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ELECTION 2004



In The Past Four Years... What Have We Learned? Of Republican Rule

In the past four years, the country tries to find itself and what you are seeing might not always be pretty.

By ADAM MARTIN
Staff Writer

Four years is a long time in world history. The nation is older, yet none the wiser. Our country is as evenly split as it was four years ago, with even less of a middle ground between the two ways of life, the two worldviews, that cleave our hearts and households between divided loyalties at a feverish pitch.

More than enough writers have noted how we arrived at this point; everyone from Michael Moore to Zell Miller has a version of the story to tell. But it is worth noting some of the more ominous pieces of knowledge that have come to light.

What have we learned?

We now know that we are feared, distrusted, and even hated in the larger world with an fervor possessing few parallels in the past. Ac-

ording to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press in their Global Attitudes Project, "A year after the war in Iraq, discontent with America and its policies has intensified rather than diminished. Opinion of the United States in France and Germany is at least as negative now as at

We are in a position where allies are required with an exceptional urgency; we have done our best to alienate them and push them away.

the war's conclusion, and British views are decidedly more critical. Perceptions of American unilateralism remain widespread in European and Muslim nations, and the war in Iraq has undermined America's credibility abroad. Doubts about the motives behind the U.S.-led war on terrorism abound, and a growing percentage of Europeans want foreign policy and security arrangements independent from the United States." We are in a position where allies are required with an exceptional urgency; we have done our best to alienate them and push them away.

What have we learned?

In the wake of last week's revelations about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, of which, the BBC notes, "Saddam Hussein ended his nuclear program in 1991, after the Gulf War, and there was no evidence to suggest concerted efforts to restart

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What Prop 71 Can Do

The Reeve-Irvine Research Center hangs in the balance as the state decide on stem cell research.

By CHELSEA THOMPSON

Christopher Reeve died Sunday, October 10, from complications from a serious systemic infection from a pressure wound, fairly common among people living with paralysis. Reeve, while well known for his movies, will perhaps be remembered most for his activism and lobbying on behalf of stem cell research, which could hold the key to the cures to several diseases, including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, autism, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis, of course spinal cord injuries and even severe burns. Reeve lobbied Congress on behalf of getting bet-

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After four years of controlling the Presidency and Congress, how has the Republican Party used that power?

By RICHARD NGUYEN
Staff Writer

Republicans control both the executive branch and the legislative (and some would even argue they also control the Supreme Court after the 2000 Presidential elections). You know the common phrase about power: "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." Is that true with the current Republican leadership? Let's take a closer look at the Republican leaders in the White House, Senate and House of Representatives to see if they have been the good and honest leaders we deserve.

White House

President George W. Bush

• Bush recently reneged on his 2000 campaign promise to the American people to extend the Assault Weapons Ban. In order to get the National Rifle Association's endorsement for 2004, the President made semi-automatic weapons more easily accessible to criminals and terrorists. Don't you just feel safer with President Bush in charge?

• Bush misled America into a rushed and unplanned Iraq war. The President and his cabinet insisted that Iraq had WMD and a link with the September 11th attacks, blatantly ignoring evidence to the contrary. And, with the continuing cost of American lives and dollars, Bush continues to tell America, "Mission Accomplished". So, who wants to give him the benefit of the doubt... again?

• The President promised to "Leave No Child Behind", but apparently those are only words. He under

funds education, while expecting schools to meet higher standards.

Vice President Dick Cheney

• Halliburton has a history of overcharging the government, but since Cheney is still financially-connected to Halliburton, the White House seems to approve of its exploitation. The VP rewards Halliburton with billions of American taxpayers' dollars with closed-bid contracts.

• Let's have our energy policy exclusively decided by oil and energy companies, which happen to contribute the Republican Party! That pretty much sums up the Vice President's task force on energy policy.

• Temper, temper. Cheney tells a democratic senator to "f*ck off" or "go

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If Shirley Builds It, Dems Will Come

Debate parties a huge hit in Irvine at the new local Democratic headquarters.

By MATTHEW CARDINALE
Staff Writer

On the night of the third Presidential debate of 2004, hundreds of Orange County Democrats packed into a small shopping-center office which has become, almost instantaneously, "the" fabulous venue for watching Kerry confront Bush on big-screen TV.

"Everybody has a TV at home," says Shirley Palley, at her desk in Irvine Democratic Headquarters. "But

people like the energy here and they want to share the debates with other people."

About 40-50 million Americans were estimated to have tuned in to each of the debates this year, according to the Nielsen data, and this figure likely underestimates huge debate parties by only counting how many TVs are on.

Shirley, a remarkable veteran of Orange County politics, has impressively raised thousands in funds through private contributions, and put the rest on her charge card, to make sure Irvine Dems had a place to watch the debates together.

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Announcements

OPEN FORUM ON PROP 68 and 70

The American Indian Student Association (AISA) will host an open forum on Propositions 68 and 70. The event will be held on **Monday, Oct. 25 from 3-5pm in Monarch Bay A**. All are welcome; whether you know the propositions or want to learn about them.

BUSH-KERRY DEBATE FORUM

October 25, 7-9:30 PM at the Social Science Auditorium adjacent to GSM.

Hosted by the Graduate School of Management Student Association

Featuring a head-to-head debate between Justice Edward Wallin from the Kerry campaign, and Honorable Scott Baugh from the Bush campaign. For more info & Sign-Up visit: <http://www.gsm.uci.edu/clubpages/debate/uci.html>

PRE-ELECTION PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING UCI PROFESSORS

The International Studies Program invites you to a pre-election panel discussion: "The Economic, National Security, and Social Dimensions of the Presidential Election"

Thurs. October 28, 3:30-5:00, SSPA 1100

Featuring:

- William Schonfeld (Political Science)--Moderator
- Mark Petracca (Political Science) on the parties and candidates
- Patrick Morgan (Political Science) on security, war and the elections
- John Graham (Graduate School of Management) on the economy and social issues

For more details on the series please see

<http://hypatia.ss.uci.edu/istudies/forum.html>

Voting for Dummies

A week long series presented by ASUCI and the New Voters Project Proposition Debates and Irvine Mayor Candidate Forum

All events to take place at the **UCI Free Speech Zone, Administration Flagpoles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.** (in case of rain, all events will be moved to the UCI Student Center, Emerald Bay Rooms).

Monday, October 25th

Proposition 66: Amend Three Strikes Law

Jim Benson, Citizens Against Violent Crime

Brian Gurwitz, Senior Deputy District Attorney Orange County

Tuesday, October 26th

Proposition 69: DNA Collection From All Felons

Todd Spitzer, California State Assembly, 71st District

Beatrice Foster, Candidate California State Assembly, 71st District

Wednesday, October 27th

Proposition 62: Open Primaries

Julie Puentes, Orange County Business Council

Shawn Steel, California Republican Party, Co-Founder 2003 Gray Davis Recall

Thursday, October 28th

Irvine Mayor Candidate Forum

Ronald Allen, Beth Krom, Earle Zucht, and Mike Ward

Editorial

Vote Bush or Die

By PATRICK BURNS
for the editors

George W. Bush should just swallow his pride and come up with a campaign slogan that fits the general character of his campaign. Taking a cue from P. Diddy's get out the vote slogan "Vote or Die," Bush could adopt an equally as catchy slogan "Vote for Bush or Die." The slogan would not be far off from what the Bush campaign actually wants voters to think when they enter the voting booth in November.

This election has clearly been dominated and controlled by the Bush campaign. They have been able to scare people into remembering 9/11 and the consequences it brought to America. They have also been able to portray Bush as the resolute cowboy who will protect America and juxtapose that image with one of John Kerry as a cowardly liberal who will lie down to the terrorists rather than confront them. These elements play right into Bush's hands for two reasons. First, they make Bush seem like the "right choice" in a delicate period filled with war and terrorism when compared to John Kerry. But more importantly, they have allowed every other issue, all of which Bush is vulnerable on, to become irrelevant.

One of the most peculiar things about this election is the absence of issues. The War on Terror and the War in Iraq seem to take up 90% of the focus. For progressives, the war on drugs, the embargo on Cuba, and gay marriage should all be legitimate debate topics and issues for the candidates to discuss. However, it is at least reasonable to see why these issues get ignored and that is because neither candidate differs much on these issues.

However, other issues important to working families are being left out. Neither candidate has adequately addressed certain problems such as social security, the deficit, and the environment. Instead the focus for the middle and lower classes seems to be over which candidate can keep their kids safer. This is easily recognizable in the fact that Kerry's edge on female voters has diminished in the last couple months.

As of a couple weeks ago, polls showed women as likely to vote for Bush. This is particularly surprising in a year where the President will possibly hold the power to make two key Supreme

Court appointments. The question of abortion is at stake as Sandra Day O'Connor plans on retiring. And somehow abortion is barely even being discussed. Like every other issue, it has been drowned out by the issue of security.

There was even hope for a debate this time around on the death penalty. Normally, it gets swept aside with the other issues that Republicans and Democrats agree on. But this year the left is represented by a candidate who actually opposes the death penalty. The president's power to appoint judges should make this issue pertinent for those who care about the death penalty. But there has been no discussion about that issue either, because once again it takes a backseat to "our security."

Even in the realm of foreign policy where the entire focus has shifted, the number of issues has been condensed. This election is one in which foreign policy issues dominate the campaign, but even in that realm only Iraq and the War on Terror are being discussed.

In the first debate, the American public was supposed to hear an hour and a half of nothing but foreign policy debate. Moderator Jim Lehrer always seems to do a decent job, but there were a number of issues left out of the debate. Though the situation in Sudan and North Korea both got some brief mention, the entire debate's focus was on Iraq and the War on Terror.

There was no debate about the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Abu Ghraib and its consequences for how the Middle East views this war is a critical question that was not discussed. The 9/11 commission and their findings in the government's efforts and abilities in preventing the attacks on 9/11 were also not debated.

The scarcity of issues is not healthy for any democratic election especially one in which the stakes are as high as they are this year. Shifting the focus of the debate to be solely based on security is problematic because other issues aren't brought to attention. Fear and ignorance should never dominate mainstream politics like they do today.

Patrick is an Associate
Editor for the IP.

What Have We Learned in Four Years?

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that we did so based upon monumentally faulty intelligence. To believe the former is to name us liars, and to believe the latter is to name us incompetent; neither conclusion is particularly reassuring.

In Iraq itself at present, progress remains glacial. The Center for Strategic and International Studies notes, "In October 2003, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$18.4 billion for Iraq's reconstruction, only about \$1 billion of which has been spent thus far. In addition to delays in actually spending the money, much of the \$18.4 billion will never reach Iraqi hands - as much as 73 percent of the funds are spent on security and insurance costs for foreign

The ominous allusions as to whom the terrorists would prefer to elect have proven as vicious as they are indicative of the apocalyptic mood of the electorate.

contractors, U.S. government overhead, profits for foreign companies, salaries for foreign workers, and corruption, fraud, and mismanagement. An estimated 27 percent is thus left to provide direct benefit to Iraqis and Iraq's economy." (http://www.csis.org/isp/pcr/iraq_funds.pdf) In the meantime, anywhere from 13,182 to 15,248 Iraqi civilians have perished since our entry (though, as the Department of Defense notes, we do not count "their" casualties), alongside "1,216 coalition deaths, 1,077 Americans, 68 Britons, six Bulgarians, one Dane, two Dutch, one Estonian, one Hungarian, 19 Italians, one Latvian, 13 Poles, one Salvadoran, three Slovaks, 11 Spaniards, two Thai, nine Ukrainians and one soldier whose nationality has not been identified, in the war in Iraq as of October 11, 2004." (www.cnn.com) This, of course, does not seem to take into account the various hostages who have been beheaded by radical Islamic terrorists in the past few months. Is this George W. Bush's Vietnam? A poor analogy; the wrong cause and a different scenario. A more telling comparison might be strife-torn Beirut during Lebanon's civil war. Certainly the images of Islamic militias seizing entire neighborhoods, Western hostages, truck bombs, and the general breakdown of the rule of law more closely resemble Beirut twenty years ago, not only in the audacity of the insurgents but also in the magnitude of American losses.

What have we learned?

On the home front, America currently enjoys a state of political and economic schizophrenia. The past several months' major episodes in the election campaign notwithstanding, the race for president has simultaneously become uglier, and more expensive. The ominous allusions as to whom the terrorists would prefer to elect have proven as vicious as they are indicative of the apocalyptic mood of the electorate. Political books and movies now flood the public arena, making ever-wilder observations and accusations. These are the side of the story we are all too familiar with.

What is not as well known are some of the staggering facts about finances - the government's finances, and those of the major political campaigns. These paint a disturbing picture, and the color of the picture is an indelible green.

The Center for Responsive Politics reports that the President and Sena-

tor Kerry "raised a total of nearly half a billion dollars in private contributions during the presidential primary season." Merely half a billion just during the primary season means that in order to conduct a presidential campaign in America means that you must accumulate funds equivalent to the national budget of a small country.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, "Bush and Kerry now share four of the same 10 largest donors this election cycle, all of whom are financial corporations," among whom are Citigroup, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the Goldman Sachs Group, and the UBS Financial Services Group. The amount all four have given to both presidential campaigns thus far comes to about \$1.9 million, give or take a few thousand. This of course excludes the K Street phenomenon - As CPI notes, "more than 1,300 registered lobbyists have given slightly more than \$1.8 million to President George W. Bush over the last six years," while Senator Kerry "received \$520,000 from 442 lobbyists during the same period." (www.public-i.org) Credit card behemoth MBNA Corp., meanwhile, replaced Enron in March as Bush's top lifetime career patron, alongside 6-figure donation totals from Merrill Lynch and PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Campaign finance aside, the nation's finances are in little better shape. As The Economist notes, "if the Republicans continue to tax like a small-government

party and spend like a big-government one, deficits could average \$500 billion a year for the next decade - an alarming prospect." One knows that it is a macabre and ironic day in Washington when it is the Democrats are the party of nominal fiscal responsibility while the Republicans are spending money, in the words of John McCain, "like a drunken sailor." On the

Kerry, at his best, can represent the strain of his generation that learned to second-guess their government and their nation for the first time.

two presidential debates during previous weeks, we have heard President Bush absolve himself and blame these rising asymmetries in government spending on the recent recession. Close, but, apologies to Bill Clinton, no cigar. As OMB Watch notes, "The Congressional Budget Office reported this month [September] that only 11% of the FY 2004 deficit was due to cyclical factors, while 89% of the deficit was result of federal policy decisions." Where is all this money coming from to make up for government expenditures in the meantime? One gets a ready idea where it is not coming from - the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy informs us of the following: "corporate income taxes in fiscal 2002 and 2003 fell to their lowest sustained share of the economy since World War II. (Only a single year during the early Reagan administration was lower.) From 2001 to 2003, the Commerce Department reports that pretax corporate profits grew by 26 percent. But over that same period, corporate income tax payments to the federal government fell by 21 percent." (<http://www.ctj.org/corpfed04an.pdf>)

To put this a little more bluntly: if current legislative and fiscal trends in Washington continue, you--the average American taxpayer - could wind up bearing a disproportionate share of the fiscal burden for the war on terror, the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, and future wars the United States will fight.

What have we learned?

Perhaps most disturbing, beyond all fiscal insanity, a troubled Iraq, a polarized electorate, and the rising threat of radical Islamic terrorism, we have seen an increasing political contest

Bush, on the other hand, represents a portion of his generation intent on repudiating the same legacy. It is too much caution and circumspection that caused our failure in Vietnam, they reason, and it has plagued us ever since.

about leaders, and about their legacies. In August and September Iraq suffered some of its worst violence yet; what was our national media focused on? Alleged dereliction of duty and favoritism during President

Bush's brief stint in the Air Guard. Alleged deceptions and libel by then-Lieutenant John Kerry during both his tenure in Vietnam and his subsequent anti-war activism, luridly trumpeted by the dubiously named "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth." Many of us were doubtlessly wondering what possible relevance the Vietnam-era activities of either man had for the present election;

however, the debate is all too relevant.

We are witnessing in these exchanges the judgment of a generation upon itself - the "Baby Boomers" are now entering into their golden years (as our Social Security system will soon make clear), and as they do, they are still uncertain about their significance, the legacy they have left this country. The 1960s and 1970s cataclysmically split the nation apart, and different groups of people took away different reactions in the aftermath. One part of the Baby Boom generation we see embodied in Bush, the other in Kerry.

Kerry, at his best, can represent the strain of his generation that learned to second-guess their government and their nation for the first time.

Whether protesting a war we might have avoided (like Vietnam) or, as a Senator, investigating clandestine decisions our government should not have taken (like the Iran-Contra affair), Kerry is a force of skepticism, of cautious inquiry into the root causes that have shaped us. But, like many of his generation who lived through those times, a self-consciousness dogs his actions and words, wishing to be correct instead of being popular. Having been bitten at least once, Kerry and his ilk among Baby Boomers are now twice shy - every acclamation of America's achievements must be balanced with an awareness of its limitations.

Bush, on the other hand, represents a portion of his generation intent on repudiating the same legacy. It is too much caution and circumspection that caused our failure in Vietnam, they reason, and it has plagued us ever since. Bush appeals

careful qualifications of his positions. He dislikes that in leaders in general, and he especially dislikes it in Kerry.

Each represents an archetypal strain in American culture and history, and Bush is symptomatic of the rugged individual, whose achievements come from the grace of intuition, the simplicity of heart, and the purity of faith.

He distrusts experts; he distrusts too much forethought. This strikes a deeply populist nerve in the American psyche, which can be fiercely egalitarian not only about material conditions or culture, but in matters of the exhibition and exercise of intelligence. It seems every Republican president since Nixon has been fighting the same archetype of the effete, spineless, feminine, indecisive, prissy, pompous, cerebral, elitist East Coast nabob who doesn't have the spine, the heart, the spirit, the guts to do what's best for America.

They did not resolve that conflict of views then, and they have not resolved it now. The battle for America's soul continues, with the fate of the war on terror hanging in the balance.

There may well be dark times ahead in the near future. No matter who wins, long-term challenges to our security and prosperity are imminent. The world drifts away from us, and the threat of increased terrorism drifts nearer. Unfortunately, an electoral Golgotha looms before us, with a crucified Savior named Wisdom. In Republican and Democrat clothing, two thieves hang upon crosses alongside Him, two thieves named Faith and Reason. As one will recall, one of these two thieves mocks the Savior, while the other asks Him, "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." The Savior replies to the obedient thief, "truly, you will be with Me in Paradise." But to which thief will Wisdom say these words? Republican or Democrat? Faith or Reason? Bravery or Caution? Innocence or Experience? Either? Both? Neither?

Which one do you think will hear the words of Wisdom? Which one would you choose, knowing the stakes? What have you seen and heard for four years, and what will it all make you decide?

What have we learned?

That the story is far from over. Keep reading. Turn the page.

Adam is a staff writer for The Irvine Progressive and a graduate student at UC Irvine.

to resolve, to instinct, to a fear of being seen as indecisive and weak. In this he appeals very much to an aggressive concept of masculinity, and seems to want Kerry to appear feminine in his perceived waffling, his

Prop 69: Should DNA Fingerprinting Be Expanded?

DNA Fingerprinting Will Help Justice System

By David Pham

The justice system will never be perfect, but with DNA fingerprinting, it will get closer.

Proposition 69, if passed, will authorize law enforcement to collect DNA samples from all felons, and from adults and juveniles for or charged for specific crimes. In 2009, all individuals arrested for felony cases will be tested. These DNA samples will be collected into a statewide database.

Currently, California only collects DNA from people convicted of more serious felonies, such as rape and murder. If the state collects more data, the database would provide better use to law enforcement as they have more data to compare with their own.

DNA fingerprinting, like conventional fingerprinting, helps solve crimes and will further prevent wrongful accusations against the innocent. How many times in the past have we heard wrongfully convicted felons and death row inmates who waste years in prison being freed based on new DNA evidence? With a bigger DNA database, potential suspects can be narrowed down faster and wrongful convictions will be reduced.

With a DNA database and the collection of DNA samples from felons and criminals, we can keep California safer by catching suspects faster. DNA evidence is often left at a scene of a crime in terms of hair samples, skin cells, and blood stains, but the police can't do anything about it because we have no DNA database. Only if the police catch a suspect, only then the police can do DNA analysis to see if the suspect was at the scene of the crime. With a DNA database, we can catch criminals faster.

In September 2004, Washington State solved a 36 year old murder case using a DNA database derived from felons. Imagine how many more crimes we can solve with our own database. However it can only happen if this proposition passes.

Opponents claim that such a system is an invasion of privacy, but the proposition ensures safeguards. DNA will be collected with a simple mouth swab, not a blood sample. More importantly, the test provides nothing more than identification. No genetic information or other personal data can be collected from this method.

Supporters of this proposition include Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations.

DNA Fingerprinting Is Too Invasive

By Robert Khuu

The problem about DNA fingerprinting is not the issue of money, nor is it the issue of having a person's DNA stored within a criminal database. The issue that should be weighed within the mind of the voter is the issue of privacy and a move away from the "innocent until proven guilty" doctrine. Yes, while it is true that the California Department of Justice would greatly benefit from the collection of DNA from all arrests, there should not be a sacrifice of certain rights of citizens for the sake of expediency.

The argument for proposition 69 says that since fingerprints are already collected at the time of arrest; so why not collect an additional "fingerprint?" The problem is that DNA is something that can reveal a great wealth of information about an individual. Constantly, scientists are finding the functions of various genes of an individual. DNA is able to determine an individual's predisposition to diseases such as Alzheimer's and even aggressive behavior. This genetic data collected from this proposition has potential (in the future) to become public and enter the hands of private corporations. Imagine a person being denied health insurance because it was found that their DNA (acquired through this proposition) revealed they were predisposed to certain diseases. Of course, the person has a prior felonious arrest; however, even those that are arrested deserve health care.

Granted, the technology for this type of research in a person's genetic predispositions is a bit far in the future; however, the technology is developing quickly and it is only a matter of time before scientists will be able to determine certain aspects of a person's health history. Already they have identified genes that deal with cancer and other diseases. Just because the government does not release the information now, does not mean that the government will not release it in the future. The potential for a privacy violation is too great for this proposition to be passed.

In addition, this proposition would also begin the collection of DNA from people that have never been charged with a crime. What does this mean? This means that someone that is mistakenly arrested for a felony that they did not commit must have their DNA collected. It is one thing to say that all individuals that are charged and convicted of a crime (or even just charged with a crime) should submit their DNA, but it is another thing to collect DNA from all individuals that are simply arrested on a possible felonious charge. That is not right. This is crossing the territory into "guilty until proven innocent" because the implication is that law enforcement already believes that you are the perpetrator. It is like saying "I think you stole my sandwich, but I am not sure yet; so I will put your name permanently on this list of possible sandwich stealers without determining whether you are guilty or not. You can take your name off, but you are going to have to hire a lawyer."

While this proposition is meant in good faith, there are just too many issues that it does not deal with for it to be passed. Please, vote no on Proposition 69.

For more information about California propositions, visit

SmartVoter.org

The Past Four Years in Review

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f*ck yourself" during a senate photo session. And, people say Bush is plain spoken.

Senate

Majority Leader Bill Frist

• Frist has a pretty clean record as the Republican Leader. The only problem is he is considered a puppet of the White House.

GOP Conference Chairman

Rick Santorum

• The conservative senator compares homosexuality to incest, bigamy, and adultery. Now if he had made disparaging remarks about the black civil rights movement (think former Republican Senate Leader Trent

Lott), the White House and Senate Republicans would pressure him to step down. Good thing for Santorum, republicans aren't big on equal rights for *everybody*.

House of Representatives

Speaker

Dennis Hastert

• Generally a nice guy, Hastert disappointed many when he allowed the prescription drug bill vote to stay open for three hours. This allowed his leadership team to coerce republican lawmakers who originally voted "nay" to switch their votes to pass the republican legislation that favored big pharmaceutical companies over your grandparents.

Majority Leader Tom Delay

• The main perpetrator in coercing republicans to switch their votes on the prescription drug bill. De-

lay went so far as to threaten Rep. Nick Smith with retaliation against Smith's son, who was running for Congress. Of course, Delay also offered to support Smith's son's campaign, if Smith switched his vote. Is this how republicans build a consensus? With threats and bribes?

• Republicans couldn't win elections in Texas. No problem. Delay orchestrated the re-districting of congressional seats to get them elected.

• Unanimously and officially admonished by the bipartisan House Ethics Committee for abusing his position and power three times, Delay claims that the committee "dismissed" all the charges of wrongdoing against him. Typical.

Well, looking at the Republican leadership's record, it is far from being "compassionate conservative". But, perhaps

judging them on how they act individually isn't as important as evaluating their record of achievement as a whole, considering they are the party in power in Washington. The Republican's record of job loss, high deficit, failed policies in Iraq, destruction of the environment, diplomatic missteps internationally, and achievements for their special interests over the American public is a record that republicans don't seem to want to promote. No wonder when a mother of a slain soldier tearfully tried to ask President Bush about his war costing her son's life in Iraq, the Republican crowd around her shouted "Four more years!" to drown her out. Can you imagine another four more years...

Richard is Co-Chair of Young Democrats at UCI.

Attention!

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Check out our website for more info...

irvineprogressive.com

This issue of The Irvine Progressive is supported in part by the Young Democrats at UCI.

Meetings every Thursday at Humanities Hall Room 108 at 5 PM.

Visit YDUCI.org for more info

What Would Jesus Do?

Well, He certainly would not have voted for Bush.

By KELLY O'BRIEN
Contributor

Could devout Christians get it any more wrong? In a recent Gallup Poll, white men who attend church at least once a week chose Bush over Kerry by a staggering 70%. Women in this group also chose Bush, by a narrower 52% to 42% margin.

The primary issues addressed by many Christian pulpits during election years are abortion and stem cell research. Millions cast their ballots for the Republican presidential nominee based solely on that candidate's support of pro-life policies.

The New Testament does not mention abortion or stem cells. Jesus does, however, talk extensively about loving your neighbor and forgiving debts. James C. Moore, co-author of "Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George Bush Presidential," summed it up best, telling the Texas Faith Network conference on August 17, "If ever there was a bleeding heart liberal, it was Jesus Christ."

The Christian faithful has not always shied away from following in Jesus' liberal footsteps. Mary Catherine Hilkert, professor of theology at Notre Dame University, explained, "Many Catholics traditionally associated themselves with the Democratic party. It was more consonant with the Church's social teachings, in terms of labor unions and social justice - providing for the least and the least."

Hilkert acknowledged the once unified Church has split on pro-life issues. Gerard Heather, a professor of political science at San Francisco State University, goes further, stating there exists a belief that stem cell research and abortion are symptoms of a society losing its Christian values. Since *Roe v. Wade*, "the forces of evil and subversion have been conveniently located in the Democratic party and its liberal advocates."

One preacher who sees abortion as the only issue in a presidential election is Father John Hart of Rockaway, NJ. He cites Pope John Paul II's "Gospel of Life," a 1995 encyclical letter that denounces all legal abortions. "The right to be born is the first of the pro-life issues and requires the most consideration," Hart said. "It's hard to believe

Jesus is going to look favorably on anyone in favor of killing innocent unborn children."

Father Frank Pavone has spent the past ten years promoting the message it is impossible to be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and yet vote for pro-abortion candidates. As the National Director of Priests for Life, a Vatican-approved pro-life association, he urges priests to make abortion central to all homilies between now and the November election, and hopes the faithful will bring their Christian convictions into the voting booth.

Conversely, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website is not single-minded when discussing the areas Christians should consider when voting. Its list includes international security, hunger, child welfare, education, health care, poverty, housing, discrimination, war, and international debt as concerns to be weighed in the decision.

In response to this advice, a lay group called Catholic Answers published a more conservative guide identifying five issues that are "non-negotiable." They are abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning and homosexual "marriage." The guide states supporting any of these issues would disqualify a candidate as a viable option for a faithful Catholic.

"Singling out one issue makes voting easier - but when you vote for a slogan, you abdicate your responsibility as a voter," said Rev. Charles Bouchard. Arguing against this all-or-nothing strategy, Bouchard, the president of the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, added, "Lots of values have to be realized."

In his February 12, 2001 article in *America*, Bouchard cites a number of reasons why good Catholics continue to vote along Democratic lines, including suspicion of pro-life rhetoric. Before Clinton, twelve years of pro-life presidents did little to slow the incidence of abortions. Further, Republican support of the death penalty and the pre-emptive war in Iraq cast serious doubts on whether George W. is truly committed to a complete pro-life agenda.

Nympha Clark, a retired lay pastor from Dayton, Ohio is worried about the issues that don't get as much attention as abortion and stem cell research. "We value life through natural death. We value the poor

and immigrants. We can't just focus on getting people born, and not caring for them while they are here."

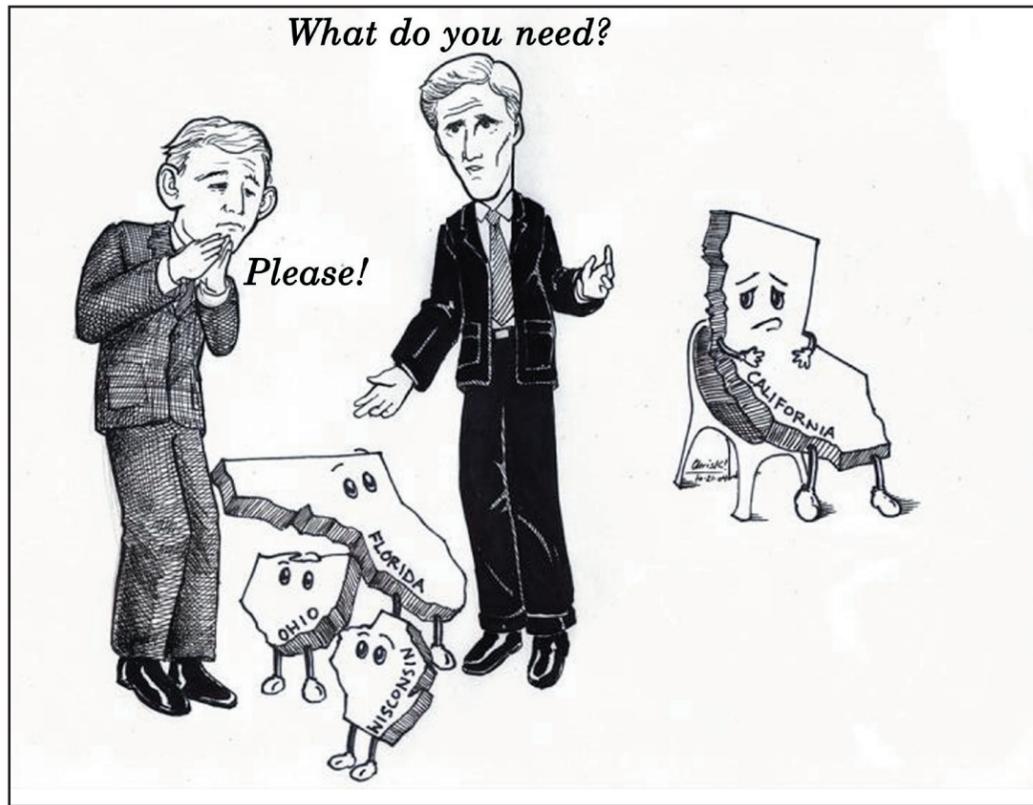
"The quality of life is also important, not just life itself," Rev. Richard Looney, President of the Foundation for Evangelism in Lake Junaluska, N.C. said. "Economic inequality is a huge issue that Christians need to address...During a war, the whole (Republican) party's mantra is to cut taxes. That really infuriates me when there are so many people who have no medical care in this rich, rich county."

Father James L. Heft, delineates Bush's anti-Jesus behavior in a *Dayton Daily News* article dated August 4, 2004. Besides pointing out Bush's conflicting pro-life stances (stated above) Heft asked, "What are the social and moral consequences of not having universal health care, of tax cuts disproportionately benefiting the wealthy, of little support for single mothers and for good public schools in the inner city?"

Jesus devoted his ministry to helping society's most vulnerable. Clearly a good Christian can vote for a pro-choice candidate if that individual better promotes Christian morals in other areas. Until Bush understands society's most vulnerable are not just unborn babies, but also the poor, the underpaid, people without health care, the elderly, and the imprisoned, no good Christian can vote for him.

Thank You Electoral College

By Chris K.



Farewell to Derrida

After a battle with cancer UCI says goodbye to an inspiring and dedicated teacher and theorist.

By CRYSTAL MASON

Famous French theorist and dedicated teacher Jacques Derrida passed away in a Paris Hospital on Friday October 8th, 2004 from pancreatic cancer. Derrida was born in Algeria in 1930 and later attended France's prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure in 1952. He then became an assistant professor at Harvard and the Sorbonne in Paris.

Derrida was best known for his deconstruction theory which can be briefly explained as picking apart the way a text is put together to reveal its hidden meanings. His theory of deconstruction is also based on the idea that human knowledge is not as controllable as Western thought would like to have it and that language often operates subtle and sometimes contradictory ways. Based on this idea Derrida believed that sometimes there would be items that the reader could deconstruct that even the writer would not have known they included. Unfortunately, Derrida's amazing theories and ideas were not always appreciated by his fellow academicians. At one

point Britain's Cambridge University had planned to award him an honorary degree in 1992 but many staff members protested such an honor and denounced his writings as "absurd doctrines that deny the distinction between reality and fiction." Despite the dislike illustrated by some staff members at Cambridge his honorary degree was approved by 336 votes to 204. Although some staff at Cambridge disapproved, he was highly regarded at UC Irvine.

Derrida, while being a world famous contemporary philosopher, made an enormous contribution to the intellectual life of UCI. Beginning in 1987, he taught a seminar in spring quarter. The sessions lasted for five weeks and included two lectures of two hours each that were open to the public as well as one two-hour discussion for the graduate students enrolled in the class. The beginning lectures would usually draw a crowd of approximately 150 people consisting of students, faculty members and people from all over California. Once Derrida began to delve deep into his topic the numbers dropped to a still high 80 or so participants because people realized that his subject matter would be both difficult and time consuming. While his material was difficult it deeply interested, and even touched the hearts, of some members of

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Briefe aus Deutschland/Letters From Germany

Is "Old Europe" Anti-American?

Former Editor-in-Chief discusses his talks with Europeans about American politics.

By ALEXANDER PHILLIPS
from Germany

Dear UCI,

Before my arrival here in Berlin it had been suggested that I buy a T-shirt with the Canadian flag on the front. Indeed, students who apply for the EAP program will receive plenty of advice in their handbooks and in the meetings prior to departure on dealing with anti-Americanism abroad. It seems that there is a perception in the United States in both the Left and amongst Bush supporters that the Europeans hate us. The Left sees it as being grounded in the breakdown of cooperation between the United States and Europe as a result of the President's pugnacious approach to foreign policy, Bush supporters see it as being grounded in "old Europe's" unwillingness to take a stand for freedom, or some other meaningless platitude.

I've been in Berlin almost two months now and have yet to encounter any sort of hostility towards Americans, however I have had a number of interesting conversations. My first week here I was chatting with somebody about political matters when I was asked directly whether or not I was a patriot. Interesting that the rhetoric of which political ideology in the US gets to claim patriotism as it's own true domain should have made it here to Germany, but then, this country also has a very difficult history with nationalism, one that goes beyond 1933-1945.

Most of the questions I have been getting have revolved around how the citizens of the United States could support such a president. From my experience, talk of "anti-Americanism" is somewhat disingenuous (an interesting buzz word this election year) in so far as many conservatives portray those who are against America's policies at home and abroad as being against America and everything this country stands for.

Failure to recognize this distinction goes beyond the likes of Ann Coulter and Sean Hannity. In Alexandra Richie's *Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin*, an excellent account of the city's history

were it not for the last four chapters and her slobbering admiration of Ronald Reagan, Richie mentions the anti-Vietnam Movement in West Berlin and notes that it was "bizarre in a city which had been protected by them [Americans] since 1945." True enough that allied efforts saved West Berlin from Stalin's efforts to expand Soviet influence over West Berlin, but this does not mean that the

Whether one is talking of personal relationships or international relationships, standing up to your friends for what is just does not make one a bad friend.

West Berlin, France, or any other country that remains a strong friend to the United States must be a US vassal and support the US when it is in the wrong, such as was the case in Iraq. It is illogical to assume that France and Germany were ever "bad friends" or hated the United States because of their opposition to our policies. Whether one is talking of personal relationships or international relationships, standing up to your friends for what is just does not make one a bad friend.

It goes without saying that as President George W. Bush has changed the nature of America's relationship with Europe, and not for the better. The souring of relations with Europe began long before the charge in to the Iraq war, it began in Bush's first months in office. Claiming that they were fatally flawed, Bush pulled America out of international agreements such as the Kyoto Treaty and the International Criminal Court, agreements that were much cherished here in "old Europe." True enough, America did spend a good deal of time viewed by the world in a positive light on account of what the national suffering after the crimes of September 11, but this was largely squandered by Bush in the push to war. This is not simply a matter of the French being sour about Freedom Fries.

The rhetoric against Europe, of course, has done nothing to help the situation. Granted, most of the ire was against the French (bratwurst eating surrender monkeys doesn't really have quite the ring to it), but the administration's own arrogance has gone far in alienating Europe. In the debates Bush talked about what was "popular in certain European capitals" as if whatever he was talking about was somehow con-

trary to American interests. Arrogance seems to be a defining trait of the Bush administration. In February 2003, for example, Donald Rumsfeld was in Munich for a security conference in which he tried to recruit European allies for the war in Iraq. It was German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer's turn at the podium. He began his speech in German but as he looked into the audience he no-

ticed that Donald Rumsfeld had removed his translator headseat and was chatting with someone else. Fischer was so enraged he burst out in English "Excuse me, I am not convinced! I am not convinced!" He added in German "we owe our democracy to the United States but we must be convinced!"

This sort of arrogance is what truly raises the hackles of Europeans. One woman I recently talked to summed up the feeling by saying that she had been to America and that she loved the Americans, but that a certain segment of the population seems to be unable to recognize that they are not the only ones on the planet, and that this segment is what has been projecting a negative view of America for three years. Like her, most of the people I have spoken to recognize the difference between a citizen and their government. It is not America that is unpopular here, it is George W. Bush.

One of the stories that has received a considerable amount of coverage in the German media are the polls suggesting that if the US presidential election were held in most other countries in the world, Bush would lose by a landslide (for the record, Bush would win in such free and democratic societies as Israel and Russia). I can only imagine how these stories were greeted in the United States, I am sure that the right wing media was working overtime to turn them into some sort of proof the John Kerry would leave defense decisions to Paris and Berlin. In reality, John Kerry's popularity here is more evidence that it is Bush the Europeans are against, and like so many of us at home, feel that America is on the wrong track un-

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What Prop 71 Can Do

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ter insurance coverage for catastrophic injuries and in 1998, returned to his home in acting in a remake of "Rear Window". He also appealed to his fellows in Hollywood, stating at the 1996 Oscars, "Let's continue to take risks. Let's tackle the issues. In many ways our film community can do it better than anyone else. There is no challenge, artistic or otherwise, that we can't meet."

Joan Irvine-Smith contacted Reeve about adding his name to the research center at UCI, which has since joined other prestigious spinal cord research facilities in Harvard, Stanford and Yale. The Reeve-Irvine Research Center has been funded primarily by contributions and donations, and it also distributes the \$1.5 million that is allotted from the state for stem cell research to all of California. With that kind of limited funding, research in this vital field cannot expand or grow to accommodate the potential of the field. The federal government is too bound by red tape by having to placate the religious right to be able to adequately and properly fund these centers. Proposition 71 would close this funding gap. The proposition will authorize tax-free state bonds that will provide an average of \$295 million per year over ten years to support stem cell research at California universities, medical schools and research facilities. Also, the plan stipulates that the bonds will be self funded for the first five years, and will provide jobs in the places where recent graduates of the sciences need them, giving young educated Americans back the jobs Bush outsourced. So, in opposition to what you may have heard, Prop 71 will not increase taxes. Wars do that.

Stem cells are undifferentiated basic cells that can pretty much develop in to any group of cells they are exposed to, including nerve cells. These cells are less likely to be rejected by the body, which would ease transplant patients, and the ability of these cells to rebuild damaged areas could help paralysis victims heal their spinal cords. While stem cell research is supported by The American Medical Association, American Association For The Advancement Of Science, American Diabetes Association, Association Of American Medical Colleges, National Health Council, National Coalition For Cancer Research And Christopher Reeve Pa-

ralysis Foundation, it still faces immense opposition. The most often cited criticism of stem cell research is obviously the ethical one of the relationship of this research to abortions, fertility treatments and cloning. Proposition 71 states that the stem cells used are not related to cloning in any sense. Also, stem cells cannot be taken from aborted fetuses, as their cells have already differentiated in to different body parts and do not have their plasticity any longer. Stem cells can be taken from cord blood, the blood taken from a newborn's umbilical cord and from embryos resulting from fertility treatments. Now don't get bent out of shape at seeing the word embryo. In reality, these embryos, which had been created for infertile couples to have the chance to raise children, cannot even be truly considered pregnancies, as they will probably never be implanted in a uterus and be able to develop. Yet, there is next to no opposition to fertility treatments that create embryos for couples. Then again, heterosexual couples wanting to raise their own children is part of the American hegemony, so it stands to reason that scientifically creating a baby for them in a lab is completely natural, not like the urge and wish to be able to heal those with debilitating diseases.

Not all conservatives are opposed to stem cells though. Nancy Reagan realized the importance of this research, and the effect it could have had on her husband, the late former President Ronald Reagan. While the former First Lady's contribution to this effort cannot be denied, it would be better if more people would see the universal benefits of this research rather than only realizing it when a close family member is struck by an illness.

Americans who can benefit from stem cell research, as it does not affect any of them, just as the only member of the Bush administration who is more lenient on his stance on gay marriage is Vice President Cheney. Had his own daughter, his own flesh and blood had not been affected by this, considering Cheney's stance on everything else (like Nelson Mandela), chances are the Vice President would stand against gay rights in uniform with the rest of the administration. Just like conservatives do, this administration is letting fear of the unknown guide its decision against stem cell research, and refuses to see past its own nose to recognize the estimated 128 million Americans who suffer from diseases that can be treated with stem cells.

About Old Europe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

der this administration.

It is interesting that in all the reports I have heard on this subject, the pundit is always quick to point out that Germans should be careful in embracing John Kerry. It is often noted that Kerry would still call for Europeans to help with the effort in Iraq, that very American mess. Germans today are not proud of their nation's role in two of history's bloodiest wars, so the committal of German forces anywhere is always controversial.

It is always amusing to me to see the way some people's faces light up when I tell them I am an American. I hope that I continue to have the luck of not dealing with people who are against me personally due to my citizenship, but such sentiments are not as widespread here as many seem to believe. It is not anti-Americanism that is flourishing over here, it is resentment towards the arrogance of the Bush administration and opposition to American policies under Bush's miserable leadership.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Alexander Phillips

Alexander is a third year
German Studies and
Comp. Lit major currently
studying in Berlin.

Capitol Cogitations by Jamison Power

Gov's Veto Denies Info to Public, Endangers Our Communities

On November 2, 2003, in the wake of devastating wildfires across California that cost the lives of 24 people, destroyed 3,500 homes, and resulted in over 2 billion dollars in damages, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and outgoing Governor Gray Davis jointly established the California Blue Ribbon Fire Commission (CBRFC).

The CBRFC is a 42-member body composed of the best and the brightest in fire services, management and labor, and local government. Its goal is to ensure that firefighters and local governments have the resources and information necessary to do their job in the most effective manner possible. The hope is that, through legislative solutions, our state can avoid a repeat of the terrible firestorms of 2003.

In the interest of protecting Californians and in keeping with the goal of the Commission, Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez (D-Norwalk) authored Assembly Bill 2406—a measure relating to firefighter response times. The bill, which had strong bipartisan support, was embraced by the California Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. In fact, it was one of only five bills

to be endorsed by the CBRC and it was endorsed unanimously by all 42 members. Yet, inexplicably, the Governor ignored the advice of his own commission and vetoed this important legislation. His veto denied vital information to the people of

Yet, inexplicably, the Governor ignored the advice of his own commission and vetoed this important legislation. His veto denied vital information to the people of California and jeopardized our communities.

California and jeopardized our communities.

AB 2406 would have required cities and counties to report their 911 response times to the State Fire Marshall's office. This information would then have been made available to the public on a state website.

If the Governor had signed AB 2406, we as Californians would have had access to a report card that would have let us know if our community is doing its job when it comes to providing fire protection services. In addition, we would have been able to see how our local community measures up in comparison to other communities across the state and in comparison to national firefighter response time and staffing standards issued by the National Fire

Protection Association. This is vital information that every Californian resident should have access to. If firefighter response times in our community are poor and if our local governments are making decisions that are negatively impact-

ing our quality of life and our safety, we have a right to know.

AB 2406 would also have ensured that local governments make smart decisions when deciding how to fund fire protection services. The fact is that there is currently little available data for cities and counties to use when making these decisions.

Cuts are often made to fire service without an understanding of how they will impact the public. That's why the California Professional Firefighters, California State Firefighters Association, and the California Fire Chiefs Association were all united in the support of the bill. AB 2406 would have provided local governments with information and meaningful data that could

have been used to determine how to allocate finite resources in the smartest possible way, without negatively impacting the safety of local residents.

With cities and counties across the state closing fire stations and cutting fire department personnel in an effort to close large budget gaps, we need to know the impact these decisions are having on our safety. We have a right to know if our lives are being put in danger by increased response times of first responders.

Faster response times lessen the likelihood of a family losing a loved one or their home in a fire, and a few seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Finally, we have a duty to ensure that the firefighters—who are out protecting us every day—have the resources and personnel they need so that they can do their job and return safely every night to their loved ones.

If Arnold Schwarzenegger truly wants to make California the "Golden Dream by the Sea", he needs to do all he can to ensure that all Californians are protected and kept safe.

At a Glance

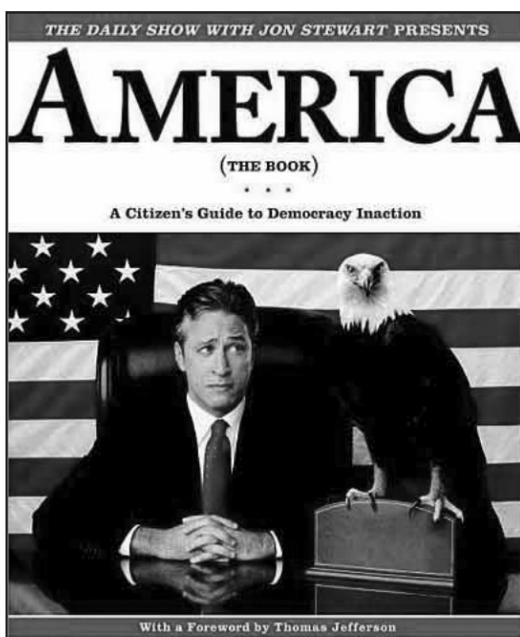
The Daily Show with John Stewart Presents: America (The Book)

By HEIDI KHALED

If you enjoy Jon Stewart's witty comedy news program "The Daily Show," then you will love his mock-student textbook called *America*, which gives a run down of the American political system for those who don't know, or care to know, any shit about it.

Hilarious satire fills every page, even in the chapter guide—“In this chapter you will: gain new appreciation for rotundas; compare and contrast the soulless gray-faced bureaucrats of the Senate with the soulless gray-faced bureaucrats of the House; embark on an exotic journey of the senses as you are exposed as a leftist and homosexual by this man [picture of Joseph McCarthy]; meet and immediately dislike lobbyists; learn how to hide your purchase of this book in a much larger book appropriations bill.”

The book is filled with timelines, charts, chapter reviews, and various activities that leave you feeling like this country could possibly be as much of a joke as this book. From charts aiding in “Determining Newsworthiness” to dressing naked Supreme Court justice paper dolls, *America* offers great entertainment to students who want nothing more than to shamelessly and vociferously laugh at the people, organizations, and historical events that have made this nation the object of shameless and vociferous laughter for people everywhere around the world. It's currently on sale in the campus bookstore, so get your copy before *America* is blacklisted!



News in Brief

GOP GROUP MAY HAVE DESTROYED REGISTRATION CARDS

Arizona-based Sproul & Associates, funded by the GOP, is under investigation in Oregon and Nevada over accusations that people hired by the company were told to register only Republicans and throw way registration forms filled out by Democrats. Numerous witnesses from different states have publicly accused the firm of wrongdoing. It is illegal to tamper with voter registration cards and in Oregon, such acts are felonies. Nathan Sproul is former head of Arizona's Republican Party and that state's Christian Coalition branch. (Associated Press)

HEAD OF CHARITY GROUP IN IRAQ ABDUCTED

Margaret Hassin, chief of operations for CARE International U.K. has been kidnapped in Baghdad. Hassin, a dual Iraqi-British national, has been living in Iraq for 30 years doing charity work. CARE said it has halted its operations in Iraq and has appealed on Arabic television for the release of Hassin.

AMERICANS GOING TO CANADA FOR FLU SHOTS

The demand for flu shots are so high, Americans having been calling Canadian health clinics for shots. In fact, Canadian health officials are planning a one-day clinic specifically for U.S. citizens for Oct. 30. The two clinics are southeast of Vancouver and minutes from the most heavily traveled U.S. border crossing west of Detroit. (Associated Press)

Death Penalty for Juveniles?

After over a decade, the U.S. Supreme Court brings the death penalty under review again.

By ROBERT KHUU
Staff Writer

In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court found those that are found to be mentally retarded cannot be given the death penalty. This past month, the U.S. Supreme Court must, once again, reexamine the death penalty. This time, however, it is in regards to juveniles. In the current case of Roper v. Simmons the court will deal with whether or not it is Constitutional to give the death penalty to children at the ages of 16-17. The question here is, should the ban on the death penalty be expanded to juveniles?

There are two sides to this issue. According to an October article from Wired, one side of the argument states that this should not be an issue that the Court should consider. Instead, it must be something that is decided within the legislature. That is, it is a public policy issue that should be fleshed out within the legislature and it is not the place of the courts to decide.

The other side of the argument states that there already is a national consensus against the death penalty for juveniles and that the Supreme Court should act. In addition, it is argued that there has been an international consensus that advocates the position that juveniles should not receive the death penalty no matter what their crime is; however, the problem with this is that seldom have the laws of other countries influenced public policy in the United States.

The question that the Supreme Court must weigh

is whether giving the death penalty to a 16 to 17 year old constitutes as an "unusual" punishment (in reference to the "no cruel and unusual punishment part of the Constitution.") De-

If this country does not trust them with the right to vote nor does it give them the right to make major medical decisions without the consent of a parent or guardian, then how can juveniles be expected to be held completely responsible for their actions (no matter how egregious)?

pending on how this question is answered, the Court will either apply the ban to juveniles or leave it the way it is.

According to the same October article from Wired, some states formally allow the execution of minors; however, in practice, not many states actually sentence minors to death. As stated before, one of the arguments for the ending of the juvenile death penalty (for ages 16 and 17) argues that since most states seldom actually give the death sentence to juveniles, then there is already a national consensus that asks for a change in the convention. In a sense, it is saying that the nation is ready for such a shift in public policy and it is the place of the Court to do so.

In general, the idea of the death penalty seems unfit for any modern day civilized nation (as shown by the fact that the majority of democracies in the world have rejected the idea of a death penalty); however, this general issue is not going to be discussed. Instead, the issue is about giving the death penalty to juveniles. Simply put, this is something that should not be done.

Juveniles, more specifically teenagers, are quite possibly some of the most impossible to measure individuals. They tend to not possess the ability to

understand the long term implications of their actions. Of course, this is not discounting that there are some teenagers out there that are able to do so, but the nagging question is how

can they be held completely responsible for their actions? If this country does not trust them with the right to vote nor does it give them the right to make major medical decisions without the consent of a parent or guardian, then how can juveniles be expected to be held completely responsible for their actions (no matter how egregious)? If it is deemed that they are not able to make responsible decisions concerning certain aspects of their lives, then how can they be given the ultimate penalty for a crime that, chances are, was the result of their immaturity?

As an afterthought, there is a fear that this case will affect the dichotomy concerning the death penalty for adults; however, the case of juveniles should not really affect it.

There has always been a distinction between the adult committing heinous crimes and the juvenile committing heinous crimes and courts have always treated them differently. This can be seen by the fact that there are not that many juveniles sentenced to death (even in states that do formally allow executions of ages 16-17) and that it is more likely to have an adult sentenced to death. Rest assured; sentencing adults to death will still be legal.

Late Night Comedy is Good For You

If you watch The Daily Show, you're probably more informed about politics than most people.

By OLIVIA M. RODRIGUEZ
Contributor

If you've ever felt guilty for watching late-night comedy instead of studying, well here's some good news. According to the National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania people who watch late-night comedy are more informed about politics than non-viewers. The study reported, "Viewers of late-night comedy programs, especially The Daily Show with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central, are more likely to know the issue positions and backgrounds of presidential candidates than people who do not watch late-night comedy" (NAES).

The study took place between July 15 and September 19 among 19,013 adults. It consisted of a six-question test on the political positions of George W. Bush and John Kerry. The test included questions such as "Who favors allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security contributions in the stock market?" and "Who is a former prosecutor?"

If you don't know the answers to these questions, then maybe you don't watch enough late-night comedy, and you should start immediately! Consequently, those who were quizzed that had not watched any late-night comedy in the past week scored an average of 2.62 out of 6. Viewers of Letterman, however, scored 2.91; viewers of Leno scored 2.95; and viewers of The Daily Show scored 3.59 on average. According to the survey, "That meant that there was a difference of 16 percentage points

between Daily Show viewers and people who did not watch any late-night programming" (NAES).

So, although Bill O'Reilly publicly called Jon Stewart's audience "stoned slackers" and "dopey kids", this study puts all those rumors to rest. As for the rest of us, I highly suggest taking that quiz, which is available online, to see just how you match up with the rest of the late-night comedy viewers. I myself took the test and scored 4 out of 6 points. I think it's because I watch The Daily Show, or maybe it's because I'm just smart.

Either way, there's a lesson to be learned from this study. If you watch late-night comedy, then you are an informed individual. If you don't watch late-night comedy, then you really should just hang your head in shame. On a serious note, what late-night comedy has to offer its audiences is politics on a more personal level. It breaks down the issues and makes it entertaining for everyone, which means it is easier to keep informed. I believe the majority of the population would rather watch Jay Leno crack some jokes about our foreign policy than watch a filibuster on C-SPAN.

Regardless, if you watch late-night comedy or not, it seems to hold a great deal of educational value and should not be subjected to constant scrutiny. Rather, we should focus our attention and criticism on the real political issues such as the Iraq War and health-care in the United States. And with that, I encourage each and every one of you to watch late-night comedy and stay informed about politics. Remember, politics affects all of us, even you!

Olivia is the ASUCI Social Ecology Representative and AISA/SESA Publicity Chair



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Don't Like It?
Tell us about it.

E-mail your letters to the editor to
letters@irvineprogressive.com

Florida Election Woes Still Exist

Since the 2000 fiasco, Florida has made little progress in ensuring voters a clean Election Day.

By DAVID PHAM

Florida is the largest battleground state in terms of the number of electoral votes at stake—which is 27. For the past few weeks, George W. Bush and John Kerry have traded the lead nearly every other day in the Florida polls. This year's outcome in Florida may be as close as it was in 2000. An October 17 poll by Survey-USA shows Kerry over Bush by 1 point with a 4.1% margin of error—which would count this as a statistical tie. Considering that the election is very close nationally, it is safe to say Florida will, again, be a deciding factor this year.

In the 2000 presidential election, Florida embarrassed itself with its butterfly ballots, hanging chads, grueling recounts, disenfranchised felons, and overturned constitutional reviews. Since then, Florida election officials have tried to solve all these issues, but results have been below average, at best.

Their panacea, they thought, would be the overrated electronic voting machines. Many people thought technology would fix the problems because there would be no more chads and butterflies. However, technology has proven to have its own problems.

According to the Sun-Sentinel, several Florida areas were experiencing “glitches” during early voting—two weeks before Election Day: “Broward County elections officials said nine of the 14 early voting sites were having problems with a live database connection used to verify that a voter is property registered.”

The Associated Press reported that a test of electronic voting machines in early October was postponed because “a computer server that tabulates data from the touch-screen machines crashed.” Theresa LePore, the Palm Beach County elections supervisor, who approved the infamous butterfly ballot, believed Hurricane Jeanne may have caused the crash, not the machines. According to LePore, the hurricane—which struck in September—may have disabled the electricity and

the air conditioning to the room where the server was stored, which may have caused the server to overheat and crash.

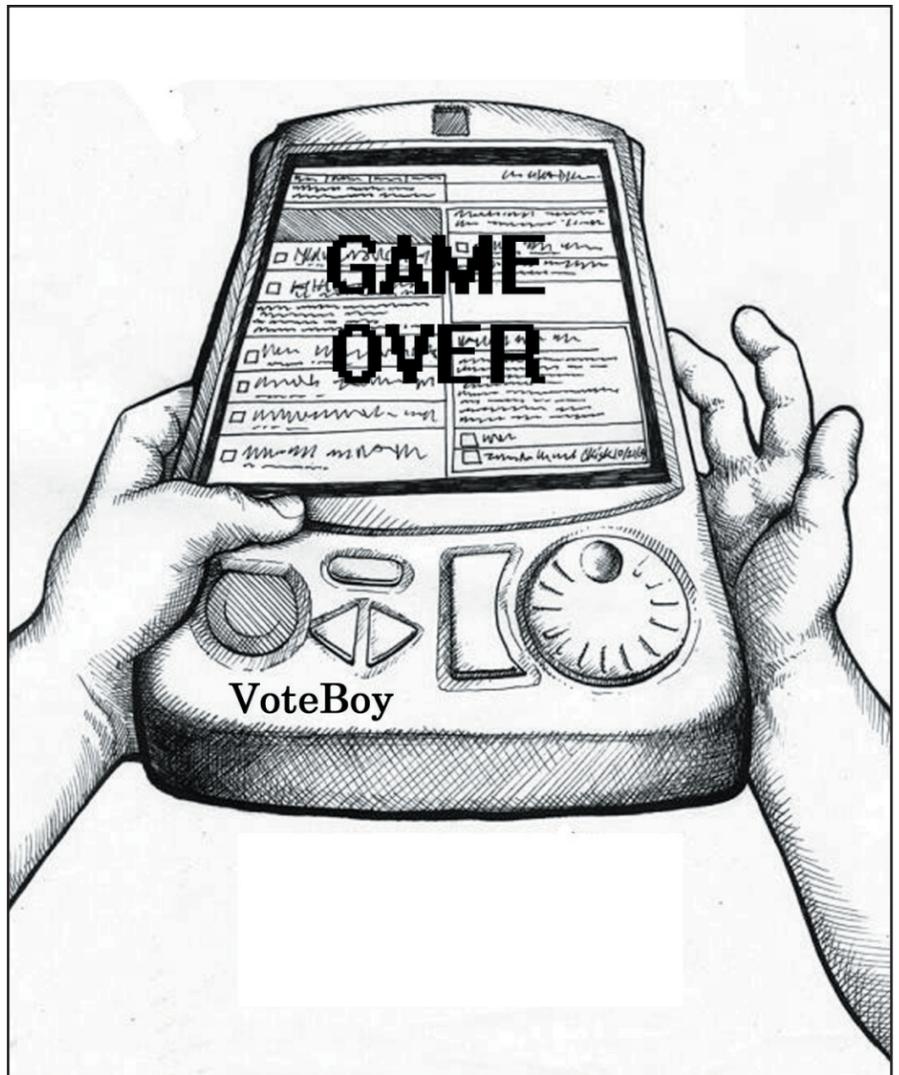
Whether or not LePore's excuse is entirely true, she pointed out a glaring flaw in these systems. Critics have warned that a power outage, surge, or overheating can destroy databases and basically wipe out all votes in a flash. Vincent Lipsio, a firmware design engineer in Gainesville, Florida, reaffirmed such worries: “The reality is these machines are dependent on electricity, and unless you're going to have generators at polling places, you need a paper backup system.” (Associated Press, 10/14/04).

Recently, former President Jimmy Carter warned of another fiasco in Florida. According to a September 27 BBC report, “He accused Florida Secretary of State Glenda Hood, a Republican, of trying to get the name of independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader included on the state ballot, knowing he might divert Democrat votes.” Carter also mentioned Florida Governor Jeb Bush, brother of George W. Bush, of trying to disenfranchise thousands of African-Americans, who are more likely to be Democratic.

An Associated Press article from October 17 reported that Gov. Jeb Bush ignored advice from state officials to throw out a flawed list of felonious voters and sent it to county election offices. Florida does not automatically reinstate voting rights to convicted felons when they are done with their sentences. The list that Jeb Bush approved contained names of registered voters who were convicted felons and as a result, were banned from voting. However, Secretary of State Glenda Hood admitted that the database was flawed because about 2,500 ex-felons on the list had had their voting rights restored. The AP article also noted that “most were Democrats, and many were black. Hispanics, who often vote Republican in Florida, were almost entirely absent from the list due to a technical error.”

Unfortunately, it is too late to repair these problems and it looks like Florida will embarrass itself again when they hit the front page on November 3rd.

The Wonders of Technology By Chris K.



What You Don't Know About the Afghan Elections

What exactly have Americans deployed in Afghanistan been fighting for?

By JAMES J. KANG
Contributor

On October 8, 2004, the people of Afghanistan participated in their first direct democratic presidential election since the removal of the Taliban regime by the United States armed forces. Characteristic of the violent atmosphere in which they live, the Afghans faced violent threats against such an election. Afghan and international security forces were on duty across the country to prevent terrorist attacks against voters. Among many thwarted terrorist attacks were three Pakistanis heading for the center of Kandahar in a truck filled with 10,000 gallons of gasoline wired with explosives. During this proud moment of Afghan history, many people may have been disappointed by 14 presidential candidates' call to boycott the election results. However, the world may now have good reason to believe that such action did not come as a result of

“armchair thinking”, but from reasonable evidence.

Presidential candidate Homayoun Shah Assefy said shortly after the election, “I have with me a witness who saw just one person cast 100 votes in Spin Boldak on the Pakistan border...” In order to vote in the Afghan election, a voter puts ink on her thumb, and then presses her thumb onto the section on the ballot for her chosen candidate. The ink is supposed to be somewhat permanent, so that a voter, whose thumb shows the ink, cannot come back to the polls and vote again. A voter who had just cast a ballot in the election, showed CNN how the ink can be washed off with water. He said, “I have cast my vote, but the ink was removable. This is ridiculous.” Realizing the potential for voter fraud, 14 of the 15 presidential candidates running against Interim President Hamid Karzai called for a boycott of the election results. Shortly after, the Afghan Joint Electoral Management Board (JEMB), in charge of overseeing the elections, released statements in which it reassured the candidates that such issues of voter fraud would be addressed.

Recently, there have been reports that some of the presidential candidates are taking a step back from their call for boycott.

These JEMB reassurances are probably not why the candidates are backing off, however. In September of 2004, the Los Angeles Times, Al Jazeera, and other news agencies reported that presidential candidate Mohammed Mohaqiq was visited by US Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, in which Khalilzad made a “request” that Mohaqiq not run against Karzai. “He left, and then called my most loyal men, and the most educated people in my party or campaign, to the presidential palace and told them to make me - or request me - to resign the nomination. And he told my men to ask me what I need in return,” Mohaqiq stated. Such behind the scenes attempts by United States political forces are not isolated. In fact, other candidates have complained that during the campaigning period, the Ambassador visited them in order to pressure them to step down from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The House That Shirley Built

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'm good at it," she says, when asked what drives her to do local organizing. "This year, I sent out a letter of solicitation to 75 people and received back 35 checks. And that gets us started."

Hundreds of Democrats in Southern Orange County, California, have been com-

Over the course of a one-hour interview, dozens of folks walk in off the streets for free Kerry-Edwards buttons, for placards, to buy T-shirts, to register to vote, or just with general questions.

ing out of the woodworks to attend all 3 Presidential debate parties this election year. To be sure, some UC Irvine students have come in part for free food and wine, where eligible.

But it's more the collective effervescence these Democrats are clearly seeking: the group cheering when Kerry makes good points, and sighs of disapproval when Bush appears idiotic. By contrast, the present writer watched the VP debate at home and found it remarkably depressing.

You'd have to understand how Orange County can seem like a daunting, dry desert for progressive-minded folks. And if Orange County as a whole were the "Billionaires for Bush" Country Club, then the master-planned Irvine itself would be like the Executive Suite.

Yet, the debate-watching events have generated dozens of Democratic volunteers for phone banking, letter writing, and general public relations for the campaigns of John Kerry for President, Barbara Boxer for Senate, as well as a slew of local candidates like Carl Mariz.

"We've been working 8 days a week, 20 hours a day," Shirley exclaims. A Thank-You card sits on her desk from a local student who became involved thanks to her tireless efforts. Over the course of a one-hour interview, dozens of folks walk in off the streets for free Kerry-Edwards buttons, for placards, to buy T-shirts, to register to vote, or just with general questions.

Volunteer Leila Palmer of Irvine says, "This is my first time getting involved at this level. Now that I'm not working, I have time. And we've written 1,500 letters—by hand—to single women in Nevada." Nevada is the closest swing state to California.

Michelle Barker of Irvine adds, "I'm new at the office, but I guess that's kind of the point. A lot of people feel desperate this elec-

tion year. We're all talking about where we're gonna move if Kerry loses. I've never worked on a campaign, but I felt just so strongly that I had to get Bush out of office, so I had to do something."

"Things have certainly improved since I first moved to Irvine with my husband in 1966," says Shirley. "There was no freeway then, no schools, no supermarket. The first election of the City of Irvine was held in my garage, over a school bond! They begged me to hold it

in my garage. The school bond was approved 69-1. But back then, the realtors didn't support the schools, and we used to have women with kids in strollers marching on the streets, saying 'Good Schools Sell Houses.' That was the early 1970's and we used to get called a lot of names."

Shirley has run temporary offices in Irvine, California, during each Presidential Election since Dukakis. "In 1988 we had a Dukakis Office for one month where the Post Office is now. It was a very sad campaign. Then in 1992 we insisted on a store-front and we plastered Barbara Boxer "boxer shorts" and Bill Clinton T-shirts in the windows and we got him and Boxer in, so that was a good year. In 1996, they gave us where the yoga place is now and we raised a lot of money. Then in 2000, they really gave us a hole in the wall. But every four years, people look for me."

Shirley is happy with the new office, although it's only temporary. "After the victory party, where there will be champagne for 21 and over, this office will be closing. But we'll be continuing the Irvine Democratic organization, and this is the first time Irvine will have enough people to have our own organization as a city, and not just rely on Orange County."

The state of political affairs has come a long way since Shirley opened up her first Santa Ana Office in 1970. This office was instrumental in helping Wilson Riles win the seat of State Superintendent of Education that year.

"My husband and I came here to Irvine from Eugene, Oregon. I remember what it felt like back then," she reflects. "What a joy it is now to see all these people together."

Matthew Cardinale is a freelance writer, activist, and grad student at UC Irvine in sociology and democracy studies.



Democratic HQ of Irvine

The office recently opened at the University Center near Z Pizza and Golden Spoons. (Photo by David Pham)

A Woman's Choice

With other issues overshadowing reproductive choice, the right to choose could be in danger.

By CHRISTINA HOLSTEIN
Contributor

With issues such as the War in Iraq, terrorism and gay rights dominating the media, other issues under attack are taking the back seat. Issues such as the economy, education and the environment are rarely even talked about during this election. Once issue immensely under attack, and highly under-discussed, is the pro-choice movement; and sadly, many people have no idea how very close women are to losing their reproductive rights. Over the past four years, the Bush Administration has been actively undermining reproductive rights from every angle - a woman's right to choose, medically accurate sexual education and fact based science and technology. Few are aware that the Administration's judicial nominees regularly oppose Roe v. Wade, or that government funding is only allocated to abstinence-only sexual education. The pro-choice movement and reproductive rights is one issue that is being left out of discussion during this election year, and the price we may have to pay for this is unfathomable to many.

On his first day in office, the 28th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Bush restored the Global Gag Rule (which began with Reagan but was overturned by Clinton). The Global Gag Rule restricts the U.S. government from funding any international non-profit organizations that

provide abortion services or even mention abortion to any client (even if referring them to another organization). Many of these organizations rely on U.S. funding to assist in their safe-sex education, AIDS prevention and general health care for their communities. They have two choices available to them, either accept the money and put millions at risk for AIDS or other STIs because they are unable to provide adequate sexuality education, or rely on their own small budgets, making it very difficult for them to provide the services their communities need.

In addition, the Bush Administration prioritizes abstinence-only sexual education, and refuses government funding to schools that practice medically-accurate sexual education. There is no evidence that abstinence-only programs actually defer teenagers from having sex at an earlier age; in fact, these students are less likely to use condoms or other forms of birth control when they do have sex, and in turn have higher rates of STIs and unintended pregnancies.

The Bush Administration's attacks on reproductive rights do not end there. Women in the military are denied the right to abortion services when overseas unless their health is at risk. In cases of rape and incest, the military allows abortions, but the woman must pay for it with her own expenses. This forces many military women to seek abortion services in the country they are serving duty in, where abortion services may be unsafe or even illegal. If she chooses to fly home to the U.S., she must inform her supervisors and wait until a flight is available, which sacrifices her

privacy and increases her health risks through dangerous delays. However, the military service does cover plastic surgery services, including breast augmentations.

In addition to targeting international family planning, sexual education in schools and abortion services in the military, the Bush Administration has been very hard at work attacking other aspects of women's reproductive rights. They have reduced access to family planning, built a platform to outlaw abortion, made attempts to redefine the legal status of the fetus, packed the courts to overturn Roe v. Wade and have replaced science with right-wing ideology. Although these issues are rarely talked about at presidential debates or on the campaign trail, women's reproductive rights are clearly under attack and deserve your thought and consideration when placing your vote this November 2nd.

For more information on how the Bush Administration has attacked reproductive rights, visit www.advocatesforchoice.com. Advocates for Choice is a new political group on campus this year, committed to electing pro-choice candidates into office, educating the community about reproductive rights and advocating the many issues that lie under the pro-choice cause. Meetings are held every Monday. Visit www.advocatesforchoice.com for meeting locations.

Christina Holstein is the president of Advocates for Choice

The Last Word...

The O'Reilly? Factor

FOX News golden boy and stereotypical Perverted Old Man Bill O'Reilly has been hit with charges of sexual harassment.

By AMY WILLIAMS and HEIDI KHALED
Staff Writers

Conservative icon Bill O'Reilly was recently slammed with a sexual harassment lawsuit for \$60 million by Andrea Mackris, an associate producer for Fox. On October 13th, *The Smoking Gun* released a copy of Mackris's complaint against O'Reilly, outlining repeated offenses by O'Reilly. The alleged harassment began after O'Reilly helped Mackris receive a raise in 2002 after she broke up with her fiancé and could no longer afford to live on her previous salary. According to the file, the 'O'Reilly Factor' host "spoke often, and explicitly to her about phone sex, vibrators, threesomes, masturbation, the loss of his virginity, and sexual fantasies"; O'Reilly supposedly made explicit phone calls to Mackris and engaged in unwanted phone sex. Mackris even alleges that he ejaculated while on the phone with her during what were

supposed to be conversations about work matters (www.smokinggun.com)

Mackris reported being frightened and repulsed by the harassment she endured by O'Reilly, while O'Reilly attempted to assure her it was good for her "mental health." According to Mackris, during one perverse conversation, O'Reilly even warned her, "If you cross Fox News Channel, it's not just me, it's [Fox President] Roger Ailes who will go after you. I'm the street guy out front making loud noises about the issues, but Ailes operates behind the scenes, strategizes and makes things happen so that one day BAM! The person gets what's coming to them but never sees it coming. Look at Al Franken, one day he's going to get a knock on his door and life as he's known it will change forever. That day will happen, trust me." She reportedly found his paranoid rambling strange and alarming.

O'Reilly has not only refuted the claims, but has taken on a victimized attitude, claiming that as a celebrity, he is a natural target for such attacks. He is striking back by placing a suit on both Mackris and her lawyer, claiming that Mackris's suit against him is blackmail, if not simply a strategy to deter Republi-

can voters in the upcoming election.

O'Reilly's defense team has used an e-mail written by Mackris to a friend telling of her happiness as Fox News as proof of her content. According to the letter, Fox is "her home" and she is surrounded by "good, fun people" (www.cbsnews.com). However, it should be noted that unwanted sexual advances by one's superior are probably more of an embarrassment than a bragging right, especially for a well-educated woman holding what should be a powerful position.

The allegations against O'Reilly will certainly come as a shock to his supporters, and the claims will most certainly tarnish both O'Reilly and Fox News. Famous for touting Christian values, condemning homosexuality and feminism, he seems to embody conservatism of the 50's. Attempting to use power as a tool to engage in unwanted sexual advances is not something that Jesus would do; if taken down, O'Reilly would be seen as a hypocrite at best. Therefore, it is not surprising that O'Reilly seems to be seeking sympathy through the media.

On October 15th, O'Reilly appeared on *Live With Regis and Kelly* to discuss what

he referred to as "the worst day of his life"; he vowed to "take a stand" against the malicious lawsuit. He stated that he has a big mouth on and off the air, but perhaps now it is his turn to "shut up".

O'Reilly is now claiming that Mackris and her counsel had tried to extort money from him by threatening to file a politically-motivated "bombshell lawsuit," and denies engaging in any physical assault or offensive touching, even acknowledging that him and Mackris had dinner and cocktails and watched a presidential news conference in his hotel room one night without anything happening. In her sexual harassment complaint, however, Mackris also acknowledges that they had dinner that night and agrees that nothing inappropriate occurred at

that time, but nonetheless asserts that O'Reilly had repeatedly sexually harassed her during several phone conversations, which have clearly been taped, and caused Mackris a great deal of fear, disgust, and emotional distress.

Is O'Reilly just another white Christian male that has been subjected to bias and unfairness in the US? Would an associate producer at Fox News be willing to place herself in the national spotlight, risking her career and reputation just to take down her boss? It might be more likely that Mackris was simply an unwilling participant in a tragically uncommon power struggle who has the tools and power to make a case against O'Reilly.

Facts About the Afghan Elections

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the presidential election. It is then no surprise that mainstream news agencies, such as the Washington Post, are now reporting that some presidential candidates, including Mohaqiq, are canceling their call for a boycott, after "intense lobbying" by US Ambassador Khalilzad.

Who is Zalmay Khalilzad? Khalilzad was born in Afghanistan, and first came to the United States as a high school exchange student to study near Modesto, CA. He received his doctorate degree from the University of Chicago, where he studied closely with Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz's mentor, Albert Wohlstetter. During Taliban rule, Khalilzad was employed as an advisor to oil giant Unocal. And, in 1997, he attended a reception with Unocal members in Texas, along with invited Taliban regime members. During his time as a Unocal advisor, Khalilzad researched the possibility of a \$2 billion natural gas pipeline going through Afghanistan.

As has been widely reported, Afghanistan's current President, Hamid Karzai, was also a Unocal advisor. And, shortly after being appointed Interim Afghan President, Karzai made a statement with Pakistani President Musharraf stating that they have both agreed to revive the natural gas pipeline

construction. Ambassador Khalilzad is also a founding member of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC). The PNAC is a neo-conservative US think tank that emphasizes the use of direct military intervention in foreign countries where United States interests are the issues, as outlined in their famous document, "Rebuilding America's Defenses". Members of the PNAC include Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, among many others in the Bush Administration.

Now, with these facts in mind, even a Republican will admit that it is possible Rumsfeld and Cheney's relationships with Karzai and Khalilzad, and their relationships to Unocal, had something to do with Karzai becoming Interim President, and the allegations that Khalilzad is running things for the United States behind the scenes in the October Afghan election. However, the bigger issue to think about, is whether or not the Afghan people ever asked for the people of the United States, Unocal, and the PNAC to run their lives for them. If an American would like to know how an Afghan feels right about now, she should ask herself if she would like it if the Canadian Ambassador to the United States offered money to John Kerry in return for dropping out of the presidential race, so that the Bush Administration can allow Canadian companies to begin logging in the United States' forests.

Farewell to Jacques Derrida

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the UCI community.

Derrida's contributions to UCI spanned far past his lectures. He kindly served on the graduate students' Ph.D. qualifying exams. What would usually be a time consuming and difficult task was molded into an intellectual event through the presence of Derrida. He would always kindly point out what the student had not yet thought through. He discussed how the student might go further and ask more questions before formulating an answer. This thought process demonstrated how Derrida was always delving deep into works to see what more could be seen. He was never a man to do a shallow reading but always continued to look for new ideas and more answers. It seemed as if though his readings had no limits.

Derrida's ability to delve deep into material could be

seen in his personal life. While having his biographical-documentary filmed, a camera man asked him if he had read all of the books in his library. Derrida honestly responded "No, I have only read four, but I have read them very, very carefully." This determination to read deeply into material reflected onto his students work. Derrida's comments on students papers would arrive in summer and generally consisted of two to four page letters in his distinct handwriting. His dedication to his students could also be seen when he held office hours. On every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when Derrida taught at UCI one could witness a line of student's outside of his office waiting to hear his comments and suggestions for their paper topics. Derrida not only devoted his time to students but also the staff, faculty and programs at UCI. He often contributed his time weekly to the Critical Theory Institute on campus, sharing his knowledge of theory as well as his personal thoughts. He was always a participant in the many conferences and lectures held at UCI

every April and May.

While Derrida has left us he continues to live on through his literature. At UCI he lives on through the numerous pages of manuscripts of both lectures and notes that he so graciously contributed to the Critical Theory Archive found in the UCI Library. People all of the world to the students and staff of UCI have benefited from the knowledge that Derrida spread. As Humanities' Dean Karen Lawrence said he taught people "to read better, to think better and to be better." Derrida was an inspirational man that dedicated much of his time and thought to UCI. Hopefully future generations at UCI will be able to see the positive impact that he has made on our school and our minds and continue his life by reading his literature.

The School of Humanities plans to hold a memorial service to recognize Jacques Derrida and his wonderful contributions. For more information on this service please look for an e-mail from Dean Lawrence in your inbox.

NO TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH!

The Irvine Progressive's Satire Section

Kang and/or Kodos For President

Both Kang and Kodos are viable candidates for president as both outline their "Human Slavery" platform.

SATIRE COMMENTARY
By Erik Stoddart

Five years ago, a pair of Rigelians emigrated to Earth in search for opportunity. Opportunity for what? For power!

Kang and Kodos want to be your president and lead the world against an galactic terrorists, and socialist policies of Mars.

The duo originally sought to run as Republican candidates. However, the Republican Party rejected the aliens due to suspected homosexual tendencies after they have been recently seen in public holding hands.

Kang and Kodos have denied such rumors of homosexuality.

"The Republican smear machine is trying to portray us as lovable gays. Neither is true!" Kang said. "We were merely exchanging protein strings. If you can think of a simpler way, I'd like to hear it!"

The green alien pair are now running as Green Party candidates. According to Kodos, the Green Party felt left out after attention-whore Ralph Nader joined another party to run as president.

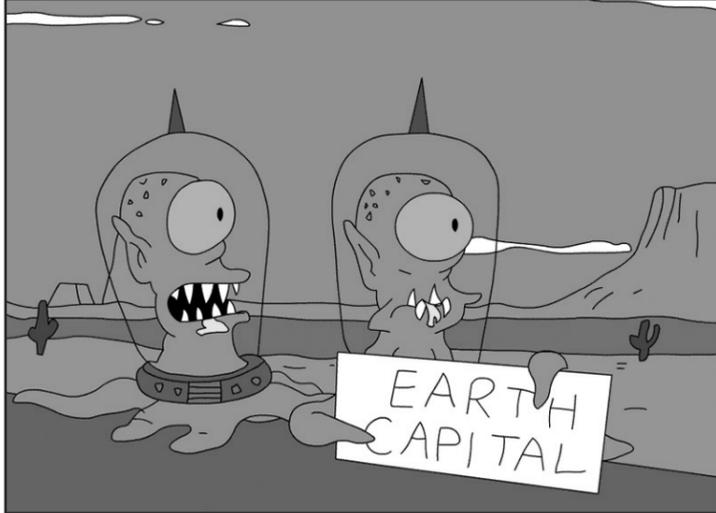
Green Party officials feel they can ruin the Democrats' chances of winning again with the alien duo of Kang and Kodos.

"We feel that Kang and Kodos are popular enough to steal votes away from Kerry in the Florida and Ohio. We really want to ruin the Democratic Party's party. That was joke, get it?" said Green Party official, Thoman Lungrend.

Lungrend also explained the attractiveness of Kang and Kodos as presidential candidates, "Kang and Kodos believe in destroying corporate America. We believe that also. Kang and Kodos offer choice to the people. We like choice!"

Kang and Kodos most ambitious plan though is to enslave the human race in order to build a giant "Death Star"-type ray gun to destroy enemy planets.

"Kang and Kodos are very adamant in protecting not



SMALL BEGINNINGS: Kang and Kodos emigrated from Rigel IV and hitchhiked all the way to "Earth Capital."

only America, but the entire world," said campaign manager Sara McMillan. "Kang and Kodos know there are intergalactic terrorists seeking weapons of mass, mass, mass destruction everyday and they want to kill them."

On the domestic side, Kang believes the economy should accommodate the future slave-based society: "Equal distribution of wealth does not serve Kodos or myself to the fullest extent!" growled Kang. "All wealth should be distributed to us...us...US! Fortunately, we won't have to change much here in America to do that! Ha-ha, that was a joke. Get it?"

Kodos, who is a considered a more moderate candidate, cleared up his "flip-flopping" on the abortion issue at a recent campaign rally.

"Abortions for all."

Boos and jeers from the audience.

"Very well, no abortions for anyone."

Again, boos and jeers from the audience.

"Hmm...abortions for some...miniature Americans flags for others."

Then the audience applauded and cheered.

In contrast to the popular candidates of John Kerry and George W. Bush, Kang and Kodos preach a politics of optimism and confusing rhetoric.

As a recent fundraising speech, Kang stated, "We must look forward,

not backwards! Upwards, not forward! And always twirling, twirling, twirling, towards freedom!"

Even though Kang and Kodos have little experience on the campaign trail, they have observed that campaigns are relatively easy.

"Fooling these Earth voters is easier than expected," remarked Kang.

"Yes," agreed Kodos. "All they want to hear are bland pleasantries embellished by an occasional saxophone solo or infant kiss."

Both aliens are looking forward to Election Day, despite their lagging poll numbers.

"Poll numbers mean nothing. They are flawed. There's a bias towards the Earth candidates!" exclaimed Kodos. "However, I am looking forward to an orderly election, which will eliminate the need for a violent blood bath."

Said Kang, "The politics of failure have failed. We need to make them work again. When you are sealed in your voting cubicle, vote for me, Kang."

Whether these two will win or not, these candidates have surely brought some fresh air in a country where the people settle for "politics as usual." Remember, who will protect us from rogue planets and promise miniature American flags? Not Kerry and Bush, but Kang and Kodos.

SATIRE GOOD

MISSING!

Missing: Lady Liberty. Ran away from owner or maybe stolen by Republicans. Has a torch, wears a crown and robe. Likes to hang around with friends, like Freedom and Justice. Please call if found: 555-USoA

Ask Dr. Nora

Kerry Threat to America

Dear Readers,

When I began this column it was syndicated in one newspaper across America. Today, a year later, it is still syndicated in that same newspaper. We have a lot to be proud of. In the last year I have helped people fighting the Cult of Environmentalism, I have advised people struggling with their choice to be homosexual, thanks to my guidance one brilliant young lady black listed both her communist professor and Aristotle, and thanks to Abu Ghraib and me, liberals across the nation cannot so much as show their face outdoors for fear of having a patriotic American point at their genitals.

Of course, liberals aren't going down without a fight. This year, in an ELECTION year of all years, they have stepped up their criticism of our leader. Under the leadership of John Kerry, they are hell bent on delivering America to the terrorists. We can only imagine how hard Osama bin Laden is working to get Kerry elected in this time when freedom is on the march.

Let there be no doubt of what a dangerous ideology liberalism is. It is nothing short of a terrible social illness. I have seen liberals smiling at strangers. I have seen some fail to kick puppies, even when the puppy was right in their way. Liberalism has also been shown to cause hair retention and even lead to possible sexual activity.

So let us join hands and pray that God will lead America towards salvation and that He may spite those sinful liberals with many more years of Republican leadership in Washington D.C.

Love,
Dr. Nora

PRAY FOR SATIRE

LAST BUSHISM...WE HOPE

"And what my worry is that, you know, it looks like it's from Canada, and it might be from a third world."

-George W. Bush, Second Presidential Debate, October 8, 2004

What Do You Think?

What do you think about the Electoral College?



"Didn't we destroy them in men's volleyball last week? Man, they suck."

-Darren McSorley
Graduate Student, Sociology

"Two century rule. Kind of like the 10 second rule. It's still good."

-Amy Ashman
3rd year, Chemistry



"We should be concentrating on limiting homosexual civil rights rather than worrying about a flawed electoral process."

-Tyrone Moudy
4th year, Civil Engineering

"As a strict constructionist who can read the minds of men who have been dead for almost two centuries, I wholeheartedly support it."

-Kelly Ablar
1st year, Undeclared



SATIRE IS NEVER OUTDATED