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Students First! Disqualified

Leftist A.S. candidates react to news in violent, racist rage

Dustin Frelich
Associate Editor

The Students First! slate, which swept a majority of the positions in student government last year, has been disqualified for breaking election bylaws numerous times, the last of which nullified the candidacy of every Students First! candidate.

They were disqualified because the A.S. Elections Committee determined that the slate had violated sanctions levied against them during a previous ruling, leading to the elimination of every Students First! candidate.

Before running for office, "all candidates must sign a statement [saying] that they shall adhere to the election ByLaws," Article IV.B.6 states. By breaking election bylaws, candidates forfeit their right to represent UCSD students.

The biggest impact of the ruling was on the A.S. presidential race. Because of the disqualification of current A.S. Vice President-Internal Kevin Shawn Hsu, who had received more votes as the Students First! presidential candidate than any other candidate for president, Commissioner of Services and Enterprises Jeremy Paul Gallagher by default won the head position.

A.S. Elections Manager Robin Shelton announced the decision that imposed the disqualification of the Students First! slate to a crowd of a few dozen on the night of April 11. Upon the announcement, Students First! members

In one instance, Students First! vice president internal candidate Moneek Bhati screamed to the crowd, "Take your fucking white privilege and kiss my ass!"

Students First! candidate for commissioner of Academic Affairs Perse

Marshall senior senator candidate Jonathan Abeye had to be held back by other members of the Students First! slate as video footage suggests he attempted to physically intimidate members of the crowd.

Abeye had been previously disqualified in a separate ruling for campaigning in a lecture hall. Even if not disqualified, Abeye would have lost his election.

The ruling that disqualified the entire Students First! slate came on the heels of yet another decision barring the slate from continuing their poster campaign. Students First! had been found guilty earlier in the election period of premature campaigning through the use of mock posters to hold prime real estate across campus.

A.S. election bylaws forbid campaigning before a set date and time. "The campaign period shall begin at 8 p.m. on the day of the Mandatory Candidates Meeting," Article V.A.1 states.

Students First! chose not to appeal the decision.

The A.S. Elections Committee ordered all Students First! posters removed, but half a dozen or so Students
See "S1 Disqualification" on Page 7



Video footage of DQed candidate Moneek Bhati swearing at onlookers

and sympathizers quickly reacted. Members of the slate threw chairs, hurled racial epithets and attempted to intimidate the elections committee.

Hooper yelled, "Boo on this school!"

Other shouts included "Fucking racist bastards!" and "Keeping the people of color down!"

Playing the Race Card

Disqualified candidates blaming it on racism

Charles Billinger
Business Manager

The Students First! candidates have reacted to their disqualification by playing the race card and lashing out at conservatives.

When the Students First! slate held a forum at the Cross-Cultural Center to discuss possible courses of action in response to the disqualification, Sendhil Panchadsaram, a *California Review* reporter of Indian descent, arrived at the Cross-Cultural Center with a video camcorder to record the open forum. Students First! members immediately panicked.

Outgoing A.S. President Jenn Brown began screaming to her fellow slate members, "Evacuate! Evacuate the building." After the hysteria winded down, Brown and disqualified VP-Finance candidate Harish Nandagopal stood in front of the door where the open forum took place and prevented him from entering.

As Sendhil stood in the waiting room of the Cross-Cultural Center, Harish began

chastising him. Harish told Sendhil that he "has issues" and "you are an idiot." The interrogation continued when Harish commented about Sendhil's previous *CR* article ("The Misconception of America's Wealthy," February 2003) by stating, "so I should feel sympathy for your poor writing." Moreover, Harish asked Sendhil, "Do you feel the need to sellout?" Lastly, the former VP-Finance candidate threatened Sendhil by stating, "I'm a sophomore and I'm going to be here for three more years."

"I was very offended by the fact that I was referred to a sellout, and I felt cheated since my rights were infringed upon," Sendhil said. "This is an open campus, and I should have the right to go to any meeting here at UCSD, especially at the Cross-Cultural Center, since I am a student of Indian descent. The idea of a closed meeting is ridiculous."

Though Sendhil attempted to discover how Students First! would react to Election Night 2003, Students First! would show their intentions the

following Wednesday at the A.S. board meeting.

Various members and supporters of the Students First! slate used the A.S. meeting to voice their grievances. The array of speakers used the open microphone to convince people that the events of the past month somehow amount to a racist plot against them.

Perse Hooper, disqualified candidate for commissioner of Academic Affairs, proclaimed that the decision of the A.S. Elections Committee was "strict against the people of color that are running and strict against people trying to represent UCSD." She also shouted, "It is an injustice that representatives of the Elections Committee that come from the six colleges can be both judge and jury."

Another Students First! supporter compared the UCSD election to the 2000 United States Presidential election. "This campus is a microcosm of the world today. This election reflects the fictitious
See "Race Card" on Page 7



Justice Finally Served

Robert Forouzandeh
Student Advocate General

For the first time in my four years on this campus, I can honestly say that the system actually worked and brought the proper people to justice. What I am obviously making reference to is the recent disqualification of the Students First! Slate in this year's A.S. election. Finally, the elitist members of this school's ruling class were held accountable for their disgusting and intolerable behavior that has tarnished our electoral system yet again. Even before the election began, Students First! was conducting illegal campaigning and conducting very unethical practices. This disgusting behavior was seen

clearly in the disillusionment of voters through a miniscule 17 percent voter turnout. That was probably their goal all along, make the average student of our school, the people who hate Students First! and everything that it stands for, simply not vote so that their elitist social circles would comprise the entire voting bloc, and therefore insure their election to office.

Fortunately though, through the actions of courageous and faithful patriots on this campus, these thugs and criminals and extortionists were held accountable for their political corruption. Throughout several grievances brought forth by several different student
See "Cheaters" on Page 7

In Review...

The College Republicans at UCSD CCRs declare Berkeley a Republican 'safe zone'



The College Republicans at UCSD are now under new leadership and have since been involved in very exciting happenings. Please welcome our new Leadership Council:

- Chairman – Ryan Darby
- Vice Chair-Internal – Kostas Roditis
- Vice Chair-External – Amanda Steele
- Treasurer – Charles Billinger
- Press Secretary – Phil Palisoul II
- Solicitor General – Robert Forouzandeh
- Social Coordinator – Adam Richards
- Secretary – Dustin Börtin
- Webmaster – Dustin Frelich

This quarter we successfully hosted "Support Our Troops Week" at UCSD, in which we gathered more than 650 signatures pledging support for our brave servicemen and women and over \$150 for Operation Homefront to assist military families while their loved ones are fighting abroad. The petitions have been delivered to Camp Pendleton for distribution among the troops and the money has been turned over to the program's headquarters; our troops are grateful for whatever support they receive, and we're proud to help them in whatever ways we can.

Just recently, 14 of us invaded Berkeley for the annual California College Republicans Convention, in which our own Amanda Steele was elected Administrative Vice Chair; we are proud of her as she serves this executive role on the state board. Bill Simon and various state party and elected officials spoke to the crowd of more than 300 College Republicans. The most exciting development was the massive march through downtown Berkeley, in which Republicans symbolically took over Telegraph Ave and "People's Park," much to the dismay of the local vagrants. Next year's convention will be held in San Diego, and UCSDCR Chairman Ryan Darby is helping to lead the planning task force, so the best party in the state is undoubtedly coming our way.

If you want to get involved in this or receive information on internship possibilities with the San Diego Republican Party, please E-mail us at collegerepublicans@ucsd.edu

Marksmanship Club of UCSD

The Marksmanship Club at UCSD had a successful event on Sat., May 3, and everyone in attendance learned some basic shooting and safety techniques, but more importantly, had a great time shooting holes in some targets.

We are a registered student organization meant to foster an interest in the shooting sports and give basic firearm and marksmanship training. Currently, the Marksmanship Club events are geared toward first-time shooters and other beginners. This means that you need absolutely no shooting experience to start shooting with us. We conduct safety and technique lectures before each event so you can get accustomed to handling a firearm before actually shooting, and then we head to the range on another day. We get subsidized group rates at the range and there is a multitude of different guns to try out. In addition the larger group events, we eventually plan on organizing a shooting team, or at the very least, an organized group of individuals who will invest more time into the sport and participate as individuals in local competitions.

Contact alrichar@ucsd.edu.

Common Sense

from Ryan Darby, Editor in Chief

Students First! deserved disgraceful disqualification

As odd as it may seem to discuss what really amounts to a trivial student election during a time of war, it's paramount that we closely examine the events unfolding before our very eyes, lest we allow such problems to proliferate into the future tribulations plaguing our society. For that reason, we must recognize that the appalling actions of the Students First! slate signify an unbridled hate that is magnified only by the uncontrollable anger unleashing it. Their actions are in and of themselves quite minor and pitiful, but representative of a

penalty would have sent a message that it is ok to break the rules, so the disqualification was necessary to preserve the rule of law in UCSD elections.

Now, as clear as it is that Students First! deserved to be disqualified, it's perfectly understandable that they were upset; anybody would be. The real indication of a person's strength - whether as a potential leader, or just as a human being - is how that person deals with that disappointment. I can speak from experience, in that I was almost disqualified from last year's elections. I remember

victims of a vast, racist plot against them, with conspirators ranging from the Elections Committee to the College Republicans to President George W. Bush (because, of course, every order handed down through the Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy must start at the top). How can they possibly bring race of all things into this? The facts overwhelmingly legitimize their disqualification - the A.S. Judicial Board wouldn't even hear their appeal - so what does race have to do with any of this? Sure, I knew that most of the candidates on the slate were minorities, but it was their politics that I've always found abhorrent, not their skin color.

Why, then, are they claiming victimization? As student leaders at a top-notch university, they don't seem all that oppressed to me - and if some of them have been victims of racism, I'm saddened by that, but the fact remains that what happened during these elections simply had nothing to do with race. Regardless, if you didn't know the subject matter being discussed at the subsequent A.S. Council meeting, you would have thought crosses were being burned all over campus; one minority female even told the audience to remember her face because "you may never see it again."

And why? Because the slate she supported was disqualified? I was so shocked by such claims that I really wanted to know exactly what I'd ever done in my entire life to make these people so threatened. The actions taken to discredit their slate would have been the same regardless of their racial makeup; it's an ideology we disagree with, and their actions have only served to vindicate our distrust of them as elected officials.

I guess that what it comes down to is that some people just feel better when they have someone to blame other than themselves for their own failures, and if they fail often enough, they might just start to enjoy such talk of oppression and victimization. That's a pretty lousy way of approaching life, in my humble opinion. Winners don't spend their time figuring out who to blame, but rather, how to succeed. Students First! would have appeared far more dignified had they simply acknowledged that they'd broken the rules and conceded their defeat. Instead, they embarked on a short-lived journey of self-perceived victimization whose only accomplishment was the total destruction of the Students First! slate in the eyes of the average student, and one last chapter in the history of a sorry A.S. administration whose only real legacy was its unwitting contribution to the demise of Students First!



Jenn Brown wants YOU to join the California Review.

political fringe that is so utterly bitter toward the world for their own failures that they only find solace in the mutual assurance that they have been irreparably wronged by society, and therefore convince themselves that their failures are not of their own doings. For Students First! to somehow attempt to implicate racism into their disqualification places them into this special kind of leftism which is personally destructive and socially stagnating.

The most obvious evidence for this claim is that the facts clearly validate the slate's disqualification. The A.S. Elections Committee had found them guilty of illegal posting procedures and ordered them to remove all posters. Students First! chose not to appeal that verdict. We all then saw with our own eyes that the posters had not been removed; it was hardly a controversial issue. That, and the fact that one candidate was found guilty of illegal campaigning within the classroom, was perfectly legitimate grounds for disqualification, as the election bylaws explicitly state that disqualification is proper for any violation of the bylaws, and a lesser penalty "may be imposed at the discretion of the Elections Committee." Moreover, if it is found that one slate member has broken the bylaws, then all members of that slate are subject to the penalty which follows. Therefore, the Elections Committee was correct in disqualifying Students First! on the grounds that they had shown an utter disregard for the rules by breaking them on three separate occasions; any lesser

anxiously sitting by the phone, awaiting the verdict. I contemplated the possibilities, and ultimately realized that if the results didn't go my way, I would adamantly disagree with the decision, but I would respect the ruling and conduct myself with composure and dignity; I felt it would be the only self-respecting thing to do.

Students First!, on the other hand, threw the most shameful temper tantrum of any group of election hopefuls I have ever seen in my life. Metal chairs were thrown, wooden signs were broken and racial slurs were shouted; my favorite was "Take your fucking white privilege and kiss my ass." Video footage clearly shows that, as well as what appears to be one candidate attempting a physical confrontation before being restrained by a friend. Shouting and screaming was heard for several minutes after the results were announced. The threats of physical violence, including murder, which had already been issued prior to this, were now on the increase. And these were the would-be leaders of our university. How can they look themselves in the mirror, knowing that they conducted themselves so shamefully before their peers? In those 15 minutes of chaos, they perfectly demonstrated exactly why so many people did not want them to win office.

As reprehensible as their behavior was that night, it only worsened as days progressed. Rather than either conceding that they were wrong - or at the very least attempt a logical argument of why they were right - Students First! was intent on claiming that they were the



"Imperium Libertatis"

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Local News & Opinion

How to Fail in Government without Even Trying *The outgoing A.S. Council receives low grades in annual report card*

**A.S. President
Jenn Brown: F**

Brown's performance this year has been an utter disappointment in virtually every aspect imaginable. Brown has completely neglected the major problems facing UCSD students, chiefly our parking dilemma, the outrageous policies of Housing and Dining Services, the ResLife policies which arguably violate our Fourth Amendment rights and a towering administration that really doesn't care about student life. Brown was on the right track to achieving student sovereignty by forming a committee devoted to exploring autonomy, but she predictably failed when she only bothered appointing one person to this committee! While the upcoming Price Center expansion could have provided students with a significant opportunity to gain influence over university affairs, Brown again failed because she couldn't present a plan for how autonomy would work, nor did she even present evidence for why it would work. Therefore, Brown will be remembered as dropping the ball on this key issue. What then did she concentrate on instead? Resolutions. One pointless resolution after the other. Resolutions on the minimum wage, resolutions on unisex bathrooms, resolutions on CRENO, resolutions on a tradition of no traditions, etc., etc. The council passed so many resolutions on such useless topics that nobody paid any attention to them any longer, or the council itself for that matter. It is therefore bitterly ironic that the council's recent response to the loss of scores of S-spaces next year was to pass a resolution condemning the action. Of course, by that time, no one cared anymore. It is the council's impotence this year that resulted both in disappointing candidate registration and voter turnout – people just don't care very much about the council's workings anymore, and that is the lasting legacy of A.S. President Jenn Brown.

**Vice-President Internal
Kevin Hsu: D+**

Hsu's primary duty of running the weekly meetings was mediocre, but sufficient. However, he was a steadfast advocate of the pointless resolutions which rendered the council to nothing more than a figurehead pretending to represent the students. This, combined with his shameful playing of the race card upon his recent disqualification, is why we cannot justify giving him any higher than a below average grade.

**Vice-President-External
Stephen Klass: D-**

Klass had to choose between two different job focuses: lobbying the San Diego community to make the community more hospitable for college students, or lobbying Sacramento and Washington for

**Comm. of Academic Affairs
Ernesto Martinez: Incomplete**
We are very hesitant about Martinez's qualifications for the job in the first place due to his lack of experience in the office, but due to the interim nature of his appointment, we cannot adequately rate his performance.

law, even though it clearly was neither the easy nor the popular thing to do. For his commendable actions and strong character, we feel confident in giving Shelton the highest grade of this year's council.

**Comm. of Programming
Gabe Grossman: B-**

Grossman succeeded in that the shows this year were a bit better than usual, but as per usual, they were good, but not great. Queens of the Stone Age put on a good show, but UCSD continues to dream for better. We recognize that the programming budget is too small to afford lofty goals, but we would like to see someone with the ambition to devise a strategy to book a strong lineup that would compel students outside of UCSD to pay enough for admission that a show outside our perceived means would be possible. Regardless, Grossman did a decent job with the tools he had.

AS

Associated Students

The views expressed on this publicity are not necessarily endorsed by the A.S.

political reasons. Despite the fact that most students care a lot more about their private lives in San Diego than they do about affirmative action, Klass chose to pursue his own political extremities – which, we may add, are NOT representative of the average student – even though his actions have little-to-no influence on the decisions made by our nation's elected officials. He had the opportunity to make life better for students at UCSD, but he failed miserably. Although we are inclined to give Klass an F, we as responsible journalists must reserve the lowest grade for Jenn Brown.

**Comm. of Athletics Robin
Shelton: A+**

Shelton excelled in virtually every area of his responsibility this year. Student support for and attendance of UCSD athletics has grown by leaps and bounds this year, thanks to his efforts and those of Triton Tide co-Chair Bryce Warwick. As a moderate, it was clear that he had no interest in the political ambitions of the rest of the council, and instead focused on athletics. Shelton's integrity was made clear when he served as A.S. elections manager and had the guts to preserve the rule of

**Comm. of Communications
Navneet Grewal: B**

Grewal served diligently in delegating funds to the alternative media this year, including the *California Review*. Although we did not agree with all of her funding allocations and feel that the computers in the media lounge have been grossly neglected, Grewal clearly aimed for fairness and consistency and set a precedent that we hope her successor will follow. For that reason, we feel she did a good job.

**Comm. of Diversity Affairs
David Mitchell: ?**

We hold the color-blind ideal that the students who have demonstrated the strongest credentials should be admitted regardless of race or ethnicity. For that reason, we feel diversity for the sake of diversity is not a compelling goal to achieve, and even if it were, it should be the responsibility of the state rather than the university to execute that goal. We view all students as equals, regardless of background. For that reason, we feel the office is moot.

**Comm. of Services and
Enterprises**

Jeremy Gallagher: A

Gallagher's performance this year was very impressive, as he oversaw the Grove Caffe generate unprecedented profits, and the changes that will be implemented next year – such as combining A.S. Lecture Notes and A.S. Soft Reserves into one office – should help the ship run more efficiently, resulting in profits which should benefit the students. Gallagher's a liberal, but we don't particularly care, primarily because he has focused on doing his job well in order to

See "A.S. Report Card" on Page 7

NoIndoctrination.org Fights for Students' Rights *Students' academic rights will be undermined by UC proposal*

University of California President Richard Atkinson and UC Berkeley Law School Professor Robert Post are proposing a new statement on Academic Freedom for the University of California – one that *NoIndoctrination.org* believes will undermine the academic freedom rights of students.

President Atkinson claims that the current statement is "outdated": "I believe the University's stance on academic freedom should reflect the modern university and its faculty." (1) *NoIndoctrination.org* finds no justification for the proposed changes.

The following statements are part of the current UC document on Academic Freedom, but THESE WILL BE ELIMINATED if the Atkinson/Post proposal is adopted:

- "To convert, or to make converts, is alien and hostile to this dispassionate duty. Where it becomes necessary, in performing this function of a university, to consider political,

social or sectarian movements, they are dissected and examined – not taught, and the conclusion left, with no tipping of the scales, to the logic of the facts."

- "Essentially the freedom of

As far as the academic freedom rights of students are concerned, the new proposal eliminates everything of substance.

a university is the freedom of competent persons in the classroom. In order to protect this freedom, the University assumes the right to prevent exploitation of its prestige by unqualified persons or by those who would use it as a platform, for propaganda."

- "Its high function – and its high privilege, the University will steadily continue to fulfill, serving the people by providing facilities for investigation and teaching free from domination by parties, sects or selfish

interests."

The proposal claims that APM-015 (the UC Faculty Code of Conduct) (2) covers such issues. While APM-015 does have a few statements that

to change the ground rules.

Apparently Atkinson and Post find it "outdated" for modern faculty members to avoid using their courses as "stages for propaganda." Apparently they see no reason why modern faculty should provide a balanced view when discussing political and social movements.

Apparently they see no reason why modern faculty should provide teaching "free from domination by parties, sects, or selfish interests."

Weakening the University of California's statement on Academic Freedom will only serve to perpetuate the kinds of abuses documented on *NoIndoctrination.org*.

NoIndoctrination.org is an all-volunteer charitable and educational nonprofit organization. It has no political, religious or institutional affiliation or agenda; its sole focus is education.

protect students' rights, it is extremely limited, and *NoIndoctrination.org* finds in them no adequate replacement for the statements quoted above. As far as the academic freedom rights of students are concerned, the new proposal eliminates everything of substance. Just when *NoIndoctrination.org* is mounting a campaign to insist that UC honors its proclamations about academic freedom and responsibility, President Atkinson has decided it is time

College Republicans Storm Berkeley

Annual CCR convention receives substantial media attention

Charles Billinger
Business Manager

As California Republican Party Chairman Duf Sundheim said, "It is time to take California back, and the California College Republicans are the key to making it happen."

The annual California College Republican Convention took place in Berkeley, Calif., from Fri., April 27 through Sun., April 29. Nearly 400 College Republicans from over 45 universities across California attended, including representatives from every UC campus, several California State University campuses and other private universities. Speakers included state party leaders,

speaker. He addressed many of the problems plaguing our state, including the well known California budget crisis, and how the Republican Party in the State Assembly will address the problem.

Through Saturday, San Diego Republican Party Chairman Ron Nehring, Cal Patriot founder Kelso Barnett and Republican activist Dan Schnur held workshops on various topics, such as the "Imperatives of Leadership," "Founding and Running a Successful Conservative College Publication," "Real Nature of Politics and Elections" and "Communicating the Republican

Message." Representative of California's Third Congressional District, also addressed the California College Republicans. His address centered on the success of President George W. Bush during his term and the failures of Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). Congressman Ose also announced he was considering a run against Barbara Boxer in the 2004 senatorial election.

In the afternoon, the California College Republicans held a "Rally for America/Rally for Our Troops." Nearly 300 students gathered to hear Congressman George Radanovich, Col. Howard Pierson, College Republican National Committee Chairman Scott Stewart and California Republican Party Immediate Past-Chair Shawn Steel address the importance of spreading patriotism and the Republican message across California, starting in Berkeley.

Following the conclusion of the speakers, students marched down Telegraph Ave. into People's Park, site of the infamous peace protests that defined Berkeley during the late 1960s. Confronted by Berkeley onlookers who shouted obscene gestures, the crowd chanted phrases such as "USA" and "God Bless America." The event received national message coverage, making the front page of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Saturday evening speakers included California Republican Party Bay Area Vice-Chairman James Hartman, who spoke about how the Republican Party can win a significant amount of votes in 2004 in Northern California. In addition, Assemblyman Abel Maldonado

Message."

A number of prominent elected officials addressed the CCR Convention on Saturday. Jim Brutte, the State Senate Republican leader, also focused on the lackluster job performance of Gov. Gray Davis since his recent election victory over Bill Simon.

Republican Doug Ose,



Republican Doug Ose, elected officials and former gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon.

The CCR convention hosted an array of workshops and conservative speakers from across California.

On Friday evening, Assemblyman Tony Strickland, the chairman of the Republican caucus, was the keynote

"Support Our Troops Week"

CRs show support for soldiers, families

Ryan Darby
Imperator Maximus

The College Republicans at UC San Diego hosted "Support Our Troops Week" from March 31-April 4 in the Price Center as a means of gathering support for American soldiers at the outbreak of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The focal point was the circulating of a non-partisan petition intended to demonstrate that UCSD students support our troops as they fight abroad, regardless of political thoughts on the war itself.

The wording of the petition was simple: "The men and women of the United States Armed Services exemplify the greatest qualities our nation has to offer: courage, bravery, honor, valor, determination." Almost 700 students signed the petition, which has been handed over to Camp Pendleton for distribution among our troops.

"It's important for the UCSD community to come together and stand up for what's right," Vice-Chair External

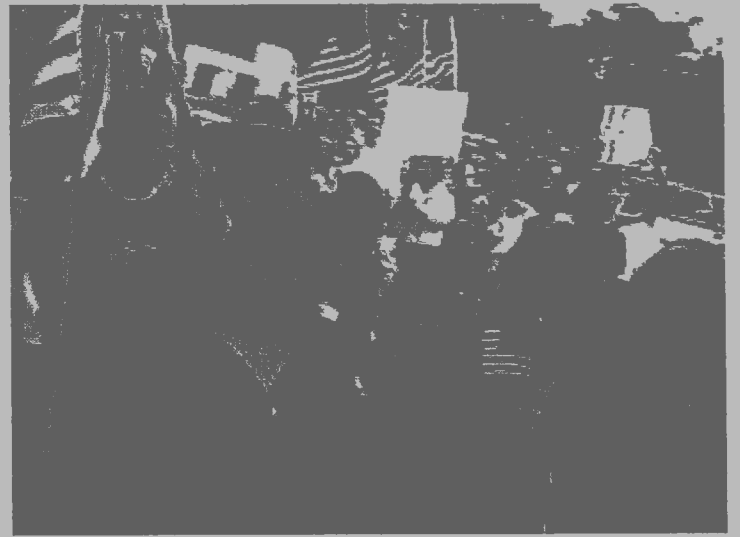
Amanda Steele said. "I think supporting our troops is one of the most important things we can do as citizens of this country."

The week-long event also featured Operation Homefront, a donation drive spearheaded by local radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock to help support military families while their loved ones fight abroad, was also a success, having raised over \$150. All of the money will go to helping military families.

"When those that have little give to those that have even less, it is a demonstration of the truest form of compassion," Press Secretary Phil Palisoul said. "This occurred throughout Operation Homefront, demonstrating its success."

More than 1,500 flyers were posted all over Price Center to advertise "Support Our Troops Week," which club members considered a tremendous success.

"We united our campus to support our troops and the country for which they serve," Steele said.



Berlin...Baghdad...Berkeley

College Republicans March on Telegraph

BERKELEY, CALIF. - To the shock and awe of local residents, more than 300 Republicans today marched through the town of Berkeley, Calif., in support of President Bush, the mission in Iraq and our troops on the field.

Dominated by College Republicans attending the group's state convention at UC Berkeley (including dozens from San Diego universities), the students joined with several members of the California Republican Party's Board of Directors to carry the Republican message of supporting our troops, our country and the President through the militantly-liberal streets of the town that was at the epicenter of the anti-Vietnam War movement.

The march began with a patriotic rally on the Berkeley campus which included a speech by Congressman George Radonovich and other GOP leaders, cheering and singing of the national anthem. The group then marched down the streets of downtown Berkeley, chanting, "USA, USA, USA" and "Bush, Bush, Bush" to stunned onlookers on the way

to "People's Park," where the marchers sang "America the Beautiful" before marching back to the campus.

"First came Berlin, then Baghdad and today it was Berkeley," said Ron Nehring, Chairman of the Republican Party of San Diego County, who participated in the march after giving a seminar to convention delegates. One College Republican leader, standing on top of a newspaper dispenser, announced to the cheering crowd following the march, "I hereby declare Telegraph St. and the People's Park to be Republican safe havens!"

Despite the lip service many liberals pay to "tolerance" of differing views, mystified locals responded to the rare sight of marchers waving American flags and signs supporting the military with a mix of support, ambivalence and outright hostility. At least one marcher had his sign torn from his hands, while other marchers were "greeted" with shouting, expletives and other obscenities.

"I'll bet this town hasn't seen this many American flags being carried down its streets in

See "Berzerkeley" on Page 7

The CalPIRG Pledge Reversal Form!

Every quarter, CalPIRG invades your lecture halls and sets up camp throughout campus trying to solicit funds. By "pledging" to CalPIRG, you are automatically charged a set amount to your student account every quarter. If you want to reverse your pledge, just cut this form out and submit it to the CalPIRG office, located on the second floor of the old Student Center, or mail it to us and we'll know what to do with it.

NAME: _____

STUDENT ID# _____

Special Message for CalPIRG: _____

The pledge form was a community service provided by the California Review.

More Great Stuff

The Highwire of U.S. Military Might

How our military orchestrated the most efficient war in history

Phil Palisoul II
Staff Writer

"Our military is strong and our military is ready, and we intend to keep it that way," President Bush said recently. With the conclusion of major combat in Iraq, the United States military is coming off one of its most impressive victories in its history. Citizens back home in the states were able to see not only the power of the U.S. military on their televisions, but also to see its precision as well. It was this delicate balance of precision strikes coupled with raw power that obliterated the Iraqi defenses. The war was over before it began.

When the Bush administration came into power on that cold day in Jan., 2001, there was some mention of the future of the military in the United States. With the fall of the Soviet Union in the late 80s, the United States no longer faced the threat of the Cold War. Instead, new and different enemies began to emerge. Rogue nations such as Iraq, North Korea and Iran would become the nemesis of the United States. States that could inflict heavy casualties in the United States through weapons of mass destruction, delivered either through terrorists or, in the case of North Korea, ballistic missiles. The general feeling to combat this threat was that through our current military makeup, we could in a relatively short amount of time react to any threat that

might endanger American lives.

The administration's answer - led by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz - to these threats was to employ cutting edge

time decisions can be made from the Generals and Admirals that will limit casualties on both the American side and on the civilian front. Buildings can be identified as either threats or "friendly" on the fly, allowing the enemies to

World War II, when American bombers would line up their targets by line of sight and just let them loose, their effective range was within 100 meters. This type of strategic bombing would destroy entire cities and kill thousands of civilians. Fortunately, this will never happen again.

The most amazing stories of this war are the stories that haven't been told, and won't be told until many years afterward. The role that the U.S. SpecOps (Special Operations) and their British counterparts (SAS, Special Air Service) played in this war was no doubt pivotal for the victory of the coalition forces in Iraq. We know they were there, but we don't exactly what role they played. We know that U.S. Army's Delta Force (1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta) was in the city of Baghdad since at least the beginning of the war. We know that the U.S. Navy SEALs (SEa Air Land) played a key role in securing the port of Umm Qasr, and because of their quick action, prevented the Iraqi military from igniting more oil wells than they did.

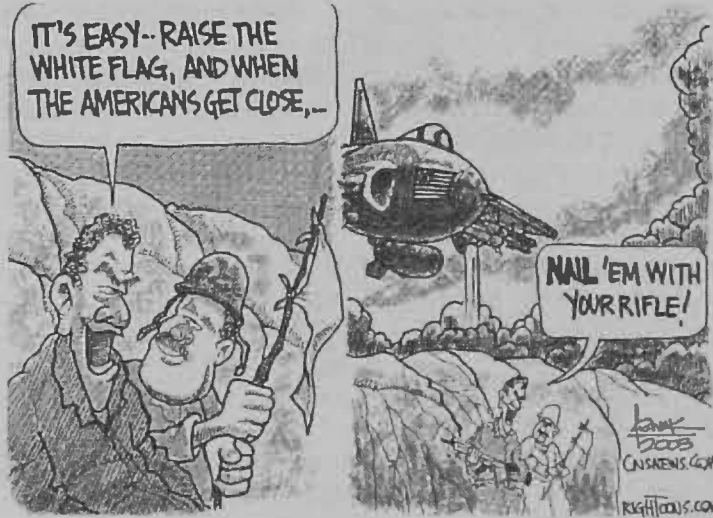
U.S. Army Rangers, as well as Army Special Forces ("Green Berets"), worked hand in hand with the Kurds in Northern Iraq. What we can say about their presence in Iraq is that it was extremely detrimental to the ability of the Iraqi military to even function. They no doubt pinpointed targets that were later destroyed by allied aircraft. It's

reasonable to also believe that these SpecOp teams were involved in sabotage and reconnaissance.

Another major aspect that has helped the U.S. military defeat the Iraqi military decisively is that the regular American ground soldier is so much better trained and equipped than his Iraqi counterpart. In World War II, we had the "Citizen Soldier," or more appropriately, conscript infantry, that was signed up, and then sent off to the battlefield. Now we have the professional soldier, unprecedented in the history of military warfare. These are men and women that train day in and day out, and are extremely proficient. We have seen these individuals come together in an extremely efficient war machine.

One clear example of the tremendous success in this war is the lack of widespread casualties. Fewer than 150 American casualties have been recorded in this most recent war with Iraq. This is unprecedented in the history of warfare. During the Civil War, well over 364,000 men died on the battlefield, while many more would later die from disease or infection. In World War I, nearly 120,000 Americans died fighting the Germans in the muddy fields of northern France. More than 405,000 Americans died in World War II from the beaches of Normandy to the beaches of Iwo Jima. In the Vietnam War, roughly 58,000

See "Technology" on Page 7



technology throughout the military. "Net-Centric Warfare" would give the men and women of the military a distinct advantage over any other nation on the face of the planet. "Net-Centric Warfare" entails every platform on the battlefield communicating with one another through a network connecting those in the line of fire with those back in at headquarters, and to the military planners at the Pentagon. Not only would audio feedback be coming back to headquarters, but now real time video would fill the screens in the war rooms.

With this information, real

be destroyed while innocent civilians are spared.

The widespread use of laser guided precision weapons throughout this war has allowed the maximum amount of damage to the enemy forces while minimizing the loss of American forces. These "smart bombs" are able to strike their target within six meters. This allows for less sorties, thus limiting the risk to American pilots. We saw numerous times throughout this war that the U.S. Air Force could hit one building while leaving its neighbor standing. Never before in the history of warfare has this ever been possible. During

CR Film Review: Vanilla Sky *an exploration into the soul*

John Altick
Staff Writer

Title: "Vanilla Sky"
Director: Cameron Crowe
Actors: Tom Cruise, Penelope Cruz, Cameron Diaz
Studio: Paramount

The choice between a demented dream land, and a futuristic reality? Certainly an interesting one, and certainly one that raises several puzzling possibilities and philosophical issues. Is it possible to create a fantasy world that can mask your imperfections and reflect everything you have ever dreamed of or desired? Can you run from your problems and pretend they do not exist, or does the subconscious fight back and reject this obviously flawed picture?

The answers to these questions may be very telling of ones philosophical, and political viewpoint. They are also the intriguing possibilities that "Vanilla Sky" addresses. Tom

Cruise plays David Aames, the enormously wealthy son of a deceased magazine owner, and he is in charge of the fortune and the business. He is a playboy who sleeps around and "enjoys" life, while never really figuring out what enjoying life might be to him. He shies away from any serious questions, relying upon the decisions of a hard working board of directors and a select few people who are loyal to his father's name.

One day, things go horribly awry for the young millionaire, who just can't seem to "open his eyes" to the real world. A jealous admirer of Cruise's character, played by Cameron Diaz, drives Cruise off a bridge almost killing him while killing herself. To give away too much more plot would be spoiling this wonderfully complex film for those who have not yet had the pleasure. It is safe to say, however, that the remainder of the movie leaves



one wondering at every turn, trying desperately to figure out what is real, what is happening and what it all means. Fortunately, the questions are answered. This is the first great aspect of "Vanilla Sky"; and one that many (suspiciously liberal) friends of mine hate about the

movie. The ending answers every plot question with precision, accuracy and most importantly, shows a perfectly constructed intricately wound plot coming to a reasonable, if shocking, conclusion.

The actual content of the ending is what amazed me the most: reality. David Aames has a choice between an unknown reality, and a continued fantasy world of his choosing. Phrased in this way, and out of context of the movie, the choice to this question may be obvious to some. A fantasy world of my choosing? How can I refuse? The answer to perhaps a far greater minority, though, is how can I possibly live and choose a world that I know is fake? Those people choose reality; those people choose the truth; no matter how harsh that truth is. Those are the people who confront difficult, real issues. Those are the people who do not

"feel" their way through life, but think through it. Those are the people of intellectual integrity.

"Vanilla Sky" is a movie that will make you think, and you might not like what it makes you think. It might threaten the foundations of your philosophical existence. When you hear the little voices inside of you screaming because they have been caught red handed stealing cookies from the cookie jar, you will know that this movie has opened a window to your soul. Whether or not you listen, is up to you. If what I just described does not apply to you after you see this movie, then congratulations; it shouldn't. If you hate the ending, then the little voices inside of you are probably screaming. What this really means, I will let you figure out, but I think I have made it relatively clear.

Because you want to keep reading...

S1 Disqualification

Continued from page 1

First! posters remained the following day. A subsequent grievance was filed by vice presidential candidate Steve York.

The ruling in York v. Students First! disqualified the slate and all its candidates.

Article X.A.8 provides the rules for disqualification. "If a candidate/slate is found guilty of violating ByLaws during the Election Period, they may be disqualified," the bylaw says. "This will be the maximum penalty, other less severe penalties, such as shortened campaign time, etc., may be imposed at the discretion of the Elections Committee."

Since elections were over as of 5 p.m. that day, and the hearing did not occur until after the voting deadline, disqualification was the only means of enforcing election bylaws.

"The Elections Committee did exactly what was necessary in light of the situation," said Student Advocate General of UCSD Robert Fourouzandeh. "The repetitive illegal activities and disregard for the law and the Election Committee's authority gave them no other choice but to disqualify Students First!. The committee must uphold the rule of law and ensure that candidates

follow legal procedures. Their blatant disregard for conducting a fair campaign rightfully warranted their disqualification."

The A.S. Elections



Committee's majority opinion, written by Eleanor Roosevelt College representative Lincoln Hurlburt, concluded by pointing to the "chronic pettiness in campaigning that has plagued UCSD." Hurlburt also went on to write that "election committee rulings and breach of bylaws have been widely ignored by candidates."

The elections committee handed down a 4-3 ruling.

Republicans at UCSD.

The convention closed with former California gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon addressing the California College Republicans. Simon focused on how to solve some of the economic hardships pressing California, as well as the success of President Bush and how he plans to stay politically active throughout the upcoming election season.

Berzerkeley

Continued from page 5

a long time," said one Republican activist. Marchers responded to drivers honking and giving the "thumbs up" with deafening cheers.

"This is the best day of my life," said one College Republican several times. "I'm glad I lived to see the day Republicans took over the streets of Berkeley."

The Race Card

Continued from page 1

President we have."

Jenn Brown, Students First!, and the Asian Pacific Student Alliance asserted that "they were scared to be at UCSD," "that their voices were silenced" and

their enemies tried "to keep [Students First!] complacent and down."

Between different speakers, Students First! members and supporters were chanting, "This is what democracy looks like." They pointed to themselves, implying that their vision of racial diversity represented a true democracy.

Student Advocate General of UCSD Robert Fourouzandeh feels that racism has absolutely nothing to do with the election results and the disqualification of Students First!. "I am upset that some groups on campus have made the claim that the Elections Committee might have been biased or taken race into account because it takes away from the real problem of racism when fake allegations are made about it."

A.S. Report Card

Continued from page 4

deliver the best product possible to the students, rather than annoying us with stupid resolutions. We therefore urge him to continue his excellent non-partisan efforts next year in making UCSD a better school for students of all walks of ideology.

Comm. of Student Advocacy
Brie Finegold: P

Finegold is basically the student attorney at large for UCSD students when they're in trouble with the administration. Therefore, the fruits of her labor are not made very public, so we cannot adequately rate her job performance. Although her politics are ridiculously far to the left (and we're very confused as to why she calls herself "brie the fierce tiger"), since no major objections have been publicly raised regarding her performance, we'll give her the benefit of the doubt.

They're Cheaters

Continued from page 1

leaders of various ideologies and walks of life, a "coalition of the willing," the band of criminals known as Students First! was found guilty again and again of not obeying the laws or the authority of the elections committee until they finally suffered the ultimate price: disqualification. Justice was served, plain and simple; you do the crime, you do the time.

Now these "professional

victims" also known as liberals, communists and hippies, are crying foul, saying that there was a bias against them and that this was a vast "right-wing" conspiracy, and that they were punished because they were "people of color."

This is what astounds me the most; these liars should be charged with hate crimes merely for making such slanderous and false accusations. They have no

evidence whatsoever to support any of these claims because the only evidence that exists is of members of Students First! breaking the rules.

Open your eyes and stop fooling yourselves, you brought this upon yourselves and now you must now feel the pain that criminals feel, the feeling that you screwed yourselves and that the only people to blame are yourselves.

CCR Convention

Continued from page 5

described how his parents, first generation Americans from Mexico, raised him to be a success in this country, and how grateful he is to serve the Republican Party, the party he believes best serves the interests of all Californians and all Americans.

The main focus on Sunday's activities was the election of the CCR officers. Michael Davidson, a student at UC Berkeley who served as Secretary for the past year, was unanimously elected State Chair. Mike Dugas (UC Davis), Amanda Steele (UCSD), Nicholas Romero (UC Santa Barbara) and Bryan Zuetel (UC Irvine) were elected Co-Chair, Administrative Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Amanda Steele is currently the Associate Editor of the *California Review* and Vice Chair-External of the College

Technology

Continued from page 6

Americans lost their lives in the dense jungles of Southeast Asia. This war has been an unprecedented success in the number of casualties prevented.

The future of warfare is at hand. No longer will war be fought the same way again. The United States is leading the world in being able to fight the most efficient wars. We are able to now minimize our casualties, while maximizing casualties on the enemy's side. We have learned numerous lessons from Vietnam, and we will never forget them. From now on, wars will be fought on our terms, not on the terms of those who wish us harm.

Life is full of difficult decisions...

You are the President of the United States, and NASA tells you that a large meteor is heading straight for Earth, and it will strike France at 2 a.m. one month from today.

France calls and begs you to use your entire available arsenal to save them from annihilation. You know that doing this will take away from the military buildup in the Middle East and hurt the war against terrorism. If you don't, France is toast.

Here is your dilemma:

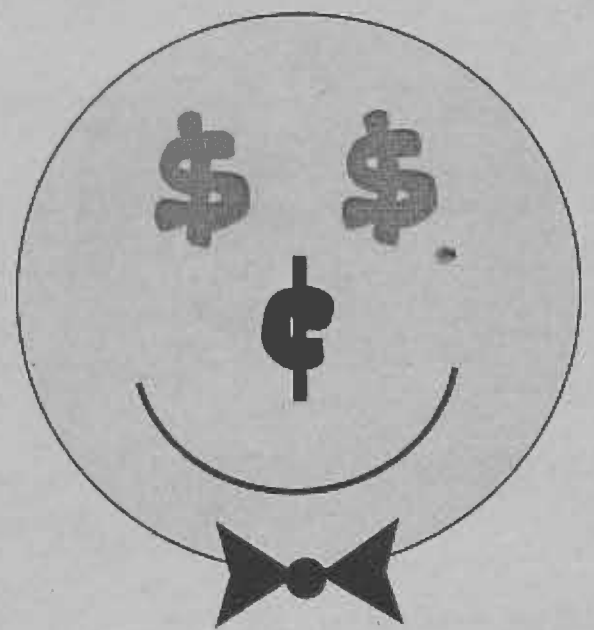
Do you coldly stay awake and observe the destruction first hand, or do you set the VCR and watch it in the morning?

YOU NEED A JOB!

(Don't worry, the Cal Review won't let the Democrats take *all* your money!)

Find Your Summer Job in the:

STUDENT JOB GUIDE



Flexible and Part Time Jobs to fit your schedule.

Pick up the STUDENT JOB GUIDE any where newspapers are found.

Iraqi Freedom & Beyond

It Was the Right Thing to Do Saddam left us no choice but to invade

Vince Vasquez
Editor Emeritus

Despite widespread unpopularity and stalwart opposition from major allies, the U.S.-led coalition forces liberated the oppressed people

clearly don't share the same ideas and principles we do."

"War is always wrong. War just makes it worse. Nothing is worth our troops dying; pacifism is the only way to a peaceful world."

"The world hates us; we're

replaced with modern revisionist teachings of global colonialism, greed, hatred and suffering at the hands of "evil white male oppressors." Taught by their teachers, peers and family to preach peace and tolerance, but fear, hate and assault conservatives and institutions of order and authority. Immersed in a society where morals and truth are relative, and hedonism and elitist humanitarianism are its foundation.

With such a distorted upbringing and detached view of reality, most anti-war opponents could never be expected to come to the conclusion that the Iraqi people do, indeed, share our ideals and moral values. And in the collapse of Iraq, truth could never be more apparent to the world. As lucid as the video images were of Iraqis toppling statues of Saddam Hussein after the coalition invasion of Baghdad, it's clear that Iraqis, like the rest of us, desire freedom. They desire the institutions that will provide the order and authority to protect that freedom and a better way of life. Saddam was never the embodiment of their culture or collective hopes and aspirations; he ruled by force and fear, under the real threat of torture and death. His government meetings, publicity stunts and UN "cooperation" were a façade, an attempt to finally legitimize his evil regime

See "Righteousness" on Page 11



of Iraq from the brutal 24-year regime of Saddam Hussein.

For months, over a million free people throughout the world protested and demonstrated against armed conflict in Iraq. Fears about oil, colonialism and anti-Islamic sentiment spread, from classrooms in Los Angeles, to the streets of Paris. Rally after rally, the left "educated" the masses:

"Iraq and the Middle East are another culture. How dare we impose our beliefs and Western value system on them. They

not popular. We can't have war in Iraq, because then the Middle East will really hate us, and more terrorist attacks will occur."

These misguided opponents of war in Iraq never had a chance, living in darkness and shadow, knowing nothing of the Light and Truth. Growing up in an environment where schools, popular culture and the media indoctrinate the masses into leftist thought and trite catch phrases where the history of Western civilization and its progressive fight for freedom is

Liberation of an Oppressed People Toppling Saddam was a humanitarian necessity

Josiah David Peske
Staff Writer

"US BOMBS DID THIS" is an example of the types of posters I see people holding as I walk through Price Center or watch the evening news. The argument these people are attempting to make is that the United States should halt its current military campaign against Iraq for the sake of the innocent civilians who may be killed during the conflict. Needless to say, this position is absurd and misleading; it ignores the heinous acts which Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime repeatedly committed against its own citizens, while simultaneously disregarding the constant assurances of the Bush administration that all care has been taken to minimize Iraqi civilian casualties.

Furthermore, these human rights protestors discount the numerous humanitarian benefits that the overthrow of Saddam's regime will yield for the Iraqi people. As so often occurs, the truth is suppressed by those who would never give Bush a

chance in the first place. Of course, the truth is not that war is good, nor that innocent civilians will not be killed; the fact is simply that humanitarian

most technologically advanced weapons man has ever seen; weapons capable of inducing havoc and destruction far greater than the original atomic

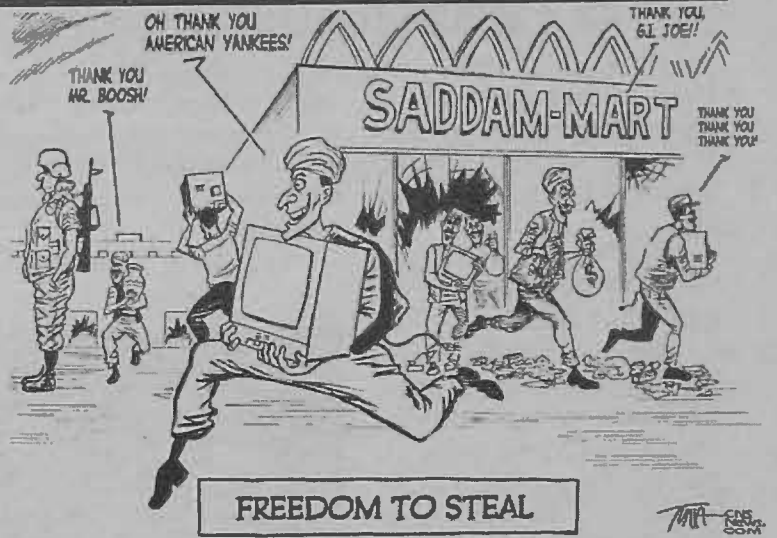


arguments do not de-legitimize U.S. actions, but rather, they support them.

War – or more precisely, the death and physical destruction which inevitably accompany it – certainly is a terrible thing. The U.S. currently possesses the

bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. But with this increasingly destructive power has also come an ever-increasing ability to focus such power onto precise positions:

See "Humanitarian" on Page 11



Thoughts on Museum Looting

We get blamed when Iraqis pillage their own city

Brandon Crocker
Editor Emeritus

"Nine British archeologists suggested that, in turning a blind eye to the looting [of Baghdad's National Museum of Antiquities], the Bush administration was succumbing to pressure from private collectors to allow the treasure to be traded on the open market."

–Meghan O'Rourke, *Slate* senior editor, April 17, 2003.

That's right. The war in Iraq was not just about enriching Bush's oil buddies, but also about allowing all of Bush's antiquities collector friends a chance to buy Mesopotamian artifacts.

You need not feel concerned about the mental state of British archeologists. The piece in the UK's *Guardian*, to which O'Rourke refers, makes no such suggestion. O'Rourke, like many journalists, just likes to print any attack on the Bush administration she can come up with, no matter how ludicrous, even if she has to make it up.

A far more interesting accusation, and one that actually was made by British archeologists, was that when Baghdad's National Museum of Antiquities reopened after years of being closed following the first Gulf War, they noticed that many of the former exhibits were gone and some of the exhibits appeared, to them, to be reproductions. So it is quite likely that Saddam's regime started looting the Baghdad Museum years before any American soldiers arrived, perhaps to supply artifacts to Jacques Chirac's antiquities collector friends and to raise cash to buy contraband French military hardware, and a few cases of wine for Odai.

Back in the days when the antiquities at the Baghdad Museum weren't antiquities – and up until fairly modern times – it was common, if not accepted, practice for armies to pillage the wealth of conquered cities. The American Army has now become the first army in history to be roundly castigated not for looting a conquered city, but for failing to prevent the looting of a conquered city by

its own citizens. Predictably, the Arab press and Arab governments are particularly "outraged" by the pillaging of "their" cultural heritage. But instead of encouraging their people to go to Iraq to help secure Iraq's cultural treasures, the Arab press and Arab governments instead chose to encourage their young men to go to Iraq to shoot and blow up "the Americans" – including a U.S. Marine who was murdered by Syrian gunmen while he stood guard at a Baghdad hospital.

As a student of ancient history, and, indeed, as a small-scale collector of antiquities (mostly in the form of coins), I understand the tragedy of the looting of the Baghdad Museum, even if the most important objects are "safe" in knowledgeable hands. I, nonetheless, recognize the press' bizarre reporting of this crime as a continuation of its proclivity to outrageously and un-insightfully Bush-bash.

Remember the media buzz after the first week of the war, accusing the Bush administration of "misleading" the American public into thinking that a war with Iraq would be over quickly? The press, both domestic and international, loves to quote Baghdad Museum officials and other Iraqis who blame "the Americans." The press never questions whether, in fact, the Americans actually are to blame. The Bush administration has not been too helpful in this regard, as administration officials have never responded to this accusation in any serious way.

The fact is, at the time the Baghdad Museum was being ransacked, the American forces inside the city were a small fraction of the size of the pre-war regular Baghdad police force. Yet much of the world press seems to feel that "the Americans" should have immediately secured every hospital, museum, shop, bank and power plant. Then they could have used the left over forces to battle the remnants of the Republican Guard and Fedayeen, secure military sites, look for weapons of mass

See "Looting" on Page 11

Building a Stable Democracy in Iraq

Freedom in other unlikely states should give us hope for difficult task

John Gordon
Staff Writer

Now that the major battles in Iraq are over, and the Baath party has been removed from effective power, the task that sits before the United States, Great Britain and the rest of the Coalition of the Willing is to instate a stable democratic regime in Iraq. There are those that say this is not possible and that it is a contradiction to impose freedom. These arguments are based largely on the assumptions of the necessary prerequisites for building a stable democracy, which include ethnic and linguistic homogeneity, modernization/industrialization and wealth. However, these assumptions are incorrect. Not only does the United States have experience and success in building stable democracy through military occupation, but it is also possible for democracy to exist in the context of a state such as Iraq which appears devoid of such prerequisites.

A study by Margaret Hermann and Charles Kegley indicates that every nation that experienced American military intervention during the twentieth century became more democratic on the polity scale. However, this finding is problematic in that it does not

differentiate the types of military interventions that were undertaken by American military forces; mainly, whether or not the United States promoted democratic elections in the target states. To elaborate on this point, where the United States

these 15 states, only two were democracies before U.S. intervention, meaning that 13 made the transition to democracy. Every one of these states that made a transition to democracy as a result of U.S. intervention remained a

and promotion of democratic elections in helping non-democratic states build democracies; this is still too broad a subject matter to be applied to Coalition prospects for success in present-day Iraq because these military interventions again were on a broad spectrum of American activity. To find examples relevant to the current Iraqi situation, it is necessary to look only at those involving an overthrow of the pre-existing government of a target-state and the building of a new one through military occupation. The clearest example of this is in post-World War II Japan.

Japan provides a prime example for the success of American military occupation in building a stable democracy abroad because it illustrates a case whereby American and Japanese officials were able to draft a constitution that today is still in effect. In this case, Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur was dissatisfied with the Japanese efforts to redraw their constitution, and thought it necessary to discard the Meiji Constitution of 1889 and start from scratch. In response to the conservatism of the Japanese officials whose efforts were centered on revising the 1889 constitution, MacArthur had his

staff devise an entirely new constitution that was presented to the Japanese in early 1946.

While this constitution was for the most part accepted by the Japanese, it was done so on the condition that MacArthur's design for a unicameral legislature be replaced by a bicameral one, both to be popularly elected. Without MacArthur's involvement in the internal affairs of the Japanese government, the postwar government probably would have been a conservative revision of the Meiji constitution, which allowed for a great deal of absolutism to be delegated to the emperor. While the foreign imposition of the Japanese constitution has been a subject of controversy in subsequent Japanese politics, it remains intact today, and Japan continues to be a stable, wealthy and democratic state.

While the case of Japan demonstrates that the United States is capable of forming a constitutional democracy through military occupation, it does not take into account factors relevant to the current situation in Iraq, mainly that Japan is a heterogeneous society and the Iraqi population is far more diverse. The islands of Japan are composed of a population that is ethnically 99

See "Democracy" on Page 11



did promote democratic elections during and throughout the entire military intervention in the twentieth century (pre-1993), the democratic success rate was 60 percent one year after the end of the intervention (15 of 25). Of

democracy for 10 years after that intervention, as of 1993 (Mark Peceny, *Political Research Quarterly*, 52.3, 1999, 569).

While these studies demonstrate the success of American military intervention

Who Will Rebuild Iraq?

The U.S. has the rightful obligation

Konstantinos Roditis
Staff Writer

The United States finds itself in a position of familiarity as we step into a post-war reconstruction era in Iraq. As America and Great Britain prepare to begin the reconstruction efforts, many countries - especially France, Russia and Germany - think that the United Nations should lead the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, not America and her allies.

If we look at the facts, however, we see that America was responsible for the rebuilding of Japan, South Korea and European nations west of Germany. But that resume of proven excellence is not satisfactory for the French and Germans; their arrogance of superiority is comedic since they pride themselves on their government and economic power which America was so humble enough to create for them. But many critics say that World War II and the Korean War were a different time and a different place not at all similar to Iraq.

The reason Japan was a success, the critics say, is because Japan - which was under empirical rule and was accustomed to an emperor - would be loyal to the new

Emperor, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Also, the Japanese are very proud and hard working people, and since they could no longer be an imperialistic military superpower, the next best thing was to be loyal to America and accept their aid so that one day they could be an economic superpower.

The critics also state that the only reason the European reconstruction was a success was because Western Europe had many factors working in its favor. The first factor is that Great Britain, France and Germany lost millions of young men in WWI and WWII, and knowing this, they realized that if another world war were to break out between them, they might lose another generation of young men, which could destroy their culture and people forever. Also, the thirty years of war was just too much for them to handle anymore, and all they wanted to do was rebuild their countries and live in peace.

Another factor in its success was the threat of communism. Western Europe was destroyed from years of fighting, and they knew that communism would overtake them easily since they had no infrastructure or military power to stop them. Therefore, it was

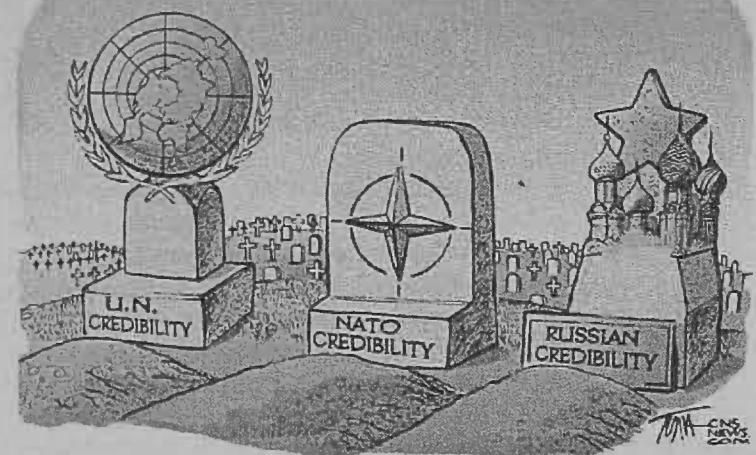
better to take America's aid to protect their borders and sovereignty from the possibly invading Red Army. Also, the U.S. and Western Europe are culturally very similar, which made it easier for reconstruction to occur.

Therefore, since the United States has an unbelievably exceptional record in economic and governmental reconstruction over the last half century, why do France, Germany, Russia and other critics think that the United States cannot succeed in Iraq's reconstruction, and that the UN should be responsible for Iraqi reconstruction?

One reason is the excuse that Iraq has never had a democracy before and its ethnic diverse population of Arabs, Kurdish, Turkoman and Assyrians. Plus, the religious diversity of Shi'a and Sunni made it a difficult reconstruction, one in which the UN is accustomed to from the ongoing reconstruction of Yugoslavia over the last five years.

Looking at Yugoslavia, a nation of two alphabets, three major religions, four languages, five nations and countless numbers or ethnicities, one would think the UN has the

WAR CASUALTIES



Vive Le Hypocrisy

French bullying shows weakness

John Perry
Staff Writer

In yet another blatantly partisan move by French President Jacques Chirac, Eastern European nations were given a stern warning - if not a threat - that their continuing support for the United States in Operation Iraqi Freedom could seriously jeopardize their position as potential European Union members.

"Romania and Bulgaria were particularly irresponsible to [sign the letter endorsing military force] when their position is really delicate. If they wanted to diminish their chances of joining Europe they could not have found a better way," Chirac said.

Could not have found a better way to diminish their chances? Has Chirac forgotten what Eastern Europe has been through over the past 60 years? Has he forgotten that if any European powers are to speak credibly on the subject of human rights violations and the evils of brutal dictatorships, it is the formerly Soviet satellite states? In order to fit the profile of the free and democratic power that France has always claimed to be, Chirac should, if anything, at least applaud the Eastern nations for taking a stand, and finally being able to voice an opinion on world events.

Eastern Europe, indeed, has not forgotten what the Soviets were like. The bitter memory of

See "Hypocrisy" on Page 10

See "Rebuilding" on Page 10

Because you want to keep reading...

The Freedom to Dissent *America remains the freest nation in the world*

John Altick
Staff Writer

We are not a perfect nation. We are not a perfect people. We do not have a perfect government. We do not have a perfect system; in fact there is absolutely nothing perfect about this nation. That said, we are the next best thing. Perfection is unattainable, and I genuinely believe that we as a country strive for it to the best of our abilities. If President George W. Bush is a fascist, then why are you allowed to call him one? If John Ashcroft is one, why were there rallies across the nation supporting both sides of the recent war? In this nation, people can voice their opinions. We have freedom of speech, we have freedom of religion, we have freedom of the press. There are obviously degrees to everything, but no one can argue that we as a nation don't give our people a voice. A voice to disrespect, a voice to insult, a voice to actively denounce and vilify the very government that gives it to them. What more could anyone possibly ask for out of a government? I can think of nothing.

Civil liberties are supported actively by the democratic United States of America. The extent is constantly bandied around, and this is a given in any democratic society, that is the POINT of a democratic society. There are those who support both sides in controversial issues, such as wars, religion and abortion. If there is a clear right and wrong in these situations, then someone please show me, because apparently I, along with millions of others, did not get the memo. I think I know what is best in these situations, whereas my liberal counterparts think they know best. The beauty of this nation is that I can denounce their opinion as the most idiotic thing in the world, and you know what? NOTHING HAPPENS!

Their voice is still heard, and my voice is still heard! In

America, it does not matter what religion you are, it doesn't matter what you believe, it does not matter the color of your skin; you are an American, and no matter how much anyone wants to kid himself, you all get the exact same rights as any other citizen.

protected to disbelieve in the very tenants of the country!

I walk around all the time, I listen to people bash our President, bash our country, bash its citizens. Do these people ever stop to think how very privileged they are to be allowed



It doesn't matter if you are Black, White, Asian, Latino, Indian or anything else! Americans' voices are heard in this great nation. Not just white peoples, not just Christians, not just the rich. There are those who think this is wrong; I speak here of groups like the Aryan Nation, the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Panthers; and you know what? This country allows them to exist too! It PROTECTS them as well! What better benchmark of true freedom can there possibly be, when organizations are legally

to openly snub their noses and denounce the very thing that protects their ability to do so? It is as if thousands of bees are stinging a man – and I'm thinking of a man with a huge white beard and a tall red, white and blue hat! – and he is all the while smearing himself with honey, and encouraging the onslaught. So go ahead, I encourage everyone to keep stinging; just have some respect, because in this country, your sting can have an effect.

Rebuilding

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experience to handle such a diverse situation in Iraq. Looking at the UN's resume, most would agree to let the UN take control of Iraq, but if you look very closely at the facts, you will see the UN's resume has failed miserably in Yugoslavia and elsewhere.

First, the UN did nothing to stop the genocide in Yugoslavia. Because of the United States' 78-day bombing campaign and NATO actions, the war and the mass murders came to an abrupt end. After the conflict was over, the UN, which played no part in the war, took charge. An organization that couldn't arrest Slobodan Milosevic until he eventually was handed over two years after the conflict by his own people. And an organization still to this day that has not convicted Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The UN also has shown to be just as bad at peacekeeping as it is in arresting war criminals. Examples of Yugoslavia, Somalia and Rwanda are just a few examples on how poorly the UN has performed in peacekeeping, unlike the U.S. success in peacekeeping of Taiwan and Korea. The UN has also proven that it does not have the knowledge or capability to create stable democracy and infrastructure. In Yugoslavia, five years after the war, electricity is cut every four hours. People are hungry, building and cities are still in ruin, education is pathetic and no strong central government is in place or seems it will be in place for a long time to come. With such an extremely poor record, what are the real motives for France, Germany and

Russia wanting the UN to be in charge of reconstruction?

Money is the only reason. These three countries have come out in protest the last few days saying that the sanctions in Iraq should still continue in the future. These pathetic and immoral leaders have seen fit to continue the suffering of the Iraq people just because they don't want to lose their ability to buy cheap oil from the Iraqi people. Also, by keeping this program intact, these countries will control of how money is spent and will dictate who will reconstruct Iraq.

The French, Germans and Russians want corporations from their countries to have the contracts for the rebuilding. They didn't care enough to send troops, funding or even symbolic support, so they should have no part in the economic reconstruction of the country. Also, do you want a country like France and President Jacques Chirac, who built a nuclear weapons facility for Saddam Hussein to be in charge of the reconstruction of Iraq? For the future of peace in the Middle East, I hope not.

The UN and many of its members have proven to be corrupt and immoral and slow in action. The U.S., on the other hand, has and will again show the world and the UN why the U.S. is far superior to the UN's attempts to creating democracy, justice and human rights to the people of Iraq. Therefore, the UN should only be involved in humanitarian aid and as an observer for the world community to testify that America is dedicated to the notion that Iraqi oil will and always be for the Iraqi people, and that freedom and human rights will continue to grow and be strengthened in Iraq.

Hypocrisy

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the human rights violations, secret police and lack of freedoms are all but seared into their memories. It is only natural that they gravitate towards the United States in this conflict to end tyranny in Iraq. Although Western Europe has been a democracy for a long while, it has, ironically seen its share of brutal dictators, too; Hitler, Bonaparte and Robespierre each reigned over the very same nations that make threats to states newly freed. And it becomes particularly hurtful when these nations are threatened for pledging their support to liberation of Iraq.

In a column in the *Daily Telegraph*, Lithuanian newspaper editor Marius Laurinavicius wrote, "Even under Soviet occupation, we trusted America rather than Europe... Unlike Europe, Washington never recognized

the Soviet occupation of Lithuania." America stood by freedom then, and America stands by freedom now. And many Eastern Europeans agree, with atrocities fresh on their minds.

This also shows the gross hypocrisy of the French, who claim the United States is attempting to bully the world to doing its bidding, while this clearly demonstrates that France is the real bully. How ironic, since France rendered itself incapable of lending anything aside from token moral support in the liberation of the Eastern states.

The bottom line? France has a lot of nerve to make a politically motivated threat like that toward their Eastern cousins. If France is going to be making threats to anybody, it should be the Iraqi regime. At this point, I'm still waiting for Chirac to demand that the United States apologize for its "imperialistic occupation" of France from 1944-45.

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Humanitarian

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buildings, communication towers and even moving vehicles. The war began with a strike using our precision weapons, and from the beginning, Bush, Powell and the Pentagon offered every assurance that they would take every effort to keep civilian casualties at a minimum. They even elected not to attack several targets initially, such as the Al Jazeera broadcast station and an Iraqi military headquarters, because the risk of civilian casualties was too great. This war, the administration proclaimed, was directed against the harsh regime of Iraq that oppressed its people, not against the people themselves.

Perhaps these protestors didn't against his people and his blatant disregard for even the semblance of what we call "human rights" should be a justification in and of itself. Regardless, the liberation of Iraq will create a free nation, unoppressed by a harsh and murderous dictator. Iraq will have to chance to establish a true democracy where its diverse factions can peacefully participate in an open and free society. The removal of Saddam will bring about the end of the sanctions that have crippled Iraq. Saddam ordered the oil fields to be burned to destroy Iraq's precious resources to prevent the profit from oil sales from reaching the Iraqi people, further demonstrating the cruelty of this tyrant. Even now, amongst the bombs that the U.S. is dropping, are packages of humanitarian aid. Food, water and first aid are destined for the Iraqi citizens that have been deprived of such care under Saddam.

Innocent Iraqis have been used as human shields, and reticent soldiers have been forced at gunpoint to fight. A free Iraq will allow for a freer media will express the truth, rather than spout out propaganda and lies. And all of these humanitarian benefits are made possible only by the current U.S. invasion.

As Bush promised, civilian casualties have been minimal. Iraqi civilians have celebrated as statues of Saddam have been toppled, then turned around and exercised a new right: their ability to protest and express dissent, as several thousands gather to cry out against American occupation. Although it is impossible to justify the overthrow of all oppressive rulers in the world by saying that the citizens will receive humanitarian benefits, it is even more foolish to denounce a war against a man with a blatant disregard for human rights as a non-humanitarian effort. Such protestors unfortunately have clouded the issue with their pictures of dead civilians, which, although tragic, cannot begin to compare to the atrocities of Saddam and his regime.

There are viable protests to the U.S. action: argue against the U.S. violation of Iraqi sovereignty, or against the U.S. disregard of the UN, but do not ignore the crimes of a savage ruler, the pictures of the thousands he has murdered with illegal weapons and do not de-legitimize a U.S. action that, as our President himself has declared, has only the best intentions for the citizens of Iraq.

Looting

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destruction, capture fleeing Iraqi leaders, destroy the stashes of weapons and ammo that Saddam's forces thoughtfully left in schools and search for POWs. It may not have occurred to many journalists that with potentially a few thousand Fedayeen brandishing AK-47s and rocket propelled grenades still running around, stranding twenty soldiers and an armored personnel carrier or two in front of the Baghdad Museum – a couple miles removed from the main American troop concentrations in the city – might have been a rather risky proposition.

Journalists like O'Rourke and newspaper headline writers throughout the world tell us that the American military should have been prepared to deal with the looting of Baghdad's museums. After all, many cultural

organizations warned the Bush administration that this might happen. Of course, the American military also had to be prepared to face a fanatical defense of Baghdad – another Stalingrad – with bloody house-to-house fighting. The Bush administration was warned that might happen, too. The U.S. Army and Marines were also tasked with many other "urgent" non-military objectives – chief among them being securing quickly power and water treatment plants, and, yes, the Oil Ministry. It should be noted, however, that, unlike the Baghdad Museum, the Oil Ministry was in close proximity to the Army's initial operating base at the palace complexes in central Baghdad. And I do not see how protecting the infrastructure of what constitutes most of Iraq's economy is a signal of evil intent or of misplaced priorities.

One also has to wonder why all the blame is on "the

Americans." If I were on the Board of Trustees of the Baghdad Museum, I would like to know why the Museum staff didn't take precautions, such as sending more of the prized items to safer places – we know they took some unidentified objects off site in the days prior to the war – and hiring some private security – there was a number of unemployed, gun-totting males available.

A suspicion of UNESCO that, no doubt, the FBI will look into, is whether Museum employees colluded with the "careful" and "knowledgeable" crowd that picked through the collection before the doors were opened to the general looting public. At least one group of thieves apparently had keys to the Museum's underground vault. And the Baghdad municipal authorities who completely abdicated their responsibilities have yet to feel the stinging recriminations of the press. Why blame them when

you can blame George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld?

In hindsight, knowing now that organized resistance pretty much fizzled out the day before the looting at the Baghdad Museum reportedly commenced, so maybe the American military should have moved quicker to secure the site. But that is just one of the many tragedies of war – and hardly the biggest. With time and vigilance, much of the Museum's collection may be restored. That can't be said of the tens of thousands of Iraqis looted from their homes by Saddam's henchmen and now lying in unmarked graves. That looting, which some members of the world community would have "allowed" to continue, is over.

Brandon Crocker is CR's Emperor Emeritus, a real estate executive and antiquities collector in San Diego.

Righteousness

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nations from participating in the war. This war was not fought on ideological, cultural or religious grounds – the diverse political backgrounds, nationalities and faiths composing the Coalition of the Willing dispel this myth. And this war could not have been fought completely on national security and defense concerns, as terrorism and weapons proliferation affect all nations, yet only a handful saw this as a critical enough reason to join the U.S. coalition.

Rather, it was an acknowledgment by responsible world leaders of our moral

obligation to life and freedom, taught through tradition, to people of every race and religion, creed and culture; a moral obligation of all to recognize the uniqueness, value and worth of every human being, and the inherent dignity and equality that comes with being the children of God.

Furthermore, to recognize the suffering, misery and pain of human life in the world is not at the hands of God, but at the hands of an evil that poisons the hearts and minds of a few, to the detriment of all. And as able, free people who enjoy the rights to life and freedom God has given us, to not simply prolong human suffering with humanitarian aid, diplomatic games and

congeniality, but rather, to actively and decisively free people from oppression so that they may realize these rights, and truly come to know God.

Throughout history, the understanding and upholding of this obligation has progressively made the world free, peaceful and stable. It has kept global conquest of dictators and regimes at bay, sometimes at the cost of millions of lives and unimaginable human sacrifice. Vigilance, fighting and sacrificing one's life for freedom are necessities to live in a world of free will, evil and threats to our way of life. But despite these costs, and the heavy burden that comes with freedom, they pale in comparison to the human loss

caused by moral ambivalence and doing nothing, which exacerbate suffering and oppression and legitimize the authority and the actions of the unjust.

As young people in the free world, living in one of the wealthiest and morally decadent places in America, our purpose is clear – to communicate the value of our God-given rights on campus, from the quads to the classrooms. We must continue. May God grant us the strength and vision to persevere; may our movement continue to grow; may all the people of the world come to live in freedom and celebrate life, by the power and might of the righteous, and the willing.

Democracy

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percent Japanese and has only one language. By contrast, Iraq is 75-80 percent Arab, 15-20 percent Kurdish and less than 5 percent Assyrian, Turkoman or other minority. It also has four distinct languages spoken within its borders (Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian and Armenian), and religious conflict that is absent in the Japanese example. Japan also had a history as an industrialized and relatively wealthy nation before the American occupation, and Iraq does not. These are all factors that are contrary to the chances of a stable democracy being built in Iraq.

However, stable democracy does exist in one of the nations that would be considered least likely: India. This is a country that boasts three significantly

large ethnic groups, four main religions and 16 official languages (plus one unofficial one that is widely used). In addition to this diversity, the lack of wealth and modernization in India also dictates that the probability for the survival of democracy is slim. The falsifying factor to this is that India has maintained stable democracy since its independence, although with a brief period of authoritarian rule between 1975 and 1977. Prof. Arend Lijphart describes the reason for this in "The Puzzle of Indian Democracy: A Consociational Interpretation" as being the result of a type of democracy known as "Consociational."

Lijphart outlines this system as including – in addition to the other facets of democracy) – "(1) grand coalition governments that include representatives of major linguistic and religious groups, (2) cultural autonomy

for these groups, (3) proportionality in political representation and civil service appointments and (4) a minority veto with regard to vital minority rights and autonomy." Given these factors as being responsible for the maintenance of democracy in a nation as diverse as India, clearly they should be sufficient for democracy to be maintained despite the diversity of Iraq.

This article was meant to serve two purposes. First, that it is possible for the United States to build a stable democracy in Iraq, as it did in Japan, and second, that it is possible for democracy to exist in Iraq. The only other argument that it is necessary to address is that democracy will fail in Iraq for religious reasons, mainly because there is a long history of democratic failures in Islamic nations. To this I counter with the example of Turkey, whose

current government ranks very highly on the democratic-autocratic spectrum. Although this evolution to democracy in Turkey has been rocky since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the current regime demonstrates that democracy can exist in a predominately Islamic state. Nonetheless, it is difficult to argue that the state of Iraq does not stand to benefit from the current American intervention in its internal affairs.

Regardless of the results of the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, or the search for links between the Baath regime and terrorism, a brutal tyrant and human rights criminal has been removed from power. For that, the Iraqi people will be better off, the Middle East a more politically stable region and the world safer for the demise of Saddam Hussein.

Questions, comments or suggestions?

The California Review wants your feedback, hate mail is OK, too.

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Parting Thoughts

“Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none.”
—Thomas Jefferson

“If the U.S. were permanently to detach from the United Nations, the effect would be something like the Pope defecting from Rome. If he did, he would take the Vatican with him.”
—W.F. Buckley, Jr.

“What is liberty without... virtue? It is madness, without restraint.”
—Edmund Burke

“The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”
—Theodore Roosevelt

“To see what is right and not to do it is cowardice.”
—Confucius

“Consider the greatest military collapse of modern times, the infamous French fold at the start of World War II. Germany invaded France on May 10, 1940, didn’t get to Paris until June 14 and didn’t get a French surrender until June 22. Even the French — the French! — were able to hold out for 44 days. If Saddam prolongs the fighting for another 5 weeks, all he will be doing is rising to the level of military competence set by France.”
—Jonathan Last

“There is a secret pride in every human heart that revolts at tyranny. You may order and drive an individual, but you cannot make him respect you.”
—William Hazlitt

“Nothing can make war anything other than tragic. But comparing this war with other wars — rather than with perfection — it has been a marvel of military accomplishment and humanitarian concerns.”
—Thomas Sowell



“The United States is a powerful country, and one of the things we ought to do is use our power to make the world more peaceful and more free.”
—George W. Bush

“I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents....”
—James Madison

“While never willing to bow to a tyrant, our forefathers were always willing to get to their knees before God. When catastrophe threatened, they turned to God for deliverance. When the harvest was bountiful, the first thought was thanksgiving to God. Prayer is today as powerful a force in our nation as it has ever been. We as a nation should never forget this source of strength.”
—Ronald Reagan

“Here in a nutshell is the classic modern-day misunderstanding of freedom: Freedom means not just the right to be free from government sanction, but also to be free from consequences.”
—David Hogberg

“How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?”
—Harry S. Truman

“Our unalterable resolution would be to be free. They have attempted to subdue us by force, but God be praised! in vain. Their arts may be more dangerous than their arms. Let us then ... under God trust our cause to our swords.”
—Samuel Adams

“How many more thousands of Iraqis dancing in the streets as Saddam’s statues are pulled down would it take for the naysayers to admit that they were mistaken?”
—David Stolinsky

- Do you laugh at lefties who think someone named Gen. Arthur MacArthur liberated the Philippines?
- Do you think “People’s Park” should be bulldozed and replaced with a gun shop for urban renewal?
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