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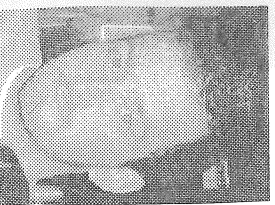
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Issue 7

The Road Ahead...

ERIC OSGUTHORPE
staff writer



Eric is a CIS
Major

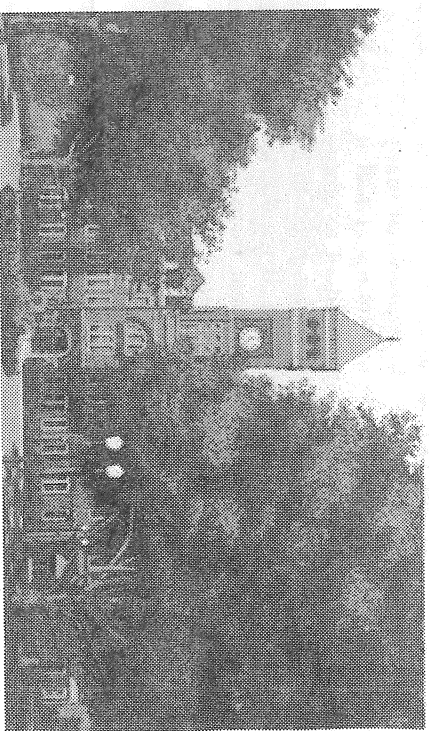
'How's it feel?' my friend and fellow classmate David asked me this Friday morning. It didn't dawn on me until then that he's also soon to be my fellow graduate. While putting in four years here gives me no right to wax poetic, you can expect some thrown in as I look to the future. Welcome to what's been, and the state of things to come.

Moving in freshman year seems all too foreign. The beads of sweat rolled down as you, your parents & your future friends lugged Tupperware containers full of clothes, non-halogen lamps and the parts for your Walmart futon up one too many steps, one too many elevator rides. Looking back, it's as if you watched someone else do it. Or maybe that was when you helped your friend's sister move in.

Where's Martin M201? Or it is Martin E201. Screw it. Didn't you & your friends relish picking out the little freshman during your sophomore year? Just by the way they carried all their books to class, or hung out in blatantly dorm-hall cliques. By junior year, you only cared about two things with freshman: the hot, incoming coeds, and the fact they had to eat in the dining halls. My how the times have changed - instead of trekking across campus to Schilleter, Harcombe is the place to be. Many wish you wouldn't get charged ten bucks for a Snickers at the Corner Stop, such is the life under the Aramark monopoly.

Speaking of absolute power, the US Government has accomplished a lot recently: fighting & supporting corporate corruption, increasing the national debt, sending our troops into harm's way for questionable reasons and more -- what's our Student Government done? Not much. It's fairly difficult to name more than a handful of things they've accomplished, aside from puffing resumes & acting all too important. Yes, we are all aware that you control the money for our groups. Yes, we are also aware that a guy wearing a bucket, a trashcan and pipes for arms garnered 720 votes in the last election. Just wait 'till next year.

In this writer's opinion, Clemson football fans won't be saying that this fall. However, the saying is, and will be, a staple down in Columbia. Even with the departure of Charlie 'Love him, Hate him' Whitehurst & 1st Round pick Tye Hill, the Tigers have a host of players sticking around & will be much improved.



ACC Championship in Jacksonville. Travel, not on a Spring Break trip to Mexico, but rather, spend a few months overseas & you will benefit greatly. Learn not to stick-out like a typical American tourist, hone your language skills, deal with the challenge of being thrown to the wolves in a foreign land and experience culture shock on leaving the States, and then again, when you come back. It's your decision on which foods, cultures and people shock you more. Your travels are what you make of them.

While you're at Clemson, make something. Make a habit out of taking a spur of the moment road trip with your friends, the cash in your wallets & a camera. Make your three, free hours next semester into a course that isn't a guaranteed A - take Electrical Engineering, Piano or something

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What do to about Hillary?

Could the Democrats secure the nation's first female president in 2008?



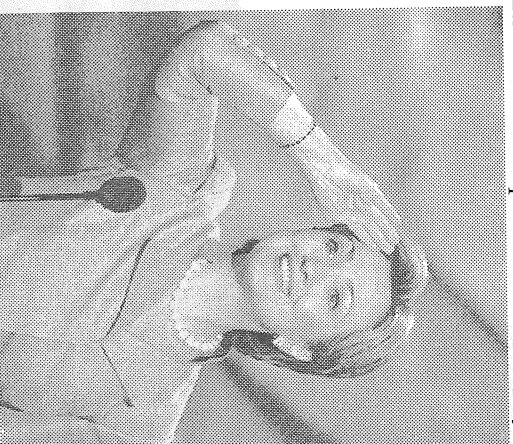
LINDSAY STEWART
editor-in-chief

The rumors have evolved into a pseudo-truth as the nation warms up to the idea of Hillary Clinton winning the democratic nomination for president in 2008.

A recent poll from the Washington Post found that she held a 59% approval rating among the nation, and polls have named the New York senator as the front-runner against former Democratic presidential candidates like Gore, Kerry, and Edwards.

However, Mrs. Clinton has come under fire recently for her positions on issues like the ports deal as well as her stance on Iraq. Interestingly

enough, much of the heat has come from the fact that her statements have been in opposition to those of her husband, former president Bill Clinton. Many Republicans and other opponents of Clinton have claimed that the Clintons are simply reworking their earlier strategy coined "triangulation" by political analysts. During Bill's presidency, policies were aimed at setting somewhere the middle of the political spectrum, appealing to both sides with stances that fell into the middle ground between both parties. This time, the Clinton



Could it be?

the Iraq war resolution. However, last

November, Mr. Clinton told an audience of Arab students that he believed the Iraq war was "a big mistake". Described as "divisive" by the media, the former first lady has come off to many as having what I like to call the "Kerry complex", with an inability to appeal to a broad spectrum. All the name-recognition in the world may not be enough for Mrs. Clinton, as she has been described as "highly partisan, overly negative, and often bitter". According to Lee Miringoff, director of the Marxist Institute for Public Opinion at Marist College in New York, "there's a search for, not exactly the anti-Hillary candidate, but rather the non-Hillary candidate."

Opponents to the nomination also question whether, as Senator Clinton prepares to run for a second term in the Senate this November, she will be able to handle her duties in Congress while also juggling a rigorous po-

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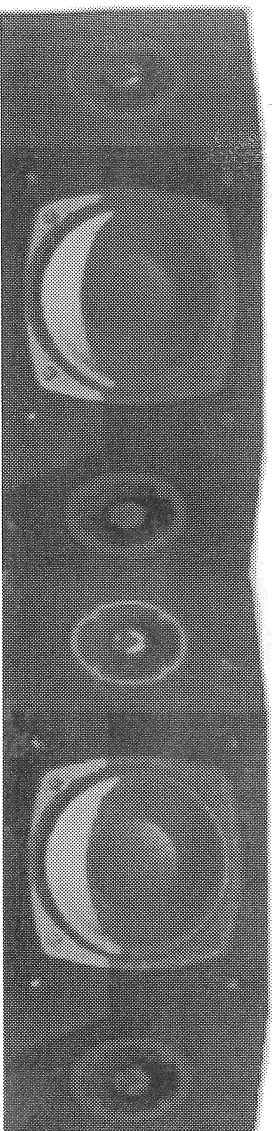
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The Clemson Forum
congratulates

curity



Forum Feedback

Thank you so much for the article from Hafizah Ceter. I am glad someone finally wrote what many faculty and students have been thinking. I feel it was totally irresponsible for the president to ignore the fact that even horrible, racist things need to be seen to be understood and discussed. If we do not discuss them we are doomed to repeat them. The university setting is the perfect place to have these discussions. I would hope that all students were offended by those infamous cartoons, but I would also hope that the same students were offended by the university stance of censorship in lieu of full disclosure. Thank you for having the tenacity to stick to your beliefs and keep us all informed and aware. I have to say that I too am sorry. Sorry that in a setting of higher education and, ideally, open-minded people, we are surrounded by those who fear confronting the truth, whether it is good or bad.

Alexis Gregory
Graduate Student in Architecture

The problem with the cartoon controversy is that it has taken away from the real issue at hand. The president spends all his time talking about how the cartoons don't promote a sense of community. Subsequently, the newspaper defends its right to free speech. While all this nonsense is going on, most people have no idea what the complex cultural, social, and religious issues are surrounding the Muslim community's vehement reaction to their publishing.

The printing of the cartoons isn't the issue, and I think the problem with printing them is that doing so inadvertently makes it the issue. Sure, newspapers have the right to exercise freedom of speech, but I wonder if doing so at the expense of focusing on the issue is the best decision. To simply dismiss Muslim fundamentalists as mentally insane for their violent protests is easy. But it's also irresponsible, in my mind. The Forum prides itself on offering a different view on things, yet from my point of view, the opinion of Peter is quite typical of every American editorialist, regardless of political ideology. I'm not defending the protesters by any means, but I think the goal of the Forum as a progressive newspaper is to try to understand and explain (not legitimize) that behavior to its readers. Just like every other newspaper in the country, it failed to do so.

Keep rocking.
Joe T.

Bryan,
Your article is quite an eye opener. Just you sharing this, will hopefully let others see that in order to make a difference, we must not be indifferent. Keep up the great work to continue to make our country better and equitable.

Debbie Bates-Seay

I just want to say, I am so TIREED of everyone getting offended all the time! NAACP, Women's Rights, mothers against video games, and the most recent everyone who has a problem with those cartoons. WHO CARES?! People are entitled to their own opinions and given the chance will express it. NAACP Okay, we get it, blacks were oppressed A LONG FRICKEN TIME AGO. We've moved on. We don't do it anymore, everyone is viewed as equal and the only people keeping racism alive are the "non-racists." Women's Rights: I'm female, its great that we can vote now and are getting equal pay in the workplace. Wonderful, drop it. Quit complaining that you're being belittled by men because of how you look or what you're wearing. Men are going to do that. Ignore them and they'll probably quit, if they don't ignore them anyways and move on with your life. Mother's complaining about video games corrupting their children. #1, who bought them the game? They can't buy them without an adult present. #2, did you explain the game? #3, do you even try to spend time with them to give them something else to do? "Scream" said it best, "Violent movies don't create killers, they just make killers more creative." And, most recent, the cartoons. If you don't like the cartoons, don't read them. Its that simple. No one is holding a gun to your head and making you read them. Who cares what other people think? That's the problem with the world today. Everyone is so concerned what other people think of them that they complain if it isn't what they think it should be. The only thing that is important is what you think of yourself. Everything else is just a fly buzzing around a fine china store. You keep swatting at it, all you're going to accomplish is breaking dishes, making a fool of yourself, and owing the shopkeep. You can either ignore it, or leave.

Brandie Bargeloh

As always, we welcome your suggestions, comments and letters. theclemsonforum@yahoo.com

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www.clemsonforum.com

Article feedback, past issues, it's all there.

Letter From the Editor

This past April, we at the Forum celebrated our one year anniversary. Over the past twelve months, the Forum has undergone several cosmetic changes (i.e. we can no longer tell who's been reading by the black streaks on their face); however, we have continued to bring a progressive voice to Clemson University through the work of both students and professors.

I have been overjoyed this past year at the overwhelming positive response I've received from the Clemson community applauding our efforts to bring different views to this campus. We've lasted a year and we'll be around for many more.



Lindsay is a Political Science major.

See you in August,

Lindsay Stewart
Editor-in-chief

Meet the Guilty Parties:

LINDSAY STEWART
Editor-in-chief
Not sold in stores

PETER BOURGON
Copy editor/Content editor
Funny...but not that funny

ERIC OSGUTHORPE
Staff Writer/Webmaster
Flavonoid connoisseur

DANIEL BJORK
Staff writer
Tree lover

KEAN WITZEMAN
Staff writer
A mystery wrapped in an enigma

BRIAN COCKFIELD
Contributing writer
Probably should put some clothes on

ALEX IVANICK
Contributing writer
Wears a headband

STEPHEN HARCLERODE
Contributing writer
Captain of H.M.S. Mach 5

TODD MAY
Contributing writer
Philosophizes

JAMES YEH
Cosmopolitan
Likes to talk about himself

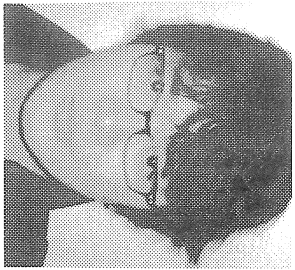
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Bathing, Flossing, and Googling myself:

Three things I try to do every day



James was an English major.

JAMES YEH cosmopolitan

OK, I admit it: I'm lame. Probably egotistical too. Because every couple of weeks (fine, hours) I Google myself. The first time I did it, I was surprised (and disheartened) to discover that, despite my experience as the only person named James Yeh in South Carolina -- hell, I'd never ran into any Yehs in South Carolina other than the ones in my immediate family -- I didn't show up anywhere on the first page of results. In the grand scheme of things, I was pretty insignificant. I think I was #15 or so, maybe even lower. Anyway, because of that it's sort

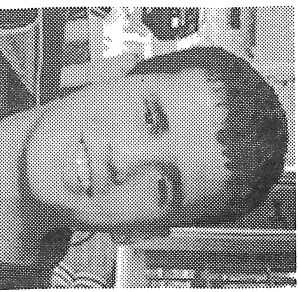
of become a goal of mine to climb to the top of the mysterious Google search engine ladder. Most recently I saw that I occupied three of the top ten spots (#6, #7, #10) -- pretty exciting stuff, I know. But this victory was short-lived, as its timing coincided with a very random blog comment I received from another James Yeh -- the one who owns the email account jamesyeh@gmail.com, which is a very sought-after address. (Well very sought-after by me, at least.) In this comment my doppelganger wrote, "We have a pretty common name", going further to say, "I went to high school with 2 other James Yeh's. Three of us in a school of 1400."

This, of course, was heartbreaking to me. Despite the Google reports I had previously believed I was the only one -- at least the only one who actually used the internet -- all those James Yeh's above me were 200 year-old professors of Engineering or Physics or something. I was wrong, and it shook me to the very core. The rest of the month was spent formulating a plan on how to become number one. Briefly I considered homicide, systematically killing all the other James Yehs jet Li style, but I am not a killer. I'm barely even a man. A random guy I was talking to in a bar in New York cracked his knuckles and opened and closed his fists and I pleaded, "You're not going to punch me in the face, are you?" This I found funny. Homicide ruled out, I considered suicide -- deaths always make people famous. But then I thought about it and realized that you first have to be famous to get more famous. It's one of those "We're looking to hire someone with experience"/"But I need a job to get experience"

kind of dilemmas, somewhat archaically referred to as a "Catch-22". Plus, I really hate guns, heights, and the sight of blood, particularly my own. As I said before, I'm a real manly man. But a new day is dawning. Go ahead, Google me. See what you find. Yes, that's right, kind readers. I might not be the only one, but I'm the most important. At least according to Google. And they're always right. This calls for a celebration. I should go hunting or logging or something like that, but instead I'm just going to hop online and type up a blog entry.

It's a Gas, Gas, Gas

STEPHEN HARCLERODE contributing writer



Stephen is an Electrical Engineering major.

As everyone has likely noticed, the price of gasoline has gone up. Long gone are the blissful days of sub-dollar gasoline back in 2002. Some gas stations in Clemson are charging above \$2.80 for a gallon of regular, and the summer driving season hasn't even hit full swing. Increased summer demand, Iranian nuclear fears, Nigerian oil shutdowns, hurricanes, panicking futures traders, OPEC controls, and, of course, Iraq have all been factors in the increase. Possibly the largest part of the rise in prices has been due to increased global oil demand, especially from China. The Wall Street Journal reported that China's oil usage averaged 6.6 million barrels per day in 2005 and will likely grow to 7 million barrels per day. This pales in comparison to the United States' roughly 20 million barrel per day usage, but China's use has risen sharply in the last few years and continues to rise at a significant rate.

\$72 for a barrel of oil still doesn't pass the inflation-adjusted \$80 price record for oil set in 1980, but it's getting to the point where people are starting to change their habits. American gasoline consumption is slowing: since gas went over \$2.50, I know I've

been doing everything I can to cut back on driving and walk or use the CAT bus. The DOE reports that US gas use has increased .9% this year compared to 1.4% over the same time last year, but there's a limit to how much excess driving people can cut back without making significant changes to their lives. As the price of gasoline rises, alternatives to gasoline are becoming more and more cost effective. There are two alternatives that anyone can use, right now: ethanol and biodiesel. Ethanol can be made from fermenting a variety of plants, including America's specialty, corn. Ethanol can be mixed into gasoline at low ratios for use in all modern cars. If you read the fine print, you can find that some gas stations in the Clemson area are currently selling gasoline with five to ten percent ethanol mixed in. E85 is the designation for an 85% ethanol alcohol, 15% gasoline fuel mixture. It is being sold at a number of gas stations in South Carolina right now, and sells for 10-15 cents per gallon cheaper than regular. It burns cooler than gasoline and may give you an increase in power. However, it will likely decrease your mileage. You can't use it in most cars, but if you have a "flex fuel" vehicle, you can fuel up with any mixture of E85 and gasoline. Ford, Chevrolet, Mazda, Dodge, and a few other manufacturers have been selling flex-fuel vehicles since 2000, so check to see if your vehicle is compatible. Unfortunately, there are no commercially sold kits to convert other cars for E85 use. Biodiesel is a fuel made from processed vegetable oil or animal fat. It can be used in any diesel

vehicle. It's a little harder to find than ethanol, but can be found at a number of South Carolina gas stations. It is commonly sold as a mixture with traditional petrodiesel and normally runs at the same price as regular diesel. As an added incentive, it will make your exhaust smell like French fries. If you're a budding chemist with some motivation, it is possible to make your own biodiesel. Many people collect waste fry oil from restaurants and build biodiesel reactors out of old water heaters, claiming to produce it for less than \$1 a gallon. It's not a simple task, but with a bit of research it can be done and there's an active Internet community devoted to the subject. Ethanol and biodiesel have additional environmental advantages. Both are "carbon neutral," meaning that their use in vehicles only lets out the amount of carbon dioxide that would have been consumed by the plants they came from. Running on ethanol or biodiesel significantly reduces emissions compared to traditional fuels.

In all likelihood, no alternative fuel on the market today is going to save you significant money. Chances are, depreciation on your vehicle is a higher fraction of your automobile expenses than the recent price increases, and neither ethanol nor biodiesel is selling for much cheaper than traditional fuels. However, they're both a little more cost-independent from the volatile price of gasoline and a little more environmentally friendly.

Recent Developments in Iraq

KEAN WITZEMAN staff writer



Kean is a Political Science major

The War in Iraq celebrated its third birthday this past March amongst a festival of death, carnage, misinformation and continuation and continued tragedy that is nothing new to the soldiers and civilians impacted firsthand in the struggle.

One of the most disturbing news bites to disseminate from the frontlines recently received little attention in the United States' media. Little would have come of the story if not first reported through Reuters and other media outlets throughout the UK and Europe.

The events in question took place on March 15th in the small Iraqi village of Abu Sifa. According to US military documents, a group of soldiers raided a houses suspected of harbor-

ing insurgents. The document states that after taking fire, the American soldiers returned fire, using ground and air assaults resulting in the deaths of one man, two women and one child and destroying the house. However, according to Iraqi police officials Ali Ahmed and Farouq Hussein the actual death toll was two men, four women and five children between the ages of six months to five years. The United States backed Iraqi officials also stated that the deceased had been bound and killed by single gunshot wounds to the head before the house was destroyed with explosives. US issued spent shell casings were also found inside the ruins of the house. AP photographers documented the damage and numerous local villagers confirmed the story.

One such local, Ahmed Khalaf, was an Iraqi security officer and brother of the house's owner. He witnessed an American helicopter land near the house in the early morning. He described hiding, when he heard

intense firing and then brief silence before the American troops quickly evacuated and the house was destroyed. Khalaf stated to journalists, "the killed family was not part of the resistance, they were women and children. The Americans have promised us a better life, but we get only death."

The incident is one of some 600 cases of American troop abuses that has been or is currently being investigated by the government, says a spokesperson for the Pentagon. A study to be published in April conducted by three Human Rights organizations states that soldiers convicted of improper behavior are rarely severely punished. A typical punishment would be loss of rank and pay grade.

The light punishments that soldiers convicted of unbecoming actions have received have raised many concerns from such human rights organizations and has focused more negative attention on the United States' our military, and our nation's lead-

ers in their decision to invade Iraq. The bad press received, though not thoroughly reported in the United States, is devastating to the war effort. What's more, our press ignoring the atrocities does nothing more than shrink their own responsibilities and leave the American public blind and ignorant to the real issues hindering progress in Iraq. Until the government becomes serious about running a legitimate war effort that is fought upholding the ideals of the United States that we hope to instill in Iraq and other democratizing nations, it will be impossible to successfully establish democracy in Iraq.

The flaws of the few continue to impede the progress of the many and until such problems are rooted out there is little hope that the invasion will ever be worth the price the American public has paid in lives, dollars and heartache.

A Beer Review Worth Reading

THE FORUM STAFF A few weeks ago, The Tiger ran an article in the Timeout section claiming to be a scientific review of a number of domestic and import beers. Even though the piece carried a disclaimer that their tasters "may not have had the most qualified of taste buds," the results were astounding. And not in a good way. Natural Light, Bud Light and PBR earned inexplicably high scores, while old standards like Newcastle and Becks languished with comments like "nasty and bitter" and "tastes like a barnyard floor," respectively. The piece went beyond not making any sense. It made *anti-sense*.

The only logical recourse was for the Forum to do a response. And with heads held high, two staffers, a writer, and a few random acquaintances made their way to Nick's one recent evening, to right the wrongs that "Timeout's Official Beer Tasting" had done to the Clemson beer world.

Eric Osguthorpe - webmaster, staff writer, and man-about-town - was the first to arrive, and settled in with a **Franziskaner Weissbier**, which at Nick's is served, appropriately enough, in the tall Weisen glass, with a lemon slice. Wheat beers generally are light, somewhat fruity, and a little translucent, and Franziskaner is no exception (and might even be the standard). "Not something you'd want to drink all day," Eric noted, "but one or two, maybe at dinner, would be good." Everyone agreed to recommend the Franziskaner to zee Germans.

Eric's friend Will took his seat with a **Woodchuck Amber Cider**, which he delicately referred to as "The Happy Meal of Beers," both in that it made him happy to drink it, and that it was incredibly im-masculating for him to be seen with it. "No, really, a beer that tastes like apple juice -- that's tough, right?" Not really, but we won't tell anyone. He recommended it to his little sister, and no one was about to object.

Forum writer Steve and his friend Tim showed up each with an imposing bottle of Fiddler's Elbow, which they both agreed was "definitely" a dark beer." Adding to the obvious, we also noted that its bottle was made of glass, and that it probably contained alcohol. We pressed them for more useful adjectives: "I don't want to say bitter," suggested Steve, "but it's almost there." They recommended it to someone who'd been drinking liquor all night, but whether that was a compliment or not we never figured out.

Copyeditor and beer aficionado Peter eventually wandered in, and went to the bar to find something interesting. While scanning the list of available brews, he mentioned something to the bartender about the Timeout article, which drew the attention of a patron a few stools down. "You're talking about the beer review article in the Tiger a few weeks ago?" asked a scruffy-bearded fellow nursing a **Shiner Bock**. "I was one of the testers for that!" Talk about a small world. Peter returned not only with something to drink, but with someone new to meet. He introduced everyone to Chris, and we all asked him what he thought both of his Shiner and the article he contributed to. "Well, everyone there definitely hated the Newcastle, and I was one of the only ones pulling for Shiner Bock. It's my favorite." Chris described Shiner as no-nonsense: smooth, tasty, and "it has alcohol." Three for three. He recommended it to himself before ducking out to finish preparing for a Calculus exam. Good luck, buddy.

Peter, meanwhile, had picked up a **Red Stripe**, not necessarily for any reason other than the funny shape of its bottle. "Do I want that in a glass? Hell no!" Jamaica is not known for its beer, and probably for good reason - Red Stripe is not particularly good, or bad, or remarkable - but the fat little bottles helped it earn its place among the chosen beers that night. Peter, much like the Red Stripe radio and TV commercials, recommended it to your ugly friend. And if you don't have an ugly friend, by the way, it's probably you. Sorry.

Eric wandered off and came back with a **Cottonwood Almond Stout**. Cotton, wood and almonds are not things one typically associates with beer, and maybe for good reason. "Strangely," he said, "it's like drinking almonds." Without a history of tast-

ing cotton or wood, however, Eric was less capable of drawing further comparisons. "I think it's dark, but I can't really tell" is never really a good thing to say about beer, and neither, for that matter, was Eric's Cottonwood Almond Stout recommendation: his "fat aunt, or another equally many woman." Ouch.

Will had found himself a **Highland Gaelic Ale**, which is an impressive enough sounding name. "Malty sweetness and delicate hop bitterness?" he read from the label. "Sure, okay. We'll go with that." Delicious in its own right, the plaid label made us all want to put on our best shanters and go to a kaber toss. Will recommended it to fans of Newcastle, which we all knew from the Timeout article were in disappointingly short supply around Clemson.

Peter, in his breakout role as alcoholic of the group, wandered off next, and returned with an old favorite: the **Black and Tan** is layered Bass and Guinness, and is rich and creamy as well as being quite a sight to see. "This beer," he said with a little too much enthusiasm, "is as much about looking at it as it is drinking it. Of course, when you combine Bass and Guinness, it's gonna be delicious." If you've got some Irish heritage or, like most everyone else, wish you did, you owe it to yourself to try the Black and Tan out. Like the bunch of pretentious drunks we were slowly becoming, our conversation started to drift to



things that none of us had any clue about. We took a break to wax philosophical about time travel, relativity, Yahoo Serious and, inevitably, the Simpsons. As each of us took turns trying to explain why an atomic clock in a supersonic jet runs faster than one on the ground - or was it slower? - everyone within earshot took their turn rolling their eyes at us. We totally deserved it. I'm not sure that we made any significant breakthroughs in physics - or even came close to holding a sensible conversation on the subject - but we at least *felt* like we did.

Eric got himself a **Nut Brown Ale**, and patiently let each of us make fun of the name in our own unique but highly predictable way. He took a sip and stared at the bottle expectantly. "It doesn't go anywhere," he said, then after a few seconds: "It tastes so familiar..." We each offered our suggestions: "Gym socks?" "The last beer you had?" "That's what *she* said?" But we never figured it out. "No aftertaste at all," we finally concluded, "it just gets there and finishes." Eric was having a hard time both finishing the bottle and coming up with someone to recommend it to. "Not my dad, not my mom, not my sister..." Someone perked up, "Your guidance counselor?" Everyone chuckled, Eric thought awhile, then: "Uh, actually... yes." What a weird beer.

Tim found himself a **Spring Heat Wheat**, the second wheat beer of the evening. "Very smooth, very clear, like something you'd eat between courses at a big dinner." Sorbet? Sherbet? "One of those," he said, adding "it'd also be a good starter." Tim recommended it to his tennis instructor, while everyone else debated the difference between sherbet and sorbet. For the record, Steve was right - sherbet contains dairy, sorbet is just fruit, and both are delicious.

Steve found himself an **Anchor Steam**, which he said tasted something like apples, or, after Peter suggested flowers, apple blossoms. Since this was not a particularly masculine thing to be saying, Steve evened things out by lighting up an exceedingly fat cigar. That's one of the interesting things about Nick's - ask to see their selection, and the staff will break out the cigar briefcase, with a relatively large number of tobacco selections to choose from. As he did his part to contribute to air pollution, not to mention make everyone else at the table exceedingly envious, we thought the Anchor Steam would be a great match for anyone in SEA. Why? ...good question.

Peter finished up with something called an **Old Peculiar**. "I really can't describe it," he lamented. "It says Yorkshire ale, but I've never been to Yorkshire,

so..." Someone said they had seen a Yorkshire terrier once. "Yes! It kind of tastes like a Yorkshire terrier." No one was impressed, either with the joke or the beer. Peter recommended it to Civil War reenactors, but it sounded a lot funnier then than it does now.

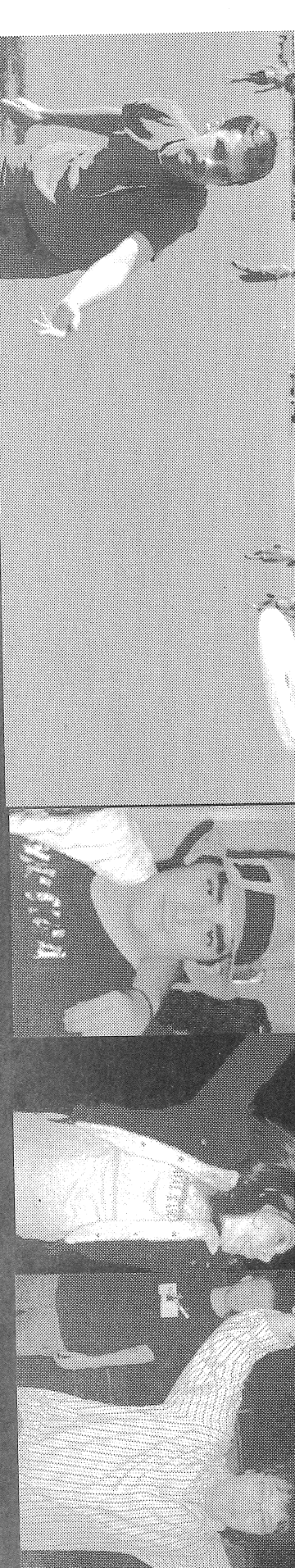
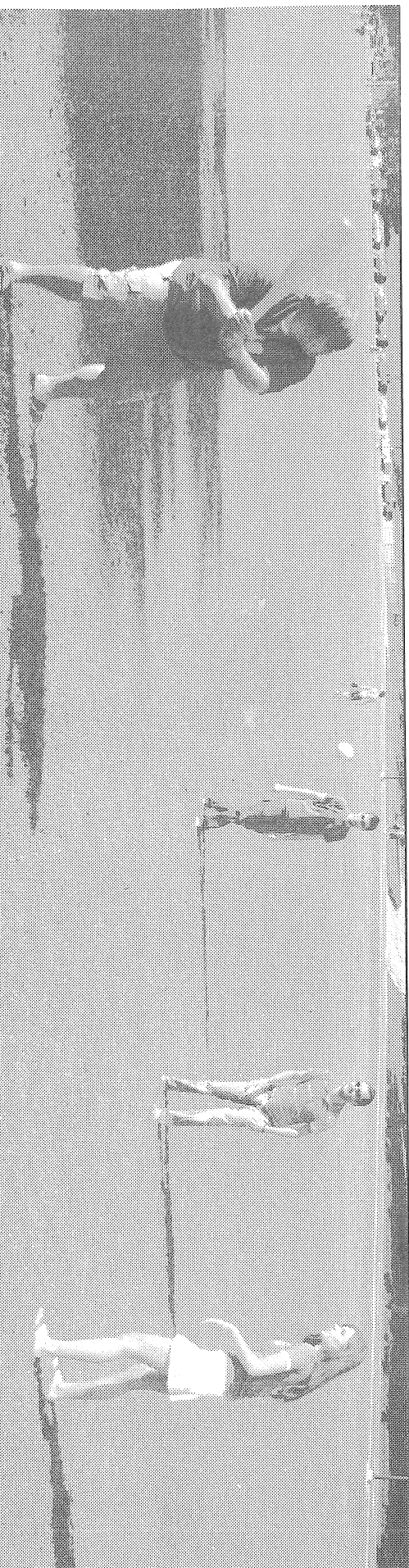
While we were collecting bottles to photograph, the bartender on several occasions tried to swoop in and steal away the empty ones. We kept stopping her, until she finally wised up and brought us out a cardboard holder to keep them all in. "We don't want you breaking them and getting into fights or anything," she explained, maybe half-seriously and half-ironically. Certainly no one who had, 30 minutes earlier, used "Young Einstein" to explain spatial relativity was a candidate for a brawler. But the six-pack was an old one for a beer called **The Duck-Rabbit Milk Stout**, which sounded too hilarious to pass up. The description promised a unique experience that was high in something called flavonoids. Eric got what would be the final beer of the evening, and took a sip. "That's not a good face," someone laughed as he set it down. "It's not bad, but --" Eric stopped. That's not a good way to describe a beer, either. "You can definitely taste the flavonoids," he finally offered. No one had any idea what flavonoids were, but as we passed it around we all agreed. Coffee? Milk? Guinness and water? Guinness with extra flavonoids? We were useless as tasters at that point, and we all knew it. Agreeing to recommend it to weaned Irish babies, we all parted ways. Maybe we weren't as scientific as the Tiger article was, and maybe we just wanted an excuse to spend some quality time downtown at a bar where you don't have to shout to be heard. But at least we didn't rate motherfucking PBR higher than Becks and Newcastle *combined*. And that, we all agreed, was success by any standard.



Remember when...

The Forum just turned one.

Here's a look back at our first year.



Next, Iran?



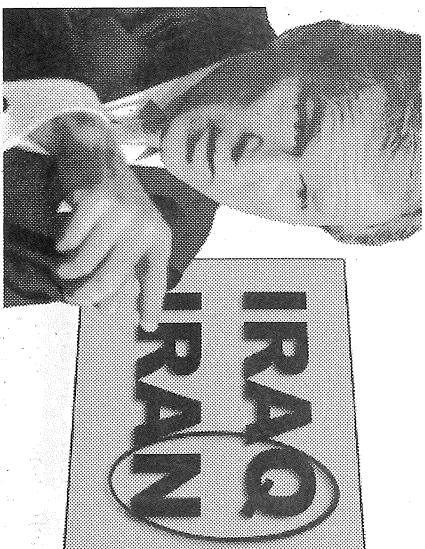
TODD MAY
contributing writer

In a widely discussed article in the April 17 issue of the New Yorker, journalist Seymour Hersh reports that the Bush administration is seriously considering an attack on Iran in order to disable its nuclear capacity. Moreover, since Iran has hidden many of its facilities underground, the attack could involve nuclear weapons.

How credible is such a report? Hersh's own credentials are impeccable. Among his journalistic revolutions are the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam war and, more recently, the abuses at Abu Ghraib. This credibility gives him greater access to inside sources than other reporters. On the other hand, one cannot dismiss the possibility that the administration itself has leaked the story in order to put pressure on Iran to stop development of nuclear weapons. A third possibility, though less likely, is that disgruntled administration officials are seeking to tar the administration. One certainly hopes that the administration is not using the reasoning ascribed to them by a former Bush defense official: that bombing Iran will humiliate the populace into rising up against their leaders. (The official offered his own comment on this reasoning: "What are they smoking?")

How seriously should we take the idea that Iran seeks to use its nuclear capability to develop nuclear weapons? My own view is that it is a foregone conclusion that they will develop them. First, they have all available evidence was that Iraq not only did not have nuclear weapons, but it did not have any weapons of mass destruction whatsoever. It did not attack North Korea, who has nuclear weapons. Moreover, having nuclear weapons would be a deterrent against Israeli aggression.

Israel has attacked Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. It would be no wonder if Iran were interested in preventing an Israeli attack. Second, they have the opportunity. With the US bogged down in Iraq and the American people tired of a conflict - and its aftermath - based upon and continued by deception, it would be almost impossible to gain public support for another military adventure. The only other country that would perhaps be willing to attack Iran is Israel. Israel destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981. The consequence of has been less that of deterring the development of nuclear weapons than to increase motivation, but also to counsel that the development of those weapons must happen at dispersed and secret sites. If Iran develops nuclear weapons, will it use them?



Iraq, Iran -- it's just one little letter!

It is difficult to tell. Recall that there has only been one country in the nuclear age with the barbarity to use nuclear weapons, and that country did not hesitate to use them more than once and against civilian targets. How should we react? US policy toward the Middle East, and Iran in particular, has been both dim-witted and crude. In 1953, the US joined Britain in overthrowing the democratically elected leader of Iran, Mohammed Mosseghh, and replaced him with the Shah, who ruled with extraordinary political cruelty for the next twenty-five years. Iranian anger against the US is not without cause. And yet we continue to treat the symptom as the disease. Perhaps a more sane approach would be to engage Iran, and indeed much of the rest of the Muslim world, instead of seeing it as either an enemy to be crushed or an inconvenient depository for oil. Such an approach would require an entire rethinking of our Middle East policy, from Iran to Iraq to Palestine. Is this likely? No. However, the world has changed, and it continues to change. US ability to bully every country whose policies it doesn't like is coming to an end. We had better be prepared to face that fact, and to deal with its consequences.

Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses... We'll send 'em right back!!!



DANIEL BJORK
contributing writer

Oh those darn Mexicans! To listen to some conservatives, you might think that the Statue of Liberty, with help from Toby Keith, has rewritten Lazarus's "The New Colossus" to say "I shake my fist at those who enter" as opposed to "I lift my lamp beside the golden door." To listen to some liberals, however, you might think that no immigrant has ever done anything wrong, and we should really just go ahead and make Mexico the 51st state. Immigration reform is necessary and hotly debated, and a bill needs to make its way through Congress sooner rather than later. A good immigration reform bill needs to answer three major questions.

First and foremost, the bill must address national security. Is it possible for terrorists, be they the Al-Qaeda variety or any other, to enter America undetected via the Mexican border? The answer is a resounding yes and therefore an immigration bill must address this. Another question that must be asked is if it is possible for terrorists to enter from Mexico, could they also enter from Canada? The answer, again, is 'yes,' and so, this bill must address both borders, not just the Mexican one. America's geography has long served us well, with oceans protecting us on either side. The Mexican and Canadian borders, however, create a loop hole through which terrorists can forego the difficulty of entering America at a port. If it were not for national security concerns, I would think that the need to address illegal immigration would be much less pressing.

The second problem the bill must address is how to keep illegal immigrants out. There have been many different ideas on this, and the two that seem the most common are to either build a wall or put the military on the border. Both ideas, in my opinion,

are unrealistic. The Mexican border is 2,000 miles long... how do you propose to build a wall that long? Where would the labor come from? Ironically, it would probably come from illegal immigrants willing to work for cheap. Who would pay for this wall? You and I would. How long would it take to build it? Quite some time. And once the wall is built, do you not expect immigrants to learn

ways around it? Are we going to have our border patrol staring at a wall all day? Are we going to have snipers on the wall to shoot people who try to climb it? How about we just go ahead and change the name of our country to West Berlin?

As for the military, where are the men going to come from? Do we really have enough troops right now to be sparing between 5 and 10 thousand to stand on the border? And look at that idea from Mexico's perspective: you're a third world country with very little money, even less military capability, and your neighbor to the north - who just so happens to be the most powerful nation in the world - is lining its army along your border. No, I don't think that would make Mexico feel threatened at all. If you put the military on the border you're simply asking for trouble.

The third problem the bill must face is what to do with the 12 million illegals that are already in America. The most far-fetched theory is one that



Lady Liberty sure has changed

says just round them up and kick them out. This would be an impossible, frightening task that could never fully be accomplished. Clearly a bill should establish a law that allows police to immediately deport illegal immigrants when they are caught, but sending police on a mission to round up 12 million un-accounted for immigrants is unrealistic. The other extreme, and unfortunately probably the most easily achieved, is complete amnesty. This is what happened under the Reagan administration in 1986: a date was set, and any illegal in the US by that time was granted total amnesty. To do this again would be a mistake, even though it is certainly the most attainable objective.

The closest thing to a compromise is the McCain/Kennedy bill, which says that illegals that have been in America for 5 years be given guest worker status and placed on an 11 year track to citizenship; those in the US for 2 years would have to go to a port of entry and declare themselves, and then they would be given a visa and begin the path to citizenship; and those here for less than 2 years would have to leave immediately.

None of these are particularly good options, and perhaps there is no perfect solution to this part of the equation. If I had to pick one, I would support a variation of the McCain/Kennedy plan. Allow a certain portion of those that have been here a window of opportunity to become legal. Once this window closes, however, the bill

must allow for illegals to be deported right away when they are caught. The policy now is that when an illegal is caught he is given a court date and released. Shockingly, roughly 95 percent of them never show up for court. Illegals must be detained and deported as quickly as possible. While I believe in due process, there should be some way to hold them until their court date which should be expedited. If they cannot prove they are here legally, they have to be deported, no matter how long they have been here for.

Most importantly, America must make it easier for immigrants to come in legally. I strongly agree with the President's plan for a temporary worker program which would allow immigrants to come in and work for some time, with a possible extension at the end of this time period. At the end of the second extension, I believe there should then be an opportunity for permanent residence and eventually citizenship. I also agree with the President's policy that spouses and children be allowed to follow the worker should they choose to. America would not refuse refugees from a nation of government oppression. We would never disallow immigrants who flee to escape a dictatorship and come to America to find freedom; so why should we refuse immigrants who wish to come here to find economic prosperity they cannot achieve in their own nation? Many immigrants come here for the purpose of sending money back home. If a Mexican can come here and earn five dollars an hour, he is earning fifty an hour for his family back home. We should always open our doors to these kinds of hard working family men and women, but we must also work to control the border for our own security. If we allow immigrants to come here with ease legally, then I believe they will stop coming here illegally. "Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Rumsfeld vs. the Generals: War leaders

PETER BOURGON
staff writer



In 2004, the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" left a legacy that was not so much honorable as it was disgraceful. Their ruthless negative campaigning proved so effective that "Swift Boating" instantly became a synonym for dirty, character-assassination politics. With great vigor since then, right- and left-wing pundits alike happily cash in on "Swift Boating" their opponents. But not since the run-up to the 2004 elections have

politics taken such a bizarre turn as recently, when 9 former military generals spoke out in unison against Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, calling for his retirement, and were immediately castigated as gutless, treasonous, whiny brats who were engaging in political grandstanding. Say what?

Retired Maj. Gen. Charles Swanick, veteran of the Iraq war, criticized Rumsfeld for "micromanaging" the generals on the ground, and for committing insufficient forces to key missions and objectives. Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold lamented that "the cost of flawed leadership continues to be paid in blood." Retired Maj. Gen. John Batisie - who led the Army's 1st Infantry Division in Iraq - called for "a fresh part in the Pen-

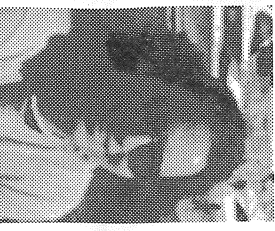
tagon. We need a leader who understands team work, a leader who knows how to build teams, a leader that does it without intimidation. A leader that conforms and practices the letter and the law of the Goldwater-Nichols Act." (The Goldwater-Nichols act was legislation passed in 1986 that streamlined and strictly enforced the chain of command in all branches of the military) Retired Army Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, and Retired Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni -- a former chief of U.S. Central Command -- reiterated many of these claims. While their opinions were in concert with one another, it seems logical to conclude that they were compelled to speak not for political or self-aggrandizing motives, but out of an honest concern with the way the Iraq

war specifically, and the Rumsfeld military generally, was being orchestrated. In many circles, conservatism seems to have been replaced with Bushism. That is, that no matter the issue and no matter the facts at hand, obedience to and parroting of Bush administration opinions is the only legitimate position. This peculiar sort of derangement yields a number of peculiar consequences. The continued (and inarguably incorrect) belief that the NSA wiretaps were legal, for one example. The idea that Joe Wilson, and not Scooter Libby, was the real villain in the Plame leak, for another. And now, that veterans and Generals of the Iraq war, in speaking out against a

See GENERALS pg 8

Abramoff Ruling: How the Mighty Have Fallen

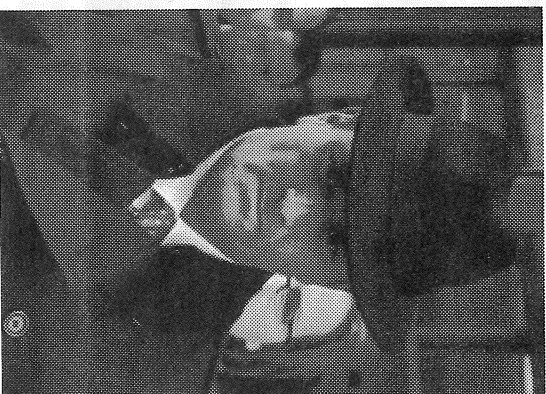
KEAN WITZEMAN
contributing writer



On March 29th, one of the most nefarious men in recent political news was convicted in what has quickly become one of the most highly publicized scandals in recent memory. Jack Abramoff, highly committed Republican lobbyist, fundraiser, activist and all around scumbag was an active member/founder of well-known conservative think tanks and right-wing religious organizations. He was sentenced to five years, ten months in prison after pleading guilty to three federal counts of tax invasion, conspiracy and fraud. The crimes were related to the defrauding of Native American casinos to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, and bribing public officials. Abramoff's political bedfellows include recently resigned House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), and Representative Bob Ney (R-OH). Numerous other Republicans in Congress have ties to Abramoff's campaign contributions, dubious "business trips", and unscrupulous lobbying schemes and bribery. Govern-

nor Howard Dean, DNC chairman stated on CNN, "There are no Democrats who took money from Jack Abramoff... Every person named in this scandal is a Republican.. we've looked through all of those FEC reports to make sure that's true."

The sentence of just under six years was the lowest possible for crimes of such a nature and involved a plea-bargain arrangement on the condition that Abramoff testify in further upcoming investigations pertaining to similar corruption trials. In addition to the offenses he has already been convicted of, Abramoff is believed to have played a part in a laundry list of other criminal activities ranging from scandals involving a multimillion dollar Homeland Security contract to conspiring to control the supreme courts in the US territory of Guam via illegal means in 2002. In an interesting side note, the Guam investigation was conveniently and quietly put to an



1940's gangster Jack Abramoff emerges from court in this file photo.

sides of the isle guilty of corruption, the strong man- See ABRAMOFF pg 8

It's the New War: the War of Choice

ALEX IVANICK
contributing writer

Three years after Donald Rumsfeld

promised a shock and awe campaign to take Saddam Hussein out of office and liberate the people of Iraq, we still have 130,000 troops on the ground and a plethora of unanswered questions. In recent months, those questions have finally emerged in the media and the minds of a majority of Americans. In a recent CBS poll, 57 percent of Americans now believe going to war in Iraq was a mistake. People have a right to be upset -- the negative implications of this seemingly haphazard war are only beginning to unfold. To borrow a defensive phrase from President Bush, there are some in this country who believe revisiting what we were told by this administration before and during the war is counterproductive or aides the enemy. Nothing could be more absurd, but this line of reasoning has actually been effective. Luckily, the percentage of people who feel that public debate is a waste of time is falling rapidly. We can no longer afford to disregard pressing questions about the War on Terror and, in particular, the war in Iraq. President Bush must be accountable for his choices and conduct before and after the Iraq invasion. Many Americans were easily whipped into a patriotic frenzy prior

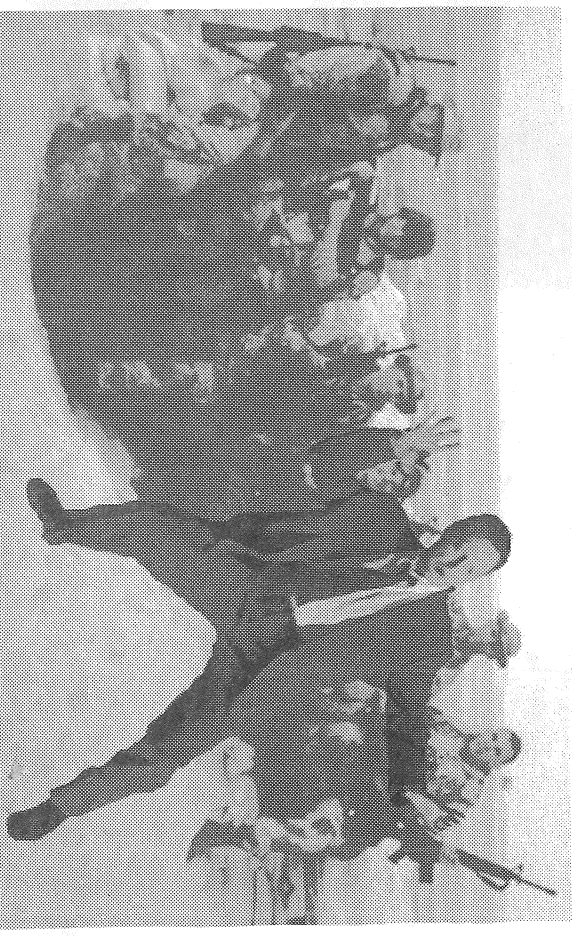
to the invasion of Iraq - a frenzy that lent itself to blind agreement with President Bush's foreign and domestic policies. It has become clear that this captivating fog is beginning to recede, and the media is waking up from its hiatus and asking some long awaited questions. While it was refreshing to see that Americans can be a powerful, supportive, and informed group, the fundamental failure was the lack of a challenge to whatever agenda the President put forth, where facts were disregarded as messy details and concerns were for the misguided and uninformed. The willingness of the public to subscribe to Bush's assertion that people who were against the war in Iraq were unpatriotic is nothing less than terrifying in its own right.

The majority of arguments against the war from day one were neither unpatriotic nor did they suggest any contempt for the military. Of course, many liberals were predisposed to not supporting any Bush initiative - especially one of this scale - but pre-war critics can not be simply reduced to skeptical liberals. Prior to the war it was infuriating to witness the stifling of reasoned debate at the hands of a groundswell of what, at that particular moment, was considered to be patriotism. The patriotism of opponents to the war was not questioned simply

by conservative radio hosts, but by our elected leaders from Congress all the way up to the President. In fact, anyone who asked for a coherent long term plan in Iraq was dismissed as an unpatriotic blow-hard who had no confidence in the American military. The surge of patriotism that remained in place after 9/11 allowed most Americans to be susceptible to what would otherwise have been a very objectionable plan of war. The intense pride of patriotism is easily shifted into reactionary aggression when the right strings are pulled. The media,

entertainment, and the government jumped all over this sentiment. It is disturbing to look back at how prevalent that notion was - two-thirds of people polled in October 2002 believed Saddam had a hand in 9/11. This was not simply people jumping to their own conclusions: the Bush administration knew this belief was to their advantage and exploited it at every opportunity. The fact is that Iraq was a war of choice. A war of choice is new luxury that comes with the Bush Doctrine of pre-emption in which we decide

See WAR OF CHOICE pg 8



America's war of choice enlists a new weapon of choice

Osguthorpe

that's always piqued your interest ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~will~~ of the Grade Point Average - it's the accepted standard for pigeonholing a person by a number.

It's fairly obvious to any observer that, outside the confines of Perimeter road, nothing interests Clemson students. War. Gay marriage. AIDS. The weather is just too nice. We need our afternoons spent lake-side, our Pizza Night at Backstreet's and the rest of our 'I won't remember this in one year' events. Who has time for anything other than apathy? Just those damn hippies ranting about the environment & ultra-conservative whacko's giving away assault weapons.

Next time a storm rolls through on a day you have nothing to do, think. Be it from a professor, a flyer, or the Colbert Report, something is bound to catch your attention. For once, let it stick with you. It may not be something as 'important' as world peace, but a good cause is worth your time all the same. It's contrary to popular belief, yet a cliched statement: you can make a difference.

So that's four years of thought & experience compounded into stream of consciousness essay. If there is only one thing you abide by in your time at Clemson, or wherever you'll head off to after crossing the Littlejohn stage, it should be this - do your thing.

Hillary

continued from pg 1

litical campaign for the presidency that may take away from her promises to the state of New York.

While I believe that some of the opposition to Mrs. Clinton is gender-based, this may be the factor that causes her to lose the democratic nomination. In February, polls showed that two-thirds of the country believed Mrs. Clinton would receive the Democratic nomination. Unfortunately, only one-third of those people believed that she would win in 2008.

With eight years of a Republican-dominated Whitehouse, for the 2008 election Democrats are feeling more pressure than ever to beat out the Republican Party. The next presidency could decide the outcome in Iraq as well as important issues facing the US, like healthcare, and even social issues like gay marriage and abortion. With so much riding on this election, the Democratic Party is not likely to nominate a candidate that has a chance of losing to the Republican nominee.

On her side, some political analysts have predicted that Hillary may actually win over the support of many females with the hopes of voting for the first female president (although, personally, I don't believe those analysts looked closely at the opinions, let alone the voting trends, of women in the southeast).

More realistically in Clinton's favor is the fact that neither the sitting President nor Vice President are running for re-election. During a war time when the incumbent would most likely be re-elected, this leaves the oval office up for grabs for a new candidate. Voters may even view Hillary's eight years as a politically active first lady aside former President Clinton as a plus on her resume.

Ultimately, I have my doubts that Hillary can win in 2008. I do not have confidence that the former first lady is the right road for the Democratic Party to take if they want a chance at the White House. Fun fact: while many have tried, no United States senator since Kennedy has been elected to the presidency. Not only would the party be going out on a limb by nominating a woman for president, the proposed nominee is one whom the public has found guilty of the same crime as the previous losing candidate: lacking a crossover appeal by appearing inaccessible to the general population.

Perhaps, the Democrats should successfully secure a win in 2008 with Mrs. Clinton as Vice President alongside a male candidate who more than one-third of the nation feels can win. As much as I campaign for increased female participation in politics, if Hillary truly wants the presidency in the future, she needs a Rove-like advisor (minus the baggage) to change her image from one of a "bitter elitist" in strategic opposition to her husband and partner in politics to one of an independent, bipartisan candidate who the public feels is truly reaching out.

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War of Choice

continued from pg 7

upon a date and have adequate time to ponder the potential side effects of an invasion and to assure that the costs of human and financial capital would be minimal. Unfortunately, this type of leisurely planning would be a direct contradiction to the imminent threat assertions continually used to sell the war.

In October 2002, Senator Russ Feingold gave a speech, in which he said "when the Administration moves back and forth from one argument to another, I think it undercuts the credibility of the case and the belief in its urgency." Senator Feingold had only seen the beginning of the shifting justifications. Any soldier sent to Iraq in the last 3 years can each return home with his or her own justification and purpose for their presence. The reasons against the war have remained constant while the justifications in favor have shifted. How can this trend suggest righteousness?

What now is victory? Our objectives have shrunk from protecting the mainland from a mushroom cloud, to bringing the Iraqi people improved conditions under democracy, to simply training an Iraqi force just adequate enough to keep some minimal sense of order. Even this relatively simple goal has become extremely difficult and increasingly costly to American soldiers and taxpayers. Any traditional sense of victory seems unlikely at this point, but just how much we have sacrificed - and at what ultimate cost to our foreign leverage - remains to be seen.

Despite the President's dismal approval ratings, I do not get the sense that the public is thirsting for answers. Why are people not upset? The audacity of this administration, their reckless use of taxpayer's dollars, and their continued secrecy should have people in the streets. The lessons of Vietnam are not only useful to those involved in policy on Iraq, but also to the average citizen. The public was continually misled and reassured about the conditions in Vietnam; I think the comparison to the present situation is a valid one, even if on a lesser scale.

The Administration was so adamant from day one about the necessity of military actions and the ease of what we were to face that many people felt reassured. No one wanted to worry about a costly war - it was far easier to listen to the President speak glowingly of our progress. We were told this would be a quick and easy venture with Iraqi oil financing almost all costs. While the President may continue to pass blame onto the CIA and label his critics as defeatists, it is becoming increasingly clear just how duplicitous his administration has been regarding the war. The only thing I am shocked and awed by is the inability of the Bush Administration to speak candidly and informatively to the public.

I remember during the 2000 election when then Governor Bush stated that he did not recall discussing Vietnam while at Yale. It must have been quite a task to avoid the topic. On campuses today it is far easier and Clemson is no exception. The level of apathy is, frankly, discouraging: this is a turning point for our country for foreign policy, our military, domestic policy and energy concerns, and we are heading in the wrong direction on all accounts. There are lessons to be learned from Iraq and all that has come of this conflict, but only if we are paying attention. Until we can find leadership strong enough to not only ask the right questions but have the ideas to answer them our path will continue.

Abramoff

continued from pg 7

riority of the recent unethical practices rests firmly on the shoulders of the Republican party as they continue to demonstrate questionable leadership during a time in which dishonest leadership is damning to the country as a whole. With war costs steadily approaching 300 billion dollars, nearly 2,400 US military personal dead and a national deficit that would make a spend-happy democrat nervous, corrupt lobbyists and politicians are about as helpful as another Presidential vacation in Crawford.

As the Abramoff scandal joins the ranks of countless other major scandals during the Bush Administration (the Plame Affair, wiretapping, Abu Ghraib, Iraq War intelligence, Gitmo, Libby...) at least the American people can rest peacefully at night knowing that our wise leaders are prepared to take the necessary steps in combating the true evils of the 21st century- flag burning, abortion and the rights of homosexuals. God Bless the priorities, principles and ethics of the new religious right.

Generals

continued from pg 7

chain of command whose failures they themselves have seen first-hand, are somehow disingenuous, dishonest, or speaking for purely political purposes.

The insults to these leaders come from a variety of strongly right-wing sources. The National Review - a fiercely conservative journal whose founder, William F. Buckley Jr., recently characterized the Iraq war and, by extension, Bush's presidency, as "a failure" - ran a piece by one Victor Hanson, who brazenly assaults the Generals' propriety, and accuses them of shilling for a profit. "The ethical questions involved in promoting a book or showcasing a media appearance during a time of war," Hanson notes, is nothing compared to "the empty nature of these controversies reshaped ad nauseam." One wonders what rank a military man must obtain before his opinions fall into the good graces of National Review correspondents.

While the general Bushist opinion is that the generals are to be ignored because of what they say, Paul Wrengeoff of Powerline suggests that we dismiss them because of who they are: "mostly," he writes, the generals are "Clinton appointees ... who object to Rumsfeld's pet theories of pushing towards smaller units, more unit independence, much greater reliance on Special Forces, and a reorganization of units to be self-sufficient rather than specialized." Pay no mind to the fact that none of those supposed retutations address even in part the complaints the Generals had aired.

Other non-affiliated sources have helped fuel the fire. History News Network's Judith Klinghoffer passes the buck from the Department of Defense to the Generals themselves, suggesting that the problems in the chain of command are the fault of the leaders on the ground. "Sorry, guys," she concludes in an April 16 column, "civil control of the military is not our problem. Gutless military leadership is." It would be naive of me to think negative politics were something new. I am astonished, though, at how far the Bushist right-wing is willing to go with it. If in 2003 someone said that American conservatives would be attacking Iraq war Generals as gutless, unethical hacks, they would have been laughed out of the Beltway. And yet, here we are.

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