. They all failed me for I had not put forth effort. Food was spiking my judgment punch to favor the quick cancer that was coursing through my intestines. Nothing was working until one day a miracle came onto my lap; my grandfather bought me this exercise video called "Richard Simmons: Sweating to the Oldies." I lost forty pounds my freshman year and a road to success was being built. My sophomore year, I lost another thirty pounds. I could not have been happier in my entire life.

I was hoping for great success, but just like the last two years, I became even more distraught. My grandfather was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and went for a procedure to only find out that it was inoperable.

"I want to die. I give up," were his exact words that he said in the hospital. When I heard that, I was livid. My only defender again was swept from underneath me. After



three months of chemotherapy and wanting to die, he got his wish. That was the final nail in my coffin for losing weight. Now that he was gone, my world was falling apart.

Senior year in high school, I weighed my maximum at a grand total of six hundred and ten pounds. Considered morbidly obese and not fitting into anything, my case had now become hopeless. The word of God was not going to help me this time. My life was crumbling to pieces and now I was getting chest pains as I walked from class to class. Why must God toy with me? What have I done to deserve this grief, or was it a sign to get over it and keep thriving?

At the time of banishment, the mortal enemy pulls out from the dark clouds and shines a ray of hope on me. My mother introduced to me the medical opportunity called gastric bypass. This gave me new hopes of solving my problems. Eventually I did all these tests for it and lost a lot of weight for it. The weight loss was only a small part of the big picture. In August, I got the surgery and it has changed my life forever. I can still hear a faint voice slowly fading away in my mind. It was the faint voice of the cancer that had been plaguing me. Now weighing at three hundred and ninety pounds, I can say I will beat my worst enemy of all - my weight. Of course the war is not won, but I have been victorious. This is Joseph Brush and you're not.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**





*I wish them cramps.*

*I wish them a strange town  
and the last tampon.*

*I wish them no 7-11.*

*I wish them one week early  
and wearing a white skirt.*

*I wish them one week late.*

*Later I wish them hot flashes  
and clots like you  
wouldn't believe. Let the  
flashes come when they  
meet someone special.*

*Let the clots come  
when they want to.*

*Let them think they have accepted  
arrogance in the universe,  
then bring them to gynecologists  
not unlike themselves.*

## *Wishes for son*

*Lucille Clifton*



# MY SILICONE VALLEYS



AS I PUSH MY SHOPPING CART PASSED AISLES OF TV DINNERS AND MARSHMALLOW CEREALS AND MILES AND MILES OF LAXATIVES DISGUISED AS INSTANT BREAKFAST SHAKES, MY SOUL WAS DRAWN TO THE ACHINGLY VIBRANT AND BEAUTIFULLY RIPE PILES AND ROWS OF CRISPLY PERFECT ORGANIC FRUIT.

INSTANTLY, I IMAGINED THE SMOOTH, BITING INCISION SLICING ALONG THE UNDERSIDE OF MY BREAST, SOFT TISSUE BEING FORCED ASIDE TO MAKE ROOM FOR A THIN MEMBRANE FAT WITH SILICONE, PUMPING CLEAVAGE TO MY NECK, MY BODY SORE AND INFLATED. A FORM WORTHY OF A THRONE AMONG THE GRAPEFRUITS.

H A N N A H F E A N





# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

## THE REAL ESCAPE FROM NEW ORLEANS

**A Dangerous, Risky & True Story about what really happened in America's Cajun Country by two EMS workers: Larry Bradshaw & Lorrie Beth Slonsky**

**T**WO DAYS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA struck New Orleans, the *Walgreen's* at the corner of Royal and Iberville Streets in the city's historic French Quarter remained locked. The dairy display case was clearly visible through the widows. It was now 48 hours without electricity, running water, plumbing, and the milk, yogurt, and cheese were beginning to spoil in the 90 degree heat.

The owners and managers had locked up the food, water, pampers and prescriptions and fled the city. Outside *Walgreen's* windows, residents and tourists grew increasingly thirsty and hungry. The much-promised federal, state and local aid never materialized and the windows at *Walgreen's* gave way to the looters.

There was an alternative. The cops could have broken one small window and distributed the nuts, fruit juices and bottled water in an organized and systematic manner. But they did not. Instead, they spent hours playing cat and mouse, temporarily chasing away the looters.

We were finally airlifted out of New Orleans two days ago and arrived home on Saturday. We have yet to see any of the TV coverage or look at a newspaper. We are willing to guess that there were no video images or front-page pictures of European or affluent white tourists looting the *Walgreen's* in the French Quarter.

We also suspect that the media will have been inundated with "hero" images of the National Guard, the troops and

police struggling to help the "victims" of the hurricane. What you will not see, but what we witnessed, were the real heroes and sheroes of the hurricane relief effort: the working class of New Orleans.

The maintenance workers who used a forklift to carry the sick and disabled, the engineers who rigged, nurtured and kept the generators running. The electricians who improvised thick extension cords stretching over blocks to share the little electricity we had in order to free cars stuck on rooftop parking lots. Nurses who took over for mechanical ventilators and spent many hours on end manually forcing air into the lungs of unconscious patients to keep them alive. Doormen who rescued folks stuck in elevators. Refinery workers who broke into boat yards, "stealing" boats to rescue their neighbors clinging to their roofs in flood waters. Mechanics who helped hotwire any car that could be found to ferry people out of the city. And the food service workers who scoured the commercial kitchens, improvising communal meals for hundreds of those stranded.

Most of these workers had lost their homes and had not heard from members of their families. Yet they stayed and provided the only infrastructure for the 20 percent of New Orleans that was not under water.

On day two, there were approximately 500 of us left in the hotels in the French Quarter. We were a mix of foreign tour-





ists, conference attendees like ourselves and locals who had checked into hotels for safety and shelter from Katrina.

Some of us had cell phone contact with family and friends outside of New Orleans. We were repeatedly told that all sorts of resources, including the National Guard and scores of buses, were pouring into the city. The buses and the other resources must have been invisible, because none of us had seen them.

We decided we had to save ourselves.

So we pooled our money and came up with \$25,000 to have ten buses come and take us out of the city. Those who didn't have the requisite \$45 each were subsidized by those who did have extra money.

We waited for 48 hours for the buses, spending the last 12 hours standing outside, sharing the limited water, food and clothes we had. We created a priority boarding area for the sick, the elderly and newborn babies. We waited late into the night for the imminent arrival of the buses. The buses never arrived. We later learned that the minute they arrived at the city limits, they were commandeered by the military.

By day four, our hotels had run out of fuel and water. Sanitation was dangerously bad. As the desperation and despair increased, street crime as well as water levels began to rise. The hotels turned us out and locked their doors, telling us that "officials" had told us to report to the convention center to wait for more buses. As we entered the center of the city, we finally encountered the National Guard.

The guard members told us we wouldn't be allowed into the Superdome as the city's primary shelter had descended into a humanitarian and health hellhole. They further told us that the city's only other shelter--the convention center--was also descending into chaos and squalor and that the police were not allowing anyone else in.

Quite naturally, we asked, "If we can't go to the only two shelters in the city, what was our alternative?" The guards told us that this was our problem--and no, they didn't have extra water to give to us. This would be the start of our numerous encounters with callous and hostile "law enforcement."

We walked to the police command center at Harrah's on Canal Street and were told the same thing--we were on our own, and no, they didn't have water to give us. We now numbered several hundred.

We held a mass meeting to decide a course of action. We agreed to camp outside the police command post. We would be plainly visible to the media and constitute a highly visible embarrassment to city officials. The police told us that we couldn't stay. Regardless, we began to settle in and set up camp.

In short order, the police commander came across the street to address our group. He told us he had a solution: we should walk to the Pontchartrain Expressway and cross the greater New Orleans Bridge to the south side of the Mississippi where the police had buses lined up to take us out of the city.

The crowd cheered and began to move.

We called everyone back and explained to the commander

**Larry Bradshaw and Lorrie Beth Slonsky are emergency medical services (EMS) workers from San Francisco. They were attending an EMS conference in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck. They spent most of the next week trapped by the flooding--and the martial law cordon around the city.**



## THE REAL ESCAPE FROM NEW ORLEANS

that there had been lots of misinformation. Was he sure that there were buses waiting for us? The commander turned to the crowd and stated emphatically, "I swear to you that the buses are there."

We organized ourselves and the 200 of us set off for the bridge with great excitement and hope. As we marched past the convention center, many locals saw our determined and optimistic group and asked where we were headed. We told them about the great news.

Families immediately grabbed their few belongings and quickly our numbers doubled and then doubled again. Babies in strollers now joined us, as did

buses waiting. The commander had lied to us to get us to move.

We questioned why we couldn't cross the bridge anyway, especially as there was little traffic on the six-lane highway. They responded that the West Bank was not going to become New Orleans and there would be no Superdomes in their city. [Rafe's note: As a former West Bank resident, I am sickened and disgusted by this sentence - there is a mall a quarter mile from the first off ramp after the Crescent City Connection that could have provided shelter for these people in relative safety and a truly enormous Baptist Church nearly



people using crutches, elderly clapping walkers and other people in wheelchairs. We marched the two to three miles to the freeway and up the steep incline to the bridge. It now began to pour down rain, but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm.

As we approached the bridge, armed sheriffs formed a line across the foot of the bridge. Before we were close enough to speak, they began firing their weapons over our heads. This sent the crowd fleeing in various directions.

As the crowd scattered and dissipated, a few of us inched forward and managed to engage some of the sheriffs in conversation. We told them of our conversation with the police commander and the commander's assurances. The sheriffs informed us that there were no

as close.]

These were code words for: if you are poor and Black, you are not crossing the Mississippi River and you are not getting out of New Orleans. [Rafe's note: There are a lot of poor Black folks on the West Bank, too.]

Our small group retreated back down Highway 90 to seek shelter from the rain under an overpass. We debated our options and in the end, we decided to build an encampment in the middle of the Pontchartrain Expressway--on the center divide between the O'Keefe and Tchoupitoulas exits. We reasoned that we would be visible to everyone, we would have some security being on an elevated freeway, and we could wait and watch for the arrival of the yet-to-be-seen buses.

All day long, we saw other families, individuals and groups make the same trip up the incline in an attempt to cross the bridge only to be turned away--some chased away with gunfire, others simply told no, others verbally berated and humiliated. Thousands of New Orleaners were prevented and prohibited from self-evacuating the city on foot.

Meanwhile, the only two city shelters sank further into squalor and disrepair. The only way across the bridge was by vehicle. We saw workers stealing trucks, buses, moving vans, semi-trucks and any car that could be hotwired. All were packed with people trying to escape the misery that New Orleans had become.

Our little encampment began to blossom. Someone stole a water delivery truck and brought it up to us. Let's hear it for looting! A mile or so down the freeway, an Army truck lost a couple of pallets of C-rations on a tight turn. We ferried the food back to our camp in shopping carts.

Now--secure with these two necessities, food and water--cooperation, community and creativity flowered. We organized a clean-up and hung garbage bags from the rebar poles. We made beds from wood pallets and cardboard. We designated a storm drain as the bathroom and the kids built an elaborate enclosure for privacy out of plastic, broken umbrellas and other scraps. We even organized a food-recycling system where individuals could swap out parts of C-rations (applesauce for babies and candies for kids!).

This was something we saw repeatedly in the aftermath of Katrina. When individuals had to fight to find food or water, it meant looking out for yourself. You had to do whatever it took to find water for your kids or food for your parents. But when these basic needs were met, people began to look out for each

other, working together and constructing a community.

If the relief organizations had saturated the city with food and water in the first two or three days, the desperation, frustration and ugliness would not have set in.

Flush with the necessities, we offered food and water to passing families and individuals. Many decided to stay and join us. Our encampment grew to 80 or 90 people.

From a woman with a battery-powered radio, we learned that the media was talking about us. Up in full view on the freeway, every relief and news organizations saw us on their way into the city. Officials were being asked what they were going to do about all those families living up on the freeway. The officials responded that they were going to take care of us. Some of us got a sinking feeling. "Taking care of us" had an ominous tone to it.

Unfortunately, our sinking feeling (along with the sinking city) was accurate. Just as dusk set in, a sheriff showed up, jumped out of his patrol vehicle, aimed his gun at our faces and screamed, "Get off the fucking freeway." A helicopter arrived and used the wind from its blades to blow away our flimsy structures. As we retreated, the sheriff loaded up his truck with our food and water.

Once again, at gunpoint, we were forced off the freeway. All the law enforcement agencies appeared threatened when we congregated into groups of 20 or more. In every congregation of "victims," they saw "mob" or "riot." We felt safety in numbers. Our "we must stay together" attitude was impossible because the agen-

cies would force us into small atomized groups.

In the pandemonium of having our camp raided and destroyed, we scattered once again. Reduced to a small group of eight people, in the dark, we sought refuge in an abandoned school bus, under the freeway on Clio Street. We were hiding from possible criminal elements, but equally and definitely, we were hiding from the police and sheriffs with their martial law, curfew and shoot-to-kill policies.

The next day, our group of eight



walked most of the day, made contact with the New Orleans Fire Department and were eventually airlifted out by an urban search-and-rescue team.

We were dropped off near the airport and managed to catch a ride with the National Guard. The two young guardsmen apologized for the limited response of the Louisiana guards. They explained

that a large section of their unit was in Iraq and that meant they were short-handed and were unable to complete all the tasks they were assigned.

We arrived at the airport on the day a massive airlift had begun. The airport had become another Superdome. We eight were caught in a press of humanity as flights were delayed for several hours while George Bush landed briefly at the airport for a photo op. After being evacuated on a Coast Guard cargo plane, we arrived in San Antonio, Texas.

There, the humiliation and dehumanization of the official relief effort continued. We were placed on buses and driven to a large field where we were forced to sit for hours and hours. Some of the buses didn't have air conditioners. In the dark, hundreds of us were forced to share two filthy overflowing portapotties. Those who managed to make it out with any possessions (often a few belongings in tattered plastic bags) were subjected to two different dog-sniffing searches.

Most of us had not eaten all day because our C-rations had been confiscated at the airport because they set off the metal detectors. Yet no food had been provided to the men, women, children, elderly and disabled as we sat for hours waiting to be "medically screened" to make sure we weren't carrying any communicable diseases.

This official treatment was in sharp contrast to the warm, heartfelt reception given to us by ordinary Texans. We saw

one airline worker give her shoes to someone who was barefoot. Strangers on the street offered us money and toiletries with words of welcome.

Throughout, the official relief effort was callous, inept and racist. There was more suffering than need be. Lives were lost that did not need to be lost.

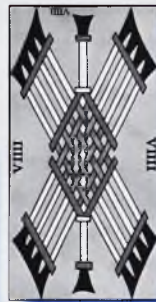


# CULTURAL DISCOURSE

## Will the United States Elect a Female President?

The tarot spread used here is called a mission spread. The first row explains what has been accomplished so far. The second row explains what is presently going on. The third row explains what will be accomplished and how it will affect the world around us. I think this is a very important topic to address because for the first time, a female president really is a possibility (that's Hillary Rodham Clinton, if you don't already know). Women have come a long way in the world of politics and hopefully, they will follow their way down the yellow brick road and kick the Wizard of Oz's ass!

Witchcraft by  
ELS Sbordone



## PAST

When it comes to women taking a lead role in anything but the classroom or the home, it unfortunately creates scandal. The powers that be try to put on a front for the media, but we know how the government works when it comes to hierarchical change. This legacy has slowly begun to prove of little value because women have only been on the rise. By becoming more independent in the working world, there has most definitely been a turning away from the family to some extent. This angers the conservatives because "family values" are big on their platform (not that that has stopped George W.'s daughters from making fools of themselves during his first term). It has made women feel bad for wanting to do more than just be a mother and wife. There have been moments of achievement. Hillary played a big role during and after Clinton's presidency. She was able to put aside that her husband was an idiot and continue on her way to the Senate. On a side note, philosophically speaking, women have more of a care ethic. That means that fairness, integrity, compassion and a respect for justice is what a woman can bring to the presidency.





# PRESENT

There isn't too much turmoil concerning this issue at the moment, but that is because the next election year isn't for a while. Women are getting more than what they bargained for. Talk of implementing the draft scared many (poll to follow in the next issue). Women will put up with certain things just to keep things moving, but hopefully, it will not end up slowing things down. Some of the feminist hoopla might become more of a burden to bear than a worthy goal, but we will push forward. People are fickle at this point about whether they would vote for a female president. Voters will be anxious because this would be a first for the country.



# FUTURE

I'm quite certain that we will have a female president in the future, but not in the near future. We must learn the value of patience because there will be setbacks in this struggle. Whoever becomes our female president will have a great love of our country. She will not necessarily be loved back. There will be back-stabbing involved from those also in power, but there will be hope for a change in attitude. People will be cynical about how well our country will be run by a woman. Subterfuge is possible.



## OPEN LETTER to the Kansas School Board

I am writing to you with much concern after having read of your hearing to decide whether the alternative theory of Intelligent Design should be taught along with the theory of Evolution. I think we can all agree that it is important for students to hear multiple viewpoints so that they can choose for themselves the theory which makes the most sense to them. I am concerned, however, that students will only hear one theory of Intelligent Design.

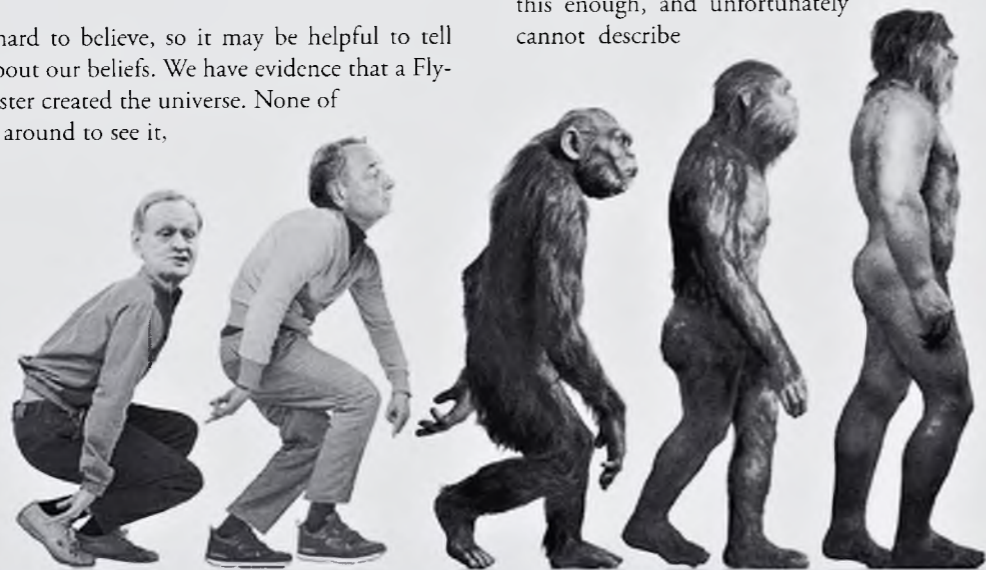
Let us remember that there are multiple theories of Intelligent Design. I and many others around the world are of the strong belief that the universe was created by a Flying Spaghetti Monster. It was He who created all that we see and all that we feel. We feel strongly that the overwhelming scientific evidence pointing towards evolutionary processes is nothing but a coincidence, put in place by Him.

It is for this reason that I am writing to you today - to formally request that this alternative theory be taught in your schools, along with the other two theories. In fact, I will go so far as to say that if you do not agree to do this, we will be forced to proceed with legal action. I am sure that you see where we are coming from. If the Intelligent Design theory is not based on faith, but instead another scientific theory as is claimed, then you must also allow our theory to be taught, as it is also based on science, not on faith.

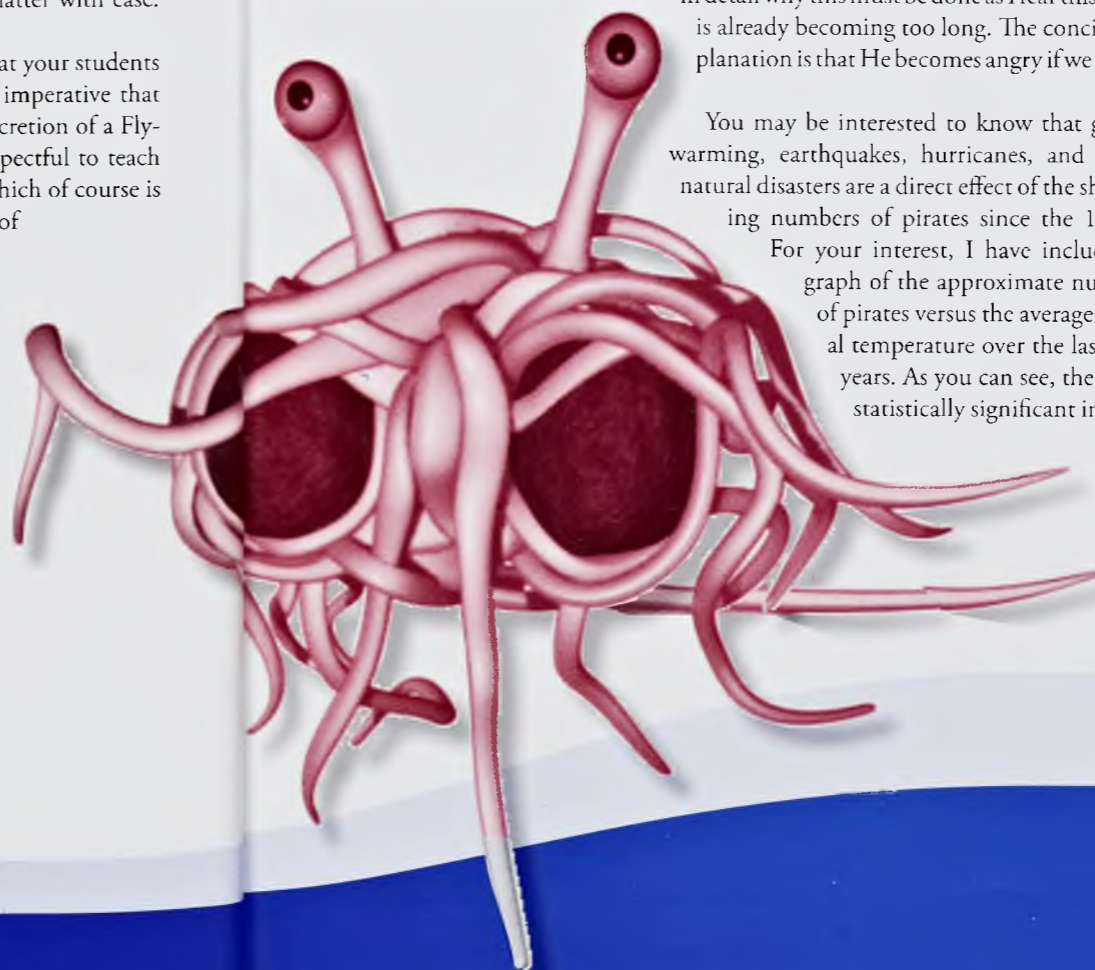
Some find that hard to believe, so it may be helpful to tell you a little more about our beliefs. We have evidence that a Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe. None of us, of course, were around to see it, but we have writ-

ten accounts of it. We have several lengthy volumes explaining all of the details of His power. Also, you may be surprised to hear that there are over 10 million of us and growing. We tend to be very secretive, as many people claim our beliefs are not substantiated by observable evidence. What these people do not understand is that He built the world to make us think the earth is older than it really is. For example, a scientist may perform a carbon-dating process on an artifact. He finds that approximately 75% of the Carbon-14 has decayed by electron emission to Nitrogen-14, and infers that this artifact is approximately 10,000 years old, as the half-life of Carbon-14 appears to be 5,730 years. What our scientist does not realize is that every time he makes a measurement, the Flying Spaghetti Monster is there changing the results with His Noodly Appendage. We have numerous texts that describe in detail how this can be possible and the reasons why He does this. He is of course invisible and can pass through normal matter with ease.

I'm sure you now realize how important it is that your students are taught this alternate theory. It is absolutely imperative that they realize that observable evidence is at the discretion of a Flying Spaghetti Monster. Furthermore, it is disrespectful to teach our beliefs without wearing His chosen outfit, which of course is full pirate regalia. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, and unfortunately cannot describe



### TOUCHED BY HIS NOODLY APPENDAGE



in detail why this must be done as I fear this letter is already becoming too long. The concise explanation is that He becomes angry if we don't.

You may be interested to know that global warming, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters are a direct effect of the shrinking numbers of pirates since the 1800s. For your interest, I have included a graph of the approximate number of pirates versus the average global temperature over the last 200 years. As you can see, there is a statistically significant inverse

relationship between pirates and global temperature.

In conclusion, thank you for taking the time to hear our views and beliefs. I hope I was able to convey the importance of teaching this theory to your students. We will of course be able to train the teachers in this alternate theory. I am eagerly awaiting your response and hope dearly that no legal action will need to be taken. I think we can all look forward to the time when these three theories are given equal time in our science classrooms across the country and eventually the world: one third time for Intelligent Design, one third time for Flying Spaghetti Monsterism, and one third time for logical conjecture based on overwhelming observable evidence.

Sincerely Yours,  
Bobby Henderson,  
concerned citizen



*Sometime between teddy bears and negligees  
a girl learns the proper way  
to flash her thigh without being a slut,  
to hollow out her stomach without losing her sex,  
to tuck her breasts up and in,  
Creating a swell falsifying nature,  
without the threat of evoking an image  
that would be deserving of an alley rape.*

*Sometime before 'woman'  
a girl shuts up her mouth  
and spreads wide her thighs  
to receive her validation.*

*And sometime,  
Amidst the slow honey torment  
of piecing together the newness  
of jutting hips and sloping breasts,  
a girl learns the volatile power  
of the body that batters her into servitude.*

*Through herself,  
Sometime,  
a girl,  
malcontent in the storm of her transformation,  
learns the proper way  
to harness the devastating influence  
of her bare thigh, and stomach, and breast  
Until  
She chokes on the swell of her own bloated tongue.*

**Flashbulb  
Strumpet**  
Hannah Jean





# The PERFECT Love

My man is so perfect  
From the hair follicle to the sole of his feet  
Even to the point when he balls up his hands  
And his fists my lips meet

My man is so lovely  
He loves me for me  
I know he does  
By the way he loosens and shatters my teeth

I love my man  
He's all the man I will ever need  
He reminds me that he loves me, that I am loved  
Through every black eye he gives that I receive

Through the rape, the shame, all the hurt and pain  
My man stays handsome  
Continues to be idolized  
Our love doesn't change it remains the same

How dare I be ungrateful  
Because of my swollen jaw  
He didn't have to touch me  
He didn't have to leave those permanent scars

I know I'm not his only lover  
But I'm the one he truly adores  
Why else would he leave me?  
With all these black and blues open sores

He loves to aggressively receive my body  
It's not abuse, I'm only being used  
But I'm all right, it's all out of love  
Why then do I feel so confused?

After careful thought and consideration  
I've finally realized my errors  
He gives, he takes, and I receive selfishly  
But yet I have nerve to be bitter

So I've decided that I am not worthy  
To live in his heart or his world  
I'll rid himself of this burden; me  
By purging this world of my soul  
By taking my life I made it a better place  
For him to love another again  
His love for me will continue to burn strong  
Like this fiery torment, that I endure hell has no end

Thank you for being my man  
Forever and always, my perfect love

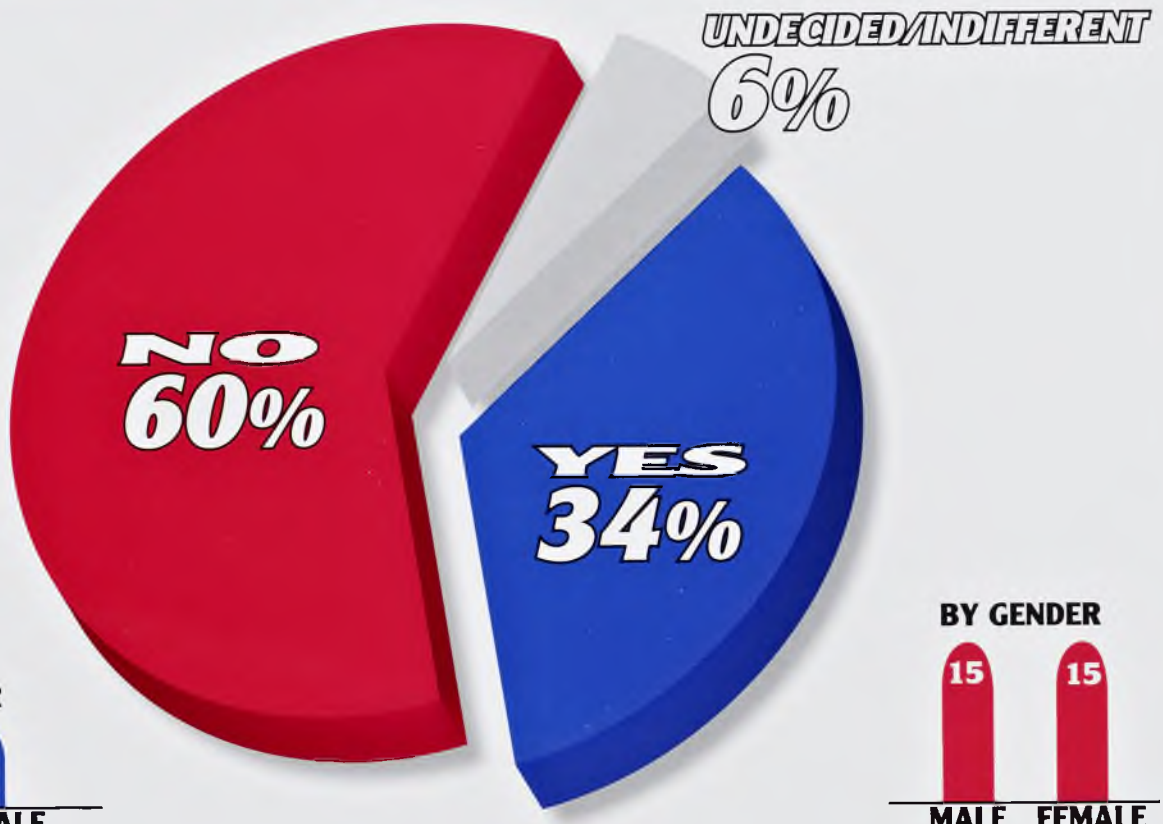
By Sheldon Bourne

(From The Perspective of Someone Battered)



# THIRD RAIL POLL

## Should "under God" be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance?



### YES TO REMOVE IT

Totals - 8 boys and 9 girls

#### REASONS

- Marginalizes atheists: 2 boys, 4 girls
- Separation of church and state: 2 boys, 2 girls
- Taking into account different religions: 1 boy, 2 girls
- Only put in after the Cold War started: 3 boys, 1 girl

### Undecided/Indifferent about the whole issue

2 boys and 1 girl

### NO TO REMOVING IT

Totals - 15 boys and 15 girls

#### REASONS

- No reason at all: 3 girls
- Tradition/what America stands for: 5 boys, 6 girls
- Political correctness shouldn't play second fiddle to the truth: 2 boys, 1 girl
- It's not about God, but a higher power: 2 boys, 2 girls
  - We are a nation under God: 2 boys, 1 girl
- Not an important enough issue to be discussing: 4 boys, 2 girls



The majority of the people that answered this poll question said that “under God” should not be removed from the pledge. The least surprising reason for this view is that it represents the traditions that we as Americans uphold; not to mention that America was founded partly for religious reasons. The most surprising reason for this view is about political correctness. The whole “under God” debate started when new citizens started to complain. How do you choose to become a citizen of a country where you do not agree with their traditions and policies? It is not as if the pledge is a blood oath. No harm will come to anyone who says or hears it, despite whether or not said person believes in God or not.

The second biggest reason why it does not need to be removed is that it is not an important enough issue at this time. There are more pressing things to be worrying about. I must say I agree with these individuals. I do not mean to throw this phrase around, but to me, as an atheist at least, ‘under God’ are just words and all words are arbitrary sounds attached to concepts. These words just happen to make some people feel protected which is the only thing that religion is good for.

Speaking of religion, only 14% of the poll participants gave as their primary answer that there is a God or god-like entity out there. I was impressed with this turnout because it just goes to show how insignificant religion is to us fun-loving, carefree and sinful college students.

My all-time absolute favorite reason for not removing “under God” from the pledge is the no reason at all excuse. These people must be drowning in bliss right this very second. Ignorance is a pet peeve of mine, as you will continuously see. I will never understand why people have and/or give opinions without any kind of justification. Make something up at least. Give me a good laugh. The poll is anonymous, so if I make fun of your answer, no one will know it was you.



I’m happy to report that the highest grossing reason for removing “under God” from the pledge is to support my peoples, the atheists! Not everyone is spiritual in any way. Some of us believe that this country is the way it is because of ourselves, humankind. I’m not saying that we are perfect or anything, but I know that we are the minority here, so we can move on to more universal reasons why the rest of us think that the pledge needs to be revamped.

Having “under God” in the pledge is an obvious violation of the separation between Church and State. There should be no touch of religion in widespread American jargon. Our president seems to think we are a Christian country.

If you believe that yourself, then you are just as dumb as he is. It is not even about the fact that he categorized America in a religious sense, but that he said this out loud. Talk about projecting your own traits onto others.

It is also disrespectful to other religions to use the phrase “under God” in the pledge. There are plenty of religious and spiritual sects that do not practice monotheism at all. Eastern religions believe in many different gods that put all together are one huge life force.

This last reason is what puts my faith back into the students of CSI. “Under God” was not in the Pledge of Allegiance since its inception. It was only added after the Cold War started! That was a little over 50 years ago. Russia was Godless, so we became Godful, despite the fact that God had nothing to do with why Russia was Communist anyway.

Then we have our last three contestants that admitted that they were undecided about the issue. They knew plenty of reasons why it should or should not be removed, but they did not want to attach themselves to one point of view. That is just fine with me. Never be afraid to say you do not know. Unless someone is asking for your name. Then, you are just being an American idiot.

**Next Issue's Poll:**

**Should women be required to sign up for selective service?**

**Logon to [www.ThirdRailMag.com/poll](http://www.ThirdRailMag.com/poll) to answer!**





# I WANT TO LICK YOUR BIG, HAIRY

**FICTION,  
POETRY,  
PHOTOGRAPHY,  
& POLITICAL  
ESSAYS**

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*"Wow! Ann looks  
so pretty in ner new  
brown shirt!"*

*"I know!  
My mom says you  
can never be too rich,  
too thin, or  
too Republican."*



## **CALLING ALL PRETTY WHITE GIRLS!**

**Join the Ann Coulter L'il Junior Miss  
Conservative Club today, and YOU TOO can  
get that sexy RIGHT WING GLOW\*!**



**MOMMY DIDN'T  
ABORT ME!**



**And now I can DIE in a WAR  
just like SHE did!**

**Every fetus has a JESUS-GIVEN right  
to MATURE and get KILLED for OIL!**