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Why Iraq Will Succeed

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

ASPSU Elections
page 6

Ward Churchill
page 16

Future of Energy
page 18

the portland Spectator

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Portland Spectator is to show that a conservative philosophy is the proper way to approach issues of common concern. Our viewpoint originates from the following principles:

Individual Liberty
The Importance of Values and Customs
Free Market Economy and Free Trade
The Rule of Law

The Portland Spectator is published by the Portland State University Publication Board; and is staffed solely by volunteer editors and writers. The Portland Spectator is funded through incidental student fees, advertisement revenue, and private donations. In general the staff of the Portland Spectator share beliefs in the following:

- We believe that the academic environment should become again an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent arguments to be heard. The current environment of political correctness, political fundamentalism and mob mentality stifle genuine political debate.
- We support high academic standards.
- We believe that each student should be judged solely on his/her merits.
- We oppose the special or preferential treatment of any one person or group.
- We believe in an open, fair and small student government. .
- We oppose all efforts toward an equality of condition, for this violates any principle of justice that can maintain a free and civilized society.
- We oppose the welfare state that either benefits individuals, groups or corporations. The welfare state in the long run creates more poverty, dependency, and social and economic decline.
- We believe in the Free Market, and that the sole role of government in economic matters is to provide the institutional arrangements that allow the Free Market to flourish.
- We do not hate the rich; we do not idolize the poor.
- We believe in an activist U.S. foreign policy that seeks to promote and establish freedom, political and economic, all around the world.

MEMBER OF THE COLLEGIATE NETWORK

The Portland Spectator is published by the Student Publication Board of PSU. All signed essays and commentaries herein represent the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the magazine or its staff.

The Portland Spectator accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at the Portland State University. Please limit your letters to 300 words.

We reserve the right to edit material we find obscene, libelous, inappropriate or lengthy. We are not obliged to print anything that does not suit us. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submission constitutes testimony as to the accuracy. -Each person limited to 3 copies

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Contents

February/March 2005 • Volume 4 • Issue 3

Departments

- 4 Paranthesis
- 6 Editorial
- 24 Back Page Satire

8 What if Bush Was Right?

A Democrat reflects.

10 Why Iraq Will Succeed

Iraq's election and what lies ahead.

14 The Sick Man of Europe

Islamism and leftism add up to anti-American madness in Turkey.

16 American Idiot

Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from its consequences.

18 The Future of Energy

Republicans take the lead on alternative fuels.

20 Democracy by Democrats

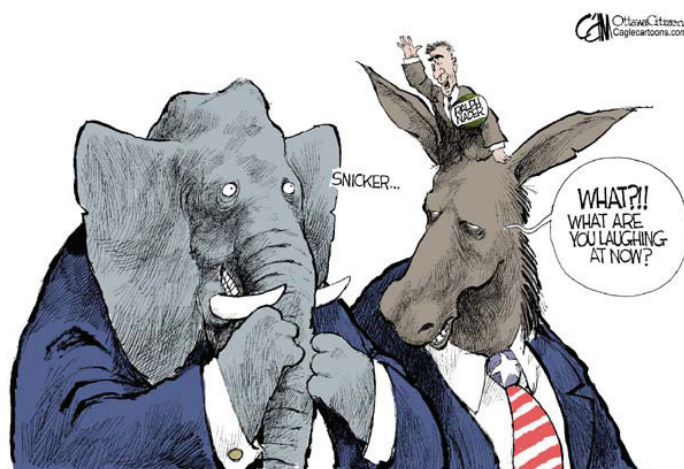
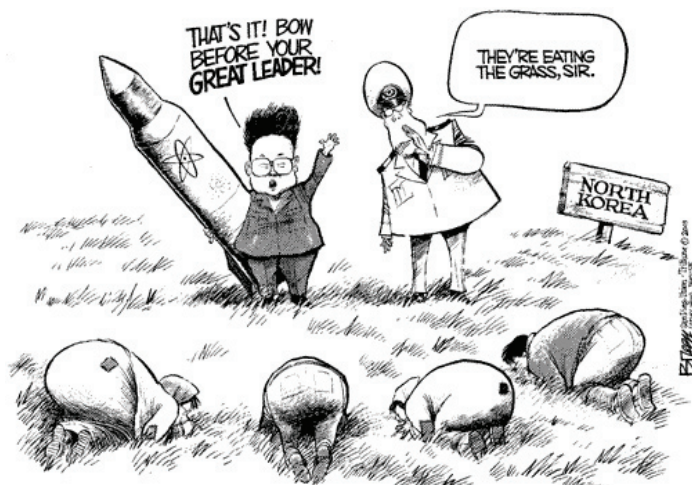
A look at Washington's race for Governor.

21 Elephants on Fire

Gay Republicans break stereotypes and make their voices heard.

22 A Matter of Tolerance

Anti-Catholic bias finds its way into PSU classrooms.



ON MALE EMOTIONS

We men are often reluctant to share our feelings, in large part because we often don't have any. Really. Ask any guy. A lot of the time, when we look like we're thinking, we just have this low-level humming sound in our brains. That's why, in male-female conversations, the male part often consists entirely of him going "hmmmm." This frustrates the woman, who wants to know what he's really thinking. In fact, what he's thinking is, literally, "hmmmm."

-Dave Barry

"Progressives" Crusade Against Choice



Freedom of speech and freedom of choice are the most cherished and important privileges of being a U.S. citizen. But this freedom of choice is being threatened by the very people who claim to defend it. While walking through campus I came upon a flyer which read about the unethical treatment of migrant workers, and Taco Bell's outlandish treatment toward those workers. While I might agree that the alleged treatment was despicable at best, it is ironic that the very groups that so adamantly fight for freedom would be taking on the task of trying to remove what they purport to maintain, a choice. They want to remove the option of the student's right to decide due to their ethical standards.

Student activists are all joining in the fight to ban Taco Bell sales (as well as Coca Cola) at the PSU campus. They want to eliminate our choices, and freedoms to decide for ourselves, rather than allowing the students a chance to formulate their own decisions. They have taken it upon themselves to make a moral decision and impose it onto the entire student body. Is it not clear that if the people don't want establishments like these, then they can just buy elsewhere, letting the business fall victim to a lack of customers? Are they themselves not advocating the importance of choice, the choice to allow people to marry whomever they want, the choice to have an abortion? When others cry out that abortion, gay marriage, as well as other individual rights break their moral standards and want to eliminate the freedom to decide, it is these very people, these groups crying "you're not me!" "let me decide for myself!". Well I am here to tell you that I want the freedom to decide for myself as well.

These groups are now turning on the very principles, and values that they profess to fight for and want to uphold. Their ideology has become so distant from their original founding premise that they are now becoming just another group trying to run our lives. I am going to drink my Coca Cola, eat my Taco Bell if I so choose. No group of people should have the ability to strip students, like myself and others, of the right to make our own conscious decision to eat/drink whatever we want. Robbing us of the ability to do so is utterly absurd. So I say keep Taco Bell and if the students don't approve then don't buy, but let us have the ability to think for ourselves. Remember there is no product if there is no market, so say your piece and let me decide!

Sincerely,

John Davis
Student

U.N. Inspectors 'spent their days drinking'

"U.N. inspectors in Iraq spent their working hours drinking vodka while ignoring a shadowy nocturnal fleet believed to be smuggling goods for Saddam Hussein, a former senior inspector told the U.S. Senate... [The] Australian former inspector detailed a picture of incompetence, indifference and drunkenness among the men acting as the frontline for the UN sanctions... He said that at Iskenderun in eastern Turkey, some officials had refused to work... Other inspectors had spent most of the day in hotel rooms while others drank beer and talked to the local people." /Francis Harris – Telegraph

Iran Jails Editor For 14 Years For Insulting Leaders

An Iranian journalist was jailed for 14 years on charges ranging from espionage to insulting the country's leaders in an unusually heavy sentence in Iran, where tens of journalists have been tried in recent years. [A]rash Sigarchi, 28, was convicted by the Revolutionary Court in the Caspian province of Gilan in northern Iran... Iran's judiciary has closed down more than 100 liberal publications in the past five years and jailed many journalists, earning Iran the reputation as the biggest prison for journalists in the Middle East. /Reuters

RNC Holds 6 Times More Cash Than DNC

The Republican National Committee currently has \$16.5 million compared to the Democratic National Committee's \$2.6 million. It is unclear whether this is attributable to superior fundraising on the part of Republicans or greater post-election debt on the part of Democrats. One thing remains clear however: with less debt and more money, Republicans have a jump on the competition for '06. /AP

North Korea Defector Claims Forced Abortions

"I heard the cries of both mother and child through the curtain (at a hospital). And through the partially open curtain, I witnessed the nurse covering the infant's face with a wet towel on a table, suffocating it." Says North Korean defector Park Sun-Ja, at an international conference on North Korean human rights abuses. "I heard that these kinds of acts were done before, but once I watched them with my eyes, I didn't feel like living in the society again."

California Professor Flunks Kuwaiti's Pro-U.S. Essay

Ahmad Al Qloushi, a Kuwaiti student at Foothill College in California, says his professor flunked his final exam essay because of his pro-American views. According to the student the professor, Joseph Woolcock, asked the student to come to his office the morning after the exam. His views and his essay were subsequently attacked. The professor told him that his views were "irrational" and that he needed "regular psychotherapy." Woolcock has not responded to any inquiries. The College has also declined comment, calling the matter confidential. The failing grade may cost Qloushi his student visa. /Washington Times

Rehnquist Expected To Step Down Soon

Chief Justice William Rehnquist was absent as the Supreme Court resumed the second half of its term due to his thyroid cancer, for which he has undergone extensive treatment - including a tracheotomy. It is strongly expected that he will retire in June when the term ends, if he can even continue to sit on the bench until then. Rehnquist's departure from the high court looks more and more certain, which means a Bush Supreme Court appointment is not far away.

Campus Update



SPECTATOR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This year, the Portland Spectator would like to recognize American Idol for their unapologetic fight against self-esteem run amok. In a time when it is considered more important for people to feel good about themselves than it is to deal with the realities of success and failure, their message could not be more appropriate. It's not easy work, but they also make it fun. For that, they deserve recognition.

O\$PIRG WATCH

OSPIRG fell short of their \$125,000 request this year, receiving only \$46,800. While the little PIRGers were shocked at how little they got, more reasonable minds were wondering how they got so much. On PSU campus, over the last three years, they have received progressively larger amounts, while doing less and less. From 21k to 33k and now to just under 47k this year, their strategy or repeatedly asking for six figure sums seems to be getting them somewhere.

It is difficult to imagine how students could have been sold on the idea that this group provides a service on campus. The main things they seem to do on campus are, in a painful instance of quiet irony, waste vast quantities of paper and prepare for their next assault on PSU's student fees. What they actually argue, audaciously enough, is that their statewide efforts, although not centered on campus, end up benefiting students because their efforts statewide are felt on campus sooner or later. With this logic, any statewide lobbying organization can come collect student fees, arguing that the benefits of their efforts elsewhere will nevertheless be felt on campus. For that matter, anything that benefits society at large could be eligible for student fees.

This type of irresponsibility, aside from wasting a lot of student money, has a larger consequence. It endangers the fee system as a whole, which the legislature has been eying as a pot of money from which to draw. If we allow the student fee system to become a bloated trough that feeds special interests, we can expect the legislature to put a stop to it. Next year's student leaders must ponder the larger implications of their actions regarding OSPIRG, no matter how many traumatized PIRGers break into tears along the way. Many student groups benefit from student fees. They should not be endangered because of OSPIRG's manic obsession with our student money.

ASPSU

Election Guide

S



Amanda Barron, Lindsey Craven
President / Vice President

Barron and Craven are, by their own admissions, liberal. They are also, however, sane. Always willing to hear students out and consider different points of view, students feel like they can talk to them about anything. Their dedication to a diversity of viewpoints is not just for show, they mean it. Running student government is not a partisan task. Their ability to remain open, fair and professional despite political differences makes them especially strong candidates.

W



Erin Devaney, Molly Woon
President / Vice President

Showing again her dedication to special interests over student interests, Devaney pledges to be "dedicated to progressive causes and victories." Mmm, sounds inclusive. Even better is Devaney's commitment to raising the student fee. It is rarely possible for a pair of candidates to be so out of touch with those they seek to represent. With lackluster track records, they are especially weak candidates.

O



Tina Cooper - SFC Chair

One of the only people we have nothing but nice things to say about. Fair, open, even handed, intelligent, and an excellent communicator. She is also running unopposed. Make sure to vote for her anyway.

O

OUTSTANDING:

There could not be, under any other circumstance, a more qualified candidate. In almost every respect these candidates stand head and shoulders above their competition.

S

STRONG:

Strong candidates are qualified in every important way, but also stand to learn and grow from their experiences in the future.

T

TOSSUP:

These candidates could go either way. They exhibit potential for excellence, but also for complete catastrophe. Their election could mean great things, or total disaster. Nobody can tell for sure.

W

WEAK:

Clearly unqualified, these candidates exhibit a lack of basic skills. Would add nothing meaningful to the positions they seek.

I

INSANE:

More likely to be found in a cave in Afghanistan than actually attending meetings. Not only dangerously unqualified, but lacking in the areas of basic demeanor and coherence.

**I****Kayla Goldfarb - SFC**

Anarchist catwoman. No folks, she didn't fall face first into an Estee Lauder booth - she really does her makeup this way. Ha ha, but seriously. She established herself this year as, by far, the worst SFC member ever.

**S****Nicole Greco - SFC**

Established herself this year as, next to Tracy Earll, the best SFC member to come along in a while. The only reason she is not an outstanding candidate is her motion to fund OSPiRG's voracious appetite at around \$46,000. Everyone makes mistakes though, and the rest of her performance is, frankly, stellar.

**T****Steve Fittinger - SFC**

Appears to be reasonably intelligent, but lacks a history in student government to base a judgment upon. Tossup, but as far as the benefit of the doubt is concerned, leans strong.

**T****Sa'eed Haji - SFC**

By far the best candidate on the Devaney/Woon slate. Cool guy, but has an uncertain track record. Could go either way: tossup.

**S****Shannon Eikum - SFC**

Super organized. Strong background in finance and money management. Professional and fair. A strong candidate.

**I****"Scary" Mary Fletcher - SFC**

Had a nervous breakdown during a student rally, basically freaking everyone out. At 41, 'the Fletch' remains a bitter, angry partisan. Loses her grip quickly and unexpectedly. Really earns her rating.

**W****Adas Lis - SFC**

Too cool to talk to anyone but "progressives." Avoids debate at all costs. Passive/aggressive. Recently posed as "St. Stanislaw's Catholic Church Candidate." If this guy's catholic, the pope is dancing topless at Silverado. This guy is soooo weak.

**O****Wafa Gnaim-Alston - SFC**

The only other person we have nothing but nice things to say about. Fair, balanced, capable - what else do you want?

**T****Anousa Sengsavanh - SFC**

'Everybody likes me but nobody knows why.' Hesitates to take strong stances on issues. Will not anger anyone. Unfortunately, on the SFC, his popularity won't last - he will have to make clear decisions. The question is: can he?

**S****Ana Johns - SFC**

Completely liberal, but possesses the curious ability to put politics down and be fair. Strong candidate.

**S****Mario Campbell - SFC**

Can add and subtract, apparently. Capable, efficient, and funny as hell. Excellent communicator.

What If Bush Was Right?

■ Maybe I'd have to vote Republican in 2008. By Mark Brown

Maybe you're like me and have opposed the Iraq war since before the shooting started - not to the point of joining any peace protests, but at least letting people know where you stood.

You didn't change your mind when our troops swept quickly into Baghdad or when you saw the rabble that celebrated the toppling of the Saddam Hussein statue, figuring that little had been accomplished and that the tough job still lay ahead.

Despite your misgivings, you didn't demand the troops be brought home immediately afterward, believing the United States must at least try to finish what it started to avoid even greater bloodshed. And while you cheered Saddam's capture, you couldn't help but thinking I-told-you-so in the months that followed as the violence continued to spread and the death toll mounted.

By now, you might have even voted against George Bush -- a second time -- to register your disapproval.

But after watching Sunday's election in Iraq and seeing the first clear sign that freedom really may mean something to the Iraqi people, you have to be asking yourself: What if it turns out Bush was right, and we were wrong?

It's hard to swallow, isn't it?

Americans cross own barrier

If you fit the previously stated profile, I know you're fighting the idea, because I am, too. And if you were with the president from the start, I've already got your blood boiling.

For those who've been in the same boat with me, we don't need to concede the point just yet. There's a long way to go. But I think we have to face the possibility.

I won't say that it had never occurred to me previously, but it's never gone through my mind as strongly as when

I watched the television coverage from Iraq that showed long lines of people risking their lives by turning out to vote, honest looks of joy on so many of their faces.

Some CNN guest expert was opining Monday that the Iraqi people crossed a psychological barrier by voting and getting a taste of free choice (setting aside the argument that they only did so under orders from their religious leaders).

I think it's possible that some of the American people will have crossed a psychological barrier as well.

Deciding democracy's worth

On the other side of that barrier is a concept some of us have had a hard time swallowing:

Maybe the United States really can establish a peaceable democratic government in Iraq, and if so, that would be worth something.

Would it be worth all the money we've spent? Certainly.

Would it be worth all the lives that have been lost? That's the more difficult question, and while I reserve judgment on that score until such a day arrives, it seems probable that history would answer yes to that as well.

I don't want to get carried away in the moment.

Going to war still sent so many terrible messages to the world.

Most of the obstacles to success in Iraq are all still there, the ones that have always led me to believe that we would eventually be forced to leave the country with our tail tucked between our legs. (I've maintained from the start that if you were impressed by the demonstrations in the streets of Baghdad when we arrived, wait until you see how they celebrate our departure, no matter the circumstances.)

In and of itself, the voting did nothing to end the violence. The forces trying to

regain the power they have lost -- and the outside elements supporting them -- will be no less determined to disrupt our efforts and to drive us out.

Somebody still has to find a way to bring the Sunnis into the political process before the next round of elections at year's end. The Iraqi government still must develop the capacity to protect its people.

And there seems every possibility that this could yet end in civil war the day we leave or with Iraq becoming an Islamic state every bit as hostile to our national interests as was Saddam.

Penance could be required

But on Sunday, we caught a glimpse of the flip side. We could finally see signs that a majority of the Iraqi people perceive something to be gained from this brave new world we are forcing on them.

Instead of making the elections a further expression of "Yankee Go Home," their participation gave us hope that all those soldiers haven't died in vain.

Obviously, I'm still curious to see if Bush is willing to allow the Iraqis to install a government that is free to kick us out or to oppose our other foreign policy efforts in the region.

So is the rest of the world.

For now, though, I think we have to cut the president some slack about a timetable for his exit strategy.

If it turns out Bush was right all along, this is going to require some serious penance. Maybe I'd have to vote Republican in 2008.

Mark Brown is a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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“Guilty of not believing in the Gods the City believes in, and of introducing other strange divinities; and he is guilty of corrupting the young.”

portlandspectator@gmail.com

the portland
Spectator

Guilty

WHY IRAQ WILL SUCCEED

■ Iraq's election and what lies ahead. By Saman Badi'i

The Iraqi elections were a historic and vital event for not only the people of Iraq, but for also the world. A democratic victory has been declared in the elections and the Iraqis are eager to continue on the path to freedom. Approximately 59% of the Iraqi nation participated in the national elections of January 30th, a number that can rival even the most industrialized and democratic nations of the world. In a region in which people are accustomed to observing election results with 99% of the vote going to the ruling despot, the diversity of the results in the elections provides hope to those who desire a peaceful and democratic government for Iraq. The Shi'a majority and the Kurdish populations in Iraq have succeeded after years of struggle and persecution to gain power and representation in their homeland. The elections in Iraq were an overwhelming success against tyranny, intimidation and injustice. The train of democracy is running and it will take much more than a few suicide bombers to derail it from these tracks. For the first time, the masses of Iraq have been given the privilege of freedom, a privilege that they will not willingly surrender without a good fight.

The emergence of a strong political awareness among the majority Shi'a population of Iraq was confirmed in the victory of the Shi'a population of the national elections. The Shi'a list, the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA), cornered approximately 48.1% of the vote. The Kurdistan Alliance won 25.7% of the vote and despite the claims of skeptics, the sitting Prime Minister Iyad Allawi received only 13.8%. Nevertheless, the UIA did not win a majority in parliament and thus power will most likely be shared within a coalition government. Sources report that the Shi'as and Kurds will likely split power through the positions of Prime Minister and President, respectively, ensuring not only representation of the Kurdish people but leadership in the affairs of the nation.



TOP: A group of men join in to celebrate the recent elections and Iraq's newfound freedom.

BOTTOM: Hundreds of women wait in line to vote for the first time in Iraq's history.

Backed by the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the UIA has many parties that form its coalition, the two most prominent being the Hizb al-Da'wa al-Islamiyya (hereafter referred to as al-Da'wa), and the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). The al-Da'wa party is made up of many Shi'a leaders, such as Ali Sistani, Abd al-Aziz Al-Hakim and Moqtada al-Sadr, some of whom share close relations with the Islamic government of Iran. The emergence of this party is somewhat obscure, yet its creation came during a period in which the Shi'a ulama (religious authorities) sought to broaden the appeal of Shi'a Islam to the masses in response to political ideologies that were rising in popularity, such as communism and Arab nationalism. Hence, the meaning of al-Da'wa denotes "The Call," or calling the faithful. As one of the oldest Islamic organizations in Iraq (dating back to October of 1957), it advocates democratic governance based upon the tenets of Islamic (Shi'a) culture and laws. Al-Da'wa is based on the concepts that governance and legislation should be based on the rules and laws of Islam. The role of Sharia (Islamic law) in the al-Da'wa party gives legitimacy to the legislation of the political body; if the ulama decide that legislation contradicts the laws of Islam, it is illegal.

Al-Da'wa was banned in Iraq under Saddam Hussein and a reported 70,000 members lost their lives in conflicts with the Baathist regime. Al-Da'wa subsequently moved its base to Tehran in 1980 and has historically been close to Iran's Shi'a community even prior to this relocation. Al-Da'wa's original leader, Muhammad Baqr Al-Sadr, was inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran and became a strong proponent of an Islamic state with clerical authori-



ties. The attraction of many members of al-Da'wa to Ayatollah Khomeini in the 1980's led to a factional split within the party that led to the creation of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). Loyalties to Iran have been a constant source of tension within the party and the basis of many of its internal disputes. Relentless hostility between Iranian concepts of an Islamic state and those held by the al-Da'wa will most likely also be the main source of tension in the development of an independent and democratic state in the future of Iraq. Now that political freedom has been introduced to Iraq and the Shi'a political movements have expanded, al-Da'wa must successfully keep a competitive advantage against other extremist Shi'a groups such as SCIRI for democracy to be consolidated.

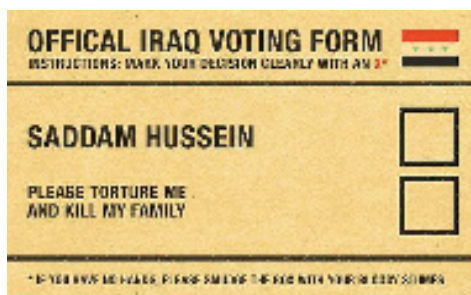
While much of the al-Da'wa support base came from the Shi'a community, the expansion of the Shi'a political

movement could lead to less membership in al-Da'wa. Much of its rank and file came from what is today Sadr city, the slums of western Baghdad that are now overwhelmingly dominated by supporters of the more militant and fanatic Moqtada al-Sadr. At this juncture, however, SCIRI and al-Sadr have relinquished political control to the al-Da'wa in a show of solidarity and support for Iraq's new Prime Minister, al-Da'wa spokesman and vice-president of the interim government, Dr. Ibrahim Jaafari. Prior to the victory of the Shi'a coalition, Dr. Jaafari told the AFP news agency that, "If we win, we will govern as Iraqis, not just Shia's. We will ensure the participation of other communities." There is no reason to believe that Dr. Jaafari and the al-Da'wa will underdeliver on their promises in sharing power and granting greater autonomy for the Kurdish, Sunni and Chaldo-Assyrian populations.

Despite popular skepticism that Iraq may erupt into an anarchy of sectarian violence, the Kurdish, Shi'a and Christian populations have all suffered simultaneous persecution under Hussein's regime and thus share common sentiments of injustice. This shared sentiment is manifesting itself into a political dimension of tolerance and understanding in the new Iraq that will greatly assist the level of collaboration that will be needed to rebuild the broken nation. Cooperation will remain



The New Ballot



The Old Ballot

the name of the game in Baghdad as long as the Shi'a majority respects the rights and freedoms of its minority populations. So far, the Shi'a have promised to respect the rights of all Iraqis and no evidence to the contrary of this promise have been produced.

The Kurdish list has selected Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, for President of Iraq, effectively ending official persecution of the Kurds in Iraq. Although Dr. Jaafari has promised to work with Talabani to establish greater autonomy for the Kurds, he must balance this promise with preserving Iraq's national integrity. The establishment of a strong democratic Iraq with Kurdish representation will also resonate strongly among Kurds of other nations that have yet to improve their status, such as the Kurds of Turkey. The plausibility of the Kurdish parties ensuring Iraqi foreign policy to address the issue of Kurdish rights in neighboring nations around the region will add a new element of tolerance in the Middle East that is sorely needed.

In addition to the Kurdish question, the Christians of Iraq (Chaldo-Assyrians) must not only be respected, but must be protected from the fanatic Islamic elements that consider the Christians of Iraq to be sympathetic to American occupation. The protection of Chaldo-Assyrians is complicated due to Iraq's demographic, most of its 1 million Christians live in the Sunni triangle where security is already threatened by daily attacks. Nevertheless, the Christians of Iraq have been awarded seats in Iraq's new Majlis (Parliament), also ensuring their representation in Iraq's political affairs.

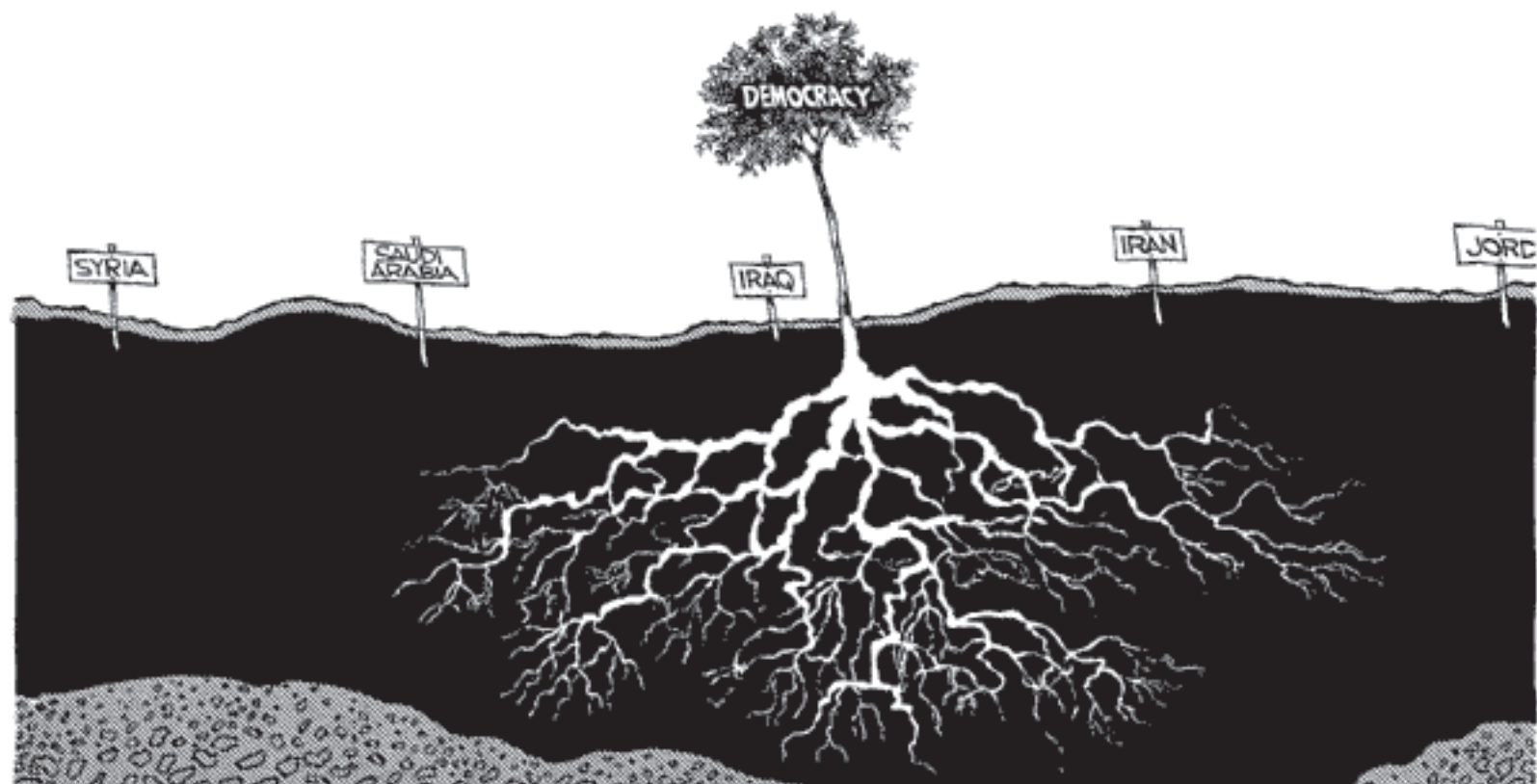
The success of the Iraqi experiment to maintain unity amidst numerous differences will act as a model for many developing nations to follow. Despite avoiding major ethnic or religious strife, Iraq must also maintain independence from Iranian theocratic influence in order to consolidate a social order friendly to the development of democracy.

Contrary to what many are proclaiming in the American media, Iraq will not become a second Iran. The Shi'a of Iran and Iraq fought against each other in the Iran-Iraq War, evidence to



TOP: A boy walks down a street lined with posters backed by the powerful Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

BOTTOM: A young girl stands out amidst the line of voters.



the historical fission between Arabic and Iranian culture. The Shi'a of Iraq resisted when Ayatollah Khomeini attempted to push into Iraq in order to establish an Islamic theocracy after 1982. The Iraqi's would be willing to defend their nation again from such a threat. Secondly, unlike the clergy of Iran, the clergy of Iraq have rejected absolute authority. Learning from the failed Iranian experiment, the clerics of Iraq will maintain a more advisory role in the nation's politics. Despite the claims of skeptics, an Islamic theocratic regime will not materialize due to such factors.

The greatest threat that Iran poses to Iraq's development is the popularity of the Shi'a political ideology of velayet-i-faqih, the legitimacy of dictatorship reserved for one authority figure alone, an Islamic Shi'a cleric that rules as Allah's supreme authority on earth. The clerical establishment in Najaf, however, has repudiated the Iranian Shi'a system of dictatorship for more democratically inclined principles of consultation and shared power among Iraq's senior-most clerics. If Iraq maintains its distance from their powerful

Iranian counterparts and develops a political system that strikes a balance between Islamic and democratic society, the chances of Iraq consolidating a free and secure Iraq are a great deal higher. Deeply committed to independence from Iranian influence, the Iraqi people now endeavor upon the lengthy, arduous journey to freedom.

Although many will celebrate the triumphs made in Iraq, we must not for-

get the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who gave their lives for the principles of freedom, democracy and justice that we are so privileged to enjoy at home. Tyranny has been destroyed by the sacrifice of many fellow Americans and we owe much to their memories. It is a better world because of them.



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The Sick Man of Europe - Again



Islamism and leftism add up to Anti-American madness in Turkey.

By Robert L. Pollock

Ankara, Turkey--Several years ago I attended an exhibition in Istanbul. The theme was local art from the era of the country's last military coup (1980). But the artists seemed a lot more concerned with the injustices of global capitalism than the fate of Turkish democracy. In fact, to call the works leftist caricatures--many featured fat capitalists with Uncle Sam hats and emaciated workers--would have been an understatement. As one astute local reviewer put it (I quote from memory): "This shows that Turkish artists were willing to abase themselves voluntarily in ways that Soviet artists refused even at the height of Stalin's oppression."

That exhibition came to mind amid all the recent gnashing of teeth in the U.S. over the question of "Who lost Turkey?" Because it shows that a 50-year special relationship, between longtime NATO allies who fought Soviet expansionism together starting in Korea, has long had to weather the ideological hostility and intellectual decadence of much of Istanbul's elite. And at the 2002 election, the increasingly corrupt mainstream parties that had championed Turkish-American ties self-destructed, leaving a vacuum that was filled by the subtle yet insidious Islamism of the Justice and Development (AK) Party. It's this combination of old leftism and new Islamism--much more than any mutual pique over Turkey's refusal to side with us in the Iraq war--that explains the collapse in relations.

And what a collapse it has been. On a brief visit to Ankara earlier this month with Undersecretary of Defense Doug Feith, I found a poisonous atmosphere--one in which just about every politician and media outlet (secular and religious) preaches an extreme combination of America- and Jew-hatred that (like the

Turkish artists) voluntarily goes far further than anything found in most of the Arab world's state-controlled press. If I hesitate to call it Nazi-like, that's only because Goebbels would probably have rejected much of it as too crude.

Consider the Islamist newspaper *Yeni Safak*, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's favorite. A Jan. 9 story claimed that U.S. forces were tossing so many Iraqi bodies into the Euphrates that mullahs there had issued a fatwa prohibiting residents from eating its fish. *Yeni Safak* has also repeatedly claimed that U.S. forces used chemical weapons in Fallujah. One of its columnists has alleged that U.S. soldiers raped women and children there and left their bodies in the streets to be eaten by dogs. Among the paper's "scoops" have been the 1,000 Israeli soldiers deployed alongside U.S. forces in Iraq, and that U.S. forces have been harvesting the innards of dead Iraqis for sale on the U.S. "organ market."

It's not much better in the secular press. The mainstream *Hurriyet* has accused Israeli hit squads of assassinating Turkish security personnel in Mosul, and the U.S. of starting an occupation of



Kemal Ataturk, Founded Republic of Turkey upon the fall of the Ottoman Empire and served as its first president. Responsible for many reforms aimed at modernization.

Indonesia under the guise of humanitarian assistance. At *Sabah*, a columnist last fall accused the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Eric Edelman, of letting his "ethnic origins"--guess what, he's Jewish--determine his behavior. Mr. Edelman is indeed the all-too-rare foreign-service officer who takes seriously his obligation to defend America's image and inter-

ests abroad. The intellectual climate in which he's operating has gone so mad that he actually felt compelled to organize a conference call with scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey to explain that secret U.S. nuclear testing did not cause the recent tsunami.

Never in an ostensibly friendly country have I had the impression of embassy staff so besieged. Mr. Erdogan's office recently forbade Turkish officials from attending a reception at the ambassador's residence in honor of the "Ecumenical" Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, who resides in Istanbul. Why? Because "ecumenical" means universal, which somehow makes it all part of a plot to carve up Turkey.

Perhaps the most bizarre anti-American story au courant in the Turkish capital is the "eighth planet" theory, which holds not only that the U.S. knows of an impending asteroid strike, but that we know it's going to hit North America. Hence our desire to colonize the Middle East.

It all sounds loony, I know. But such stories are told in all seriousness at the most powerful dinner tables in Ankara. The common thread is that almost everything the U.S. is doing in the world--even tsunami relief--has malevolent motivations, usually with the implication that we're acting as muscle for the Jews.

In the face of such slanders Turkish politicians have been utterly silent. In fact, Turkish parliamentarians themselves have accused the U.S. of "genocide" in Iraq, while Mr. Erdogan (who we once hoped would set for the Muslim world an example of democracy) was among the few world leaders to question the legitimacy of the Iraqi elections. When confronted, Turkish pols claim they can't risk going against "public opinion."

All of which makes Mr. Erdogan a prize hypocrite for protesting to Condoleezza Rice the unflattering portrayal of Turkey in an episode of the fictional TV show "The West Wing." The episode allegedly depicts Turkey as having been taken over by a retrograde populist government that threatens women's rights. (Sounds about right to me.)

In the old days, Turkey would have



Turkish protesters peer over a banner which reads: "No to Americanism" in Istanbul.

had an opposition party strong enough to bring such a government closer to sanity. But the only opposition now is a moribund People's Republican Party, or CHP, once the party of Atatürk. At a recent party congress, its leader accused his main challenger of having been part of a CIA plot against him. That's not to say there aren't a few comparatively pro-U.S. officials left in the current government and the state bureaucracies. But they're afraid to say anything in public. In private, they whine endlessly about trivial things the U.S. "could have done differently."

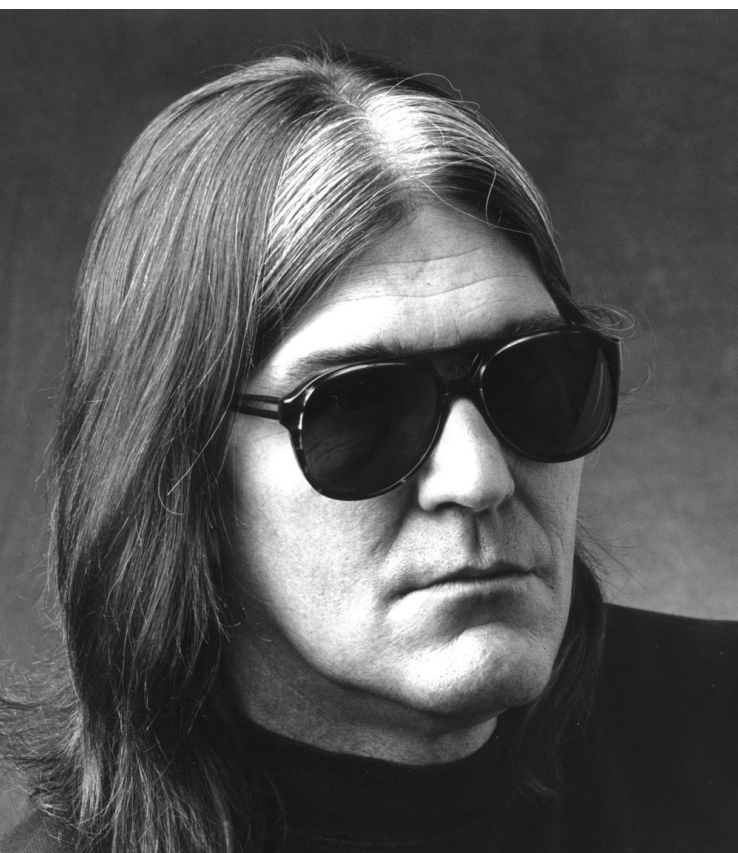
Entirely forgotten is that President Bush was among the first world leaders to recognize Prime Minister Erdogan, while Turkey's own legal system was still weighing whether he was secular enough for the job. Forgotten have been decades of U.S. military assistance. Forgotten have been years of American efforts to secure a pipeline route for Caspian oil that terminates at the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Forgotten has been the fact that U.S. administrations continue to fight annual attempts in Congress to pass a resolution condemning modern Turkey for the long-ago Armenian genocide. Forgotten has been America's persistent lobbying for Turkish membership in the European Union.

Forgotten, above all, has been America's help against the PKK. Its now-imprisoned leader, Abdullah

Ocalan, was expelled from Syria in 1998 after the Turks threatened military action. He was then passed like a hot potato between European governments, who refused to extradite him to Turkey because--gasp!--he might face the death penalty. He was eventually caught--with the help of U.S. intelligence--sheltered in the Greek Embassy in Nairobi. "They gave us Ocalan. What could be bigger than that?" says one of a handful of unapologetically pro-U.S. Turks I still know.

I know that Mr. Feith (another Jew, the Turkish press didn't hesitate to note), and Ms. Rice after him, pressed Turkish leaders on the need to challenge some of the more dangerous rhetoric if they value the Turkey-U.S. relationship. There is no evidence yet that they got a satisfactory answer. Turkish leaders should understand that the "public opinion" they cite is still reversible. But after a few more years of riding the tiger, who knows? Much of Atatürk's legacy risks being lost, and there won't be any of the old Ottoman grandeur left, either. Turkey could easily become just another second-rate country: small-minded, paranoid, marginal and--how could it be otherwise?--friendly in America and unwelcome in Europe.

Mr. Pollock is a senior editorial page writer at the Wall Street Journal.



American Idiot

Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from its consequences.

By Cameron Turner

Ward Churchill enjoyed a few minutes in the spotlight after his toast to terrorism titled, *Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*, was released just one day after 9/11. What is shocking about it is not his warped recounting of U.S. foreign policy history, or the claim that the 9/11 attacks were in response to such policy but his claim that, "There is justice in such symmetry." "[T]he men on September 11 manifested the courage of their convictions, willingly expending their own lives... one is tempted to say it's a normal emotional response among persons confronted by the mass murder of their children..." Furthermore, "As to those in the World Trade Center...true enough, they were civilians of a sort. But innocent? Gimme a break. They formed a technocratic corps at the very heart of

America's global financial empire." His conclusion: the hijackers were "combat teams" not terrorists who killed people that were combatants or "military tar-

impossible to forget.

Churchill was recently set to speak at Hamilton College in New York when it became clear that he nor his comments had not been forgotten. He has been forced into the spotlight again as hundreds of death threats poured in and the university cancelled his visit, even after he offered to waive his speaker fee. The University of Colorado is currently reviewing his speeches with the intent of firing him altogether. Bill O'Reilly has called for his resignation. And

while Churchill has not resigned from his professorship he has resigned as chair of the Ethnic Studies Department.

Does Ward Churchill deserve to be fired? Consider Churchill's longtime claim that he is a Native American. The University hired Churchill under the false pretense that he would add to the diversity of the school. Turns out a

"As to those in the World Trade Center... true enough, they were civilians of a sort. But innocent? Gimme a break." - Ward Churchill

gets." In other words, America had it coming.

The public response to the essay was understandably hostile. Radio programs and other media outlets across the nation sounded off in near universal outrage. For those who lost loved ones on 9/11, the comments were deeply painful. For others still, they would be



Mandan-Hidatsa Indian student wrote an investigative piece questioning his heritage. The piece shed new light on his biography. In fact, his heritage has long been in question by Native American groups. Churchill claims to be one-sixteenth Cherokee, but no one has ever found any Cherokee in his family tree. The American Indian Movement released this statement "...The American Indian Movement once again is vehemently and emphatically repudiating and condemning the outrageous statements made by academic literary and Indian fraud, Ward Churchill."

Also in question are his academic credentials. Churchill doesn't have a PhD, only a bachelor's and master's from an obscure Illinois College. Churchill lacks the basic credentials typical for tenure. Undoubtedly his lack of academic experience and knowledge was overlooked by University of Colorado because of his faux Cherokee heritage.

In his defense Churchill has strategically chosen to make it an issue of academic freedom and free speech.

Many of Churchill's supporters cite his first amendment rights. However, built into their argument is the claim that freedom of speech means freedom from the consequences of what is said. Freedom of speech does not imply the right to an audience. The audience must be free to choose to listen. They might not want to hear what you have to say.

Students have little input in the material taught and have no input over what they are forced to listen to in lecture. Unfortunately, Churchill and many in academia that exercise their freedom of speech do it to justify and impose their agenda on what is, quite literally, a captive audience.

Whether or not the University of Colorado fires Ward Churchill is ultimately up to them, but doing so would be a catastrophic mistake. His low

ranking status as a ranting disturbed fraud - justifying mass murders, would be inflated to martyr like status. Firing him would be satisfying. However, it would also allow Churchill to cast himself as a victim of censorship. As preposterous as it is, he would argue it as an issue of academic freedom.

Not all the blame is on Churchill. In fact, blame rests in large part on academic institutions that reward such behavior. Professors who speak the loudest and most often in the name of academic freedom are rewarded with lucrative speaking opportunities and even further with tenure. The political culture that hoisted Churchill into his position is more likely to invite Osama bin Laden as a guest speaker than it is to effectively prepare students for civic responsibility. The system is long overdue for change, but as long as the Ward Churchills of America find their way into universities across the country, change remains in the distance.



The Future of Energy

Republicans Take the Lead in Alternative Fuels

By Brian Danielson

President Bush continues to show strong and innovative leadership with his revised energy plan announced during the State of the Union address. Issues like terrorism and the environment both find common solutions in alternative fuels, which reduce pollution as well as dependence on foreign oil. To help achieve this goal the Bush Administration funds a Department of Energy project called Freedom CAR which invests \$1.2 billion over five years to accelerate the development of hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Freedom CAR is an association of the DOE, DaimlerChrysler, GM and Ford that shares part of this funding and new technologies to further this exciting new technology.

Department of Energy statistics show that two thirds of US oil consumption is used in transportation; mostly the cars, vans and trucks we all drive on a daily basis. With the US currently importing about 55% of its oil, hydrogen fuel becoming a reality will significantly reduce dependence on foreign oil and, because it is clean burning, significantly reduce pollution.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology is not something one will have to wait many years to see either. Hydrogen fuel cell technology is the leading oil-alternative on the road today with several thousand

cars and mass transit busses in use across the country. Manufacturers currently selling fleet cars using hydrogen fuel cells include DaimlerChrysler, GM, Ford, Honda, Toyota and Suzuki. UPS and FedEx currently have a number of fuel cell vehicles in their respective fleets of delivery trucks and plan to add thousands more over the coming years. BMW currently is developing hydrogen fuel cells for its race divisions and has recently set 9 records with the technology. A recent BMW test car produces 285 horsepower from a 6-liter 12-cylinder engine. Car aficionados need not fear hydrogen fuel cells like the extremely weak Prius-like gas/electric hybrid technology.

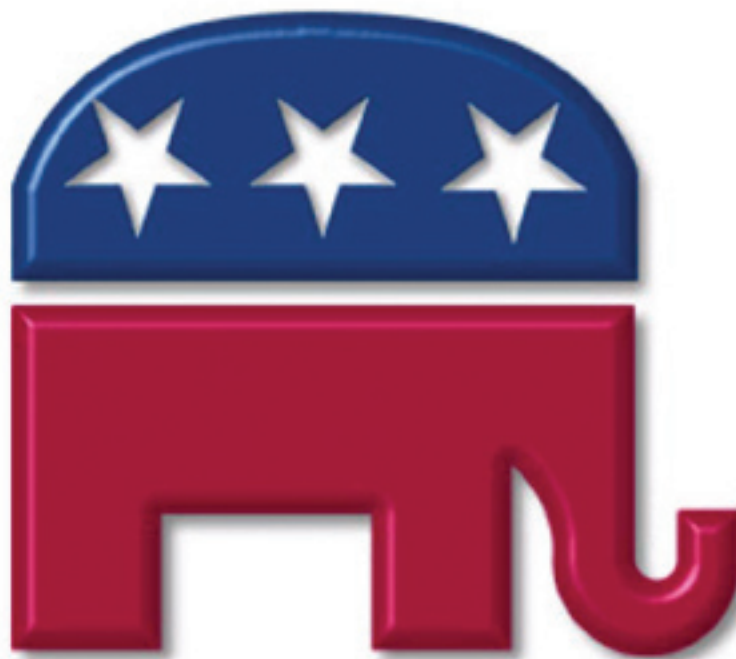
The future of this technology is being realized now and with such pressure coming from the Bush administration and the DOE, oil companies are jumping on the hydrogen fuel bandwagon as well. BP is currently the largest producer of oil and gas in the United States and is naturally adapting its business to include the production of hydrogen fuel. Current extraction technology creates hydrogen gas derived from natural gas. This current process makes hydrogen 3 to 4 times more expensive than natural gas, however the DOE has set a goal to make hydrogen pricing comparable to gasoline by 2010 through technology

advancements and expanding hydrogen extraction into nuclear and coal energy sites.

It is increasingly difficult for the political left to convince oil companies to fight against climate change. The oil companies are, however, smart and realizing that the world's oil supply will not be around forever. With their current technology assets the transition to alternate fuel technologies is natural. This realization benefits many people through cleaner burning fuels, less reliance on politically unstable areas like South America and the Middle East and more cost effective energy sources for our own daily transportation. This may disappoint people for whom the issue of alternative fuels was only a pretext to attack big business.

The initiative and leadership the Bush Administration has shown in working for free market solutions to environmental problems is an example we must continue to follow. Thanks to world auto manufacturers and energy companies like Shell and BP for taking the lead on Freedom CAR and its sister programs to help shape an energy policy for a post-9/11 world that is thankfully ripe with technology and nerdy engineers just waiting to use it.

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Democracy By Democrats

■ A look at Washington's race for Governor. By Steve Yousten

It's tough to be a conservative on the West Coast. I sat in front of the television, watching Oregon go to Kerry, and incumbent David Wu trounce Goli Ameri. In race after race the Democrats persevered. One of the bright spots of the election was Republican candidate Dino Rossi's hair's breadth victory over Christine Gregoire in the Washington Governor's race, winning by a mere 261 votes out of 2.9 million cast.

The margin was close enough to trigger a mandatory recount. Again, Rossi won the vote although the margin was reduced to 42 votes. Following the recount Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed called the election, certifying Rossi Governor-elect.

Ordinarily, that would be the end of the story. But Gregoire refused to concede the race. And the Washington Democratic Party fronted a \$730,000 deposit to fund a hand recount. The results of this recount contradicted the results of the previous two counts, giving Gregoire a victory by just 129 votes, and on January 12 Christine Gregoire was sworn in as Governor of Washington.

All this triggered a nasty flashback for me. You probably remember the 2000 Presidential election, where George W. Bush eked out a narrow victory against his Democratic opponent, Al Gore. In this race, the Republican candidate won the election and the recount. As with the Washington election, the Democrats sought a manual recount. Unlike Washington, the Supreme Court blocked the recount, although a joint study conducted by USA Today, The Miami Herald, and Knight-Ridder ultimately concluded that Bush would've won the manual recount by any standard.

This time, however, the recount occurred, and for \$730,000 the Democratic Party was able to buy the governorship of Washington State.

So where does that leave us? In an election with three different numbers, why should the last number determine the victor? Why not count the ballots until we get two results that match? Why, in an election using ballots designed to be read by machines, would a human count be more valid and less prone to fraud? Apart from a vending machine in



the School of Business Administration (SBA) that regularly robs me on Peanut M&Ms, machines are generally incapable of lying or cheating and the idea that someone would rig machines and not rig them for an overwhelming victory is dubious, at best.

Why? Because that is the way the election rules for the state of Washington are written. It is an open and shut case. Anyone who has a problem with the election's results needs to tackle a reform of Washington's election laws. End of story. Or is it?

Although Gregoire has been sworn in, Rossi is refusing to concede, and this election is looking more like the recent Ukrainian election than the 2000 mess in Florida. In that election, widespread fraud gave the race to the candidate endorsed by Russia, incumbent Victor Yanukovich over challenger Victor Yushenko. In the Ukraine election, widespread protests led to a second

election, where Yushenko triumphed.

Like the Ukraine election, there have been some fishy dealings in the Washington election. In heavily Democratic King County (which contains Seattle) CNN reports somewhere between 1,200 and 3,500 more people voted in the election than were actually registered to vote. And there is evidence that these provisional ballots were counted without any effort to confirm the voter's eligibility. A January 10 CNN story quotes King County Elections Director Dean Logan, stating that "nearly 350 provisional ballots were fed directly into vote-counting machines before election staffers could verify whether they were valid." Finally, both the Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported in their January 7 editions instances of people who died before absentee ballots were mailed voting in the November election. (The Times found 24 such voters in the state's six largest counties and the Post-Intelligencer found eight cases in King County alone.)

So what's the bottom line? Whoever ultimately won the election, Washington Democrats were more effective at manipulating the system and got their candidate elected. It is a disturbing trend for Democrats to demand recount after recount until they get a result they like, and it is disappointing that, in light of the many voting irregularities in such a close race only one Democratic legislator supported the Republican call to delay certification of the election for two weeks while voting irregularities were looked into. That said, ultimately, the election is over and Gregoire has been installed as Washington's Governor. It's time to get on with life, but hopefully when the next election rolls around, Washington voters will remember how their elected officials handled this election.



Elephants on Fire

■ Gay Republicans break liberal stereotypes and make their voices heard.

By Marian Paul

Did you know that in the November elections, out of 4,524,641 gays and lesbians, or 4 percent of the electorate who voted, 1,040,667 cast their vote for President George W. Bush? Those numbers translate to 23 percent of the gay electorate, the same percentage as 2000.

Now, Democrats and liberals will have you think that they own the gay vote just like they would have you think that they own the Black vote, the Hispanic vote or the Jewish vote. These numbers prove that its just not true. Though they hold a strong percentage of gay voters, they don't speak for every gay voter. To be a Gay Republican is not considered an oxymoron anymore. The screeching and histrionics that is heard from the gay elite and their lackeys when the subject of gay Republicans is brought up is a good indication of the importance that we have. Indeed, there appears to be more outrage from gays over people choosing to be Republican than vice versa.

We do not want to be a part of the Democratic plantation system. We have decided to make our own decisions and not let an elite few who think they speak for everyone of us make our decisions for us. Last time I looked this was still a free country and I can make my own choices. Neither do a lot of Blacks or Hispanics or any of the other groups that the Democratic Party has built its power on. It used to be thought that every gay voter would naturally vote for a Democrat over a Republican. Though there are many issues that are considered "gay" issues, the Democrats do not hold a monopoly on solutions for these issues.

I am gay. I am a Republican and I am proud to say that I voted for President George W. Bush. The gay power elite and

their Democratic Party masters do not represent me.

Many of the issues that I voted for are the same that many other gay Republicans voted for. The majority of gay people want the same things that straight people want. We recognize that the freedoms that every American enjoys are under attack by unchecked liberalism and Islamofascism. We recognize that nowhere on earth could we, as gay people, be protected to live out our lives except here in the United States. We know that if Islamofascism were to win, gay people would be one of the first murdered in their reign of terror. We also know that we want to be able to keep more of our hard earned income through lower taxes and reduced government waste.

Gay marriage is not that important an issue for a lot of us. Gay marriage was an attempt by a few within the gay community to justify themselves to the straight world. I do not need marriage to justify myself to anyone. Civil unions are an important first step toward receiving the equality in our relationships that we want but the actions of a few irresponsible people who tried to force marriage down the throats of everyone doomed the debate for the rest of us. The whole gay marriage debacle has set back gay relations twenty years and this is the fault of a radical few.

Gay Republicans are not a group that can be ignored by either major party for much longer. If the big tent as envisioned by Lee Atwater is to grow even bigger, then Republicans need to find the causes that are important to both groups and build on that. Also, gay Americans need to recognize that the Democratic Party does not and never will represent the true needs of gay people.

A Matter of Tolerance

■ Anti-Catholic bias finds its way into PSU classrooms.

By Robert Hyett



Earlier this term I was in class listening to my Professor lecture about the split of the Catholic Church into Eastern Orthodoxy. We followed along in our texts as she read each of Pope Gregory VII demands as he asserted himself, as Pope, and his vast if not omnipotent power over other Bishops and kings throughout the land. He quoted Mark 16, which inferred that Jesus appointed Peter, as Bishop of Rome, to serve as the head of the Church. The Bishop of Rome, now known as the Pope, has continued in this sense to this day though the Pope's power, even within the Church, is only a glimmer of what it was when Gregory VII was in power.

My Professor summed up the lecture with the quote that the "Roman Catholic Church has never erred and never will". Naturally, the statement was open to interpretation and controversy though the majority of the class, encouraged by my professor's sarcastic tone and sneering, laughed. She repeatedly reiterated the statement and, much like a stand-up comic playing to the audience, counted off with her fingers occurrences in Cath-

olic history she felt disproved the assertion as the rest of the class chuckled, shook their heads and rolled their eyes, openly insulting Catholics who were present. I, as a Catholic, was made to feel foolish for believing in my religion, my faith. She may well have been talking about the tooth fairy. My religion and way of life were portrayed as a clown in a circus.

Had the topic been Islam or Judaism, I do not doubt the Professor would have been completely understanding of even the most ridiculous interpretations, nodding thoughtfully and encouraging us to admire the wisdom in each statement. If she treated such religions with the same lack of sensitivity as she did with Catholicism, it would have easily been met with accusations of bigotry or Anti-Semitism. This type of intolerant disrespect is commonplace in History classes across the nation and especially at PSU.

With the recent somber observation of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the infamous Auschwitz facility, I have noticed an increase of campus sensitivity stressing tolerance, unity, and acceptance. One would think the campus would be welcoming of differing beliefs and religions. The idea of students flipping off Mormons or spitting at Muslims, simply for their beliefs, is abhorrent and impossible to imagine, especially on such an open-minded campus. Actually, it happens a good deal to Catholics. Hateful hypocrisy, especially in a sheep's wool of tolerance, is not moral, and that is a fact.

At issue are the ideas, places, actions and people of Western European history, not her interpretations, conclusions, and personal beliefs. The latter is for the student to decide in group discussions and essays.

Should professors be allowed to sleep with their students? Is it appropriate to be graded in bed, to say nothing of oral exams?

Can professors use as basis for grading, a student's race, gender, sexual orien-

tation, or religion? I would hope we all agree that doing so would be terribly unethical.

What about political ideology? Should two papers reflecting opposing ideology, both equally well written and researched, receive different grades?

Can I, in an essay or midterm, admit that I am Catholic or claim that the Catholic Church has not in fact, erred and never will, and not fear that my grade will receive a lower score? Those of us who worry about our grade point average to the hundredth with hopes of getting into a competitive graduate program know that every assignment, question, and essay is done with a focus of maximizing the results. With this in mind cannot simply believe on good faith that professors who cannot leave their politics and ideology at the door will miraculously grow a conscience and grade my papers or classroom participation with an inkling of objectivity.

Imagine a classroom with an adamant Jewish Zionist being taught by a Professor who was raised in Palestine who does not hide the fact he is anti-Zionist if not anti-Semitic. What are the ethical problems with that scenario, or the other way around?

As the rules are currently interpreted, the professor can freely grade down the Zionist, if only by half a grade or so, and then lower their GPA, unfairly punishing the student for being guilty of opinion.

The best professors are those whose political affiliation cannot be guessed, even when discussing abortion, free speech, or especially George W. Bush. In a sarcastic tone with eye rolling body language, "No child left behind", "Caleefoneeah", or a Republican's name uttered on the part of an opinionated professor is not mysteriously objective, it is wrong and occurs in Universities and colleges unchecked.

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THINK OUTSIDE THE BUN



the portland Spectator Personals



The Good Reverend

I know since I lost weight I look like a cross between Little Richard and a Pez dispenser, but I need some booty too.



Bubba

Don't believe everything you read. Well, on second thought, believe it. MWM seeking some female lovin' on the 'downlow', if you get my drift, which I think you do. Call me and we'll make a Burger King run.



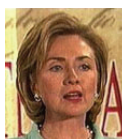
Teresa

I am very rich but I'm married to a boring guy who always does it the same way. I liked my previous husband's 57 varieties.



Dell Dude

People say I remind them of Robert Downey Jr. I'm looking for a kindred slacker, no undercover cops please.



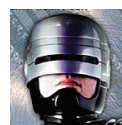
Hillary

I'm the front runner for an important race four years from now. I am intelligent, eloquent and ambitious. My husband is useless right now, so I'm looking for someone, man or woman, to satisfy my needs. No leg men (unless you like tree trunks).



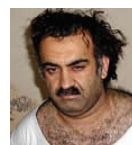
Bin Hidin

Older male on kidney dialysis looking for an infidel woman. My cave is your cave. Free sex and all the mountain goat you can eat. Send photo by donkey.



Robocop

Shut up, you're not my real mom!



Mastermind

They say I'm a ladies man, but right now I look like Al-Qaeda's version of Nick Nolte, or John Belushi after a 3-day crack high. Wait for me, I'll be out in 99 years.



John Edwards

People say I need more experience. Let me stuff your ballot box.



Kofi

Lusty diplomat experienced in international affairs, looking for females for discrete assignments. Willing to enter into a Sex-for-Money program.



Chirac

I am trying to screw George Bush, but the Americans are telling me to make love to myself. At my age that is difficult. I want to make love not war, but I can't do either very well.



Saddamgoodlooking

I have a cool bachelor pad. Okay, it is only a hole in the ground. Oops, they found it. Now I have a cell which looks like a toilet. Please write.

"The basic premise of conservatism is that worthwhile institutions are hard to build and easy to destroy, and that a life without institutions is seriously impoverished."

-Roger Scruton