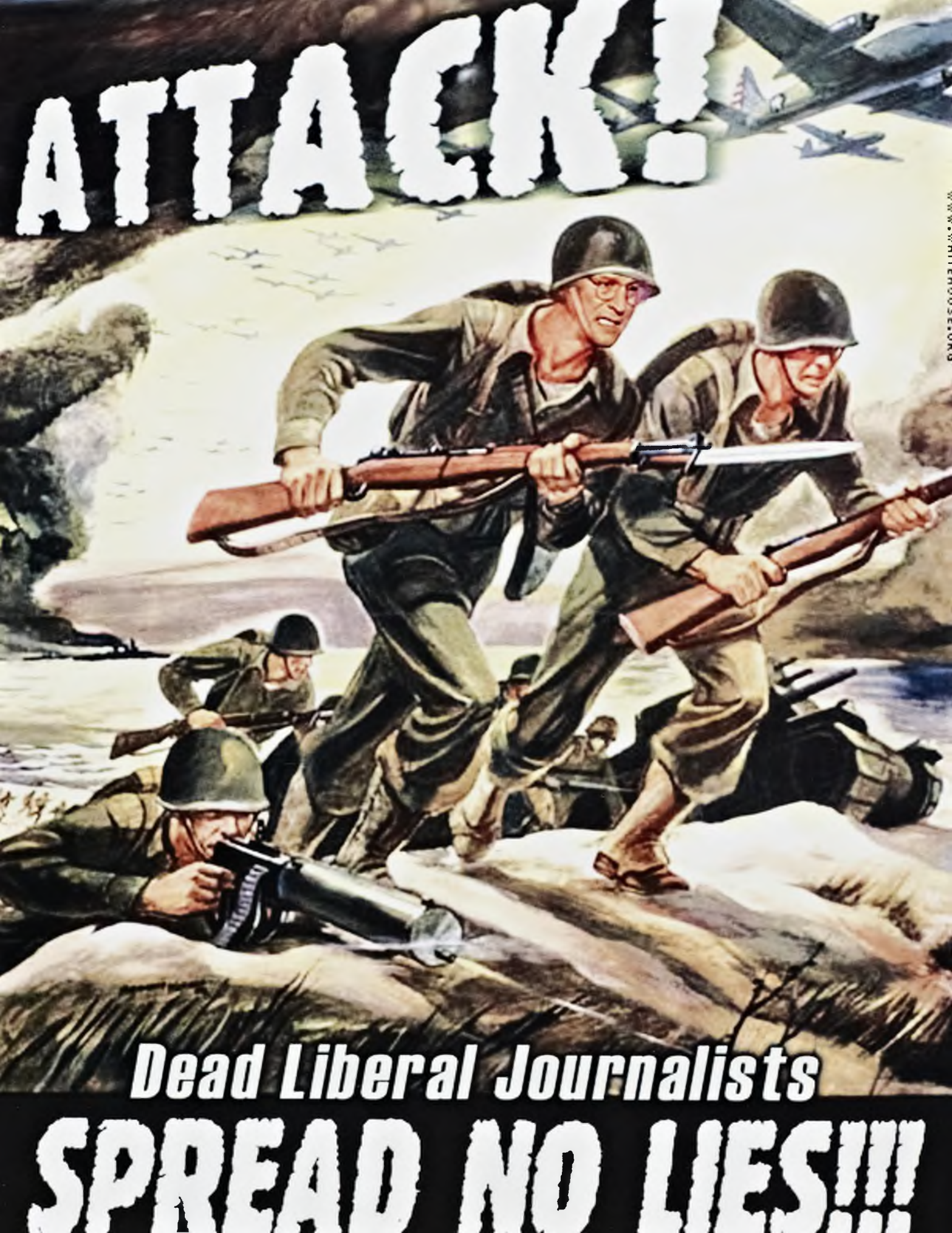


Third Rail

The Award-Winning Political Arts Magazine of the College of Staten Island :: 2005 :: Issue 3



PATRIOT ACT



ATTACK!

Dead Liberal Journalists

SPREAD NO LIES!!!

WWW.SUNLITERATURE.COM

THIRD RAIL

2005 :: ISSUE 3

POLITICAL DISCOURSE

EDITORIAL 2

LETTERS 4

CSI COMMENCEMENT 8

CUNY, IRAQ & FREE SPEECH 16

JOIN THE FIGHT 24

CRITICAL MASS 26

THIRD RAIL POLL 47

THE POETIC ARTS

2 WORDS 6

SPONTANEOUS ME 14

A VOCABULARY LESSON 20

A STARBUCKS SOLILOQUY 38

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

1ST AMENDMENT 30

BARCELONA, GAUDI STYLE 34

CULTURAL DISCOURSE

PENN & TELLER 22

FAULKNER UNDER FIRE 32

THE ADMINISTRATION
& THE FURY 33

THE RILEY FACTOR 36

AIR AMERICA 40

MISEDUCATION OF KARA™ 42

OPEN LETTER TO CRUISE 46

TOUCH US ONLINE AT:

www.ThirdRailMag.com

THIRD RAIL WISHES CARL STILES GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE!

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

P. Melissa Fisher
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TJ Riley
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dwight Dunkley
POETRY EDITOR

Shawn Fisher
BUSINESS MANAGER

STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

Kara Donnelly :: Erica LS Sbordone

Will Giannola :: Mo Koming

Daniel Beyer :: Michael Gualtier

Boris Koyfman :: Meredith Fogelman

Rick Birmingham :: Marissa Birmingham

Jack Freedman :: Jeff McGraham

Neil Schuldiner

AWARDS & HONORS



FACULTY ADVISOR
Professor Frank Battaglia

Third Rail welcomes all
comments & submissions.

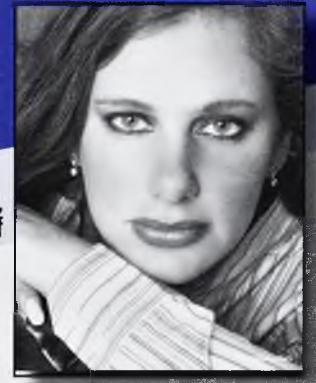
Email:
mail@ThirdRailMag.com

Web:
www.ThirdRailMag.com

Snail Mail:
Third Rail Magazine
c/o College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard
Campus Center Room 207
Staten Island, NY 10314

Drop Off In Person:
Room 231 in the Campus Center
Tel: (718) 982-3105
Fax: (718) 982-3104

THIRD RAIL EDITORIAL



by P. Melissa Fisher,
Editor-in-Chief

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AS MUCH AS I LOVE AMERICA, and I feel that I love this nation far more than those who feel compelled to cover their homes and bodies with the stars and stripes but feel equally compelled to attempt to silence anyone who disagrees with his or her opinion, I must lend my voice to an issue that I have considered a problem as long as I have been able to understand it—the sanctioned violations of the separation of church and state in such areas as the Pledge of Allegiance, our currency and our courthouses. Although the phrase “separation of church and state” never actually appears in the Constitution, the Founding Fathers did clearly state, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” thus creating a distinct separation between the secular and the faith-based aspects of our society.

I had always believed that this distinct separation and guarantee of religious freedom was one of the reasons behind what I had been taught was our national motto—E Pluribus Unum (out of many one). That would make sense, right? This is, after all, the Great American Melting Pot, right? Unfortunately, kiddies, as of July 30, 1956, “In God We Trust” has been our national motto. It’s also when “under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance. Somehow those who follow the Judeo/Christian/Muslim ideal, that constitutionally has no place in our government, got congress to adopt this unconstitutional motto.

This is not to say that the religious does not have its place. Although I am not a religious woman, I believe whole-heartedly in the right to worship whichever deity, in whatever fashion each individual sees fit. That is exactly what makes the separation of church and state so crucial to our peaceful coexistence. Without it we would find ourselves in a situation where the differences in belief structures would oppose each other and create intense conflict as they vied for their place in the religious hierarchy.

One of the biggest problems is that too many people don’t realize that there are religions that don’t fall into the Judeo/Christian/Islamic mold. There are religions that don’t have a god the way they do. Perhaps, as is the case in Buddhism, they have no god, they follow the teachings of Buddha—a man. Or maybe, as is the case

in Hinduism, the deity or deities worshipped is so trivial to the faith that they have an open theology, it is the belief that what is done in one life will have a direct result on the next that is central to their ideology. Most Pagan (a word that conjures up an unfair stereotype due to the unfortunate de facto American religious hierarchy) religions worship a male and female deity, at least. And then, of course there are Agnostics who are unsure of what higher power there is, if any, and Atheists who believe in no deity at all.

Now that the brief theology lesson is over, it is clear that to base the credo “In God We Trust” does not ring true for all Americans. What’s more, this faith-based motto seems



to be a law establishing religion. Yet, when it was challenged, it was the man who dared to bring up the minor fact that the motto is illegal who was vilified. In addition to suffering public ridicule, he was all but laughed at and ignored by the Supreme Court.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said there are "so many references to God" in public affairs, noting "In God We Trust" was on US currency and coins. She added that the Supreme Court opens all its public sessions with the words, "God save the United States and this honorable Court." This is, unfortunately, true. But the overuse of "god," especially where it is completely inappropriate and illegal is not grounds to call it legal.

"Besides," noted Justice David Souter, even if the words "under God" represented religion "in actual practice, it's an affirmation in the mindset of a civic exercise." How can it be considered a "civic exercise" to be compelled to profess a belief that does not exist in order to express patriotism?

"God is so generic in this context as to be a neutral" expression of belief, continued Justice Stephen Breyer. That is simply not true. As I said, not all belief structures have the same "god" concept as the one that was legislated. These ideologies need to be respected just as much as those that do, thus disproving the neutrality of god.

Michael Newdow, the California father who brought a case before the Supreme Court citing that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional in June of 2004, said, "I want my belief system to be given the same weight" as

those with a particular religious faith. He said using the pledge as written amounts to having the government tell his daughter "her father is wrong" because of what he believes. Yet, isn't that exactly what the Supreme Court just told her? This man is an American; he has a constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of religion. His choice is no religion. The Supreme Court has no right to treat him differently than any other litigant who enters their courtroom. But they clearly did.

If an African American felt that the wording of a particular law was discriminating, (s)he would be heard. If a woman felt that she were the victim of sexual harassment, simply because

she overheard an off-color joke, her case would be taken seriously. And if a homosexual couple felt unprotected by the law as it stands, steps would be taken to correct the problem. These are all part of what America is about, and I am certainly not saying that this should change. But the rights of those whose spiritual paths are in the religious minority deserve equal protection, too. So I wait the day when I can proudly stand up and say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Because until that is how it goes, we will truly have neither liberty nor justice for anyone but Christians, Catholics, Jews and Muslims.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

TO THE EDITOR:

I read *Requiem For Arafat* (2005, Issue 2) by Shawn Fisher with dismay and disbelief. Mr. Fisher's comparison of Yassir Arafat, the late chairman of the Palestinian Authority, to President George Washington is offensive to me both as an American and as a supporter of human rights. It is based on ignorance and misinformation. One with even a basic knowledge of American history should know that George Washington led soldiers in a conventional war against British soldiers in order to gain independence after the British would not allow the colonists to peacefully separate. In contrast, following the 1947 United Nations decision to divide the disputed territory of Palestine into one Jewish and one Arab state, the Arabs in the territory refused and declared war on the newly formed Jewish state of Israel. After losing that war, instead of turning to diplomacy and negotiations or even fighting a conventional war, Yassir Arafat directed Palestinians to hijack airplanes, murder Israeli Olympians and to blow themselves up in suicide bombings with the express intention of murdering innocent Israeli civilians, including children. Yassir Arafat and his Palestinian Liberation Organization turned to terrorism to try to gain the land they refused to share and lost in war.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is not black or white. Both Israelis and Palestinians have compelling claims to the same land. Instead of engaging with Israelis in negotiations, however, Arafat used his leadership to encourage Palestinians to enter peaceful venues like the Olympics, pizza parlors, discos and shopping malls in order to kill Jews. Even after Arafat signed the Oslo Accords with Israel to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, he continued to support Palestinian terrorism against Israelis.

Mr. Fisher argues that one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter and that the line between the two is blurry. Would Mr. Fisher argue the same about Osama Bin Laden? To follow Fisher's reasoning, wasn't Bin Laden just standing up for his fellow Muslims against America when he murdered innocent Americans at the World Trade Center? As Americans in a post 9/11 world, we live in constant fear of terrorism. We live the way Israelis have lived since Israel's inception in 1948. Yassir Arafat was Israel's Osama Bin La-



din. To call Bin Ladin or Arafat anything except a terrorist is absurd and offensive to the thousands of civilians that died at their hands. The line between terrorist and freedom could not be clearer, and Yassir Arafat was a terrorist.

Leebie Mallin
Director,
Hillel at the College of Staten Island
3A-104 Multi-Faith Center
mallin@mail.csi.cuny.edu

SHAWN FISHER, AUTHOR OF REQUIEM FOR ARAFAT RESPONDS

Dear Ms. Mallin

While you are entitled to your opinion as I am mine, both are, in the end, subjective, a fancy of the person expressing it. Therefore, no matter how different another person's opinion may be from mine, I will never be offended by it. How could anyone who lives in a nation built upon freedom of expression take offense to another's opinion unless, of course, that person was closed minded? You are, however, wrong on several points that you would try to imply are facts.

First, let's look at the term "terrorist." It would seem that you, like many others, are trying to personify an action. Terrorism is a tactic used by people, not a profession that one might aspire to. There are no union halls for terrorists, no W2's and there aren't any floats for terrorists on Labor Day parades. Terrorism as a tactic is defined by Columbia University Press as: "the threat or use of violence, often against the civilian population, to achieve political or social ends, to intimidate opponents, or to publicize grievances." While the use of terrorism is not limited to the military, for the sake of this discussion I will stick to the military understanding of tactics. So any military or paramilitary group can and has used the tactic of terrorism without being branded a criminal by the greater civilized society.

This brings us to your apparently blind understanding of the American Colonies' fight for independence. Just by basic logic you should realize that the original colonists were, in fact, English citizens and that the formation of any group of organized armed peoples outside of the government's (The Monarchy) legitimate force who then acts against that

legitimate force, is in fact, an illegal group, conducting criminal activities. Yes, we believed that we were doing the right thing, but in the end, we were technically criminals and not an army.

As for the idea that Washington and his band of British criminals were fighting a conventional war—nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, had he fought by the rules or war at that time, we would still be holding tea time today in the United Colonies of England. Thankfully, Washington was an intelligent enough tactician to realize that only unconventional warfare could win our rebellion for independence. Washington employed the use of snipers to fire on British officers—an act considered to be both unconventional and barbaric at that time in Europe. He withdrew his troops even after defeat such as in the battle of Brooklyn, where it was expected that he would surrender as was practiced at the time. Washington even employed terror tactics against his enemies, a term used in his own orders to General John Sullivan:

"The Expedition you are appointed to command is to be directed against the hostile tribes of the Six Nations of Indians, with their associates and adherents. The immediate objects are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements, and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible. It will be essential to ruin their crops now in the ground and prevent their planting more. I would recommend, that some post in the center of the Indian Country, should be occupied with all expedition, with a sufficient quantity of provisions whence parties should be detached to lay waste all the settlements around, with instructions to do it in the most effectual manner, that the country may not be merely overrun, but destroyed. But you will not by any means listen to any overture of peace before the total ruinment of their settlements is effected. Our future security will be in their inability to injure us and in the terror with which the severity of the chastisement they receive will inspire them," said General George Washington. It can be seen quite clearly that the Continental army by no means used conventional tactics as such your statement is wrong. As for the PLO fighting a conventional war, how would you propose they do that? Should the United States supply them with weapons, training and support in the same way that it did for Israel to reclaim sovereignty of their lands; which the U.S. still does? What an interesting sight it would be to see an Israeli and Palestinian pilot in a dogfight over the Mediterranean Sea both piloting the latest U.S. manufactured F-18. Or would it be fairer for America to take back all the military support it has given modern Israel and reduce their army to using blood and stone to defend against a tank? Any military tactician in the world would laugh at your complaint that the PLO refuses to fight a conventional war. It would just as futile for the PLO to fight a conventional battle as it was for the Continental army. They



do not enjoy the same relationship with a sugar daddy as Israel does! Oh, and good old Osama Bin Laden? No one can have a debate about freedom fighters these days without someone trying to make a direct comparison to him. Alright, here we go, where exactly did this spoiled rich kid get his power from? Oh yeah, the United States back when the Soviets controlled Afghanistan. The Americans supplied Al-Qaeda with weapons, training and support to reclaim sovereignty of their lands. Wait a minute, why does that sound familiar? Oh yeah, the U.S. did the same thing for Israel as I mentioned above. The only difference being that once we won the cold war we turned our back on him and Al-Qaeda. Makes me wonder if the United States ever found Israel unnecessary and we turned our back on Israel, would Israel behave in the same fashion towards the U.S. as Osama has. Oh wait, they already have. During the Six Day War between Israel and the Arab States, the American intelligence ship USS Liberty was attacked for 75 minutes in international waters by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats. Thirty-four men died and 172 were wounded. Honestly, I object to war and to the use of violence in general. I understand it, however, and understand the unfortunate need for it at times. And what I realize most of all is that in war there can be motivations and there can be goals but never can there be rules. I think no one can ever describe what war is better than 19th century U.S. General Sherman in addressing a group of young military cadets on their graduation day. "Cadets of the graduating class...Boys... I've been where you are now and I know just how you feel. It's entirely natural that there should beat in the breast of every one of you a hope and desire that some day you can use the skill you have acquired here. Suppress it! You don't know the horrible aspects of war. I've been through two wars and I know. I've seen cities and homes in ashes. I've seen thousands of men lying on the ground, their dead faces looking up at the skies. I tell you, war is hell!" Ms. Mallin, you can play all the semantics you want, but the truth is that Israel and Palestine have been at war and are still at war and that there is nothing conventional about war.

Until Then,
Shawn Fisher

With only two words,
I can make a statement so
infuriating
That it would get me into deep
trouble.
As a result of using these two
words together,
I could be subjected to
ostracism,
Name-calling
Yelling
Cursing
And on a good day, assault.

These retributions, however,
Are the lesser of all evils.
Speaking these two words
Can be the catalyst for arrest.
Imprisonment,
And execution,
Depending on the environment

Uttering these two words might be
grounds
For mental instability.
Surely, they would not be taken
seriously.
One may wonder,
How this duet of conjoined
characters
I make reference to
Can be as offensive as I portray,
Especially after I mention
That it contains no obscenities.
I wonder about this myself.

TWO WORDS

JACK FRIEDMAN

This couplet of consonants and vowels
Is a sentence I use frequently.
My colleagues and I
Have no qualms about saying them.
In an ideal world
There would be no punishment in using
these two words.
In fact,
One should be praised for their
exclamation.
Life would be more productive
If we showed little fear
In verbalizing the phrase:
I Disagree

CSI & CUNY NEWS



As is widely known, every college commencement includes a recipient of an honorary doctorate. Typically, these recipients offer little more in their speeches than stale, insincere congratulations and a laundry list of their own accomplishments (especially if this person is a politician).

But something was very different at the *College Of Staten Island's* 2005 ceremony. For this year's graduation, the honor was bestowed on a true artist. Not only is she a novelist and poet, but also a former CUNY professor and mother who raised a novelist daughter who's own spouse is a CSI professor. This woman gave a speech full of good advice and truisms that most people ought to know. The main point of her message was the power of words and the importance of thinking for oneself when bombarded with false ideology and doublespeak.

This speech, however, for the most part fell on deaf ears that seemed shocked and appalled by the thought that politicians might be lying to them! It was booed and mocked by closed minds that were in a place where they should have been the most open. But through it all, Ms. Jong made sure that her words were at least heard if unheeded.

The Following is a transcription of Ms. Jong's long (more than forty minutes, including the interruptions of an incredibly rude audience) but very powerful speech. It is my hope that it will be better received in this medium than it was on the hot and hazy June morning to an audience unwilling to accept the unfortunate realities it details.

College of Staten Island Commencement Address

By Erica Jong, noted author of *Fear of Flying* & *Sappho's Leap*

SO IT HAS COME TO THIS—GRADUATION. I'M SO PROUD OF YOU ALL TODAY. I KNOW THE SACRIFICES YOU'VE MADE TO BE HERE AND I KNOW THE JOY OF STANDING UP AND SAYING "I DID IT!"

For me this is a kind of homecoming. My first real job, when I was in Graduate School, was teaching at the City University and I still remember my students with great fondness. They apparently remember me too, because two of them showed up at a reading my daughter gave for her second book at Barnes & Noble and they told me with great enthusiasm that I had taught them to read; not just the lines but *between* the lines.

Why am I here? Well. . .not only because I graduated too, a long, long, long, long time ago, but because I'm a writer and I've spent more than 30 years worshipping the word—putting words in the right order, and trying to make sense; which to me means- telling the truth.

Telling the truth has never been easy and has never really gone out of style. But it has become harder these days because the language we speak has been captured by deliberate liars. Who are these liars? Advertisers, politicians, movie stars and other celebrities who all have what they think are good reasons to say the opposite of what they really mean. Advertisers, as we've always known but sometimes forget, make you want products you don't need and which also may hurt





you. Viagra which can possibly blind you, hormone pills which can cause breast cancer, and plastics that can damage a healthy fetus. Politicians specialize in saying the opposite of what they really mean in order to get your vote. They say "Healthy Forests," when they mean clear-cutting trees. They say "Clear Skies" when what they mean is pollution. They say "Pacify" when they mean killing people. They say "Collateral Damage" when they mean killing foreign civilians. They say "Friendly Fire" when they mean killing our own soldiers. They trumpet peace while they send our young-est Americans to war.

Movie stars tell you that they're in love when they're just doing PR. Think of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes. Most people think they are in love. But they've pledged it on Oprah, so it must be true. New Age gurus may be the worst word corrupters of all. Do we really need *wellness* when we have *health*? Do we need *healers* rather than *physicians*? The words mean the same thing, but one sounds more *alternative*; another *cant* word). Do we need *holistic*, when we have whole? Is holistic somehow cooler than whole? It certainly has more syllables. People invent New Age cant in the hopes of sounding very important. New Age cant often introduces Latinate words where there used to be Anglo-Saxon ones. The more syllables, the more important. Wrong, simplicity of language can contain the most profound of ideas. *Wellness* is not better than health, it only sounds a little fancier. Not long ago I read on a so-called "wellness website" that chocolate is good for your heart, but not when it is mixed with fat and sugar and made into candy bars. This has not stopped the *Mars Company* from claiming the heart-healthy effects of their chocolates. *Heart healthy*, by the way is another word that sounds like a great deal more than it is. Telling the truth has never been harder because our very words have been corrupted. But our country was founded on the truth that the plain words of the people are more important than the fancy words of the kings.

We admire George Washington, not only for refusing to be king, but also for not lying, even though the cherry tree story may be a myth. We hold politicians to a much lesser standard today—we expect them to lie to us. We grant them the latitude to lie. We are lax about holding them to their word. We do not expect them to tell the truth about power any more than we expect Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes to tell the truth about love.

And we write off many lies as PR. Having stopped expecting

truth, we rarely ever get it.

I guess I've been chosen to talk to you because as a writer—I've published nineteen books: poetry, fiction, non-fiction—I have never stopped expecting it, never stopped trying my best to tell it and have never stopped getting mad when its not told to me. I want you to learn to get mad when you are deliberately lied to. That is one of the main things an education is for—learning to distinguish between lies and the truth.

Why is getting mad at lies so important? Because our survival depends on it. Our republic depends on it. Our lives depend on it, whether it is pharmaceutical companies lying about the side effects of drugs or chemical corporations lying about pollution or politicians lying about why our young people are coming home in boxes. We are in danger unless we know the truth and the truth depends on words. During the Vietnam War we used to say that people came home in *body bags* but those words became politicized so now the military speaks of *transfer tubes*, transferring folks from the battlefield to the cemetery. This happens after the patient failed to fulfill his wellness potential, in other words, he died.

At McClellan Air Force base in Sacramento, California, civilian mechanics were placed on non-duty, non-pay status—that is, they were fired. And as for matters of life and death like war and the death penalty, Senator Orrin Hatch said, "*capital punishment is our society's recognition of the sanctity of human life.*" I could go on and on and on and on. The examples are everywhere.

Why are words so vital? Why would someone spend her whole life indoors playing with words? Because whoever controls the words controls the conversation! Whoever controls the conversation controls its outcome—because framing the debate is the beginning of



winning it; which is why what you have learned here at CSI is so precious.

In our time, it is broadly true that political writing is *bad writing*. Where it is not true, it will generally be found that the writer is some kind of rebel, expressing his private opinions and not a party line. Orthodoxy, of whatever color, seems to demand a lifeless, imitative style. The political dialects found in pamphlets, leading articles, manifestoes, white papers and the speeches of under-secretaries, of course, vary from party to party. But they are all alike in that one almost never finds in them a fresh, home-made turn of speech.

When one watches some tired hack on the platform mechanically repeating the familiar phrases: "bestial atrocities, iron heel, bloodstained tyranny, free peoples of the world, stand shoulder to shoulder," one often has a curious feeling that one isn't watching a human being but rather some kind of dummy. A feeling which suddenly becomes stronger at moments when the light catches the speaker's spectacle and turns them into blank discs, which seem to have no eyes behind them. And this is not altogether fanciful. A speaker who uses that kind of phraseology has gone some distance towards

turning himself into a machine. The appropriate noises are coming out of his larynx, but his brain is not involved as it would be if he were choosing his words for himself. If the speech he is making is one that he is accustomed to make over and over again and over again, he or she may be almost unconscious of what he or she is saying. . . as one is when one utters the responses in church. This reduced state of consciousness, if not indispensable, is favorable to political conformity.

This is **George Orwell**, writing his indispensable essay, *Politics and the English Language* in 1947, just around the time he was starting his novel *1984*, which appeared in 1949. Orwell understood better than any writer of the Twentieth century that a de-

bestial atrocities, iron heel, bloodstained tyranny, free peoples of the world, stand shoulder to shoulder

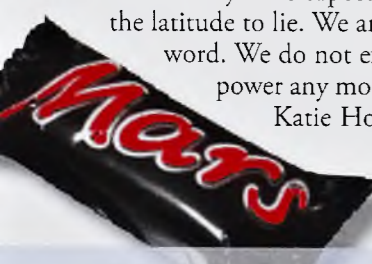
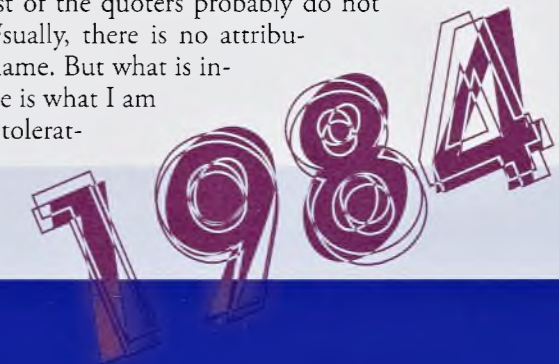
based language, makes for a debased political life. When we say the opposite of what we mean and tolerate others saying the opposite of what they mean, we are well on our way to totalitarianism. **Language is that important.**

In his book, *1984*, the Ministry of Truth, Minitrue, disseminates lies. The Ministry of Peace, Minipax, makes war—and the Ministry of Love, Miniluv, maintains order, usually through violence. Surrounded by barbed war and gun turrets, the Ministry of Love has no windows and is heavily guarded at all times. The Ministry of Plenty or Miniplenty controls all economic life. How can there be poverty or deprivation when Miniplenty is in charge.

You cannot even talk about such things. There are **no words** for them. But the people starve, for which newspeak has no word. No wonder the three mottoes of society are: **WAR IS PEACE! FREEDOM IS SLAVERY! IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH!**

You came to the City University because you didn't believe such slogans which have their own equivalents in our society, and because you were willing to open your mind and let the fresh air inside. The families who supported you believed in fresh air also. They were able to cheer you on—even though they did not always understand what you were studying. They believed that education was a good thing, even if it was not always a comfortable thing. They deserve enormous credit for that and so do you! Being able to tolerate what is uncomfortable is the beginning of *knowledge*. Challenging yourself is the beginning of wisdom. I have written a whole shelf full of books. But when I Google myself online (all writers Google themselves constantly as a means of procrastination) what do I find? This quote, again and again, "*And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more.*" And this one, "*Everyone has talent, what is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads.*"

One of these quotes is from my first novel, *Fear of Flying*, and one is from my second, *How to Save Your Own Life*. But most of the quoters probably do not know that. Usually, there is no attribution but my name. But what is interesting to me is what I am quoted for--tolerat-



AXIS OF EVIL
EVERYTHING

ing risk and cultivating talent. And that is OK with me because those are two things I still care about alot. In fact, they may be the most important themes of all my work. You had to tolerate a great deal of risk to get where you are today and you still have to go deep into yourself and into the darkness to cultivate your talent; that will never ever change. Those things are both scary. Fear, which we all feel when we do something new, will try to stop you. But you will feel the fear and go on anyway; that's also one of the themes of many of my books. I wish I could make it easier for you to tolerate the fear— I can't, I can only offer inspiration. I can encourage you, but I can't do it for you. I can offer some simple guidelines. Check the language you hear for *clarity*. If it's not clear, the motivations aren't either. Murky language means somebody wants to pick your pocket. Phrases like "Wellness Website" and "Heart Healthy" mean that your credit card will soon be punched. Phrases like "Axis of Evil!" and "9/11 Changed Everything!" mean that your draft card may be the next thing punched. And phrases like "the bravest who fell" and "Honor the Fallen" mean that you may soon be among them. All these phrases are meant to keep you

from thinking. All these phrases are meant to instill fuzzy feelings of pride and patriotism that prevent clear thinking. Why should anyone want to keep you from thinking? There are only a couple of possibilities, to pick your pocket, to cover up something, or to put your life at risk while pretending to protect you.

Journalists are often the worst offenders—they seem to think that something is only news when some official does a press release about it, or that it is news when two rabid screamers, one from the quote right and one from the quote left, do a *Punch & Judy* show about it. But perhaps there is another way to look at news. Perhaps, as Bill Moyers says, "*news is what people want to keep hidden*" rather than what they do press releases about. We just saw that with the revelations of **Deep Throat** being rehearsed in the news. Perhaps news is the other thing you have to go into the darkness to find, and take risks to find. Perhaps news is neither right nor left. Perhaps news is only found by remaking the language and saying what you really really mean. We are deep into Orwell's NEWSPEAK in America and are encouraged to lie at every turn!

We hear *No Child Left Behind* while education budgets are cut! **Even this university was once FREE and PROUD OF IT!** When I taught at City

College, tuition was less than minimal. We hear of returning heroes while VA budgets are cut.

How can we keep from getting our pockets picked? By listening to what is said and probing deeper— by trying to remake the language so that it is *clear* again. **By questioning authority**, doing in short all the things you have learned here at CSI.

If NEWSPEAK narrows the range of thought, then clear speaking expands it again. If New Age Cant obfuscates the truth with fancy verbiage, then puncturing it shows us the hollowness at its core. If political speech is meant to lull you into unconsciousness with ready-made slogans, then *clear* speech wakes you up. The labels "right" and "left" are inadequate to explain what people care about. They have become new means of censorship and obfuscation. We shut out truth by saying "right" and "left". Nobody really thinks of herself as "right" or "left". She thinks of herself as a person with complex views. But we face a danger today from orthodoxies with their automatic assumptions, and since the politicians, journalists, advertisers and new age gurus divide us into right and left, red state, blue state, we are lulled into doing it ourselves even though we know our views cannot be neatly bracketed that way. That way leads to *fuzzy thinking* and having our pockets picked.

I have fallen into the habit of blogging, which can be a great time waster, but is one way to keep our language clean. I'm blogging on the *Huffington Post*, Arianna's blog along with Bill Maher, Larry David, Nora Ephron and a host of other ill-assorted blogomaniacs. Bill Maher remarked this morning that it is impossible to keep a straight face in America because of all the "double-speak"; **he's right**. Memorial Day comes and goes and we are hearing all about brave fallen, while nobody seems to give a damn about the Downing Street



memo that got us into the bloody Iraq mess in the first place. Then Memorial Day weekend is over and we are deep into 30 year-old news.

Deep Throat was Mark Felt. It's ancient news even if Woodward and Bernstein did protect their sources. They got endless market share and moolah from that fact and good for them. I love it when writers make money, but the real news of the last two weeks has been mostly ignored. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is dead for another five years. Do we have another five years? And not only are there those loose nukes all over the place (even Bush and Kerry agreed on this in the 2004 Presidential campaign) but there are also several suicidal terrorists ready to lob them at cities like New York, LA, Chicago, Miami, London, Madrid, Rome, Berlin, etc.

Hello? Hello? Hello? I know that Condoleeza Rice couldn't bother to go to these talks but Duarte said himself they set the cause of nuclear nonproliferation back years and we would have been better had the talks never occurred. And now we are off and running about a *Vanity Fair* story that recounts yet again the atrocities of the Nixon administration.

I know! I know! It's no fun to think about nuclear incineration, in fact, it's really depressing. I look at my sixteen month old grandson, Max, and I try to wrap my mind around a nuclear accident in New York and my mind just doesn't want to go there.

But let's get real! Tim Russert did a *Meet The Press* program last Sunday in which gray haired, sober-sided guys - Senator Sam Nunn, Senator Richard Lugar, Senator Fred Thompson, Lee Hamilton and Tom Kean of the 9/11 commission. Basically, all agreed that we are in **deep danger**. The materials are there. The terrorists are there. And the world goes on about a 91 year old guy confessing about a 30 year-old event.

I am baffled of course. I know you can't predict the future. Nuclear Armageddon could come from an American, a Russian, a North Korean, an Israeli, an Iranian, count the countries . . . mistake rather than a suicidal terrorist with a loose nuke. The truth is, we just don't know. What we do know is the more materials are out there, the more the percentages against our survival go up. Think about New York in the case of some kind of Chernobyl happening here. Multiply 9/11 times a million. People die, get radiation poisoning, children die or get cancer, the stock market tanks, the world stops dead, nobody worries about "Deep Throat" or Martha

Stewart or Paris Hilton's engagement or whether the vote count in Ohio was fudged. *GMA* and the *Today Show* are still neck-in-neck, but nobody is watching! Why is nobody focusing on this? What will it take to get us to focus? As we used to say in the 1960's, what do you do in the case of a terrorist with a loose nuke? "Bend over and kiss your ass goodbye."

It is hard to think about the future and we almost always get the details wrong. It's true that most great empires are surrounded by prognostications of decline and fall and choose to do nothing about them. They seem incapable of even focusing on them. Rome didn't fall in a day, nor did Greece and Sumer. But Rome, Greece and Sumer didn't

have nuclear weapons and people ready to employ them. Even in the 1950's, that ancient age when I was in grade school, we were told to prepare for the nuclear holocaust by putting squares of oilcloth on the floor, kneeling on the floor like Muslims in prayer, covering our eyes, waiting for the flash and then what?

Tim Russert's *Meet The Press*, the other day had a 1950's video clip of a 1950's general in charge of civil

defense, say with a straight face, that if the A-bomb fell in America we should all

- a) go down into our bomb shelters
- b) eat canned food and drink bottled water for a while and
- c) be sure to shower frequently to get rid of the radiation.

He didn't say when we should come out of those bomb shelters. But we did come out of them and then promptly forgot all about the nuclear threat.

The great French sage, La Rochefoucauld said, "*Neither the sun nor death can be looked at steadily.*" He was right! We don't want to contemplate our own mortality let alone the planet's. The sun is blinding and it is perfectly human to turn away from death. But whether we call it nuclear proliferation or the terrorist threat or the post 9/11 malaise, it's time to look at our priorities. Let's tell the truth! Let's admit that danger is real but that we have the human ingenuity to solve it! Solving it will be much harder than it was to invent the Atomic bomb. But we're smart. We know that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. We won't be manipulated by the people who want to pick our pockets and destroy the only world we know that can sustain intelligent life. That's you, intelligent life. I know you can do it. Thank You and Congratulations!



spontaneous ME

walt
whitman

SPONTANEOUS me, Nature,

*The loving day, the mounting sun, the friend I am happy with,
The arm of my friend hanging idly over my shoulder,
The hill-side whiten'd with blossoms of the mountain ash,*

The same, late in autumn--the hues of red, yellow, drab, purple, and light and dark green,

The rich coverlid of the grass--animals and birds--the private untrimm'd bank--the primitive apples--the pebble-stones,

Beautiful dripping fragments--the negligent list of one after another, as I happen to call them to me, or think of them,

The real poems, (what we call poems being merely pictures,)

The poems of the privacy of the night, and of men like me,

This poem, drooping shy and unseen, that I always carry, and that all men carry, 10

(Know, once for all, avow'd on purpose, wherever are men like me, are our lusty, lurking, masculine poems;)

Love-thoughts, love-juice, love-odor, love-yielding, love-climbers, and the climbing sap,

Arms and hands of love--lips of love--phallic thumb of love--breasts

of love--bellies press'd and glued together with love,

Earth of chaste love--life that is only life after love,

The body of my love--the body of the woman I love--the body of the man--the body of the earth,

Soft forenoon airs that blow from the south-west,

The hairy wild-bee that murmurs and hankers up and down--that gripes

the full-grown lady-flower, curves upon her with amorous firm

legs, takes his will of her, and holds himself tremulous and

tight till he is satisfied,

The wet of woods through the early hours,

Two sleepers at night lying close together as they sleep, one with an

arm slanting down across and below the waist of the other,

The smell of apples, aromas from crush'd sage-plant, mint, birch-

bark, 20

The boy's longings, the glow and pressure as he confides to me what he was dreaming,

The dead leaf whirling its spiral whirl, and falling still and

content to the ground,

The no-form'd stings that sights, people, objects, sting me with,

The hubb'd sting of myself, stinging me as much as it ever can any one,

The sensitive, orbic, underlapp'd brothers, that only privileged feelers may be intimate where they are,

The curious roamer, the hand, roaming all over the body--the bashful withdrawing of flesh where the fingers soothingly pause and edge themselves,

The limpid liquid within the young man,

The vexed corrosion, so pensive and so painful,

The torment--the irritable tide that will not be at rest,

The like of the same I feel--the like of the same in others, 30

The young man that flushes and flushes, and the young woman that flushes and flushes,

The young man that wakes, deep at night, the hot hand seeking to repress what would master him;

The mystic amorous night--the strange half-welcome pangs, visions, sweats,

The pulse pounding through palms and trembling encircling fingers--the young man all color'd, red, ashamed, angry;

The souse upon me of my lover the sea, as I lie willing and naked,

The merriment of the twin-babes that crawl over the grass in the sun, the mother never turning her vigilant eyes from them,

The walnut-trunk, the walnut-husks, and the ripening or ripen'd long-round walnuts;

The continence of vegetables, birds, animals,

The consequent meanness of me should I skulk or find myself indecent, while birds and animals never once skulk or find themselves indecent;

The great chastity of paternity, to match the great chastity of maternity, 40

The oath of procreation I have sworn--my Adamic and fresh daughters, The greed that eats me day and night with hungry gnaw, till I

saturate what shall produce boys to fill my place when I am through,

The wholesome relief, repose, content;

And this bunch, pluck'd at random from myself;

It has done its work--I tossed it carelessly to fall where it may.

CUNY, Iraq & Free Speech

Counter-Recruitment Students Test The Limits of Free Speech
by Neil Schuldiner

WITH AT LEAST FOUR CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY) students killed in Iraq, including one from the College of Staten Island (CSI), students across the university initiated a campaign this past Spring targeting military recruitment across CUNY campuses. The campaign, dubbed "counter-recruitment," involves the peaceful assembly of students rallying against the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the dissemination of literature to students fluttering around military recruitment tables. And while the counter-recruitment activities of students all appear to fall within the acceptable boundaries of free speech, the CUNY administration appears to have adopted a "no tolerance" policy in regards to the campaign.

On March 9th at City College's (CCNY) semesterly job fair, approximately twenty students peacefully marched into Shepard Hall, wound their way towards the military recruitment tables and began distributing anti-occupation flyers and chanting anti-war slogans. Despite the fact that no students were prevented from approaching the military recruitment table to enlist for military service or to inquire about the armed forces, CCNY security immediately entered the hall to end the counter-recruitment action. Confronted by CCNY security, the student protestors defended the counter-recruitment action as an exercise of their first amendments rights, but CCNY security disagreed and ejected the students from the job fair. What transpired next is in dispute, but what is not in contention is that three CCNY students were arrested; two, Justino Rodriguez and Nicholas Bergreen,



(From left-right) Nicholas Bergreen, Hadas Their & Justino Rodriguez

for assault on a CUNY security officer and one, Hadas Their, for obstructing governmental administration.

The following day, without conducting an investigation, or interviewing any of the arrested students or any of the dozens of students, faculty and staff who were at the job fair, CCNY President Gregory Williams issued a statement defending the arrests and the actions taken by CCNY security. The statement reads in part, "In the corridor outside the Hall, [the students] were told once again that they. . . must take their protest outside, where they would be free to continue to express their opinions. . . .The confrontation escalated and several of the demonstrators grabbed and hit the officer. At this point, the three students involved in the attack on the officer were arrested." Specifically, Williams contends that one student protestor jumped a guard, another protestor grappled a guard to the ground, while a third protestor beat the head and body of another guard.

But the student protestors deny all of Williams' allegations and contend that it was *they* who were assaulted by CCNY security. Hadas Their, an Israeli student demonstrator who was arrested after she began taking photos of security brutalizing her fellow student protestors, maintains "20 of us got together to protest at the career fair. Four different branches of the military showed up. We wanted to put out a specific mes-

sage that they were recruiting for people to fight and die in Iraq, that this wasn't a job opportunity. We started chanting 'U.S. out of Iraq' and 'Recruiters off campus.' Very quickly, we were surrounded by CCNY security guards. They shoved us out of the career fair and closed the doors. The police came and we were beaten and arrested."

The account of events as told by Their and the other two arrested students is corroborated by other student, faculty and staff who were present at the job fair. Marie Nazon, a CCNY counselor said, "The students were chanting peacefully. The situation become aggressive when the [security officers] came in. [They] looked like they were ready for action." According to Tiffany Paul, one of the student protestors, after security officers ejected protestors from the job fair, they slammed Justino Rodriguez against a wall and pushed Nicholas Bergreen to the floor.

Even CCNY students who were not sympathetic to the counter-recruitment protesters deny President Williams' allegations. One such student who chose to remain anonymous for fear of retribution from the CUNY Administration, told the faculty union newspaper *The Clarion*, "I'm not an activist, I find activists a little crazy. But after I heard [President Williams] charges, I thought, truth is being turned to its opposite." According to the anti-counter-recruitment student, "the security guards were so aggressive. . . They were dragging people across the flow. I saw

CUNY REMEMBERS



Francis Obaji,
College of Staten Island
Killed in Iraq on January 17, 2005



Jim Prevete,
Queens College
Killed in Iraq in October, 2004



Frederick Akintade,
City Tech
Killed in Iraq on October 28, 2004

Not pictured: Min Soo Chin was killed in Iraq on February 26, 2005

a student who was lying on the floor and the three security guards jumped on his back. They twisted his hands and handcuffed him. . . I also saw a girl taking pictures (Their) with her still camera. At least two security guards grabbed her, twisting her hands, and took the camera away. Another security guard was holding a handcuffed protestor's head against the wall while. . .speaking on his walkie-talkie. The protestor had blood on his face."

Hospital records corroborate the students' eyewitness testimony. While only one security guard was treated at a local hospital for "high blood pressure," student protestor Rodri-

quez was diagnosed with a left jaw contusion and student Bergreen was diagnosed with a mild concussion.

Further contradicting President Williams statement was Carol Lang, administrative assistant for the CCNY Theater Department. Lang corroborated the account told by protestors of security brutalizing student demonstrators. During the incident, Lang yelled at the security officers to "let her [Their] go" while one of the student demonstrators was being accosted by security. Two days after the arrest of students at the job fair, in a surprising move, CCNY security marched into the CCNY Theater Department offices and

March 14, 2005

**CSI Professor Sandi Cooper, a graduate of CCNY,
writes CCNY President Williams regarding free speech.**

Dear President Williams:

As a graduate of the College ('57, summa), a faculty member in CUNY since 1967 and former chair of the University Faculty Senate, I have some historical familiarity with the issue of curtailing free speech on campus.

Beyond the material displayed in the current exhibition mounted at the Graduate School about City College's parlous relationship with free speech, I recall the willingness of the College officials during the 1950's to allow FBI agents to prowl through student records, ferreting out "commies" - defined as students belonging to certain clubs; the arrest of an English professor for "ignoring" a legislative summons (which he never received) and the general acceptance by students and faculty alike, that they could not aspire to posts in the State department and Federal government, no matter how "anti-communist" the credentials of the administration were.

It was shameful. It took many years to live that down - mainly by historical amnesia.

In the 1960's and 70's, confrontations between students and police over college as well as national issues spread and in the 1990's, the creation of "peace" officers altered the older system whereby private security guards under the control of presidents and campus regulations functioned, reasonably accurately. But even with the Reynolds "peace" officers, the central administration required certain limitations.

It seems to me that the recent events at City College have violated all those limitations. Further it seems to me that before someone is found "guilty" and locked up in prison, it behooves a mature educational institution to conduct an inquiry into fact and not believe the first presumably damaged claimant who gains the administration's ear.

As an alumna who has contributed to the Association, I intend not to send a single penny this year and plan to share this letter widely with others in the hope that they will also withhold until a full investigation is conducted by neutral outsiders AND until the right to free speech is protected. There was too much silence in the past -which meant complicity.

In sadness,
Sandi E Cooper
class of '57



**CCNY President
Gregory Williams**

arrested Lang for “assaulting an officer with an unknown object”; she was released 36 hours later. Lang, a 54 year old grandmother who stands 4’11” called the charges “crazy” and contends that she never attacked any security guards. Other faculty and staff support Lang’s claims. CCNY Professor Seth Rosenberg of the CCNY School of Education and Mark Turner, Director of the CCNY Artino Laboratory for Computational Mathematics, both eyewitnesses to the counter-recruitment action claim that Lang never attacked anyone. Lang believes her arrest was punishment for defending the student’s right to free speech and for disagreeing with President Williams account of events. “This was a way of not only punishing me [for contradicting President Williams’ statement] but also a way of chilling future dissent at City College,.” argues Lang.

Other professors across CUNY agree. “Something about this doesn’t make sense to me. If security was at the demonstration on Wednesday and if they saw her [Lang] assault an officer on Wednesday, why didn’t they arrest her on the spot? Why did they wait until Friday?” asked Professor Ken Sherrill of Hunter College’s Political Science department. Professor Lawrence Rushing of LaGuardia Community College added, “By creating false, trumped up charges against protesters fighting for a fairer university, they are attempting to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation to stamp out completely all semblance of speech which dares to criticize the people in charge.” “It seems that CUNY security is out of control in more ways than one,” added Professor Mary O’Riordan of City Tech.

banned all three students from campus citing them as a “danger” to their fellow students, faculty and staff. In addition, Carol Lang was suspended without pay from her duties in the Theater department.

Students, faculty and staff stunned by the actions of President Williams, sprung into action to pressure Williams to drop all criminal charges against the student and staff and to lift the suspensions. First, on March 17th, the CCNY Faculty Senate passed a motion resolving “That the three students and staff who have been suspended as a result of the yet to be clarified encounter with the police on the CCNY campus be reinstated to their proper place in the academic community, pending an open and thorough investigation of the incident.”

The following day, over 200 students, faculty and staff rallied at CCNY demonstrating against the actions taken by President Williams. Among the protesters was Donna Lieberman from the New York Civil Liberties Union, who stated, “. . .the university is acting not as a tool of learning, but of government repression.” In punishing the students and staff before their disciplinary hearings, “CCNY is making a mockery of due process,” she said. Organizers also began collecting signatures for a petition that among other things, demands Williams “defends the CCNY students

Despite the courts releasing all three student protestors on their own recognizance, and without setting up a hearing to hear the student protestors account of events, President Williams

and staff, drop all disciplinary proceedings against those involved in the protest, and launch an investigation into the actions of campus security.” Among those who signed the petition were famed author Howard Zinn; former U.S. Attorney General, Ramsey Clark; noted author, Tariq Ali; NYC Councilman, Charles Baron; and CSI Professors Ashley Dawson of the English department and Saadia Toor of the Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work department. Also signing the petition was Jeffrey Fogel of the Center for Constitutional Rights, who exclaimed, “If the demonstration was an annoyance, [CUNY] should be able to tolerate it, the students’ exercising their first amendment rights should take precedence.”

Apparently succumbing to pressure, President Williams lifted the suspensions for the students and staff on April 11. Lang went back on payroll (after losing three weeks of income) and the students were able to return to their classes. Subsequently, President Williams dropped all administrative charges against the students. The District Attorney who would have prosecuted criminal charges against the students and staff declined to prosecute and instead granted an “adjournment in contemplation of dismissal.” If the students and staff avoid getting arrested for the following six months, all charged will be dismissed and their records will be sealed; the process is not an admission of guilt. .

Surprisingly, as of press time Carol Lang was suspended again without pay at a June 2nd hearing at CCNY. **Third Rail** will continue to follow this story and report any additional news in future issues.

A Vocabulary Lesson : E.L.S. Sbordone

VOCABULARY LESSON

E.L.S. Sbordone

- Age** : a period in the history of the earth
- Bondage** : a state of subjection to a force, power or influence
- Chain** : a restraining or confining agent or force
- Dung** : something foul or abhorrent
- Ethnic** : relating to a people not Christian or Jewish
- Forge** : to make, alter or imitate falsely in writing with intent to defraud
- Guide** : to supervise the training or education of
- Hard hat** : a working-class ultraconservative
- Incarn** : to cover or invest with flesh
- Jingoism** : extreme nationalism characterized especially by a belligerent foreign policy
- Knack** : a clever expedient way of doing something
- Lascivious** : reflecting or producing sexual desire or behavior that is considered indecent or obscene
- Mania** : an excessively intense enthusiasm, interest or desire

VOCABULARY LESSON

E.L.S. Sbordone

- Nabob** : a person of wealth and prominence
- Orexis** : the feeling and striving aspect of the mind or of an act as contrasted with the intellectual aspect
- Pantheon** : a public building commemorating and dedicated to the heroines and heroes of a nation
- Quixotic** : not sensible in practical matters
- Reason** : the capacity for logical, rational and analytic thought
- Suasion** : communication intended to induce belief or action
- Trump** : to get the better of someone by using a crucial, often hidden resource
- Ubiquitous** : being or seeming to be everywhere
- Vice** : an evil, degrading or immoral practice or habit
- Wane** : to approach an end
- Xenophobe** : a person unduly fearful or contemptuous of that which is foreign
- Year dot** : as long ago as anyone can remember
- Zoic** : of or pertaining to animal life

Penn & Teller: BULLSHIT!

Reviewed by
Shawn Fisher

Who could have expected that when a young Penn Fraser Jillette, a jack of all trades entertainer happened upon a young Latin teacher named Raymond Joseph Teller back in the mid 1970's, that they would become not only such a popular entertainment duo with their comedic magic routine, but would go on to be such a major political, consumer and life watchdog for the common man. *Penn & Teller: Bullshit!* hit the airwaves in 2003 debuting on the Show-Time cable network and pulling no punches. The creation of the series was based upon or inspired by the practices of master magician Harry Houdini, who devoted the latter part of his life to debunking some widely accepted (as he called it) "Humbug".

So what exactly is *Bullshit*, beyond the literal definition? Now in its third season the program is technically called a reality show, though the reality is that it has more in common with a television news watchdog program than a bunch of whiney wannabees being voted off some island. Bullshit would be any situation, belief, product organization or service that is built upon misconceptions deliberate or otherwise by a person or group looking to take advantage of the trust and ignorance of innocent people. Basically Penn and Teller hunt down and expose con artists, by using informed commentary. They bring in representatives on the issue as well as opponents and non-involved third parties—usually a scientist or an expert in some field that can offer facts to back up or debunk the challenged

opinion. Penn and Teller make no attempt themselves to hide how they feel on the subject and they express that opinion (well, Penn does anyway) throughout the program, but they always give equal airtime to those their argument is against.

In one such case, Penn & Teller go after alleged psychics who claim that they can speak to the dead and use this claimed power to earn a living from bereaved persons who have lost loved ones. They brought in John Edward, James Von Praagh, and Rosemary Altea all of whom are well-known self proclaimed mediums. "One of the weird things Houdini discovered is that some of these mediums actually slip into believing their own bullshit. They forget their own misses, or as John Edward, the biggest douche in the universe, does, rewrite them as hits that we're just not able to recognize," said Penn. "Cold reading can be done accidentally. That

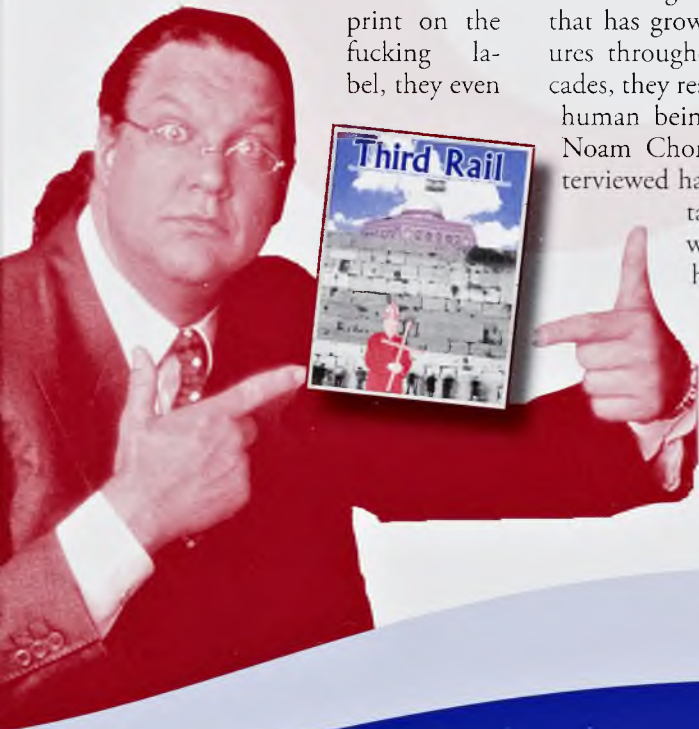
doesn't mean the psychic is a better person. Lying to themselves does not make lying to others ok.

It can make intellectually lazy scumbags more convincing and dangerous. But even if these fucks know they're just making shit up and pushing people's buttons, they tell themselves, 'At least I'm comforting the bereaved (Penn paraphrasing the Psychics).' Who the fuck are they to decide that lying about the universe and a dead loved one is what the bereaved needs? That's condescending bullshit," said Penn during the episode.



Not every episode deals with such heavy-handed subjects such as death; the duo has no problem going after more laughable topics that still can be considered con-jobs, such as their recent episode on *hair*, where they go after an industry that has taken advantage peoples vanity and insecurity. They've also challenged the *bottle water* industry; "Consumers are offered water with names conveying pure and pristine water sources. Ever hear of Alaskan Falls water? That must come from the crystal-clear glacial waters of our 49th state, right?" said Penn. "Sorry, folks. Alaskan flows from this liqui-box corporation building in Worthington, Ohio. Does the brand Yosemite conjure up visions of the cool, pristine waters rushing through California's high sierras? Well, then the marketers have done their jobs. The source of Yosemite bottled water is actually 400 miles away in North-west Los Angeles. How about Everest Water? Could our piddly show possibly afford to send a camera crew to Nepal? Not necessary! Everest comes from the industrial section of Corpus

Cristi, Texas! In fact if you read the fine print on the fucking label, they even



admit that the water comes from a municipal source! That is tap water, brothers and sisters of the cult of the bottle," said Penn during the episode.

As one might observe 30 seconds into any given episode, Penn has quite a penchant for profanity so much so that he could make a sailor blush. There is method behind this madness though.

As Penn admits the title of the show and the constant use of profanity is, a "legal maneuver" since calling people liars, frauds, charlatans and hacks could be construed as slander, calling someone a "fucker" and say that they're selling "bullshit" is okay. Penn does, however, seem to take great joy in using the phrase "and then there's this asshole!" Ironically during the episode on Profanity Penn went through the entire episode without swearing.

There is no subject or person that can be considered taboo for this diatribic duo and to prove it they've even gone after some major icons of the twentieth century such as Gandhi, Mother Theresa and the Dali Lama. Debunking a lot of the deification that has grown around the three figures throughout the last several decades, they restore them to the level of human being again. Noted scholar Noam Chomsky who has been interviewed has also become a favored target of the two who where disappointed by his verbal sleight of hand in a season three episodes on the bullshit college.

Penn & Teller: Bullshit! could be considered the illegitimate child of



Howard Stern and Ralph Nader. *Bullshit!* has all the shock of

Stern without said shock simply being for shocks sake and all the heart of a true consumer advocate like Nader without the whininess. *Bullshit!* in a way has become somewhat a prophetic fulfillment, of an appearance by the two on the television series *Babylon 5* in 1998 where while playing characters similar to their real life personas they expressed a desire to get more involved in society beyond entertainment to effect true and positive change in their world. So have the real Penn and Teller who have now created a platform to effect positive change in the world not by telling people what to and not to do—rather by reminding them that it is foolish to blindly follow any person, organization or belief and that only those willing to critically question everything in their life can avoid stepping in bullshit!

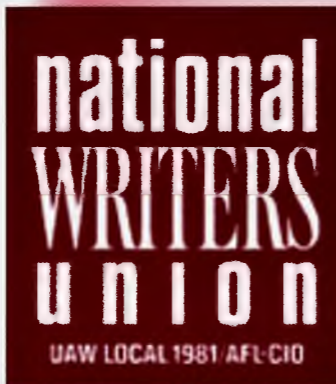


POLITICAL DISCOURSE

JOIN THE FIGHT!



The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
ACLU, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Phone: (212) 549-2585
www.aciu.org



National Writers Union (NWU)
National Office
113 University Pl. 6th Fl.
New York, NY 10003
Phone: 212-254-0279
Fax: 212-254-0673
www.nwu.org



New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
9 Murray Street, Floor 3
New York, NY 10007-2223
Phone: (212) 349-6460
Fax: (212) 349-1366
www.nyplrg.org

New York Civil Liberties Union
Executive Director: Donna Lieberman
125 Broad Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212-344-3005
www.nyclu.org



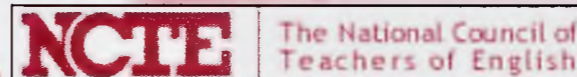
Columbia Journalism Review
2950 Broadway
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 854-1881
Fax: (212) 854-8580
www.cjr.org



Committee to Protect Journalists
330 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10001
Phone: 212-465-1004
FAX: 212-465-9568
www.cpj.org



The Electronic Frontier Foundation
1667 K Street, N.W. (Suite 801)
Washington, D.C. 20006D1605
Phone: 202-861-7700
FAX: 202-861-1258
www.eff.org



Committee Against Censorship
National Council of Teachers of English
1111 West Kenyon
Urbana, Illinois 61801
Phone: 715-328-3870
FAX: 715-328-0977
www.ncte.org/about/gov/stcommit/106921.htm



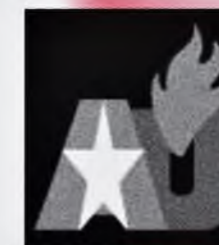
Student Press Law Center
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209-2275 USA
Phone: (703) 807-1904
www.splc.org



Rock Out Censorship (ROC)
P.O. Box 147
Jewett, Ohio 43986
Phone: 614-946-6535
FAX: 614-946-6535
www.theroc.org



Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression
400 Peter Jefferson Place
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901
Phone: 804-295-4784
FAX: 804-295-3621
www.tjcenter.org



Americans United for Separation of Church and State
518 C. Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: 202-466-3234
FAX: 202-466-2587
www.au.org

Critical Mass

by Kara Donnelly



ASK ANYONE TO NAME A part of the First Amendment and chances are there are going to be three main responses: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or freedom of religion. However, recently Critical Mass, a professed unorganized movement of bicycles has challenged New York to uphold the most forgotten right granted by the First Amendment—the right to peacefully assemble. This right has been used in labor disputes, civil rights and anti-war protests and now, Critical Mass is using it for what should simply be a bike ride.

Critical Mass is an event that began in San Francisco focusing on the rights of bicyclists and of pedestrians on streets. This movement made its way into New York City in April 1993, where bicyclists and police officers worked together to make the ride safe. It is an event where the only reason to be there is to bike and it's not about who you are, what you make, what you do; it's just a ride. It's a bunch of people coming together based on this idea that you can have a ride that doesn't have a leader, doesn't have a route, that it just goes where people feel the inclination to go.

These rides were always uneventful. Because of this, in their then eleven-year history, they had never been required to get a per-

mit for their places of start (Times Square being one of them), or to inform the NYPD of their predicted route. That all changed last year when the Republican National Convention came to New York and brought with it: a week full of speeches, major traffic jams,

an increase in the already high security level of post-9/11 Manhattan, and of course, protestors. What would a political gathering be without protestors?

Over the eight-day span of the Convention, the New York Police Department arrested over 1,700 people—more than 200 of them bike riders— and detained them in the contaminated Pier 57. The police then continued their attack on bike riders by removing locked bikes. This method was used during the convention, but the most, 40, were removed that night. The owners— mostly neighborhood residents— were not informed, and they assumed that the bikes were stolen.

A case was brought before federal court judge William H. Pauley III in October by five bike owners whose property was seized without any charges being brought against them— a clear violation of the Fifth Amendment of Due Process. The city denied these allegations and countersued, asking that a court order prevent the Halloween Critical Mass ride from happening. On the issue of bike seizures, Judge Pauley issued an injunction, prevent-



ing the NYPD from cutting bikes without informing their owners. However, when it came to the injunction, the judge was confused. Why was it that the police was seeking an injunction now, when it hadn't had a problem with Critical Mass prior to this event? He also stated that "[T]he right to associate with others in pursuit of a wide variety of political, social, economic, educational religious and cultural ends" enjoys protection under the First Amendment. Translation: Critical Mass is traffic and speech.

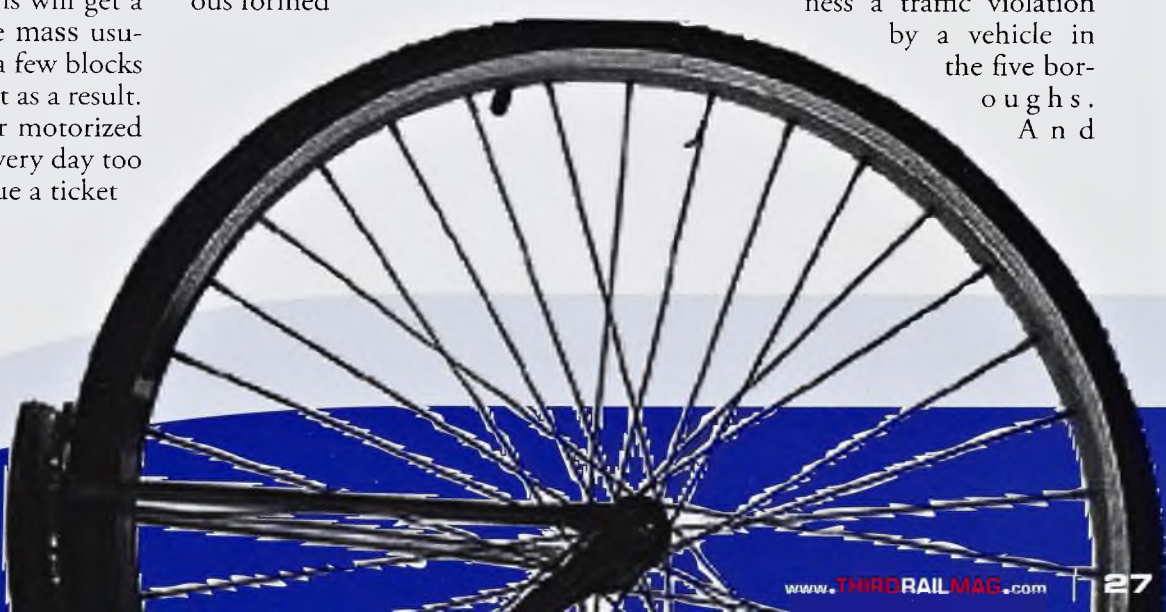
So this means participants can ride without the threat of being arrested, as long as they do not violate the law. *Right...* This will get a little tricky because the mass usually ends up taking up a few blocks and traffic rules are bent as a result. But hell, cars and other motorized monsters violate laws every day too and the police don't issue a ticket for every offense.

Pauley, however, did ask the parties to agree on a route before the Halloween ride began. To inform the riders, the police were handing out fliers with the picked route on it. Now anyone in New York City knows, if the police even have a little say in something, they will take over the entire thing. The route was not agreed to by Critical Mass— it was an order by Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

The riders, all dressed in Halloween costumes—and what a variety they were!—started out on Park Avenue surrounded by various formed

police vehicles, attempting to keep them on the route. But, when people want to have fun, nothing can stop them. As soon as the riders saw the opportunity, they split up, creating about 10 splinter rides around Midtown. The police, aggravated by Critical Mass's determination, attempted to corral the bicyclists and arrested about 30 riders.

Officials say that Critical Mass rides violate traffic laws. They probably did, but a New Yorker cannot walk five minutes and not witness a traffic violation by a vehicle in the five boroughs. And



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

CRITICAL MASS

BICYCLE-RIDERS FREEDOM FRONT SPEAKS OUT!

Below is the anonymous communiqué sent out by Bicycle-Riders Freedom Front members in NYC about recent action:

To whom it may concern:

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 26, 2005, members of the Bicycle-riders Freedom Front (BFF) dismantled a section of the recently installed anti-bike barriers on the Brooklyn side of the Manhattan Bridge. These barriers prevent cyclists from taking a direct exit off of the bike path and force them to follow a lengthy detour to the unlit underside of the Manhattan Bridge, where several cyclists have reported incidents of harassment.

These barriers are just another hazard of living in a city designed and shaped by car-worshipping ideologues. For years, cyclists in New York City have believed that they have had no choice but to live with inadequate bike lanes, inconsiderate and aggressive drivers, and poorly designed and maintained bike paths and bridges. Every day cyclists are the victims of hit and run drivers who are rarely held culpable for their actions. Every day cyclists are forced to compete with car traffic because their bike paths- if they are lucky enough to be on one of the few roads with a demarcated bike path- are blocked by idling and double-parked vehicles, including police vehicles. Every day cyclists injure themselves and damage their bikes on bridges built without any consideration for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

If moderates continue to fail to win changes, we will take direct action. We want the dangerous bumps on the Williamsburg Bridge bike path removed by the city or we will remove them ourselves. We demand that lights be installed on the Willis Avenue Bridge and that a stop light and crosswalk be constructed on the Bronx side of the bridge, where pedestrians and cyclists are presently forced to cross multiple lanes of fast traffic.

We are pedestrians and bicyclists who refuse to submit to the tyranny of car-centrist urban planners who design and build OUR city for the convenience of the automobile. We call for other walkers and riders to pick up the wrench and help us to dismantle car culture one bolt at a time.

Yours,
BFF

very rarely does the NYPD pull a car over for illegal lane changes, running red lights, parking in a bike lane, blocking intersections, not yielding to emergency vehicles, or honking their horns in "no horn" zones. The police never seem to mind when cars cause traffic problems for bike riders and do nothing when parked cars continually park in the designated bike lanes on Richmond Terrace, right in front of the 120 police station. The problem is that these cars are very likely to belong to police officers working out of the 120, and cops don't give cops tickets.

I took it upon myself to go and see what really happened at these rides. I heard things in the newspapers, I heard accounts from friends of mine that were arrested; I wanted to see what was real.

You have everyone from Latino kids and their bike crew from the Lower East Side,

to businessmen in suits to families on tandems. Honestly it's such a relief to be in an event where your only reason to be there is to bike and it's not about who you are, what you make, what you do, it's just a ride. It's a bunch of people coming together based on

this idea that you can have a ride that doesn't have a leader, doesn't have a route, that it just goes where people feel the inclination to go. It steers itself which is one of the beautiful things about it.

To see people being thrown from their bikes- including those younger than me!- was something I never thought I would see with regards to bike riding..

I was also witness to about 15 vans chasing a splinter group up 8th Avenue, about



6-8 blocks behind them. It seemed they had no chance of catching the riders. There were also around 30 scooter cops who turned west onto 18th street, going against the right of way of traffic, in a seemingly chaotic display of carelessness. The scooterers themselves seemed a much greater risk to public safety than the critical mass riders.

After seeing firsthand the abuse, the mistreatment the New York Police Department put the riders through caused me to lose whatever respect I had for the men in blue. Yes, I understand that they put their life on the line with their jobs, but to waste the city's money over something as trivial as a Critical Mass ride seems foolish

In other words, it's just fine for cars and vehicles to act however they like, but some people that want to get together and ride their bikes, is criminal. Cars jam up the streets and they call it a traffic jam. Bikes jam the streets and it's a crime. Yeah, the American justice system makes perfect sense.



RESOLUTION REBUKING MAYOR BLOOMBERG

Keith Crandall, the author of this resolution, passed away a month ago. In September of 1998, he was inducted into the Greenwich Village Hall of Fame for advocating human services, writing for The Villager and chairing the community board. He enjoyed bike riding, and this resolution was his parting gift not only to his community, but also to New York City as a whole

MANHATTAN CB 2 REBUKES MAYOR OVER REPRESSION OF BICYCLISTS

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Board No. 2, Manhattan, expresses its profound concern at the City's Administration's decision to violate many of the most sacred provisions of the Constitution as enumerated in the Bill of Rights: notably, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to assemble; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB2 insists that the City Administration halt its unconstitutional attacks on our fellow citizens as they assemble peaceably and respect the rights of all our citizens to exercise the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights."

Passed unanimously
4-21-05 NYC CB2





Before

The Governor & Councils of
 Maryland
 Congress of the United States:
 Begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday
 the fourth of March, one thousand
 hundred and eighty-nine

Amendment
 Congress shall make no law
 respecting an establishment
 of religion, or prohibiting
 the free exercise thereof; or
 abridging the freedom of
 speech, or of the press; or
 the right of the people
 peaceably to assemble, and
 petition the government
 for a redress of grievances.



After

Although it has often been challenged, *Third Rail* will continue to fight for our own right to freedom of expression. Therefore, no matter how many times cowards tear down our billboard display instead of questioning us about its content or simply writing a letter stating the reason for having issues with the billboard, we will continue to put it all right back. We do, however, eagerly await any chance to openly discuss the issue.

Faulkner Under Fire!

by Shawn Fisher

WHEN WRITER SAM APPLE submitted his entry into the annual Faux Faulkner contest he probably wasn't expecting to win and he certainly wasn't expecting all the controversy stirred up by his winning piece entitled "*The Administration and the Fury*." But when you parody the American President to a character Faulkner refers to as the "idiot," how you could not expect to raise a few eyebrows is a wonder.

For the past six years United Airlines magazine, *Hemispheres* has been sponsoring the Faux Faulkner writing contest that is organized out of the University of Mississippi in Oxford by Larry Wells and his spouse Dean Faulkner Wells's niece of the late William Faulkner. During the previous years, *Hemispheres* has published the winning entry in their print magazine, with those entries being a written parody of the author's body of work. This year's contest winner was no different, a spoof on Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* that revolved around the current White House Administration. Yet this year, *Hemispheres* has chosen not to publish the winning entry and have also announced that this would be their last year sponsoring the contest, that has garnered accusations of censorship by the Wells "...it was parody...we felt that shouldn't be censored," said Mr. Wells

In his parody, Apple portrays President Bush to the role of the Benjy-the mentally challenged son, with the story unfolding through his eyes as he is being prepared for a press conference by Condoleezza Rice/Condi, Dick Cheney/Dick and Donald Rumsfeld/Rummy. The narration easily leads the readers to regard Bush as an inept little child, such as when Benjy makes an observation about Rice's character; "Condi wiped some spit on her hand and patted down my hair. Her hand was soft and she smelled like Xerox copies coming right out of the machine." Apple states that he set about trying to write in Faulkner's style, he said, the same way a novice guitarist tries to imitate a pro. Another character's observation about Benjy made him think of Bush and said it was also a lucky coincidence that "Condi" sounds like "Caddy,"



Benjy's beloved sister. Just as Benjy has an olfactory memory of Caddy (she smelled like trees).

In their defense, *Hemispheres* editor Randy Johnson noted that the decision was made to place the winning entry on their website exclusively in order to attract more attention to the site and that censorship was not the intention. "We are making it available to millions of people," said Johnson "The number of people who are able to see the website completely stands on its head any charge of censorship." Johnson also adds the decision to withdraw sponsorship came prior to the winning entry announcement.

Despite Johnson's argument to the contrary, the story which has been published on both the *Hemispheres* web-site and *Slate* an online magazine. Apple's parody has received a lot of back lash from Bush supporters who seemingly fail to understand the concept of parody. According to *The Jewish Week* an independent community newspaper Apple has been swamped with hate mail quoting one such person as saying; "I have an idea for a satire, me beating you upside the head with a two-by-four, you commie bastard!!!!!!"

Controversy, notwithstanding the Wells claims not to have chosen Apples piece based on the political nature of it rather "because it mirrors the labyrinthine language of the Nobel laureate." Mr. Wells adds "it was very funny, a brilliant use of '*The Sound and the Fury*...' The fact that he substituted Saddam's gun for a horseshoe Benjy liked to hold - it was hilarious." None the less the annual contest is now minus one major sponsor. Its entry has failed to see hard copy and its author must now be on the look out for two by four carrying literary critics, possibly all because Apple picked a person whose main job includes defending and upholding the Bill of Rights.

The Administration and the Fury

If William Faulkner were writing on the Bush White House

2005 FAUX FAULKNER WINNER

By Sam Apple



Down the hall, under the chandelier, I could see them talking. They were walking toward me and Dick's face was white, and he stopped and gave a piece of paper to Rummy, and Rummy looked at the piece of paper and shook his head. He gave the paper back to Dick and Dick shook his head. They disappeared and then they were standing right next to me.

"Georgie's going to walk down to the Oval Office with me," Dick said.

"I just hope you got him all good and ready this time," Rummy said.

"Hush now," Dick said. "This ain't no laughing matter. He know lot more than folks think." Dick patted me on the back good and hard. "Come on now, Georgie," Dick said. "Never mind you, Rummy."

We walked down steps to the office. There were paintings of old people on the walls and the room was round like a circle and Condi was sitting on my desk. Her legs were crossed.

"Did you get him ready for the press conference?" Dick said.

"Don't you worry about him. He'll be ready," Condi said. Condi stood up from the desk. Her legs were long and she smelled like the Xeroxed copies of the information packets they give me each day.

"Hello Georgie," Condi said. "Did you come to see Condi?" Condi rubbed my hair and it tickled.

"Don't go messing up his hair," Dick said. "He's got a press conference in a few minutes."

Condi wiped some spit on her hand and patted down my hair. Her hand was soft and she smelled like Xerox copies coming right out of the machine. "He looks just fine," Condi said.

Fine day, isn't it, Georgie, Daddy said. Daddy was pitching horseshoes. Horseshoes flew through the air and it was hot. Jeb looked at me. Stand back or one of his horseshoes is going to hit you and knock you down real good, Jeb said. Jeb threw the horseshoe and it went right over the stick and Daddy clapped. Run and get me that horseshoe, Georgie, Daddy said. I ran and picked up the horseshoe. The metal was hot in my hands, and I held it for a little bit and then I dropped it. I picked it up. It was hot in my hands and I started running away from Daddy and Jeb. Come back with that horse-

shoe, Daddy said. I was running as fast as I could. Jeb run after him and get me my horseshoe before he throws another one in the river, Daddy hollered. Jeb was chasing after me fast. Come back with that horseshoe, Georgie, Jeb hollered. But I was fast and I kept running until I got to the river. Don't you dare throw that horseshoe in the river, Jeb said. I threw the horseshoe in the river. Jeb fell on the ground. Jeb kicked and cried and then I cried.

"He needs his makeup," Dick said.

"I'll do it," Condi said. She put a little brush on my check and it tickled and I laughed.

Rummy walked into the room. "Jesus, what's he laughing about," Rummy said.

"Don't you pay attention to him, Georgie," Dick said. "They're going to be asking you all about Social Security. You just remember what we talked about."

"He cant remember anything," Rummy said.

I started to holler. Dick's face was red and he looked at Rummy. "I told you to hush up already," Dick said. "Now look what you've gone and done."

"Go and get him Saddam's gun," Condi said. "You know how he likes to hold it."

Dick went to my desk drawer and took out Saddam's gun. He gave it to me, and it was hot in my hands. Rummy pulled the gun away.

"Do you want him carrying a gun into the press conference?" Rummy said. "Cant you think any better than he can?"

I was hollering and Dick was turning red and then white and the room was tilted.

"You give him that gun back, right this minute," Condi said. Rummy gave me Saddam's gun back and I held it my hands. It was hot like a horseshoe.

"You got the gun, now you stop that hollering," Rummy said.

Condi patted me on the back. "It sure is hot in here," she said. She fanned herself and took off her jacket. She smelled like perfume.

Barcelona

feet & photos
by Norm

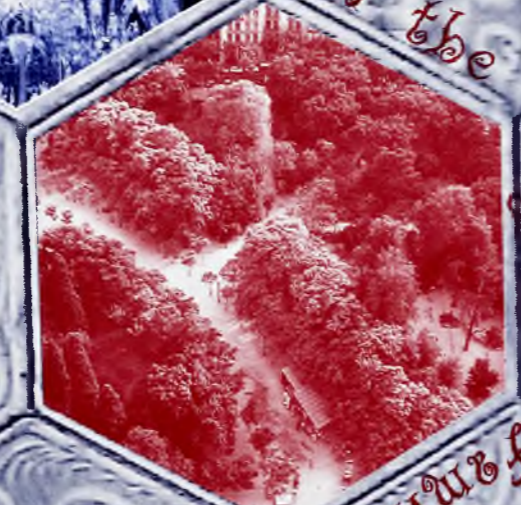
Guardia
Familia

Segrada
Familia

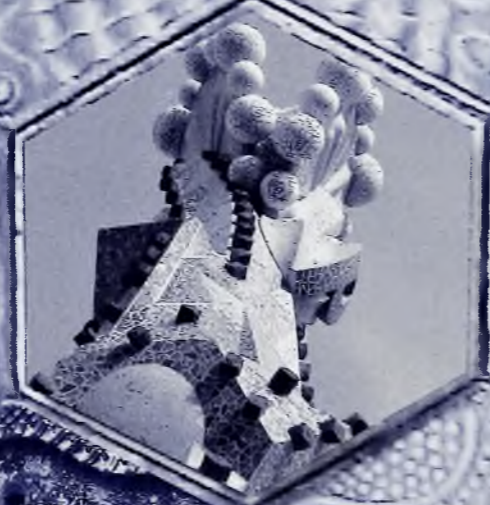
BAR
House



Temple
of the



Segrada
Familia



Rooms for
Rent



La Pedrera



BARCELONA
HOTELS





Animal's Genitalia Will Ruin America

I was sitting on a park bench, eating a turkey sandwich on rye, and was, generally, in a good mood. A father and son were playing catch in a nearby field, while the mother and daughter were preparing for a picnic by a tree, which was approximately five feet away from me. Some young adolescents were riding their bike on the asphalt path. Coming towards me was a man walking his golden retriever. He looked a little beyond me, and started to smile at the mother and daughter – he knew them. Friendly Americans in a friendly American park, basking in the sunshine, the only way that red-blooded Americans know how – that is what I like to see. The man walked past me, and went to the mother and daughter. The man was talking to the mother, and I noticed that his dog, while at a standstill was licking his own genitalia profusely. I realize that animals lick themselves to clean themselves; but, this dog was going beyond cleaning. I

started to notice that the daughter noticed the actions of the dog too. At this point, the “pink” of the dog’s penis started to come out of its sheath, extending with each subsequent lick. The poor daughter who was watching this started to cry, and her brother turned his head in response, right when his dad was throwing the baseball at him. The baseball hit the son in the head, and he got knocked out – all of this because of a dog’s penis.

This menacing scourge, which has plagued many minds, has to be dealt with immediately! Our children are exposed to outright genitalia everyday; testicles bouncing as if in a dance, right in front of their faces. The question must be posed: why do we accept these testicular dances? The reason is because liberals believe that it is “natural” for having dogs being in this indecent mode of being. These are animals that are domesticated, meaning that they live in a human environment; thus, it would be

most rational [which everyone knows liberals are not] to expect that domesticated animals should also be clothed.

The fact of the matter is that dogs should wear diapers, thus we don't have to see the obscenity that dangles between their legs. On this note, it would also be easier for owners, because they would not have to train them or walk them to do their deed. Which would you rather do: see the pink of a dog's penis or change some diapers? I know what I prefer – change some diapers. Only perverts and liberals would say the former, because, let's face the facts, all perverts are liberals. Also if dogs wear diapers, they wouldn't be able to have public sexual inter-

course with other dogs – alleviating another social problem that faces us with “man's best friend.”

A more frightening notion than a dog's penis, is a horse's penis. I'm an excellent model of a law abiding American, and I have great respect for police officers; but when I see a police officer on top of a horse, and the horse's penis is dangling like a 7 pound Kielbasa hanging from a Butcher's ceiling – I just want to knock the police officer off the horse, and be like a filthy hippy protesting, screaming, “No penis for safety!” Many New Yorkers, due to police officers being on horses, have seen a fully extended horse's penis – including children.

We could cover a horse with a diaper, but a diaper alone would not be able to deal with the kind of excrement that horses leave; thus, there is only one other option if we still want police officers that are on horses while not seeing a penis – that's right, enemas. We would have to give the horse an enema after they are fin-

ished for the day, and an enema two hours before the horse goes out again. Hence, there would be a minimum amount of waste that the horse can produce while being out in the public; thus the horse's penis could be covered easily with a diaper.

I know there is some liberal out there thinking, “What about the female counterparts of these male dogs and horses?” I believe that females are different. First of all, their genitalia are not as noticeable as the males. Second of all, if they wore diapers, their vaginas would be more prone to infection. And third of all, a penis seems very homosexual-like, unlike vaginas, which are very heterosexual-like.

America, we have a responsibility to our children. We can not cover their eyes all the time from genitalia. But we can do something better - we can cover the genitalia that they are exposed to, even if that genitalia is of a dog, or a horse.



The baseball hit the son in the head, and he got knocked out - all of this because of a dog's penis.

I'm sipping designer coffee,
Waxing philosophic against a back drop of counter cultures,
Surrounded by intellectuals who wear slogans on their shoes,
like religions,
Wrist adorned in rubber bracelets that scream
"Philanthropist".

And I never thought
I'd appreciate reality more
Then when I popped the liberal bubble
that is The Happy Valley
Where culture is pulped under
the fists of the suppressed,
And we all sip it through our
straws like dagniri orgasms.

It's a vortex of individuality
Identities feeding off the blood of
sweat shop babies
They won't ever meet,
And if you have
Then you're our God(dess).

And environmentalists litter the ground with
flyers for drum circles
Protesting a war that no one can touch,
Swallowing politics like Ritalin
With an anarchist chaser.

I'm choking on communism and
Who insist that my smooth legs
And have you heard who got fucked
hiding my mascara from feminists
are a blow to their campaign for superiority
down at UMass last night?

A
STARBUCKS
COFFEE
SOLILOQUY

Hannah Jean

I get trashed and pass out and defend
Durkheim in the mornings
Pulling philosophy from napkins I stored in my
pocket
For moments like theses
When my pseudo-boho style doesn't give me
enough street cred.
And I stick Ani DeFranco on my playlist like I knew hers
Dropping Saul Williams like old Reg brothers would
Pitching lines from Whyherly in conversations I wasn't
invited into
And they swallow it
This watered down intensity
This faux intellectualism
This imitation counter culture
Like it was as smooth as
their pretty designer coffee.

POLITICAL DISCOURSE



**Reviewed by
Shawn Fisher**

After the blitzkrieg, after the tanks rolled in, after the allies were pushed back into the sea, when silence and terror occupied the land a lone voice in the darkness could be heard. This was the voice of French resistance radio whose valiant effort during World War II kept the voice of hope alive during a time when hope could not be seen. Now, fast forward in time sixty-seven years later and a continent away. Another democracy is under attack, this time from within as a more and more corrupt Republican Party forces its way into the White House and our houses. One by one they strike down liberty after liberty under the guise of national security, until only silence and terror occupy the land. After the fraudulent elections, after the Patriot Act, after the Words of Moral Destruction, alone in the darkness a voice could be heard as Air America Radio signed on to the airwaves.

Their journey wasn't an easy one. Then, again if change were easy the word revolution would be an antiquated term. "We aim to build an important new media franchise that delivers results," Mark Walsh former CEO. With those words set forth a small group of investors intent on building a liberal presence in the medium of radio equal to the conservatives. All would not be a simple as it sounded though, while there were many qualified warriors of liberty to fill the ranks of the newly formed radio network, money and respect would be another matter. Add to that, the constant attacks by an already established biased right-wing media.

Signing on to the airwaves in March of 2004 the founders of Air America Radio hoped to instantly provide a balance to

RADIO

the onslaught of right-wing propaganda being spewed at U.S. citizens from the radical fringe groups now in control of the Republican party and the United States Government, with a format featuring a liberal, left wing, progressive points of view and specializing in presentations and monologues, news, guest interviews, and calls by listeners. But much like the D-day landing, our defenders of freedom slammed right into the Atlantic Wall with obstacles and blockades to deter them from their course of action. Signing on initially in three major venues of New York, Chicago and Los Angeles they were quickly knocked off the air in Chicago and LA. Funding had become a problem, without the same vast recourses the right held, it seemed nearly impossible to maintain a constant voice. One studio of an AAR affiliate in Warren, Ohio, WANR-AM was briefly occupied by a group of religious extremists that changed the locks and began broadcasting Christian programming until the police forced them to leave. For every stumble the fledging radio network made, the right-wing followed up with unrelenting salvos of propagandist diatribe. And the worst blow, less than a year after their incarnation, came when the right once again stole the executive election. But the resistance continued on, and gained a foothold in the medium largely due to the internet, by streaming live broadcasts. Finally the executives of the network conceded their intent was good, but tactics bad. A change of command was needed so Mark Walsh left the field of battle and formerly silent partner Danny Goldberg stood up to take charge.

With a new command in place and new tactics set forth the network began to grow. More and more stations were added. They expanded to satellite radio broadcast via XM. AAR even began beating conservative radio goliaths like Rush Limbaugh, proving that their determination was profound enough to overcome any obstacle no matter how enormous it may be.

Since its inception so many have joined this resistance, but we need only look at a few of these radio warriors to understand the measure of their resolve. Such as Chuck D renowned leader of the militant rap group Public Enemy, who has helped to reinvigorate the civil rights movement for Black Americans with such thought and action provoking albums like *It take A Nation of Millions*, *Fear OF A Black Planet* and *Apocalypse '91...The Enemy Strikes Black*. His group's soundtrack work on Independent Film Director Spike Lee's Oscar nominated motion picture *Do The Right Thing* helped drive home the films message about the continued existence of racial tensions in modern America. Chuck D is now taking the battle for freedom and equality to a new level with his show *On The Real*.

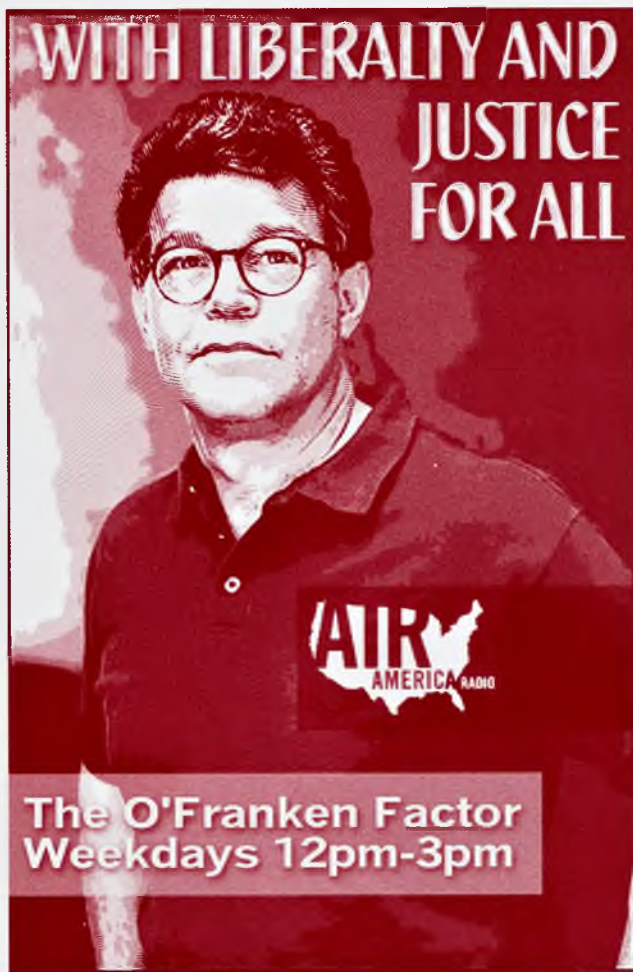
Al Franken is an Emmy-Award winning comedy writer for *Saturday Night Live* who traded in his whoopee cushion for a protest sign. Franken went on to author such best selling books as *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations* and *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them*. He

was even sued by the right-wing flagship Fox News for use of the phrase "Fair and Balanced" which was part of the subtitle of one of his books. Fox claimed that Franken infringed its registered trademark rights in the phrase, "Fair and Balanced." The case went

show would change it's titled to and is now *The Al Franken Show*.

Radio veteran and winner of the American Women in Radio and Television award for Best Entertainment Programming, Randi Rhodes is a woman so controversial she has even garnered the attention of the Secret Service. The SS came down on her and Air America in the spring of 2005 when a comedy sketch on her program *The Randi Rhodes Show* implied that the current President should be shot for his crimes against the peoples of the United States. Ironically this was around the same period that Republican legislators were outright calling for Federal Judges to be shot because they did not rule in favor of the parties' wishes. Unaffected by the incident Rhodes continues to keep a critical eye on Washington, especially White House politics, and all of mass media checking their facts and pointing out deception.

The French endured a seven-year occupation that left much of the nation scarred and gutted. Our nation will endure no less then eight years of equal hardship perhaps even more. But like the French Resistance so long ago Air America Radio is here to stay, to fight against insurmountable odds and one day liberate our nation from tyranny. "Today is both an ending and a beginning: an end to the right-wing dominance of talk radio, (and) a beginning of a battle for truth, a battle for justice, a battle indeed for America itself..." said Al Franken.



to court and it was literally laughed out by the Judge. When Air America signed on Franken was given the flagship program to host. He initially titled the program *The O'Franken Factor* "to annoy" Bill O'Reilly conservative host of *The O'Reilly Factor*. Once he had his fun with Bill the

The Miseducation of Kara Donnelly

PART II
OF A
SERIES

Kara Donnelly is a second-year student at the College of Staten Island. She is an open lesbian who is active with NYPIRG and has recently joined the staff of *Third Rail Magazine*. What makes Kara's story even more interesting is the fact that she was once president of the Young Republicans, Staten Island chapter. She was gracious enough to sit down with me and talk about her journey and the ramifications her sexuality and politics have had on her life. The following is Part 2 of that interview; Part 1 was published in our last issue (2005::Issue 2).

Third Rail (TR): Well, the whole point of this interview is to figure out how one goes from the president of the Young Republicans to an openly lesbian member of NYPIRG; that is a radical shift. But you refer to being in the Young Republicans as a mistake; was it?

Kara Donnelly (KD): Yeah, I think it was, actually, I think it was. It was a mistake. Whereas it did teach me things, I think it really, in the end pushed me farther and farther away from what they supposedly stood for; what they wanted everybody to stand for; and in the end, what it truly stands for. Simply because of the fact that the Republican ideology isn't as correct as they would like it to be, and, when push comes to shove, people are starting to shift over from the Republican lines to the Democrat lines. They are all worried- Borough Hall's worried, City Hall's worried. Why do you think Mike Bloomberg is going to be spending more time here? He knows that people are shifting in the five boroughs, and he needs to defend his voter base. People are starting to realize the things that I realized as I went through the Republican hierarchy. I worked in Borough Hall; I also was able to intern in the District Attorney's office. I got to work for the Republican County Committee- I saw a lot of things, and many of those things *scared* me senseless.

TR: Several times through this, you mentioned

"being forced into the Republican ideal", and "being forced into the Republican Party". Who would you say forced you? Was it your family, the schools, religion, society in general?

KD: Well, religion scared me partially because we all know that the Catholic Church- I was born a Catholic, I went through all the required Sacraments. Now I'm not really practicing anything at this time, simply because of the fact I don't know of any religion that accepts homosexuality. But growing up in the Catholic Church, the stressing of that marriage is between man and woman had me worried. "Holy Fucking Shit! I might be damned to some form of Hell if I don't marry a guy." The same thing goes with my family- they are Christians all around; my sister also goes to the same Catholic high school that I went to. I was worried that my mother would even attempt to disown me- hell, she didn't even like the guy I was dating for her sake! She didn't like him, my father didn't like him, my sister hated his guts- I really don't know why.

But, with regards to school... Yeah they taught me "Gays are bad." Family: "Don't be gay." Republican Party: "Same-sex marriages are dangerous to family values." I think that the GOP is the best spokesperson for Christianity out there. I mean, Bush wants to add an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution making same-sex marriages unconstitutional! He can't do that because there is a separation of Church and State. In my opinion, he cannot tell me that I have to marry a guy. I tried dating males- I wasn't happy. I dated females- I found happiness. I am not going to have somebody down in Washington- who doesn't even know who I am- telling me who I can and can't love.

TR: Do you think you might marry in the near future?

KD: The only time I will marry is if they [the politicians] change the requirements of marriage with regards to benefits. If they make a civil union the more important one- and if you want to have a religious ceremony, go right ahead!- then allow that benefits be given to all couples, whether same-sex or not, then maybe. The only way I can get married is if a. New York State makes same-sex marriages legal, or I go civil and b. the insurance rules change. Until then, no. I am not going to marry a guy; it's as simple as that. I don't plan to, and that's the way things are. If things change, then we will see.

TR: You mentioned several times your family's acceptance, or lack thereof. Do they feel afraid to have you around your sister?

KD: I'm not really sure on that. They, especially my sister, do not want it being public so not to be known to her friends. I made the mistake of informing a common friend of ours at the time- he was actually taking her to the Junior Prom- that I was dating a transgendered person. She went and informed my mother and I got heat for that. They don't want my personal life coming in contact with my sister's. I can't blame them- I don't need my sister's stresses coming on to me, and to be honest, I have enough drama in my life as it is. The least I would want from them is some form of acceptance. When I brought home a picture of my last girlfriend, I framed it and put next to my bed. I come home



from classes one night and I find it missing- the entire thing. Turns out my mother threw it out because it was in the open when my sister had a friend over and they were using the computer in my room. Now I am required to have anything of her in the open- I have to hide pictures of her alone, of the two of us together, which I still have. My mother does not want them in the house. To have to hide who I am, just so when my sister's friends come over, I've done it for so long. Do

I have to add on to the eight years of lies because my family does not want the truth out? They know, just accept it already. So I guess, yes, they are afraid of my life being around my sister.

TR: How do you think your relationship with your family will be when you move out of their house?

KD: I think they will be ecstatic, because they don't have to deal with the drama that is my life. I'll enjoy it simply because I won't yelled at every day

for some reason or another.

TR: How have you been doing with blending your old friends- the Young Republicans- with your new friends, who to my understanding are quite liberal?

KD: I am going to be bluntly honest. I have very few friends from that period of my life. In fact, I really only kept three or four from then. They know and they all accept me for who I am. Other than that, I don't have anyone close to me from my pre-CSI days that have followed me through this, and it is not fair. I'm still hard-working person who put in 15 to 16 hours in the office that they knew and loved. I do that here! I haven't changed. It hurt me a lot that even my ex-boyfriend didn't accept that. I went through three months of hell with him calling me, stalking me, e-mailing me. My friends here were there for me, no one else was there. I learned who my real friends were during this time. If it wasn't for my friends here, I probably would have went completely nuts during the time my ex David was being a complete and total dick.

TR: Do you miss any of your friends from the Young Republicans?

KD: Honestly, I don't miss anyone. They were just too uptight, they couldn't balance things. And when the jokes would fly with regards to homosexuals- I couldn't bring myself to laugh. They would ask me about my being uptight, I could only think, "If you only knew." Maybe if I said something, things might be different

now, but I doubt it.

TR: Did you retain any values from your Young Republican days?

KD: Probably not values, but I can say that I kept many of the skills I learned courtesy of them. Now that I am on the NYPIRG Board of Directors, I can use the things I had to do while holding many positions for the Young Republicans. I had to deal with giving speeches, going to events, talking to politicians, spreading the "Republican Ideal". Instead of doing that, now I'm representing CSI's students, taking what I learned at retreats and conferences and bring it back to the campus so that the students can use it to have their voices heard up in Albany.

TR: So that's the only bridge you have?

KD: Well, I can use the political contacts I still have. They all know me; hopefully I can use that to my advantage in some shape, way or form. I don't know how much the politicians know, but if anything, they will remember the work I did for them on their respective campaigns.

TR: So, how would you sum up your journey from Young Republican, from conservative, from everything that hates what you are to what you've become?

KD: I had a lot of help during this transition. Honestly, if it wasn't for Kate, I don't think the transition would not have been as easy. It probably would have been a lot harder without her help and guidance. If it wasn't for her,

I'd probably be extremely nuts right now. She was always there for me when my ex was being a pain. She gave me hope, taught me to love myself. That's what made the transition definite. When I was pretending to be bi or straight, I hated myself for doing it. Kate taught me that you couldn't really love anybody until you love yourself- which probably explains why none of my relationships never really worked out. And even though she and I aren't dating anymore, she was and always will be my teacher; I hope she will always be there for me. I know when it came to our relationship I screwed up a lot. But what I love Kate for the most is the fact she wouldn't let that keep us from having a friendship. She led me through the process of undoing the damage of the lies I wove around me.

Many is the time I used her shoulder during the emotional stress I was under. The fact that she is still with me as a friend shows me that there is someone out there that understands who I am.

TR: Can you now say that you love yourself?

KD: Yes. During the time when I labeled myself as "straight", I started to believe it and I hated myself for it. Kate came into my life back in February, and she helped me realize that it doesn't matter what every-

one else thinks, its what you think of yourself. She helped me realize that I am not a horrible person- I might have some angry tendencies, but it is who I am. If people can't accept that, then that is really too bad. It is who I am, I should not change for anybody, no matter what my relationship is with them. If there was anything I wanted to accomplish in my life, it was to say that I love myself. And I have.

If there was anything I wanted to accomplish in my life, it was to say that I love myself. And I have.

TR: What would you say to other young people going through or who might potentially go through what you just came from?

KD: You can't have people telling you who to be. You are your own individual. You can't be afraid of what people are going to think. If they can't accept the fact that you are transgendered, lesbian, gay or bisexual, they are too narrow-minded for their own good. If your friends can't accept it, then they were never your friends to begin with. Your friends are the ones who will stand by you, regardless of sexual preference. Don't change yourself to fit the norm. Sometimes the majority does not have the power. It takes one person to speak out and at times, that one voice is enough. You shouldn't lie about who you are, because sometimes the lies can become truth.

TR: Thank you for being brave enough to share your story and to sit down with us. Thank you for also joining our staff.

KD: Thank you for allowing me to tell my story.

Kara's struggles continue, as she has been kicked out of her home and is staying in a shelter. She does hope to maintain her status in the CSI community. All of us at Third Rail magazine wish Kara all the happiness she deserves in her future.

An Open Letter to Tom Cruise

Dear Tom Cruise,

Recently I have been troubled by your remarks on mental health. This includes, but is not limited to the disparaging comments towards Brooke Shields and Matt Lauer. As somebody who has suffered from bipolar disorder for many years, I can say in absolute confidence that my medication helps me. And yes, I have taken vitamins and practiced yoga, neither of which has worked. Thankfully, I am no longer looking over my shoulder or hearing random voices, and I have both psychology and psychiatry to thank for that.

I do not condemn your viewpoint wholeheartedly, Tom. After all, Ritalin and Adderall are prescribed way too often and ADD is overly diagnosed. I will grant you this. However, the tone of your beliefs are way out of line, especially since you will never experience postpartum depression.

As appealing as Scientology may be from an outsider looking in, more people need to know the truth about what your people stand for. You are a bunch of cult members who follow the teachings of a compulsive liar, and while you sleep, the layman Scientologists are being tortured and brainwashed like concentration camp prisoners. Dianetics is more of a pseudoscience than psychiatry and it merely borrows aspects of psychology and scratches the surface of mankind's problems. One more thing I will grant you is that the multimedia on the Dianetics website is amazing. But you will just have to excuse me if the theory of extraterrestrials possessing our souls is hard to swallow. Plus, I also know that if I have a tumor, I should have it checked out by a doctor and not submit to a cockamamie personality test.

Please do not be offended by my skepticism, Mr. Cruise. I respect your "religion" even though the thought of an alien named Xenu dropping an H-bomb on our planet makes me chuckle just a little bit. But keep in mind that the ideas of retrieving divine knowledge from a stone, a burning bush, and a man claiming to be the son of God also brings me to laughter. You have crossed a fine line with your fallacious arguments and self-righteousness. In summary, you are dangerous to those afflicted by mental illness and I am simply grateful to live a stable life. It's just too bad that I can't be more complementary of L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology, Dianetics, or "Battlefield Earth".

Sincerely,
Jack Freedman, on behalf of 20% of America

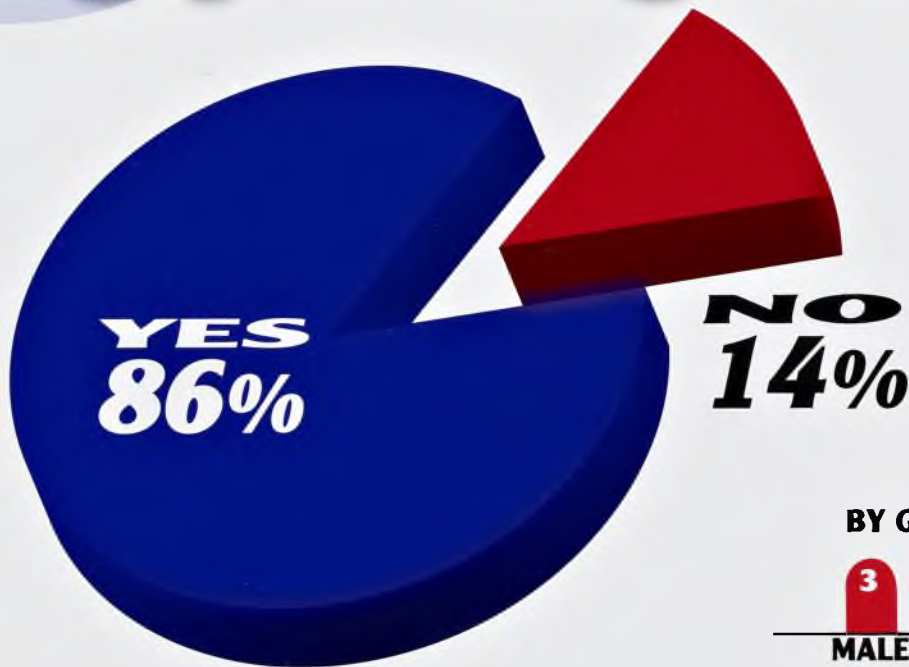
CC: John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, Lisa Marie Presley, Isaac Hayes, Juliette Lewis, Giovanni Ribisi, Kelly Preston, Jenna Elfman, Jason Lee, and Greta Van Susteren.



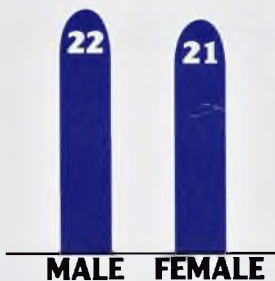
POLL

Do you approve of gay marriage and why?

Poll conducted by Erica LS Shordone



BY GENDER



BY GENDER



Fifty CSI students (25 males/25 female) were asked "Do you approve of gay marriage and why?" and were given the following reasons for "yes" and "no":

REASONS FOR YES:

- 1) It is nobody's business/no one can say you can't love someone - **8 girls, 8 boys**
- 2) It is a matter of freedom/happiness - **6 girls, 4 boys**
- 3) Everyone should have the legal right to get married - **6 girls, 2 boys**
- 4) It doesn't interfere with heterosexual marriage - **5 boys**
- 5) There is supposed to be a separation of church and state - **3 boys**

REASONS FOR NO:

- 1) The vows won't mean the same thing/The marriage itself cannot be a real marriage - **3 girls**
- 2) Procreation of humankind will cease - **1 boy**
- 3) A piece of paper (marriage certificate) has no actual meaning - **1 girl**
- 4) Society is not ready for this - **1 boy**
- 5) No reason at all - **1 boy**

You CSI students are a lot more open-minded than was previously thought. The stereotype of S.I. guys being the biggest homophobes has been erased from my mind, even though the three guys that said they were against it had some really silly reasons for thinking so.

As you can see, the various reasons given for saying yes to the question cover all bases, from personal to political issues. One male stated that people always talk about equality, yet most people are not always willing to accept it in practice. People are people, no matter what sexual orientation they are.

I am surprised that more people did not mention the separation between church and state defense. The pilgrims left England for social and political freedoms that were devoid of religious infringement. Religion should of course be tolerated, but it should have no bearing over the life decisions of others.

As for the reasons for being against gay marriage, I feel that the worst defense, aside from the absent defense, is that the vows and marriage cannot be the same for homosexuals. The vows can easily change from "this man and this woman" to "this man and this man" or "this woman and this woman." We put way too much emphasis on words, even though they are just arbitrary attachments to concepts. This issue should not be about the words but the concepts behind them. People of all types get married every day. Child molesters, drug addicts, and adulterers get married knowing that they do not plan to follow their wedding vows, so what gives anyone the right to say that homosexuals cannot do what we cannot always do right either?

Next Issue's Poll:

Do you think "under God" should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance and why?



FEARLESS LEADER



NAME: P. MELISSA FISHER
RANK: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
BIO: AN AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST. SHE HOLDS AN AA & A BA, BOTH FROM THE CSI WHERE SHE IS CURRENTLY PURSUING AN MA IN ENGLISH RHETORIC. AS AN ACTIVE STUDENT, SHE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO *ALWAYS A WOMAN*, & BEEN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *THE BANNER*.
QUOTE: "YOU WANT FREE SPEECH? LET'S SEE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE A MAN WHOSE WORDS MAKE YOUR BLOOD BOIL, WHO IS STANDING CENTER & ADVOCATING AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS THAT WHAT YOU WOULD SPEND LIFETIME OPPOSING."
 -MICHAEL DOUGLAS IN *THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT*

KILLJOY



NAME: TJ RILEY
RANK: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BIO: LIKES TO READ PHILOSOPHY, POETRY, FICTION, NON-FICTION, ETC. & LISTEN TO MUSIC AND NOISE IN GENERAL. ALSO WEARS CORPORATION T-SHIRTS ON STUPID BLOODY TUESDAYS CONSCIOUSLY TO TRY TO BE IRONIC OR MAYBE DEFIANT SOMETIMES, ICONIC.
QUOTE: TAKE AWAY THE RIGHT TO SAY "FUCK" AND YOU TAKE AWAY THE RIGHT TO SAY "FUCK THE GOVERNMENT." - LENNY BRUCE

COMMANDANTE



NAME: DWIGHT DUNKLEY
RANK: POETRY EDITOR
BIO: A FORMER PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOV. AND CSI MARKETING CLUB, HE IS CURRENTLY A FELLOW IN THE CUNY PIPELINE PROGRAM.
QUOTE: "THOSE WHO PROFESS TO FAVOR FREEDOM AND YET DEPRECIATE AGITATION ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT CROPS WITHOUT PLOUGHING THE GROUND; THEY WANT RAIN WITHOUT THUNDER AND LIGHTNING; THEY WANT THE OCEAN WITHOUT THE ROAR OF ITS MANY WATERS. THE STRUGGLE MAY BE A MORAL ONE, OR IT MAY BE A PHYSICAL ONE, OR IT MAY BE BOTH. BUT IT MUST BE A STRUGGLE. POWER CONCEDES NOTHING WITHOUT A DEMAND: IT NEVER HAS AND IT NEVER WILL." - FREDERICK DOUGLAS

ACE REPORTER



NAME: SHAWN FISHER
RANK: BUSINESS MANAGER
BIO: IS A DECORATED VETERAN OF THE U.S. NAVAL RESERVE WHO MAJORS IN COMMUNICATIONS AT THE CSI, WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN JOURNALISM. HE HOLDS AN A.A. IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES & HAS RECEIVED TWO PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY FOR HIS ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS.
QUOTE: "THEY WHO WOULD GIVE UP AN ESSENTIAL LIBERTY FOR TEMPORARY SECURITY, DESERVE NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SECURITY" - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

CRAZY NANNY



NAME: KARA DONNELLY
RANK: CANNON FODDER
BIO: A RECENT TRANSFER STUDENT TO THE CSI, SHE IS HAPPY TO FIND FAMILY THROUGH THE THIRD RAIL AND THE NYPIRG CHAPTER WHERE SHE HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
QUOTE: "A NATION OF SHEEP WILL BEGET A GOVERNMENT OF WOLVES"
 - EDWARD R. MURROW

ZEN MASTER



NAME: JEFF MCGRAHAM
RANK: CANNON FODDER
BIO: JEFF MCGRAHAM IS STILL ON A QUEST TO FIND NIRVANA. CONSEQUENTLY, HE IS ATTEMPTING TO SUPPRESS HIS ID, EGO AND SUPREGO AND SO REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN SELF PROMOTION.
QUOTE: "WE HANG THE PETTY THIEVES AND APPOINT THE GREAT ONES TO PUBLIC OFFICE." - AESOP

MS. SMACKDOWN



NAME: E.L.S. SBORDONE
RANK: CANNON FODDER
BIO: IS 22 YEARS OLD GRADUATED FROM ST. JOHNS WITH A DOUBLE BACHELOR IN ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY, NOW SHE GOES TO CSI. HERE, SHE'S PURSUING A DOUBLE BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND WOMEN'S STUDIES WITH A DOUBLE MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. SHE LOVES SCHOOL WITH A PASSION, AS YOU CAN SEE, SO WATCH OUT!
QUOTE: "THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME. THIS IS HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE. IN THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ME." - GREEN DAY

ZIONIST AVENGER



NAME: NEIL SCHULDINER
RANK: EDITOR EMERITUS
BIO: IS A HISTORY MAJOR AT CSI WHO HOLDS AN AA IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE. HE HAS SERVED THE CSI COMMUNITY FOR MANY, MANY, MANY DECADES HAVING HELD POSITIONS IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT, COLLEGE COUNCIL, AUXILIARY SERVICES & MOST OF THE COLLEGE'S PUBLICATIONS. UPON COMPLETION OF HIS BA HE PLANS ON CONTINUING ON AT THE COLLEGE FOR HIS GRADUATE STUDIES.
QUOTE: "NO MAN HAS A NATURAL RIGHT TO COMMIT AGGRESSION ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF ANOTHER, AND THIS IS ALL FROM WHICH THE LAWS OUGHT TO RESTRAIN HIM."
 - THOMAS JEFFERSON



Distorting Reality

Since Before You Were Born

Take another look at the lens on any camera ever made. It's pointy, and only shows what the photographer wants you to see. That's right—the camera lies like a rug. In today's world, this is what makes wars possible at all.



MOTION PICTURE CAMERAS AND PROJECTORS



We, the Media

When United States troops
took Baghdad, they allowed
1,000,000 books and
170,000 art objects to be
destroyed, while they
guarded the Oil Ministry.
— News story



Fascism fears books. Read.