American society is reaching a tipping point, inch by inch we are losing the basic liberties and rights that have been granted through the American Constitution and the Bill Of Rights. The Bush administration claims that the infringement of the rights of American citizens is for the sake of national security, but is our protection worth our basic freedoms? Are we allowing ourselves to slip quickly into a dark night that we cannot find a way out of? These are among some of the many questions that the artists and writers of Marvel Comics have wrestled with over the past year; proving true the saying that art is a reflection of life.

On March 7th 2007, the 25th issue of the Captain America comic book hit bookstore shelves, revealing a shocking truth that readers are now having to death with. After over 60 years as one of Marvel’s most iconic characters, Steve Rodgers, a.k.a. Captain America was killed by an assassin’s bullet. Captain America is another hero to fall victim to “Civil War,” a controversial seven-part story arc that Marvel has been releasing for the past year, a story that affected almost every title in Marvel’s enormous library of characters.

In “Civil War,” the U.S. Congress passed the Super-hero Registration Act, a law that required all super powered beings or super-heroes to register their name and identity with the U.S. government, thereby making their identities public and requiring them to be trained like every other police officer. The act was passed following a 9/11-like catastrophe that involved a group of young super-heroes named the New Warriors, as they tried to take down a group of super-villains in Stanford, Connecticut. The event took the lives of hundreds of civilians, mainly children; it also acted as a breaking point, turning the American public against super-heroes, causing them to think of heroes as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) that must be controlled. Tony Stark, a.k.a. Ironman, backed the passing of the act, thinking of it as natural evolution of the role of the super-hero. Captain America, on the other hand, thought of it as a direct attack on the liberties of the super-hero community, rendering him a criminal and putting him at odds with the both the U.S. Government and Ironman. It also forced other heroes to either choose sides and fight or to remain neutral. At the end of the story the two sides met in a fierce battle that caused more destruction and put many civilians in harms way. Captain America turned himself over to the authorities, removing his mask and surrendering as Steve Rodgers.

The “Civil War” story arc served as an allegory for the present political state of American society, with the failure of the war in Iraq, the passage of the Patriot Act, and the overall state of fear that Americans are living in. Ironman, for example, played a bigger role in the events that triggered the “Civil War” than any other character in the story. While appearing true to his claim that he backed the passage of the Super-hero Registration Act out of a desire to protect the safety of the general public, in reality, he stood to gain the most from the act being made law. After being named Director of the S.H.I.E.L.D. organization at the end of the “Civil War,” Ironman gained control of the identities of all registered super-heroes, bestowing upon him great political power.

Death of the Sentinel of Liberty

BY STEFFON FYNES

Students for a Democratic Society Rally in Lower Manhattan

BY ANNA WINWOOD

On March 12th, the streets of lower Manhattan echoed with sounds of college students rallying to end the war in Iraq.

The protest, which was held one week before the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, began at the New School, where students were encouraged to walk out of class at 10:30am and gather in front of the Graduate Faculty building located at 5th avenue between 13th and 14th street. A half hour later, approximately 75 students were gathered, mostly from the New School and with a handful from Pace University. They began marching through the financial district of Manhattan toward the Armed Forces recruiting center located at 157 Chambers Street. According to the protesters, they chose this location as it is reportedly the center with the highest recruitment numbers in the city, servicing the Air Force, Army and Navy.

Many of the marchers said the recruitment center on Chambers Street focuses on recruiting people of color. The participants sang and chanted in protest as they marched toward the recruitment center, drawing attention to themselves by carrying drums and posters. The drums were made from small aluminum garbage cans, and the drum sticks of small pieces of wood. They sang old war rally chants, such as, “There ain’t no power to the power of the people if the power over people don’t stop” and “1, 2, 3, 4 we don’t want your racist war... 5, 6, 7, 8 stop the violence stop the hate.” Signs read “War is expensive, peace is priceless,” and “Troops out now, this war is for profit!”

After 90 minutes, the protesters arrived at Chambers Street. Nearly twenty-five students, mostly from the New School, stormed the inside of the building and began pulling out all the flyers and Army propaganda while protesters outside formed a chain, blocking the entrance to the center. Within minutes the police showed up and broke through the chain of protesters, trapping students inside the building. Word quickly leaked that twenty-one students inside were to be arrested. This sparked a riot outside of the center, requiring about two dozen police officers, two police vans and the shutting down of Chambers Street.

Angry protesters chanted: “SDS, we’re fuckin’ pissed, SDS, we will resist!” “Students have historically played a role in raising revolutionary consciousness,” said New School SDS Organizer Pat Korte in a press release issued before the rally. “Though students alone cannot stop U.S. imperialism, we can spark...” continued on page 12
The word “nigger” also referred to as the “N-word” has forever been an extremely controversial term. Although some people say that “nigger” is a racist remark, and that it should be restricted by the law, not everyone agrees. Many politicians, celebrities, and influential African Americans have taken positions on the word.

Bryan Monroe, vice president and editorial director of Johnson Publishing Co., strongly believes that the word should be banned. He has written that the “N-word has been swung like a clumsy nightstick by whites for years, trying to demean, dehumanize and destroy the dignity of black America.” Jamie Foxx, a well-known com- dian, singer, and actor has argued that there are times when certain situations require the word to be used and that it does not make sense to ban the word. Politician Rev. Jesse Jackson strongly believes in banning the word. “We want to give our ancestors a present, dignity over degradation.”

The etymological source for the N-word is not a derogatory curse. It originated from the Spanish word “niger,” meaning black. However, by the time of the American Civil Rights movement, the word was conscripted and employed to seg- regate and dehumanize African Americans. It was a word that expressed unmitigated racial hatred. As generations have changed, however, so has the meaning of the N-word. Instead of instigating racial division and hatred, earlier negative con- notations have been displaced. African Americans, putting the devastating history of racism and slavery behind them, flipped the word around to mean something positive. It has since been used freely as a term of association and camaraderie by many ethnic groups.

Is it possible to ban a word? To do so would be a direct violation of America’s right to free- dom of speech. The government might draft legis- lation banning the word, and authorizing fines and penalties for anyone identified using the word “nigger,” but what exactly would that accomplish? Words may be banned, but can meaning be banned? Can racism? Further, to draft law restrict- ing the use of certain words would certainly cause a huge problem in the entertainment field as many artists frequently use the word “nigger” in the lyrics of their songs and raps. And today, it is commonly used by people of all races. I have heard Asians and Caucasians, for example, greet their black friends with “What’s up nigga?” and vice versa, without either party being offended.

If the word “nigger” was to be banned, then the word “chink” (a derogatory slur for Asians), “spic” (Latin Americans), “cracker” (Whites), “polack” (Polish), or “kike” (Jewish) and numer- ous other “racist” words should be banned too. To do so, however, could result in unforeseen conse- quences. Once a word is banned, any other word can be banned. America would no longer be a nation of free speech. To protect our freedoms, every individual should consider the consequences of what they say, and choose their words wisely. But the freedom to choose should not and cannot be restricted by law.

Hate speech is speech that is intended to degrade, intimidate, or cause violence or prejudi- cial action against a person or group of people based on their race, gender, age or ethnicity. The act of a white comedian calling blackbeckers the N-word and other racial remarks can be labeled hate speech, but not the word itself. The word “nigger” does not refer to a person but more than the user (and listener) gives it.

There is no use trying to pretend that racism does not exist, because it does exist in varying degrees among Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, Whites, and every other race. Banning words will not make racism disappear. Putting a restriction on a word only gives it power and furthers tension among people.

I do not expect everyone to agree with my position. Whether you do, or you do not, please write a letter to the Editorial page of Communiqué and share your thoughts.

The Real Cost of Keeping Up with Technology

BY MAIMOUNA VIAER-MCCLYMONT

Blackberry Pearl: $350, Dolce & Gabbana Motorola RAZR: $ 379, iPhone: $499. Keeping up with the latest gadgets; priceless. Technology has metamorphosed from providing simple con- venience to making a statement, whether it is fash- ion or status. Nowadays, a cell phone says as much about a person as their car. First it was the beehive that had cell phones fused to the hips of people all across America and today it is the Bluetooth headset, this season’s must-have acces- sory. As the trends change and technology contin- ues to advance we find we are spending more and more. The same can be said for personal computers and televisions as they also fall behind the times. That trash begins to build and build and build. But do you every think about where it goes, or what happens to your beloved phone drops in the toilet? The Real Cost of Keeping Up with Technology

The materials needed in the production of cell phones and other electronics are being consumed at an alarming rate, causing their prices to sky- rocket and shedding light on the scarcity of some of these rare materials. The United Nations has continued on page 7

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNIQUÉ Humanities Building, Room 428
56th Ave. and Springfield Blvd.
Bayside, N.Y. 11364
(718) 631-6302
Communiqué Staff
Kyle Ayala
Murielle Blanc
Mark Chapman
Steffon Fynes
Lukasz Lagnick
Thalia Lawrence
Jae Lee
Kara Mannens
Alexander Mejia
Kendel Ortiz
Anas Paracha
Jamar Park
David Satarine
Jaclyn Solomon
Candice Thompson
Maimouna Viaer-McClymont
Antonio Vittiglio
Safiya Whitehead
Tata Dee Woods
Samar Zaher
Faculty Advisor
Andrew Levy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Editorial Board of Communiqué, which is solely responsible for its contents. These are not necessarily the views of the Queensborough Community College administration and staff. Communiqué welcomes any letters or editorials for the population of QCC. Submit work to Communiqué, H-428. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for spatial needs and grammatical accuracy.
Cheney’s New Vacation Home

BY ALEXIS ORJUELLA

Beautiful skies, sandy walkways, and a magnificent view.

“Cheney’s New Vacation Home” sounds like an advertisement for a vacation in the Bahamas, or the chance to buy timeshare in some sunny Florida enclave. It’s not. The newest destination for fun and relaxation is what Vice President Dick Cheney has come to describe as the internal vacation hotspot—Iraq!

“Cheney’s New Vacation Home” will be the only resort where one can frolic and relax in the Middle East. Disney has decided to jump on board as well. Disney Dubai will be Mickey’s first major step into the Middle East; Disney has announced that it will be the new face of Disney in the Middle East. According to Mr. Lesar, “Halliburton Land,” Disney Dubai and Disney Baghdad will be the new hot spot summer getaways for my family and some of my best friends, including Dick Cheney and George Bush Jr. We believe the American public will embrace these newest manifestations of American entertainment innovation. Everyone, regardless of their identity, will be welcome. According to statements released by both Cheney and Halliburton no-bid development contracts, which are still being negotiated, will go to companies involved in the construction of the resorts. Bin Lad Contracting hopes to break ground on both the Disney and Halliburton properties by late 2007. But don’t think that Dubai and Iraq are the only real estate bubbles in the Middle East. According to World Reality Monthly, by 2010 Iran will be among the most costly contested pieces of real estate in the world. According to Vice President Cheney, “Iran is the next big thing after Iraq.” It offers all the luxuries of life that people want.” Along with vacation buddies Carl Rove, George W. Bush Jr., and Mr. Lesar, Cheney believes that “Iran is where it’s at.” It certainly feels that within the next five years Iran will be the 51st state, and the Middle East in general will be the next Hawaii. Even the Ayatollah of Iran has stated how wonderful it would be to have the presence of Halliburton Land in Iran to boost its tourism industry. In fact, the Ayatollah has personally issued a fatwa stating that if Halliburton built a resort within Iran he would issue each employee their own personal AK-47 engraved with their initials.

From the beautiful scenery of topless belly dancers while you smoke a hookah, to the mineral rich mud baths of the Red Sea, the Middle East has everything to offer in terms of enjoyment and relaxation. Vice President Cheney says, “Enjoy your vacation within the peaceful lands of the Middle East.”

“Cheney’s New Vacation Home” By ANAS PARACHA

The role of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is very vital. The CIA gathers intelligence from all over the world to help protect Americans against possible threats originating from outside the U.S. CIA covert agents risk their lives daily to gather intelligence from countries that pose a threat to our nation or its interests. After September 11, 2001, the CIA infiltrated and captured terrorists and one nation continues to rely on its intelligence to ward off potential attacks on the U.S.

Iraq was selling significant amounts of uranium to Iraq based upon Italian intelligence reports. The CIA began an investigation to verify the allegations were true and deployed many agents to gather intelligence. Valerie Wilson is one of the CIA spies gathering intelligence on weapons of mass destruction (WMD). She is also the wife of Ambassador Joseph Wilson. Ambassador Wilson served under former President George H. W. Bush as a diplomat in Iraq and Africa, as well as under foreign service officials. According to allegations as stated in columnist Robert Novak’s July 3, 2003 article in The Washington Post, “senior Bush officials” of the CIA were responsible for the leak of Mrs. Plame’s CIA identity. Joseph Wilson believes that his wife’s identity was leaked because of his conflicting views on the war in Iraq. According to the above article, the article the article published criticizing the Bush administration and their policies. Mr. Wilson accused Vice President Dick Cheney and his former chief of staff, Lewis “Scooter” Libby of leaking his wife’s CIA identity. Following an investigation, Mr. Libby currently faces sentencing of either no-imprisonment or imprisonment for 25 years and $1 million in fines on four of the five-count indictment he was charged with: 1. obstruction of Justice, 2. counts of perjury, and 1 of 2 counts of making false statements.

The information regarding Plame’s identity was leaked to a total of four journalists. Why does this matter? The United States has been at war in Iraq for four years. The U.S. government and military rely on the intelligence services to protect U.S. citizens at home and abroad. Leaking classified top secret information disrupts intelligence collection missions bringing to the surface government weaknesses that enemies can use to their advantage.

In the case of Valerie Plame, she was under Non-Official Cover (NOC) status. She most likely had a “cover company” in which she presumably worked. There may have been other NOC’s as well employed by that company as a cover. When Plame’s identity was leaked, it put the other NOC agents working at the “cover company” at risk of being exposed, and possibly sabotaged their missions. After Valerie Plame’s identity was leaked, she was fired from her job at the Bin Laden Contracting Company. It is the most likely publication of records to see if she was visiting or spying in their countries as well. To date, no significant damage has arisen within the CIA due to the identity leak.

By ALEXIS ORJUELLA

The role of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is very vital. The CIA gathers intelligence from all over the world to help protect Americans against possible threats originating from outside the U.S. CIA covert agents risk their lives daily to gather intelligence from countries that pose a threat to our nation or its interests. After September 11, 2001, the CIA infiltrated and captured terrorists and one nation continues to rely on its intelligence to ward off potential attacks on the U.S.

“Cheney’s New Vacation Home” By ANAS PARACHA

In 2004, the CIA decided that in order to be more accurate regarding the nuclear threat of Iraq, that between June 4th to July 8th, Joseph Wilson was sent to Niger to confirm the reports. The reason the CIA sent Joseph Wilson was because he had relations and political experience with both Iraq and Africa. Some assumed he was sent by the CIA to Africa to investigate uranium sales to Iraq at the request of his wife, Valerie Plame. When Mr. Wilson returned from Africa, he stated in his report that Iraq had not purchased uranium from Africa. Completely ignoring his report, the Bush Administration forged ahead with its plan to invade Iraq by providing forged documents of Iraq’s attempted purchase of 500 tons of uranium. On July 7, 2003 Joseph Wilson published the article, “What I Didn’t Find in Africa” in The New York Times. In his article, Wilson stated that in his investigation he did not find any proof of uranium being dealt between Iraq and Africa. Wilson also accused the Bush administration of “exaggerating the Iraq threat.” On July 14, 2003, Columnist Robert Novak published his article “Mission to Niger” in The Washington Post. In the article he briefly mentioned Joseph Wilson’s controversial mission in Africa. Novak also leaks the name of Wilson’s wife, Valerie Plame, a CIA agent. “Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an Agency operative on weapons of mass destruction. Two senior administration officials told me Wilson’s wife suggested sending him to Niger to investigate the uranium threat.” It became clear that Richard Armitage (U.S. Deputy Secretary of State) was Novak’s source and Karl Rove (Deputy Chief of Staff) was his secondary source. Both Armitage and Rove were officials in the Bush Administration at the time of the leak. Rove still currently holds his position in the Administration. Libby leaked Valerie Plame’s identity to reporter Judith Miller. Libby first denied he knew of Plame’s CIA identity prior to July, 8, however, Judith Miller who once went to jail to protect Libby as her source testified that she was told of Plame’s identity before that date. Libby then stated that it was Armitage who first told him of Plame’s identity prior to July 8, 2003, but later retracted that statement. According to World Reality Monthly, by 2010 Iran will be among the most costly contested pieces of real estate in the world. According to Vice President Cheney, “Iran is the next big thing after Iraq.” It offers all the luxuries of life that people want.” Along with vacation buddies Carl Rove, George W. Bush Jr., and Mr. Lesar, Cheney believes that “Iran is where it’s at.” It certainly feels that within the next five years Iran will be the 51st state, and the Middle East in general will be the next Hawaii. Even the Ayatollah of Iran has stated how wonderful it would be to have the presence of Halliburton Land in Iran to boost its tourism industry. In fact, the Ayatollah has personally issued a fatwa stating that if Halliburton built a resort within Iran he would issue each employee their own personal AK-47 engraved with their initials.

From the beautiful scenery of topless belly dancers while you smoke a hookah, to the mineral rich mud baths of the Red Sea, the Middle East has everything to offer in terms of enjoyment and relaxation. Vice President Cheney says, “Enjoy your vacation within the peaceful lands of the Middle East.”

The information regarding Plame’s identity was leaked to a total of four journalists. Why does this matter? The United States has been at war in Iraq for four years. The U.S. government and military rely on the intelligence services to protect U.S. citizens at home and abroad. Leaking classified top secret information disrupts intelligence collecting missions bringing to the surface government weaknesses that enemies can use to their advantage.

In the case of Valerie Plame, she was under Non-Official Cover (NOC) status. She most likely had a “cover company” in which she presumably worked. There may have been other NOC’s as well employed by that company as a cover. When Plame’s identity was leaked, it put the other NOC agents working at the “cover company” at risk of being exposed, and possibly sabotaged their missions. After Valerie Plame’s identity was leaked, she was fired from her job at the Bin Laden Contracting Company. It is the most likely publication of records to see if she was visiting or spying in their countries as well. To date, no significant damage has arisen within the CIA due to the identity leak.
CHRIS STARIN | BUSINESS MAJOR | NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Graduates of New York Institute of Technology are uniquely prepared to succeed in the world's leading companies. Our students are passionate about their fields of study and serious about learning all they can. NYIT’s schools and colleges, including Management, Engineering & Computing Sciences, and Education & Professional Services, provide opportunities for internships at companies such as AT&T, JP Morgan and CBS. To register or arrange for tours of the Manhattan and Long Island campuses, call 800.345.NYIT. Visit nyit.edu.
As I clear my head to write these words, the very idea that the day may come when I may no longer have the right to express any individual thoughts and opinions of my own surprises. Though I might wish to cast that idea back to the dark crevices from whence it came, reality sets in and the whole current situation, the day of our Whig right censorship draws near. If I sound somewhat melancholy, there is just cause. As a young man of nineteen, I wake up into a world that is at times superficial, redundant, and, apparently, retarded. I ask why I am here. What is my purpose? What really matters if it all ends? And, where do I go from here, this very spot where I lay? It can be hard at times, not understanding yourself or your surroundings, feeling disconnected with everything, from the sun that beats down on you, the laws made to govern you, to your very anatomy and physical being.

The one thing that keeps me in tune, makes me get up in the morning and keep going is my voice – my ability to express myself and be heard. In this vehicle I drive, I propel forward, and my skid rows now follow me, marking where I’ve been. Your right to expression, to perceive, and convey is the very thing that lets you know you’re here. In fact, expression is the foremost notion that you exist. The world of free expression has come under fire in recent years, causing a lot of people to appear present, yet be null and void in heart and mind. Institutions given the façade of peer organization have become filters of the people’s voice; discarding anything that one single person may feel as an aberration until all individual thoughts are the same. One instance of this fundamental censorship and suppression that has come into focus today is the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) ratings board.

The MPAA ratings board, founded in 1968, was intended to work for filmmakers by helping to provide feedback from the perspective of their intended audience, and at the same time help parents oversee the films their children would be viewing. After the Production Code was given a beating by the judicial books in the late 1950’s early 60’s, it was a given that censorship was untouchable and could not exist outright. The Production Code was an attempt to oversee and censor the content, image, and language of, films. With the Production Code out the window new kinds of films, more formally adventurous and socially relevant to the contemporary culture, began to come into the light. These films, for example, “The Last Picture Show,” and “American Graffiti,” presented new ideas and voices, and did so without interference. The controversial “Last Tango in Paris,” starring Marlon Brando, was an X-rated film directed by Bernardo Bertolucci in which graphic sex scenes aided the story of alienation and the necessity of interperson- nal connection. The film went on to garner Oscar nominations for best picture and best actor.

Today, a film in the spirit of Bertolucci’s would most likely not be celebrated in similar fashion at least not in the Hollywood movie making machine. The MPAA board is made up of ten members who view films intended for release and categorize them. The MPAA rating guidelines are as follows: G is general audiences; meaning the film has no sex, no violence save any cartoonish violence, and no drug paraphernalia. PG is parental guidance, for strong language, for example, shit or ass, and/or strong violence such as human combat. PG-13 includes variants of cursing, violence and nudity, and the word “fuck” should not be used. Restrictions increase to NC-17, rating based on sexual content more than two people, or anything deemed “abber- rational” is to be given a NC-17. Despite the ambiguity of the term aberrational, filmmakers argue mostly about the NC-17 rating on box office, and the fact they have little to no information on how and why their film received the rating.

The secretive nature of the MPAA board and its rulings is the set piece for filmmaker Kirby Dick’s documentary. “This film is not yet rated.” Dick’s film explores the controversy surrounding the MPAA board and the secret identities of its members. One of the first statements in the film repeats the fact that the MPAA is one of the only review boards in the world to not share the identi- ties of its members. Why should a group of people with such an impact on one of the most influ- ential art mediums in America not be disclosed to the public it serves? Particularly today, when film and television in the popular imagination is referred to as the “window to the world.” At a time when so much informa- tion is transmitted through the airwaves and the internet, information cultivated in large part by private enterprises, it is only right that the public hold a proprietary interest in the dissemination of that information. Recently, however, there have been threats to cut funds to such organizations as the Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN), which has provided the island of Manhattan and its people access to a diverse array of media blocks ranging from FRATA EXTRANIA, a bilin- gual gay talk show to Damn YC news, a bi-weekly show produced by and for the youth of NYC. And in 2005, Congress voted on the possible 45% decrease in the funding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Such cuts could in fact stop many Americans from exercising their freedom of speech over publicly funded (yes, airwaves. If the proposed cuts were to go into effect, the only voices left on the “public” air- waves will be those of political machines and media conglomerates with capital gain as their only raison d’être. In the Hollywood system, NC-17 rated movies are limited in their release and distribution possibilities. So much so, in fact, that a major film studio will not dedicate finances to the marketing of the film, making it very difficult for viewers to experience these works of art. “The studio won’t release your film without an NC-17 rating” says Kimberly Pierce. Pierce is director of “Boys Don’t Cry,” a true story about a trans-gender youth and the harsh obstacles she faces when it is discovered he was in fact born a woman. Hillary Swank gives an Oscar worthy performance as the lead and the film garnered a wide array of critical acclaim. Pierce was told by her lawyer that the studio that had proposed a deal with her was backing out after the film received an NC-17 rating from the MPAA board. The angered Pieres commented, “despite financial obstacles and opposition from the producers, the content was able to put together a groundbreaking feature presenta- tion.”

To have worked so hard and have this unknown board tell me I can’t have a meeting! The MPAA board maintains a no meeting policy with filmmakers regarding the reasons for rating a film NC-17. The little feedback Pierce did receive regarding the NC-17 rating focused solely on the sexual content of the film and not the violence, which she felt was more daringly violent than the sex. Pierce expresses a sentiment that her film is more graphic than any of the sexual scenes. “What strikes you immediately about MPAA,” comments Newsweek film critic, David Ansen, “is how much more they seem to be concerned about sex in films than violence.” In his film “TFNYR,” director Kirby touches on this topic before airing a clip of Jack Valenti, former Review Board administrator stating that, “Most pictures that get the NC-17 rating have to do with violence,” which stats from his own MPAA web- site, however, clearly disproves. The facts show that four out of every five films given an NC-17 rating in the last two years were based on sexual content that was not graphic but seemed to deal with the situation and the inherent danger of these films. The truth is that movies today are becoming more daringly vio- lent and less confrontational; the social consciousness practiced in European films is beaten back with a stick.

A present day example of such patriarchal pseudo- masochist principles being used to shape our ideas is the long awaited classic comic turned film “300.” It is the opinion of this writer that the movie “300” is an ultra violent senseless display of glorifying war. As a fan of the original comic, much of what is on screen was added and tweaked by special effects to promote the message that death in the battlefield is some- thing to be admired. The origi- nal graphic novel by Frank Miller focuses on the idea of the few fighting against the many and sacrificing themselves so others may fight on. But the film version is packed with scenes of political scandal and violence that add little to the historical facts; what is left is all about war laws! getting in the way of the “path to freedom.” Add a little gratuitous sex, a Queen suc- cumbing to a man’s carnal desires for the greater good, and a semi-trailer load of violence and this movie is summed up. You might also note the close simi- larities to the present day U.S. campaign in Iraq, and that the villains in this movie are all non- Caucasian.

Darren Aronofsky, director of “Requiem for a Dream” and “Fountain,” comments that violence without any blood or the ramifications of violence portrayed realistically would be more detrimental to a child than seeing sexual acts that are non- graphic and not pornographic on screen. The fact is, with the rules and guidelines between the stu- dios and theaters, most parents have no choice whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a parent.

As a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian. When a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian. When a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian. When a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian. When a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian. When a parent decides she or he wants to expose, say their sixteen-year old son or daugh- ter to a film concerning sexual matters in a mature way, they begin to wonder whether they feel their kid should see a film since NC-17 means no one under 17 with or without a guardian.
Listen, it’s not you, it’s me!

BY JACLYN SOLOMON

How many of you have heard those words when dealing with a relationship? I am sure plenty of us. Excuses, Excuses, Excuses! When it comes to relationships, many people struggle to understand the opposite sex. Take for example the following “hypothetical” scenario involving three women friends out for dinner in a restaurant.

**Woman 1:** Hi, you’ve been getting close to me for a long time. I think it’s time you asked me out on a date.

**Woman 2:** Maybe he’s just really busy, or he has to take care of some things and he is just waiting for the right time to call you …

**Woman 3:** No offense, but I couldn’t call you before, but then when you called I always had something going on! Statistically, it is women who do more of the breaking up, letting go, and moving on. It takes men longer to get over it. Research studies state that men suffer more from the breakup.

Give a man a break! It seems to be a new trend for a woman to make the first moves on a man these days. At the same time, having a woman hit on a man is a favorite male fantasy. Men are overstimulated from being the “aggressor” all the time. The point for women is to make an effort to treat men as friends rather than just blaming them for the cause of everything that goes wrong in life. Is it PMS, or an excuse to be bitchy?

You might be saying, “What does this female know about the male perspective on dating?” You’re right to ask. I don’t know everything but it does help growing up with an older brother. As I observed my brother with his girlfriend, I came to a shocking realization. Not all men are born to be heartbreakers! (Sorry ladies but it’s the truth, some guys are truly genuine) and they have beating hearts which were given the ability to love. When I asked my friend what most men look for in a woman, he gave me the 411. He stated there are six ways to a guy’s heart.

**One:** Open Up To The Guy. Guy’s love it when girls are honest about their future goals and what they want to get out of life. It is really deep and it makes guys see you as a real person rather that just someone they want to become physically.

**Two:** Get Interested. Asking questions about your guy while having a conversation with him not only shows you are interested in him, but you are taking the time out to get to know the real him (Instead of sitting there going on and on about yourself! Having confidence = Turn on; Conceivedness = Turn off).

**Three:** Be Your True Self. No acting, this is not an audition for an MTV episode of Next. Men love it when a woman can act goofy and silly, it shows they feel comfortable, and they know how to have a good time.

**Four:** Support Him. Even if you have no idea about the sports he is into, or you don’t know how to play the video games he plays for five hours a day. Hang out with him and try to understand, this is what he likes to do and you can make an effort to get interested.

**Five:** Plan A Date. Guys are interested in girls who are fun and like to do other activities than shop. Plan something you know he enjoys doing. Go to the ball games with him, treat him to a meal. He will appreciate you taking the time out to do something he wanted rather than only caring about yourself. And …

**Six:** Play The Field. There is nothing a guy wants more than a woman who is a challenge. For example, my friend said, “I’d been hooking up with this girl for awhile. She was “hot,” but I was still seeing other girls too, so it wasn’t like we were dating steady or anything. But then one day I saw her with another guy, and it made me realize I knew then that she meant a lot to me.”

If you follow these 6 tips ladies, you can’t go wrong!

Women and men may never be able to understand each other, and maybe that is the way it is supposed to be. That not-understanding is the unspoken language of love.

---

**Caffeine: A Turn to the Worst!**

BY KENDLE ORTIZ

It is everywhere, in the coffee and cocoa we sip, the chocolate bars we munch, the soda we gulp, and in the tea we drink. It is there in huge amounts in those cleverly named “energy” beverages that are specifically marketed for kids and teens.

It is common knowledge that college students don’t get enough sleep. Most students have school work plus their regular jobs plus family and friends. Students often struggle to accomplish as much as they can in any 24 hour period. And most of the time, the students do not accomplish the majority of the things they need and want to do. Too often college students are just plain old tired. The late nights, drowning in homework and cramming for exams to stay on top of their game, are the things that most college students will experience throughout their academic career. Sooner or later, however, when a person does not get enough sleep they start to feel fatigued. Ryan Lombardi, Assistant Dean of Students at Duke University, has listed lack of sleep as a major health issue facing students today, along with alcohol abuse and body image problems.

Men! Can’t Live Without Them

Yes, you read it right. This time, women are in the hot seat. The issue is equality. Equality between men and woman is important to a successful relationship.

Next time you need a shoulder to lean on, seek out one of the males you’ve been getting close to instead of running to your lone female best friend. Women always seem to use the excuse, “How well I know if he really cares, he never shows me how he’s feeling?” It’s a fact that men tend to hide their feelings. In other words, men say, “If I share myself physically and mentally, I am emotionally hooked.” Fact is, men may be more reluctant to commit, but when they do, they give it their all. Statistically, it is women who do more of the breaking up, letting go, and moving on. It takes men longer to get over it. Research studies state that men suffer more from the breakup.

It turns out that caffeine may be a better way to stay awake and alert, according to a recent study. Researchers from Rush University Medical Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School say they discovered that low doses of caffeine throughout the day are more effective than the traditional method of having a large dose in the morning. The study notes after that the study was over, the subjects got a full night’s rest and the caffeine during the day still helped them to stay awake. The subjects also stopped the caffeine about an hour and a half before they were to go to bed. Most of the time, many young adults, including high school kids, are seen with huge cups of coffee in the morning. People are drinking coffee as if it were water, or a milk-shake (which is also not too healthy in large quantities).
The first installment of this 2 part series on immigration reform surveyed the annual costs of illegal immigrants on taxpayers in New York State, and also used that information to briefly explore arguments in favor of and against conferring legal status to illegal immigrants. This installment will explore the effects of the most recent amnesty program granted to illegal residents by the United States government and survey the federal revenue gaps that illegal immigrants leave in the federal budget.

In 1986, Congress introduced sweeping immigration reform called the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). The act focused on granting amnesty to illegal aliens in two categories: (1) those who could prove their illegal residence in the United States since January 1, 1982. (2) Agricultural workers who had worked at least 90 days from the dates of May 1, 1985 through May 1, 1986 also received a Congressional pardon. Through fierce debate, IRCA was passed through both the House and Senate, thus, legalizing an approximate 2.5 million illegal immigrants.

Many believed the act held the quintes- sential humanitarian soul of the United States at the time. Concerned that an increased number of residents (legal or illegal) living underneath the official radar only aided the derogation of society, that continual exploitation of illegal immigrants might lead to serious poverty levels, and fearing hypothetical scenarios that undocumented immigrants would not be able to access needed healthcare and inevitably spread diseases to others, proponents of the IRCA believed it was America’s illegal immigration problem. In addition, millions of children would otherwise not be able to attend formal schooling because of their legal status which it was posited would create a wider gap between the rich and poor; this economic gap correlated to education continues to be a serious concern because of the effect it can produce in regard to poverty rates. And, statistically speaking, higher poverty rates strongly correlate to higher crime rates.

The blanket amnesty program of the IRCA still affects the United States today. It gave a large illegal immigrant population a path to citizenship; critics of a new amnesty contend that this only encouraged a substantial wave of illegal immigrants entering the United States. In March of 2006, the Washington Associated Press released an article citing the approximate number of illegal immigrants within the United States at 12 million. This is literally a 4 to 1 ratio of the number granted amnesty in 1986. One of the most detrimental consequences to arise out of the 1986 amnesty program carries the name of “Mahmud Abouhalima.” Abouhalima claimed amnesty as an agricultural worker during the 1986 IRCA and was granted a Congressional pardon. Abouhalima continued his stay in the United States to help mastermind the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. Later investigations from the FBI found that Abouhalima was never employed as an agricultural worker, but falsely claimed for amnesty while operating as a NYC taxi driver during the allotted IRCA time frame.

“They (undocumented workers) are a part of our fabric in a practical sense. They’re not going to get deported…they’re already here” (Michael Bloomberg, New York City Mayor). Objective and reliable quantifiable data is hard to obtain on the issue of illegal immigrants, yet supplementing the money spent in tax dollars supporting healthcare and educational facilities utilized by illegal immigrants, many illegal immigrants do pay U.S. taxes. The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) published a report in 2004 surveying the 2002 federal budget. According to the 2004 report, illegal households contributed roughly $4,200 per year in federal taxes, totaling nearly 16 billion dollars annually. However, the report also finds that each illegal household also imposes annual costs of 26.5 billion dollars on the economy through government services, equaling roughly $6,050 per illegal household. (This report cites the estimated illegal population in the country at approximately 12 million.) This leaves a fiscal debt of 10.3 billion dollars incurred by illegal aliens. The report continues to detail the financial aftermath of a blanket amnesty program using the 2002 federal budget as a guideline: “Costs rise unavoidably because amnesty will not change the low education levels of illegal aliens or the fact that the American economy offers such workers very limited opportunities, regardless of legal status. The vast majority of illegal aliens will continue to have very low incomes, and make very modest tax payments.” According to this model, although tax payments may rise 77%, costs would also increase to 117% because with amnesty there is more open access to government programs.

Currently, illegal aliens are generally limited to sub-standard and low paying jobs. Reports on comparative data such as that of the professions of illegal immigrants to infer that they will not contribute on a higher level to the economy once legalized. Comparing undocumented workers to legal foreign born workers in the United States, a 2006 report by the non-partisan National Research Council found that undocumented workers consist of 5% of the nation’s workforce, but make up 20% or more in low wage jobs ranging from cooks to insulation workers. Although illegal immigrants do hold a considerable employment rate in menial occupations, it is vital to note that there is still a firm bar that restricts their employment mobility in the United States – the law. Illegal immigrants have no access to utilize skills they may either currently hold or cultivate in the future because of their legal status. New models must be implemented in the immigration debate that may account for an increased amount of skilled workers that stem from a new amnesty program, models that do not contrive data of a current undocumented workforce which may become obsolete.

Throughout U.S. history, immigrants have not been welcomed with open arms, whether they were Irish immigrants in the early 1900s or a stream of Middle Easterners in the new millennium. Yet, the strong diversity helps to build this country as a super-power. After all, the backs of immigrants built this country. As expressed by an illegal immigrant who agreed to speak on the condition anonymity, “We have a lot to offer this country; we just don’t have the chance to offer it yet. Of course crime rates are higher for illegal immigrants; we have no access to the social ladder America offers. If a man steals so that his family may eat, is he a thief or a hero?”

**Keeping Up with Technology**

led Solving the E-waste Problem (SIEP), an initiative focused on making electronics easier to recycle. The major issue with recycling is the complexity of disassembling these electronics. The cost of this process makes it unattractive to many suppliers. The onus is on manufacturers to create products easily dismantled, thereby making recycling profitable.

Xerox, HP, and Dell are three companies that have instituted recycling programs for their outdated products. The wireless phone company Nokia has also stepped in by unveiling a self disassembling cell phone, which breaks down when exposed to high temperatures. The National Electronics Product Stewardship is in the process of creating a framework for national recycling. In the meantime, if you have to have the latest gadget, be sure to leave your outdated equipment at a local recycling center. Find one near you, and more information at: www.wirelessrecycling.com.
The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) continues to fight for liberation and equality for Afghan women and to restore a democratic and secular government for the people of Afghanistan. RAWA was founded in 1977 in Kabul by social activist Meena Kishwar Kamal as a self-governing organization working for social and political freedom for the women of Afghanistan and in opposition to uprisings by Fundamentalist Organizations. Meena Kishwar Kamal, the founder and leader of RAWA, was born in Kabul, Afghanistan on February 27, 1956, where she later attended the university and later sold to generate revenue. The profits gained were used to purchase medical equipment for Afghan women and children refugees living in Pakistan. Women were taught the trade of sewing clothing, clothing that was sold on Broadway. Let’s see what happens.

In light of Women’s month who is your female role model and why? My female role model is my mother, not just for this month but always. My mom came to this country from Honduras with nothing and established a great life for her and her family. She has overcome so many things, and I believe she is a very strong and spiritual woman. She has done a great job with me and I love her for that.

 RAWA Fighting for the Liberation of Afghan Women

By TARA-DEE WOODS

In addition to local protests held by the RAWA against the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar’s organization, RAWA launched the publication of Payam-e-Zan (Woman’s Message) magazine in 1981. Payam-e-Zan publicly and internationally exposed the “criminal nature of fundamentalist groups,” aiming to acquire full control of Afghanistan and its people and provided Afghan women with information in “regard to their political and social rights.” Payam-e-Zan later earned Ms. Kamal an invitation to the French International Socialist Conference in Valence, France to discuss the development of RAWA and its organized movements against the “political chaos” in Afghanistan due to the Soviet Union’s invasion. Meena Kishwar Kamal continued her work as a social activist, traveling to other European countries campaigning against “Fundamentalism and the governing Russian Puppet Regime,” with the expectation of gaining support from other international socialist organizations. However, Ms. Kamal was forced to relocate to Pakistan for her safety after learning that the Soviet Regime was inquiring about her and the others of RAWA. In Pakistan, RAWA focused on constructing institutions that would empower the lives of Afghan Women. RAWA literary courses were established for Afghan refugee women living in Pakistan. Women were taught the trade of sewing clothing, clothing that was later sold to generate revenue. The profits gained were used to purchase medical supplies for the women and children who were still trapped in Afghanistan. RAWA also funded the Maalai Hospital in Quetta, Pakistan in 1986, providing health care for Afghan women and children refugees living in Pakistan.

continued on page 9

RAWA circulated “anti-Soviet and anti-puppets leaflets” with the hope of acquiring support from other women to join them in the “resistance of war.”
Insider Trading: Legality and Illegality

BY LUKASZ LEGUEC

"Insider trading" is an activity that most investors associate with illegal conduct, but the phrase actually refers to both legal and illegal con- duct. The legal version is when corporate insiders, officers, directors and employees buy and sell stock in their own companies. When a corporate insider trades in their own securities, they must report their trades to the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission). Insiders violate insider trading rules if they generally buy or sell stock in other relationships of trust and confidence, while in possession of material non-public information about the security. Insider trading violations may also include "tipping" such information, securities trading by the person "tipped," and securities trading by those who misappropriate such information.

It is not a coincidence that corporate execu- tives seem to always buy and sell at the right times. After all, the CEO's and the CFO's of the world have access to every bit of company information you could ever want. This doesn't mean individual investors can't be considered an insider. Anybody who has material and non-public information can use it. A com- mon misconception is that only directors and upper management can be considered an insider. Anybody who has material and non-public infor- mation can commit such an act. This means that nearly anybody -- including brokers, family, friends and employees -- can be considered an insider.

The following examples are of illegal insider trading:

• The CEO of a company sells a stock after discovering that the company will be losing a big government contract in a month.
• The CEO's son sells the company stock after hearing from his dad that the company will be losing the big government contract.

A person that realizes that the com- pany will lose a big government contract, so the official sells the stock.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is extremely strict with those who trade unfairly and thereby undermine investor confi- dence and the integrity of the financial markets. Insiders, however, are not always involved in something illegal. They legally buy and sell stock in their own company all of the time; their trading is restricted and illegal only at certain times and under certain conditions (see "Uncovering Insider Trading" by Investopedia Staff).

Since the depths of the Great Depression, the Securities and Exchange Commission has tried to prevent insider trading in U.S. securities markets. Insiders, a firm’s principal owners, directors, and management, as well as its lawyers and accom- tants, routinely possess information that is unavail- able to the general public. Because some of that information will affect the prices of the firm’s se- curities when it becomes public, insiders can profit by buying or selling in advance. Even before the twenties, insiders were liable under the common law if they fraudulently misled uninformed traders into accepting inappropriate prices. But the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 went further by forbidding insiders from profiting passively from superior information.

One of the most famous instances of insider trading was Charles F. Fogarty’s purchase of Texas Gulf Sulphur shares during 1963 and 1964. Entry, an executive of the president of Texas Gulf Sulphur, knew that the company had discovered a rich min- eral lode in Ontario that it could not publicize before concluding leases for mineral rights. In the meantime, Fogarty purchased 3,100 Texas Gulf Sulphur shares and earned $125,000 to $150,000 (in 1991 dollars).

The basic argument against insider trading is that insiders should not be permitted to earn such sums at the expense of uninformed traders. Yet in almost all other markets where information is important, insider trading is well established and widely accepted. One reason frequently cited by policymakers and commentators is that insider trading undermines price efficiency in the short run and reduces the value of securities. If people fear that insiders will regu- larly profit at their expense, they will not be nearly as willing to invest. A similar argument is that companies prefer that their securities trade in "thick" markets, markets with many traders.

An insider trader will sell securities to the spe- cialist only when he knows that the securities will soon be worthless. After the price has fallen, the insider is free to repurchase the securities from the specialist for the lower price. If that occurs, the specialist (a specialist is someone whom the stock exchange appoints to ensure that a buyer of a par- ticular stock can always find a seller, and vice versa) loses money. But insider trading might also have offsetting benefits. Insider trading can be profitable only if securities prices move. Therefore, insiders hoping to trade on inside information may try to get the price to move by buying the company’s stocks, seeking new prod- ucts.

Another well-known instance of insider trad- ing occurred in 1975 and 1976. Vincent Chiarella netted more than $60,000 by trading on important non-public data about firms other than his employer. Chiarella was always able to "crack the code" by buying from unidentified individuals, and he thus became a successful trader. The Supreme Court ruled that Chiarella did not violate the insid- er trading rules because he did not work for any legal, insiders would bid the prices of stocks up or down in advance of the information being released. The result is that there is no need to report or pro- tect all information, both public and confidential about a company at any given time.

They also argue that sometimes, through luck or effort, individuals with no formal relationship with a firm discover important non-public data. The real insiders can always profit by trading prior to public awareness of the data. But a certain fea- ture of insider trading law is that informed trading is treated more softly if the trader is a "quasi trad- er," a market professional who holds a spot on the Securities and Exchange Commission, rather than that the trader is a real insider.

Caffeine continued from page 6

But, when taken in a large amount in the morning it may be useless in keeping a person alert for the entire day. Theoretically, if you get a good eight hours of rest a night and stay awake for sixteen hours during the day, you should not need caffeine. If caffeine should not be needed to stay awake and alert. But since most people don’t have eight hours of sleep each night, in the morning the caffeine is needed to wake up. As the day wears on, however, caffeine users become less aware. When the caffeine is needed later in the day, it is no longer in one’s system.

Caffeine and its “sister” chemicals, theophylline and theobromine (which are also found in varying amounts in beverages including coffee, tea, cola, etcetera), are central nervous system stimulants. This means they give you a “buzz” or a sense of increased alertness. While theophylline and theobromine relax smooth muscle they and caffeine are also cardiac stimulants (they increase your heart rate). They are also diuretics, which means they make your body produce more urine. All of these effects are related to the fact that caffeine inhibits a specific enzyme in the body that controls many body func- tions. Caffeine is also addictive, in the sense that people develop a physical dependence upon it and have withdrawal symptoms if they stop. If you feel like you just can’t function without it and need to drink (or take) something with caffeine every day, then you are becoming addicted.

There is some good news however. The potential benefits of caffeine are that it delays (but does not eliminate!) fatigue and provides a temporary boost of “energy.” Caffeine starts to work as soon as fifteen minutes after it is con- sumed. Its effects last about three to four hours. It is often used by people (particularly college students, truck drivers, and shift workers) to help them stay awake longer. Caffeine does work fairly well for a short time for this purpose, but it is not a substitute for sleep. Caffeine may help you stay awake and alert long enough to study, but it will not improve your performance on an exam the next day if you have not gotten enough sleep. Also, caffeine does not provide the information on caffeine and its effects, visit The National Sleep Foundation website www.sleepfoundation.org.

Caffeine continued from page 8

According to RAWA reports, as result of Ms. Kamal’s dedication to the fight for democracy and a secular government against Russian forces, she was assassinated by “agents of KHAD (Afghanistan branch of the RGB) and their fundamentalist accomplices in Quetta, Pakistan on February 4, 1987.” Despite the tragic loss of RAWA’s leader, it continued to work on the goals that Ms. Kamal had set out to achieve.

However, following the fall of the Soviet Regime in 1992, an extreme fundamentalist organization, the “Islamic Taliban,” acquired power over the people of Afghanistan. The Taliban put into practice ultra-conservative laws which denied the right of freedom to the Afghan society, primarily women. Women were not allowed to walk the streets without being accompanied by a “Mahram,” a close male relative. In addition, employment was restricted, and whether in neighborhood based businesses or governmental positions, women were denied the right to be in a profession. Further, women were deprived of the right to education and sufficient medical care. In addition, women who were caught breaking any of the laws implemented by the “fundamentalists,” generally received punishment for their actions. Punishment included flogging, stoning, even death. RAWA’s struggle for the liberation for Afghan women against the “tyranny” of fundamentalist organizations became far more difficult.

Many people were being committed to the custody of the “fundamentalists,” and reported them to international news organiza- tions, newspapers, magazines and all other organizations that were interested in hearing their stories. RAWA also created a website www.RAWA.org as a means to internationally expose the brutality of the Afghan nation faced due to the governing of “Extreme Islamic Fundamentalists.”

The focus on educating Afghan women and children has always been the “hallmark” of RAWA’s goals and success, even after the elimination of the Taliban regime in 2001. Since 1987, RAWA has founded fifteen schools in Pakistan, and there are hundreds of literacy programs available to young girls and women in Iran and Afghanistan. RAWA’s plan for the future is to carry on with the work that the founder Meena Kishwar Kamal had set out to accomplish, the liberation of the women of Afghanistan and the restoration of democracy in their homeland.

Liberation of Afghan Women

continued from page 8

Queensborough Communiqué, April 2007
Hillary Clinton has served as a New York State Senator for six years, and she has done a lot for New York City. One example is her ongoing fight to improve the quality of every child’s education, from preschool through college. On her official website, www.hillaryclinton.com, it states that Senator Clinton will continue to “press for equal rights for girls and women by fighting to protect title IX, which provides equal opportunities for girls and women in sports, and (and) championing legislation that would ensure that women earn the same amount as men for equal work, and more.” And today, in addition to her previous accomplishments, Senator Clinton is running for President of the United States in the 2008 election.

Although Senator Clinton has done a lot for this country she now faces the biggest battle of her political career—how to win the Presidential election. One problem that she, and each of her competitors face in that instead of looking at what each candidate has done and said, the popular media and much of its audience is instead focusing upon the issue of identity, that is, upon the racial, ethnic and gender identities of the candidates, on whether they are black, white, male or female, young or old. In addition, media commentators are questioning if the fact that Hillary Clinton is a woman, her marriage to former President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. And further, some believe that being married to a former president is a disadvantage for Senator Clinton in that the public will tend to associate her policy positions with those of her husband.

Talking to students on the QCC campus, as well as with friends, family, and people in my community it appears that the biggest obstacle Hillary Clinton faces that might stop her from winning the Presidential election is the fact that she voted in support of the invasion of Iraq. Before she decided to run for the Presidency, she supported the war because of the attacks on the United States on 9/11. Interviewing numerous students on campus, in addition to friends and family, I asked if Senator Clinton will win the 2008 election for President. The majority seem to believe she will not win due to the fact that she’s a woman, while others thought that she’s not a capable enough politician to handle the pressing economic and social issues facing the United States today. In addition, half of the people I interviewed said that Senator Clinton’s marriage to former President Clinton is a problem. They believe that voters will look at what she did and did not do for the country when he was President and not at what she is going to do for the country if she becomes President. The other 50% said her marriage would not be a problem because Senator Clinton is her own person and has her own ideas.

Will Senator Clinton’s disadvantages outweigh her advantages in the race for the Presidency? How and when will America decide?
On March 7, 2007 one of the most deadly fires in New York City erupted, claiming the lives of ten people (nine children and one adult), and injuring nineteen other residents of the building. The fire started sometime around 11 p.m. in the basement of the home, which was split into two apartments, and spread quickly up the stairs. The victims included Fatoumata Soumouar, and her four children: a daughter Hassimy, 7, and sons Djibril, 4, and 7-month-old Saliou. Her Husband Mamadou Soumouar, an immigrant from Mali, a country in West Africa, is a New York City cab driver and was on duty when the fire started.

He received a panicked call from his wife when the fire broke out. Fox News reported, “She said, ‘We have a fire.’ She screamed.” Soumural recalled. When Soumara heard the call he rushed home to find that his wife and children were trapped in the house and fire was spreading through their home – there was nothing that he could do but watch. The building did not have a fire escape, and according to city building codes, the building was not required to have a fire escape. That made it harder for the victims to escape and for the fire department to put out the fire. The fire department took approximately two hours to extinguish the blaze, which spread to the first floor and then throughout the building.

It has been reported that either a space heater or an overloaded power strip located in the basement of the home may be the cause of the deadly fire. Unfortunately, this isn’t the first time an electrical appliance has been the cause of a deadly fire. In June 2005 a fire spread through a two-story home in Queens Village, killing three people. A 2-year-old baby girl, her 23-year-old mother and her grandmother all died in this fire. Six people lived in the house, but only five were in the house at the time of the fire. An eighteen-year-old man jumped out of the window from the second floor and crawled to a neighbor’s home to ask for help, and a twenty-five-year-old woman who was also in the house escaped but needed medical assistance at the hospital. This tragic fire happened on my block, a couple of houses down from my home, to witness this terrible event was heartbreaking. It was reported that faulty electrical wiring or an air-conditioner on the first floor of the house caused the fire.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, electrical fires in homes claim the lives of 485 Americans each year and injure 2,305 more. Most fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance problems, but many more are caused by misuse of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords. Some homes have a lot of residents living in them and overcrowding can contribute to fire when electrical circuits are overloaded. Electrical devices are very useful, but they can also be extremely dangerous when used improperly.

Both of the fires were tragedies. We all need to understand how to use appliances safely and hopefully incidents like those mentioned here will never happen again.

In the past thirty years many changes have occurred within the United States Armed Forces which have resulted in a more efficient, safer, and more effective military. Private military contractors have recently come under increased scrutiny due to their operations, and the motivations of PMCs. As a result, issues of accountability which can lead to favoritism among those hiring the company, and the increased role of these private companies can be seen in the growth of private military personnel from approximately 1 out of every 50 U.S. military personnel to 1 out of every 10 by 2003. In the Vietnam War, the U.S. military has relied more on private contractors to provide technical and weapons support. Private military contractors have since taken on work including air maintenance and control, ammunition, weapons disarmament and destruction of weapons, mine extraction, high level security, and many other high risk and low risk operations. These companies are in competition for high value contracts. As a consequence, companies may withhold information in order to stay ahead of competitors, court favoritism among those hiring the company, and ignore issues of accountability which can lead to mismanagement. In addition, many of the operations carried out by the private sector were once the responsibility of U.S. military personnel. This trend toward universal privatization of the military is currently undergoing an expansion in all branches of the armed services, with plans from the Bush administration to move additional sections of government work to private sectors.

Many military officials have argued that there has been a recent erosion of the role of the military across the globe, and the rise of former U.S. special forces personnel employed by private military corporations. Military staff are drawn in by the fact that entry level positions with different companies can pay up to $100,000 a year in some instances, or as high as $1,000 a day, which is 2-3 times more than what an average special forces soldier is paid by the U.S. military. In addition, most special forces personnel are deployed for no more than a year and a half. At the same time, however, private contractors creating competitive pressure to reduce costs. This competition and drive for profits significantly emphasizes the private sector’s involvement with government armed forces. For example, unless both private contractor and U.S. military personnel are sent, contracted operations are coordinated, and take the aspect of earnings and oversight is virtually impossible. At present, there is no middle ground. Private military contractors once under contract have all the available resources provided by their own company, which match government equipment. Yet, when a situation gets out of control during a contracted operation, the contractor may call in reinforcement provided by the United States military.

A controversy in 1999, involving DynCorp stationed in Bosnia, was particularly embarrassing for the U.S. military. A Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act lawsuit filed against DynCorp employees while located in Bosnia. The United States Army has awarded a contract for management of translation and interpretation services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to DynCorp employees. In 2004, DynCorp was engaging in perverse, illegal and potentially criminal behavior. In 2004, a five-year contract, with a maximum value of $4.645 billion, ordered to begin March 2007. What does this “award” say about accountability?

Currently in Iraq there are thought to be at least 100,000 private military contractors working directly for the United States Defense, ten times the number included in previous reports since the Persian Gulf War, just over a decade earlier. The growth in private military contractors may expand their power and influence upon the government in many aspects.

It seems the competition, need for growth, and generation of wealth is appealing to many looking for financial opportunity. Unfortunately, whether for freedom, liberty, profit, or political power, it is very difficult to determine the true motivations of PMCs.

Private Paramilitary companies which offer services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to DynCorp were engaging in perverse, illegal and potentially criminal behavior. In 2004, a five-year contract, with a maximum value of $4.645 billion, ordered to begin March 2007. What does this “award” say about accountability?
out to answer that question for us.

With the aid of a private detective, Dick managed to obtain the identities of the MPAA board members. I will mention three: Joan Yatabe, age 61, has two kids aged 22 and 25. Anthony Hey, age 61, has two children aged 28 and 30. Arleen Bates, at 44, is the youngest member with a 15 year old and a 23 year old. It would be fair to say that there is an obvious gap between the members of the ratings board, and the target audience of most movie productions. As with the age limit for the presidency, 35 being the youngest, it turns out that young people at times are not only shut out of politics, but they can’t decide what movies are suitable for their peers to watch until they are forty plus years old.

Here is an idea for the MPAA, how about letting young adults make decisions about what 14, 15, and 16 year olds can handle. These are different times, with different social expectations, necessities, and values. The idea that no parent under the age of thirty exists in Hollywood seems unfathomable. In addition, Jack Valenti wanted no child psychiatrist or anyone with similar skill traits on the board. This means that board members have only their biases and the fact that they have children to guide their rating decisions. Biases, what biases could they hold? Sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, social and economic standing can play a part in why some films are left on the cutting room floor. At times it seems that America is afraid of its own self, its own feelings, and its own voice. Here are some examples:

- Boys Don’t Cry was rated NC-17 for a scene of oral sex. Single White Female, rated R, contains several scenes of oral sex. The difference: In Boys Don’t Cry, a woman is being orally pleased for what they believe is the latter a man being pleased by a woman. Female pleasure vs. male domination, homosexuality vs. heterosexuality.
- Mysterious Skin (NC-17) has a scene of two young men engaging in rear entry penetration. Unfaithful (R) contains a scene of rear entry penetration between a man and a woman. Homosexuality vs. heterosexuality.
- But I’m A Cheerleader (NC-17) contains a scene of a teenage female character masturbating on the outside of her underpants. No actual finger penetration. American Beauty (R) contains a scene of male character masturbating in shower. Female pleasure vs. male dominance.

One can see that it is not only the films themselves that are being pushed to the outskirts of media consciousness by MPAA ratings, but the ideas that these films embody – ideas of sexual freedom, ideas of love having no gender distinction, making an impact on the streets of lower Manhattan and in the eyes of all downtown area who witnessed similar demonstrations against the Vietnam War. The scene may have been oddly familiar for workers and residents of the area. Every day from 1967 to 1971, downtown workers and residents would have walked by the recruiting center reading “Justice, or Just US.” She said that she stood behind the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

An hour and a half after storming the building three handcuffed men were led to police vehicles. Among the three was Korte, and upon seeing this students began chanting, “Solidarity forever with the brothers and sisters inside.” This continued until all the students were taken from the recruiting center and loaded into the vans, men in one, women in the other. A chain of approximately fourteen police officers stood blocking the wagons, acting as a barrier to separate those being arrested from the crowd. The marchers followed the vehicles singing their chants, banging their drums and doing so with artistic grace and imagination.

Exploding with overflow into other sections of society.” SDS literature represents the SDS as an education and social action organization dedicated to increasing the consciousness phases of daily life, so as to promote the active participation of young people in the formation of a movement to build a society free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitation, racism and sexism. Chancellors Court, a student protestor at the University of the District of Columbia at SDS, praised his students from the gas mask for his support of local SDS, proudly held a sign outside the Chambers Street recruitment center reading “Justice, or Just US.” She said that she stood behind the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The scene may have been odd for families popular with workers and residents of the downtown area who witnessed similar demonstrations against the Vietnam War, during which, incidentally, an earlier incarnation of the SDS was immensely influential.

An hour and a half after storming the building three handcuffed men were led to police vehicles. Among the three was Korte, and upon seeing this students began chanting, “Solidarity forever with the brothers and sisters inside.” This continued until all the students were taken from the recruiting center and loaded into the vans, men in one, women in the other. A chain of approximately fourteen police officers stood blocking the wagons, acting as a barrier to separate those being arrested from the crowd. The marchers followed the vehicles singing their chants, banging their drums and doing so with artistic grace and imagination.

The point of the rally was to represent what the organization believes to be the majority position of the university community that is against the war in Iraq, translating sentiment into action. And while their action, aimed at shutting down the recruitment center was unsuccessful, they achieved a level of success, making an impact on the streets of downtown Manhattan and in the eyes of all those who bore witness. For more information on Students for a Democratic Society, visit their website at: www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org.

Death of the Sentinel

power and influence. The consequence of fromman’s actions is that the reader questions his true intentions, eventually concluding that his patriotic support of the Registration Act was a lie. The similarity to the Bush Administration’s rationale for invading Iraq under the pretense of searching for WMDs is undeniable. The Super-hero Registration Act is a parody of the Patriot act, an act passed by Congress that directly infringes on the rights of the American people, granting the government the right to monitor our email, cell phone conversations, bank statements and other private information, putting a new spin on the term “Big Brother.”

What does the death of Captain America really mean? What does it say about state of American society? From his creation in 1941, Cap has been a face of American democracy and liberty – the cover of his first comic book has him giving Adolf Hitler a knuckle sandwich. Captain America was a shining example of what America could be. He fought alongside the soldiers in WWII, acting as a morale booster, and encouraged Americans to save war bonds in support of the war. He battled with communists during the Cold War era, and stood up for American liberties in the present day, at a time when it seems like we are forgetting what they actually mean.

The death of Captain America, the Sentinel of Liberty, as he is sometimes called, is a bold and direct statement by Marvel, and should be a wake up call to the American public that it is slowly losing its liberties and freedoms under the false pretense of national safety. It is making sure that we do not go quiet into that dark night, and that we acknowledge what is going on around us, Marvel Comics, with the demise of Captain America, is fulfilling a civic duty that too many other forms of mass media entertainment are not, and doing so with artistic grace and imagination.

The artists and writers at Marvel Comics are encouraging the American public to live up to the words of the late Edward R. Murrow when he said, “We will not walk in fear of one another. We will not be driven into an age of unreason if we dig deep into our history and remember we are not descended from fearful men.”

...continued from page 5

Students for a Democratic Society

continued from page 1

explosion that will overflow into other sections of society.” SDS literature represents the SDS as an education and social action organization dedicated to increasing the consciousness phases of daily life, so as to promote the active participation of young people in the formation of a movement to build a society free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitation, racism and sexism. Chancellors Court, a student protestor at the University of the District of Columbia at SDS, praised his students from the gas mask for his support of local SDS, proudly held a sign outside the Chambers Street recruitment center reading “Justice, or Just US.” She said that she stood behind the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The scene may have been odd for families popular with workers and residents of the downtown area who witnessed similar demonstrations against the Vietnam War, during which, incidentally, an earlier incarnation of the SDS was immensely influential.

An hour and a half after storming the building three handcuffed men were led to police vehicles. Among the three was Korte, and upon seeing this students began chanting, “Solidarity forever with the brothers and sisters inside.” This continued until all the students were taken from the recruiting center and loaded into the vans, men in one, women in the other. A chain of approximately fourteen police officers stood blocking the wagons, acting as a barrier to separate those being arrested from the crowd. The marchers followed the vehicles singing their chants, banging their drums and doing so with artistic grace and imagination.

The point of the rally was to represent what the organization believes to be the majority position of the university community that is against the war in Iraq, translating sentiment into action. And while their action, aimed at shutting down the recruitment center was unsuccessful, they achieved a level of success, making an impact on the streets of downtown Manhattan and in the eyes of all those who bore witness. For more information on Students for a Democratic Society, visit their website at: www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org.