

April 2006

# PRINCETON TORY



# THE PRINCETON TORY

April 2006

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## From the Publisher

Dear Princetonian,

A point of focus in our last issue was the fact that conservatives are not all alike. This month, David Colquitt addresses the growing number of disparate factions comprising "the right" and makes a case for so-called "crunchy cons" (Pages 13-14). Given the diversity of thought within the expanding tent of conservatism, then, attempts to stifle conservative viewpoints on campus are all the more unreasonable.

The condemnation of the University's decision to invite prominent public servants to speak, based on their associations with a conservative administration, was misguided at best. At worst, it exemplified a liberal tendency to champion free speech only when practiced by sympathizers of liberal politics. For this month's *Tory*, Will Scharf comments on these conservative speakers at Princeton; he also responds to Max Blumenthal's recent article in *The Nation*, entitled "Princeton Tilts Right," and addresses the notion of a conservative conspiracy on campus spearheaded by Professor Robert George and the James Madison Program (Pages 18-19).

In reference to Blumenthal's article, it seems his very claim that a lone conservative professor and single campus organization grounded in conservative ideals are significantly warping the political atmosphere at Princeton only underscores the potency of conservative arguments and the strength of conservative values. But, that's just me.

Just as diversity of political opinion is much-needed amongst visiting speakers, administrators and faculty, so diversity of interests and attitudes amongst students is ideal for the creation of an interesting college environment. A more "artsy" atmosphere at Princeton is by no means a bad thing (though admissions officers weeding through applications in search for students who conform to a perceived stereotype of what's "artsy" is). Though I am somewhat wary of the way our administration may choose to carry out their proposed "Arts Initiative," I think it's wonderful to see more attention paid to the arts at Princeton and look forward to what hopefully will be a positive situation for artists, athletes and engineers alike. The only way this will happen, however, is if the 'Initiative' succeeds in breaking down, rather than sustaining and reinforcing, current stereotypes and social divisions. I'm doubtful that establishing an "arts neighborhood" is the best way to achieve that end.

Having taken a painting class at 185 Nassau as a freshman, I can certainly understand the frustrations expressed by Matthew Schmitz in his assessment of the arts at Princeton (Pages 8-10). Without a doubt, my professor's concentration on craft—mixing colors, measuring proportions, creating the illusion of depth—was far more valuable to my subsequent artistic endeavors than any of the eccentric exercises in creativity imposed by teachers in past courses. It remains to be seen whether the recently donated funds will be put to proper use, and if a revitalized, well-funded program can actually manage to draw a broader base of students as it should strive to do.

Sincerely,  
Juliann Vikse '08  
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The editors welcome, and will print, letters on any topic.

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# THE PRINCETON TORY

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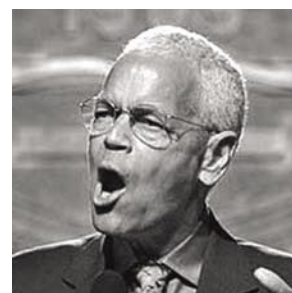
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## LETTERS

*Every month, many of our readers send us letters voicing their thoughts on the articles in the most recent issue of the Tory. These letters have been reprinted below with responses from the staff writer when appropriate. Unless otherwise noted, the letters are printed in full with no editing done by the Tory.*

Dear *Tory* Editors,

I want to commend Ryan McCullough for defending Intelligent Design as a theory which, rather than being derided as ignorant, should be tested whole heartedly by the academic community. The progress of science has always depended on people being as open minded as possible. And for individuals (like Shirley Tilghman) to disregard a field of research for suggesting a variable which is hidden or “supernatural” is unfair and shortsighted. I do not believe in Intelligent Design. However, I’m glad Ryan provides one more opportunity to reflect on just how complex the driving force behind evolution must be.

First of all, the belief that life is the result of completely random mutations is tough to even imagine. Anybody who’s worked with computer science or permutations knows that the problem of getting an ordered sequence through random shuffles grows out of control incredibly fast. Consider spelling out the sentence “The boy runs” by rolling a bunch of lettered dice. There are a staggering  $9.5 \times 10^{16}$  different combinations of 12 character sequences. If we shuffled the letters every minute, it would take 180 billion years (10 times the age of the universe) to possibly touch each combination. Now imagine trying to “spell” out a description of the human body within a cool 4.5 billion years, the age of our Earth. Something more than randomization must be going on. While evolutionists may point to the driving force of survival, is it impossible to imagine a gentle push from the hand of God?

Also, to me, evolution seems to have a little problem with fundamental physics and the Second Law of Thermodynamics. By the Second Law, the universe has a very strong tendency to always move into a state of more disorder. However, with evolution, the exact opposite seems to happen. Out of completely random and disordered mud, evolution builds orderly, working cells. Some bigger, less obvious events must accompany the growth of life which is taking care of the disorder problem.

Life theory is tough to support, and that believers of Intelligent Design shouldn’t be beaten up for proposing alternative (perhaps wrong) ideas. For even Einstein made the mistake of assuming an active God when he dismissed quantum mechanics as a deranged game of dice.

Andrew Soroka '08

To the Editors,

In the February issue of the *Tory*, Ryan McCullough writes on intelligent design but he doesn’t suggest a more appropriate curriculum for students. A Christian myself, and one largely skeptical of many of macroevolution’s claims, I would still be appeased if the entire scope of the intelligent design curriculum were a mere

sentence, something along the lines of: “...and it is entirely possible that some sort of brilliant designer is the truth behind much of the mystery of our roots and our world, although in the usual scientific sense this is not directly verifiable,” without then making a snide and in this case inappropriate remark.

Is this designer God? Well I think he would have to be, but if anything this statement would do less to endorse any particular religion than does macroevolution with the atheism or agnosticism that it suggests. In fact, I am surprised that defenders of intelligent design allow the same group that generally defaults to their misinterpretation of the separation between church and state in order to secularize America to get away with pushing through schools a theory that is awfully close to violating those same restrictions.

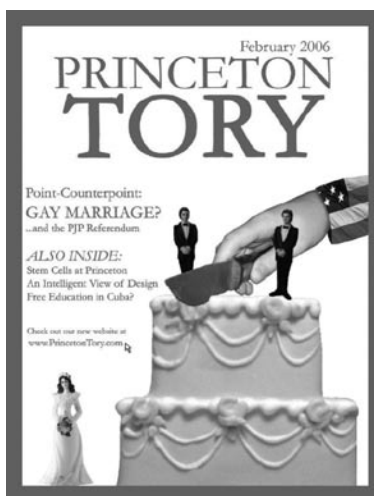
Intelligent design should be mentioned so students see that the world is indisputably complex, with a very evident, sophisticated, and elegant composition to it, so that they will have greater respect for themselves and their surroundings, regardless of how it got that way. But it should not be taught as a silly attempt to instill in them a sense of morality. If students are perspicacious enough to see the remarkable level of convenience in terms of the order and beauty of how things are composed and work out for humans (which is very strange when one considers how the chaotic randomness of nature and time never leave things in such an ideal shape), then they will understand that it would be too expedient and oversimplified to say that these conveniences are simply arbitrary or uncaused or both. In fact, these students’ intellectual capacity, rationality, and moral judgment are all redolent of something beyond this world--these are much better arguments for God than intelligent design anyway. If evolution is so compelling, there is no reason why students should be shielded from competing arguments.

Charles M. Smith '08

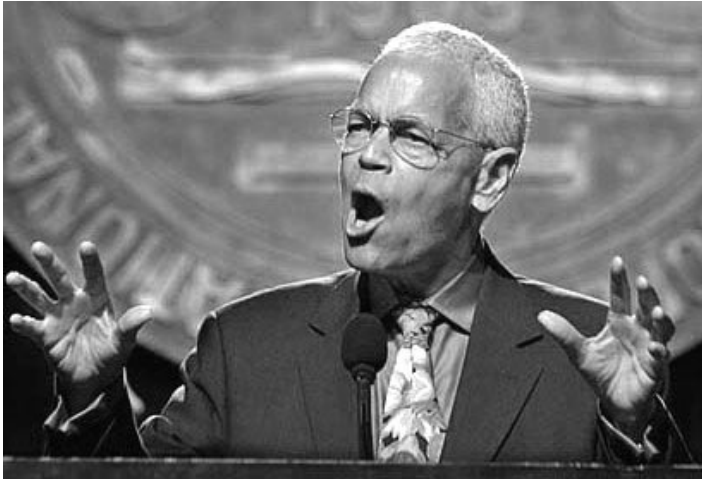
Dear Editors,

In your recent issue you raised the question of David Cameron’s leadership of the British Conservative Party, claiming he was abandoning the mantle of Margaret Thatcher. Although your views echo some from within the British political establishment, many see Mr Cameron’s ‘modernization’ policy as a public relations campaign meant to improve the overwhelmingly negative image of his party. Many Conservative insiders such as Shadow Chancellor George Osborne and former leadership candidate John Redwood see his leadership in the mold of President Bush’s 2000 campaign. Mr Cameron has even referred to himself as a ‘compassionate conservative’. The editors of the *Tory* can rest assured that a Cameron premiership would be one based on free markets, privatization and a close alliance with the United States

Robert Diamond '07



# POINTS & PUNTS



*Julian Bond apparently has a lot to say.*

➤ “The Republican Party would have the American flag and the swastika flying side by side,” NAACP Chairman Julian Bond said at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, N.C on February 1st, 2006. Bond called Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell “tokens” and previously compared Bush’s judicial nominees to the Taliban. These comments betray an astounding lack of intelligence and honesty. Equally shocking is the absence of any audible Democratic condemnation. Of course, the Associated Press refused to carry Bond’s comments. Fair enough—the ravings of a demagogue are better left out of print. But when Pat Robertson utters something controversial, those statements infallibly land on the front page.



➤ The February 7th issue of the *Prince* informs us that “the University Board of Trustees announced that tuition for the 2006-07 academic year will increase to \$42,200.” In 2004, the U.S. median household income was \$44,389. In a few years Princeton’s tuition will likely exceed the median American household

income. To raise tuition to \$42,000 per year when the endowment is \$10 billion is almost unbelievable. Then again, the LGBTQ center does need generous funding...

➤ Fans of Zappa’s Brain Police and Orwell’s Big Brother rejoice. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the New York Times reported that British historian David Irving was sentenced to three

years in an Austrian prison after pleading guilty to denying the Holocaust. Obviously, the nefarious beliefs of Mr. Irving are morally reprehensible and utterly false and deserve no audience. However, no man’s beliefs should be grounds for criminal sanction. Indeed, these are the notorious “thought crimes” that pervade the Orwellian dystopia of Oceania. For one thing, the government dictating what are and aren’t appropriate thoughts creates a situation where actual debate is forbidden, which leads to the unfortunate situation of having the populace believe something only because it is state-mandated, as opposed to arising from actual conviction. How ironic that this case comes in the wake of Europe justifying its controversial cartoons as expressions of free speech. Apparently, Europe has some consistency issues to work out.



*The new logo...*

➤ Princeton Pro-Choice has changed its name to Pro-Choice Vox. (Sounds like some little-known alien from Star Trek...) As long as Princeton’s pro-abortion faction insists on invoking the “voice” of the ancients, we would do well at least to recall Ovid, who wrote of abortion, “Why cheat the full vine of the growing cluster, and pluck with ruthless hand the fruit yet in the green?”

➤ As was reported on the Little Green Footballs blog, Google, fresh from their success in helping Communist Chinese despots curtail free speech, has decided to implement its new policies here in the US. Their first target, the website *The People’s Cube* ([www.thepeoplescube.com](http://www.thepeoplescube.com)), previously came up first for search results but was purged from all of Google’s records on Friday, March 10th. The site literally no longer exists on Google search records. This purge came after *The People’s Cube*, a “Marxist” satire site mocking all things liberal and elitist, lambasted Google’s policies in dealing with Red China. Google, whose corporate slogan is of all things, “Don’t

be evil,” was not amused, and decided to eliminate these enemies of the people from the public record—for the greater good of course. *The People’s Cube* was still purged from Google as of Monday, March 13, 2006.



*Marxist humor from www.thepeoplescube.com*

➤ The Princeton Wiki is Point’s newest information resource about student organizations, clubs, and departments. And like it’s parent program (the online Wikipedia encyclopedia), users are free to edit entries, update facts, and correct misinformation. Of particular interest, the Anscombe Society’s entry was subject several recent revisions, including one by former USG President Leslie Bernard Joseph ‘06. Prior to LBJ’s tampering with the entry, Anscombe was described as a group which, “Discusses abstinence (from sex, non-traditional lifestyles, and homosexuality). Preserving traditional values in a world that no longer demands adherence to them” -- a fairly on-target definition. Joseph, a constant advocate for open mindedness and dialogue at Princeton, had these minor corrections to make: “...Preserving ‘traditional’ values and prejudices in a world that no longer demands adherence to them.” Not that we wouldn’t expect this sort of partisan pettiness from Joseph, but our former USG President really should know better than to slam student groups in public.

➤ As if the Muslim world did not already view Americans as utter hypocrites for supporting Egyptian and Jordanian dictatorships while simultaneously championing Middle Eastern freedom and democracy, the debacle over Dubai Ports World’s attempt to take over operations at six US ports just made things worse. Even when it came out that the US Coast Guard, which

is responsible for port security, was confident that the deal would in no way diminish the quality of US port security, a coalition of democrats *and Republicans* killed the deal for motivations that were at best protectionist and at worse, and this is more likely, racist. What kind of message does it send when a Muslim country that is far more threatened by al-Qaeda than the US puts itself in great jeopardy to join our war on terrorism, hosts the largest assortment of US naval ships in the region, and goes to great lengths to help us in our military endeavors, is deemed incapable of taking only administrative control of several US ports solely on the grounds of the race or religion of its owners? President Bush was clearly in the right on this issue as he fought Congress to get the deal approved and we hope that while he continues to support our allies in the War on Terror, the more short-sighted members of our government learn to do so as well. We continue this hypocritical foreign policy at our own peril, for we will likely no longer be able to secure needed allies from the Muslim world.

➤ There’s finally something that all the Supreme Court Justices can agree upon: liberal professors don’t know what they’re talking about. The Supreme Court recently unanimously upheld the Solomon Amendment, which allows Congress to withhold funding from universities that don’t allow access to military recruiters. Dozens of law professors, including the deans of Harvard and Yale’s law schools and such liberal idols as Larry Tribe, signed am-



*At law schools across the nation, pro-gay rights students and faculty have demonstrated against, and at times harassed, military recruiters*



*Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell on March 11th.*

icus briefs against the Solomon Amendment. It just confirms what we've been saying all along: the best minds in liberal academia just don't make any sense.

➤ On March 11, the world said *adieu* to former Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic who was found dead from a heart attack in his cell

in The Hague. On the one hand, we are happy to see the passing of a man who brought intense suffering and

genocide to the peoples of the former Yugoslavia and hope that this event will aid the people of region in their attempts to return to normalcy. However, we also note that despite five years of effort and the expenditure of numerous legal and political resources, the UN-sponsored International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia established to try Milosevic was still no where near convicting him of his crimes at the time of his death. Indeed, while it assured him a life sentence, it was only through its own inefficiency. We hope the our government bears this in mind when it comes to the creation of future war crimes tribunals and especially in respect to calls for the US to join the International Criminal Court.

-- Compiled by the Editors

## PUBLIC SAFETY OR PUBLIC THREAT?

Matthew Schmitz '08

Block them, friend them, poke them, do whatever you want. The rash of annoying friendings and wall posts coming from the recently added high schools has been supplemented by the emergence of Public Safety officers on Facebook. One Public Safety officer, Maleci Malec, has friended students and posted personal comments on their Facebook walls. His is not an isolated case. There are 63 officers working for Public Safety, of those the Tory was able to find 19 who are currently on Facebook.com. Some of these profiles contain extensive personal information. As reported in the Daily Princetonian, officers have used their profiles to discover information about students' parties and social lives.

Public Safety's use of Facebook has anticipated its use by other parts of the administration. Probably the most disturbing example of this has occurred at Princeton's Admissions Department. The Admissions Office employs recent graduates as Associate Deans, and several of these have Facebook profiles. With the recent integration of the high school and college Facebooks, a weird, bicker-like pattern of ingratiation has begun to take place. Associate Dean Brad Flora has several high school friends, among them Zak Mirkowski, a student at West Lafayette Senior High who offers up a typically awkward wall post in the form of, "How's it going Mr. Flora?" Flora boorishly brags on his profile, "I visit schools. I talk to kids. I talk to their parents. I read their applications. I make decisions." Laughable as his statement is, it probably reads very pointedly to Mr. Flora's high school e-friends.

Those students who manage to gain admission despite their lack of Facebook friends in the Admission Office, face further threats when they logon. With no clear listings or Facebook groups marking which Public Safety officers are using the service, students have no way of knowing who may be watching them. The first account associated with a Public Safety officer was opened on January 15, 2005. Then, during the first two weeks of March five more officers appeared on Facebook, beginning with two on March 1st. Whether it was a coordinated, institutional push at getting P-Safety officers on Facebook, or just a wildfire public-safety social trend, March of last year was the real beginning of Public Safety's Facebook involvement.

The presence of officers on the service raises disturbing questions regarding privacy and professionalism. Public Safety Deputy Director Charles Davall, who has had an account since September 2005, was quoted in the Daily Princetonian saying Facebook is used to "find a student's picture or cell phone number if we need to get in touch with them." When students dorm addresses, class schedules, room phone numbers, webmail accounts – and even pictures – are all available on resources like the Princeton Facebook, it's almost inconceivable that Public Safety would need additional information for contacting them. For years Public Safety maintained a safe, friendly campus environment, and did it without Facebook. Now, Public Safety officers can cruise Facebook on the clock viewing photos that are not as likely to show students doing something illegal as they are to show outfits or poses that could encourage unprofessional attitudes toward undergraduates.

On a social network like Facebook the line between the professional and personal can become disturbingly thin. Take the example of Public Safety officer and Facebook user Brian Clemens. As of press time, Officer Clemens, whose profile is visible only to Princeton students, has listed for the benefit of interested coeds that he is attracted to women and single. He is looking for dating, a relationship or random play. Officer Clemens' favorite quote should dispel any doubts about his intentions. He says,

"All of our young lives we search for someone to love. Someone that makes us complete. We choose partners and change partners. We dance to a song of heartbreak and hope. All the while wondering if somewhere, somehow, there's someone perfect who might be searching for us..."

I would encourage Officer Clemens to not worry if nothing comes up for a while... pre-frosh weekend is only a month away. While it may be unclear whether or not Officer Clemens will ever find someone who shares his love of Wonder Years quotes, the Princeton student should have no doubt. There is someone searching for you. Though he may not be perfect, he probably looks damn sharp in that Public Safety uniform.

# A CREATIVE CATASTROPHE

## READING THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS AT PRINCETON

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**Matthew Schmitz '08**

You are a freshman at Princeton University and you have just walked into class. The professor takes out a deck of Tarot cards, and circling the room, has each student pick one at random. You draw the Knight of Pentacles, thinking your professor is

There has never been a more important time for the arts at Princeton, for this past January, the University received a \$101 million gift from Peter B. Lewis '55 to build the University Center for the Creative and Performing Arts. Tentatively slated for construction near McCarter Theater, the center has the chance to either create a distinct and impressive program, or to preserve the disorganized mess I experienced. Lewis, a

aspires to a similar level of excellence and distinction in the creative and performing arts, and I am delighted to participate in achieving this truly important goal." And as the new director of the center, poet Paul Muldoon believes, "We've come to understand more widely at Princeton that the arts may be central to the experience here – not necessarily overshadowing any of the other areas that a student might pursue – but that

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***The three hallmarks of instruction at Princeton, close interaction between students and faculty, rigorous standards and original work have been displaced by the vague vogue of creativity and artsy poseurism, leading to classes that operate counter to the universities core principles.***

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about to predict your future. Instead she gives you the week's assignment. It is the tarot card. Over the course of the next week, you are supposed to channel the Knight of Pentacles. Not to think like him or be like him, but by séance or willpower to bring his spirit into your self. You put the card in your pocket. College is going to be a wild ride.

This moment, hopefully the closest my life will ever come to reading like a choose-your-own adventure, was an experience I shared with ten other students in a poetry workshop during the spring of 2005. And just to be clear, this was indeed a class, and one for which we received University credit. The registrar's office which dropped theology years ago, seems to still be in the business of passing off superstition as academics. Welcome to Princeton's Program in the Creative and Performing Arts.

University trustee and chairman of the Progressive Corporation, is also the financial force behind the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, as well as the Peter Lewis Science Library, now under construction near Fine Hall. Princeton's most generous donor in modern history, Lewis noted that the donation will position the University to become a global leader in the

there's something about the way in which the arts make us understand who we are and what we're doing." How these ideals are translated into practice will determine whether the center is merely a bait switch used to lure prospective students, or if it takes its proper place as a dynamic center for true education.

As demonstrated by the tarot episode, arts instruction at Princeton is not in good shape. At present there is too much focus on creativity, and not nearly enough on craft – that less flashy element that stands behind all great art. This imbalance is the result of a drift away from the three hallmarks of instruction at Princeton – close interac-

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***Until 185 Nassau figures out how to teach such brilliance, the overriding goal of their workshops should not be to teach free verse, but to produce proficiency in the kinds of skills that will enable the occasional burst of genius to land safely on the page.***

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teaching of creativity: "This is an institution known worldwide for the excellence of its teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences, and in the natural sciences and engineering," he said, "Princeton now

tion between students and faculty, rigorous standards and original work. All these have been displaced at 185 Nassau (the program's current home, located in the former Princeton Elementary School on Nassau Street)



by the pursuit of vague creativity and artsy poseurism, leading to classes that operate counter to the university's core principles. These infractions are particularly common within Princeton's faculty of Creative Writing – the flagship program at 185 Nassau and also one of the driving powers behind the new center.

For instance, many students complain that the faculty at 185 Nassau is distant and inaccessible. During a time when we rely on e-mail to carry on academic discussions outside class and office hours, many of the professors do not use Webmail. By contrast, throughout the rest of the university, professors are expected to stay in touch. But many instructors in Creative Writing seem to operate under a different standard, one which allows faculty like the famed poet (and tarot reader) Linda Gregg to withdraw behind artsy, anti-technology poses that would be seen elsewhere as a mark of indifference toward faculty-student interaction. But at an undergraduate-focused institution like Princeton, professors' personal research is expected to be ancillary to their classroom commitments, and so instructors in Creative Writing should be expected to make similar concessions to their teaching duties. Toni Morrison, who holds the prestigious Robert F. Goheen Professor Chair in the Humanities, is sadly and notoriously the prime example: a faculty member who students only ever see in admissions brochures.

The department also lacks the rigor which, while admittedly conceived differently for each academic department and program, is a guiding principle in the University's mission. In the fiction, poetry and playwriting workshops students are taught to write with "creativity" – that intangible power that works in the art world just as the Holy Ghost does among Pentecostal congregations – invisibly, dubiously and inescapably. What 185 Nassau purports to offer is genius democratized,



*The construction of an "arts neighborhood" may force Wawa to relocate.*

slapped on a syllabus and available during class hours. Don't get me wrong. There is without a doubt an intangible quality to a master's work which separates him from those who are simply technically proficient. It is the difference between a Mozart and a Haydn, or a Faulkner and a Grisham.

the sciences to history, require creativity. None but those in the Creative Arts purport to teach it. For classes in the Creative Arts, each assignment is like another pass of the metal detector, the professor like the eager beachcomber hoping to turn up some sign of creativity beneath the sandy surface of his

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***In a poetry workshop, Susan Wheeler applauded a student who cribbed lines from a classmate's poem by saying, "Good writers borrow, great writers steal." Tarot cards are one thing, but disregarding the principles of academic integrity is something else entirely.***

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The problem Princeton runs into is the impossibility of teaching creativity, which is not a learnable skill but an absolute talent, or "gift." You have it or you don't, period. In the scramble to teach creativity, students are exhorted to channel tarot cards and other nonsense. It is a lazy process that abandons the ideal of teaching and turns "creative arts" courses into a treasure hunt for some ideal. Lots of disciplines, from

students' minds. If it is there, all the instructor can do is rubber stamp a talent the student possessed before the course ever began.

This of course is not meant to suggest that the arts cannot be taught. Rhyme, and meter, the elements of the craft called prosody, are the sorts of skills a writer can learn from a teacher. For the novel or play similar elements of structure, or *peripeteia*, provide the masters with a technical frame-

work within which to compose. While presumably not many Princeton students will ever become a James Joyce or Ezra Pound, brilliantly complex and elegant writers whose technical nonchalance was overcome by sheer inventiveness, many students could more likely be brought to a level of comfort and competence with the more formal aspects of the arts. But until 185 Nassau figures out how to teach such brilliance, the overriding goal of their workshops should not be to teach free verse, but to produce proficiency in the kinds of skills that will enable the occasional burst of genius to land safely on the page. The *verse libre*, the free-form tendencies of modern masters like Pound, were always understood by their originators as truly possible only to someone who was already experienced in the more conventional art of the metered, rhyming line. And in the visual arts, even Picasso, who throughout his career eschewed traditional realism, was nonetheless capable of painting like his neoclassical predecessors.

Beyond these pedagogical concerns lies something more troubling for Princeton. That no honor codes exist in the world of art has led to a similar disregard for the academic integrity among Princeton's instructors. When a famous author like James Frey falsifies his book, there are no Deans to suspend him, or when a poet cribs another's work, there's no disciplinary committee to label a "found poem" as a work of plagiarism. This disregard has carried over to the Program in the Creative and Performing Arts, where

rity is something else entirely.

Leaving aside these direct criticisms of the center's most prominent program, the revamped creative and performing arts has been sold as a means of attracting a new type of student to Princeton. After sacking Dean Fred Hargadon and hiring Janet Rapelye, President Tilghman finally has a director of admissions who's eager to accept the notorious "green-haired" students to the University. The only problem is they don't want to come here. Yale and Brown have established appeal with the alternative demographic. Peter Lewis' donation and the new center conveniently provide Nassau Hall with a platform to help shift Princeton's demographic profile away from the philistine investment bankers to the new, artsy types.

On its face, of course, students are students however they dress or dye their hair. But on a more fundamental level, the creative arts initiative reveals a crisis of will. The University, finding itself unable to teach the arts to those not already predisposed to them, has decided to lure those who already consider themselves artsy. Rather than reform the flawed system



*Able mentor, or viewbook eye candy?*

campus, writing conferences, and art lessons cost money. They are also relied on to demonstrate an applicant's seriousness about the arts – and largely determine his or her success in them. Fishing for artists among the applicant pool is sure to have a regressive effect on Princeton admissions, with economic and racial outcomes no one wants to see.

Although Terrace Club can look forward to a healthy sign-in class for years to come, I can't say I'm as optimistic for the rest of the University. We should be worried about the dubious quality of education in the existing arts programs, and in a world where "green-haired" means greenbacks, and "creativity" is a cover for low standards, we should all hope the University changes course. Meanwhile, I'll get back to writing poetry – and studying politics.

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***Rather than reform the flawed system and teach art to the J.Crew set, President Tilghman and the Board of Trustees have chosen to buy off applicants already initiated into the mysteries of artistic vogue.***

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such attitudes are common among faculty members. In one workshop on playwriting, visiting lecturer Chuck Mee warned students that he planned to steal material from them over the course of the semester and also encouraged his class to take what they wanted from his own writing. Not only does this run counter to the University's principles, it is unfair to the students whose work Mee has claimed as his own, a process that is unlikely to work in reverse. In a poetry workshop Susan Wheeler applauded a student who cribbed lines from a classmate's poem by saying, "Good writers borrow, great writers steal." Tarot cards are one thing, but disregarding the principles of academic integ-

and teach art to the J.Crew set, President Tilghman and the Board of Trustees have chosen to buy off applicants already initiated into the mysteries of artistic vogue. And the price? A cool \$101 million. That, and the loss of the central value of liberal arts education: introducing students to things they don't necessarily like and through that process educating, and yes, civilizing them.

The new center as currently conceived is also likely to rollback some of the University's progressive initiatives. Lower-income students, who are more likely to be hankering to make their families' first million are less likely to be have or be able to demonstrate an interest in the arts. Drama



*Matthew Schmitz '08 is an avid sportsman and the Weekly Projects Administrator for the Student Volunteers Council. He hails from O'Neill, NE.*

# A VIEW FROM THE TOP

AN INTERVIEW WITH USG PRESIDENT ALEX LENAHAN

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*Johnny Love '09*

Tory writer Johnny Love recently sat down with USG President Alex Lenahan '07 to discuss his thoughts on Public Safety, the recent outcry against high profile Republican visitors to Princeton, and his hopes for integrating the eating clubs within the changing University. Lenahan, who won the USG presidential election in December with a resounding victory, previously served as a USG class Senator. Lenahan has pledged to incorporate student input on USG grade deflation initiatives and future discussions concerning the four-year residential colleges.

TORY: Many people believe Princeton is becoming a less and less traditional school as time goes on. Do you agree, and if so, what ideas do you have to restore old traditions or begin new ones? Will the lack of traditions and school spirit compared to past generations of Princetonians cause a sharp decline in the amount us as alumni will be willing to donate to the school?



*USG President Alex Lenahan*

LENAHAN: I would like to think first of all that current and future alumni care about and like Princeton and will be willing to donate money no matter what. However, I do think that traditions are an important part of Princeton, and it's a shame that traditions are fading away whether they are old or new. Many have left before our times here; however, new ones are beginning. For

students than ever before. Students don't like it, and I don't think it is worth it for Public Safety to create such an overwhelmingly negative feeling towards themselves. I think this is a horrible policy for Public Safety, and I was really disappointed when I heard about it. I sincerely hope they choose to discontinue this policy.

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***The best and most interesting professors should be chosen regardless of their viewpoints or political affiliation.***

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example, the Pre-rade is a tradition that the USG has recently just started. Traditions are an important part of Princeton - I once heard traditions as being defined as an alive part of the past. It's not something you read about, but something that you participate in that has been done for years. New traditions can be started at any time, and they do not just have to be started from above - anybody at Princeton has the ability to create a new tradition. Even though some might fade away, it's not always a bad thing. I'd like to think that Princeton will keep the best ones and create new traditions to replace the ones that students lose interest in.

TORY: Recently, there has been some unrest in the student body over Public Safety's use of facebook.com. Is this a violation of our rights on campus, and is the USG going to take any action in response to this discovery?

LENAHAN: Well, strictly speaking, it is not a violation of anybody's rights because anybody who has an e-mail account with Princeton has the ability to join Facebook. Public Safety can have the accounts; however, they should not have them to police the students. A while back the director of Public Safety himself said that to do so would be too much like "big brother." Ever since the knowledge that Public Safety actually might be doing that was made public to us, I received more e-mails and complaints from

TORY Has Public Safety given you any indication of whether or not they are going to continue their policy of using Facebook to police students? [Note: Public Safety Director Steven Healy has since issued preliminary guidelines on the use of facebook.com, noting that the website is to be consulted only for investigations, and that Public Safety officers are prohibited from listing themselves as students in their profiles.]

LENAHAN: Actually, I plan to e-mail the head of Public Safety about this, and it is going to be a major issue discussed at the next USG meeting. I hope the head will see that their current policy will do nothing but create animosity between students and Public Safety. The Facebook is supposed to be a place where people can express their opinions, speak freely, post pictures, etc. Granted, it is up to the students as to what they put on their profile, and they probably should not be posting pictures of them engaging in illegal activities. However, I think that if Public Safety wants to be a responsible member of the Princeton community, it needs use Facebook as a tool to get to know the students instead of trying to police students and thus create bitterness between them and the students. In the end, it is up to Public Safety to decide what situation they want to create.

TORY: Due to such speakers as Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, there have been

petitions circulating that there should be a ban on visits from the Bush administration to campus. Does this ban have any merit at all?

LENAHAN: I don't think there should be a ban on any speakers coming to campus. One of the great things about a university like Princeton is that we get all these different speakers with very diverse, interesting viewpoints, whether the viewpoints are conservative, liberal, or moderate. I would not agree with any ban, and I would be really careful when trying to say which sorts of speakers Princeton ought to have come speak. I think Princeton should be trying to bring in interesting speakers who will spark interesting conversations and debate among the Princeton community. A person should never be banned because he or she is liberal or conservative or because his or her viewpoint might not coincide with everybody's here.

TORY: Is the administration in Nassau Hall concerned about the strong academic bias and lack of intellectual diversity among the faculty? If so, what are they doing to make the faculty more diverse, and if not, should anything be done by the students to address the situation?

LENAHAN: I assume the administration, when it looks for new professors, attempts to get all different sorts of viewpoints in and try to ensure that students can take classes on a wide range of topics. Just like we shouldn't place restrictions on what types of speakers we have, I definitely do not think that the University should try to say that we need one sort of professor and not another based off of their viewpoints. I think that we need to get the best scholars possible on relevant topics to fulfill the needs and interests of the students. I think it is safe to assume that if this is done, the faculty we would get would have an extremely diverse range of viewpoints. Basically, the best and most interesting professors should be chosen regardless of their viewpoints or political affiliation.

TORY: There are some distinct differences between you and Leslie-Bernard Joseph, such as the fact that he concerned himself with broader political issues and you are focusing more on campus related issues that directly affect the students. Why do you believe that campus related issues are more

important than those pursued by Leslie-Bernard Joseph?

LENAHAN: Well, I think that one of the main things that Leslie worked on was PINS [Princeton in the Nation's Service community service initiative]. I believe that it's good to try to get students to be engaged and involved in affairs outside the university, whether it's service in government or in the community. Not necessarily in contrast to Leslie, the reason why I believe campus issues are important is because as student body president, it is my job to represent the students and look out for their best interests. Our job at the USG is to do good things for students and to give students a voice. There are a lot of issues here at Princeton like the 4-year colleges or grade deflation that I feel students really need a voice on. There are also a lot of little day-to-day things such as the Student Course Guide or getting staplers next to printers that I believe the USG can work on to make students' lives that much easier. Whether the issues are technological, day-to-day, or larger, it is the USG's job to accommodate the students as best as possible. At the same time, I think things like PINS are important because they encourage students to be as involved as possible outside the University.

students more options is a good thing for us to have. I really don't believe that this initiative will fundamentally change the structure of Princeton. Granted, we can never know for sure, but I assume that the initiative will just improve the art programs at Princeton and bring them up to the extremely high standard that all the other programs are at. The arts are very limited right now, and hopefully this initiative will catch them up to all the other programs here at Princeton.

TORY: As of right now, under the current plan for 4-year residential colleges, upper-classmen will be forced to buy meals plans, and they are given incentives to join the 4-year colleges, such as receiving financial aid for the meal plans, something that does not exist for the eating clubs. This could effectively destroy the Street as we know it today, so is the USG actively doing anything to prevent this from happening?

LENAHAN: On the issue of the financial aid, it is something that I have brought up often publicly and privately with the administration, and I think the administration is beginning to see that financial aid for eating clubs is very important. Recently, the administration has finally agreed that the cost between the colleges and clubs or


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***The administration needs to be in constant communication with the clubs and students to help make the transition to the four year college system as smooth as possible.***

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TORY: What should the university do in response to the \$100 million art initiative to fund new arts programs, moving Princeton even further away from its traditional majors and making it become a more "arts-friendly" school?

LENAHAN: If something benefits one group of people and doesn't hurt other groups of people, I don't see a problem with it. I do not think that this art initiative is going to be something that moves Princeton as a whole in any direction; it is just improving Princeton's art program. It's no different than improving another program like engineering. This is just an initiative for the arts and maybe in the future we'll see an initiative for the humanities. Anything that improves Princeton's programs and gives the

some combination of the two shouldn't be a financial one. They definitely are thinking about it, and the USG will bring forth a resolution to reiterate how important this is to the students and to encourage the administration to get in contact with the clubs as quickly as possible to coordinate how the financial aid plans will work out. For a lot of people, eating clubs are an integral part of the Princeton experience and financial aid should be given to make sure everybody who wants to has a chance to take part. The key to work through this is communication. The administration needs to be in constant communication with the clubs and students to help make the transition to the four year college system as smooth as possible. The street and four year colleges should complement, not exclude, each other. 



# CONCERNING CONSERVATISM

## SOME CRUNCHY THOUGHTS TO CHEW ON

**David Colquitt '09**

It seems to me that if you put ten Republicans in a room and asked them what they could agree on, the list would not be long. Criminalizing abortion? Libertarians oppose it. What about drafting a Constitutional amendment to restrict same-sex marriage? Libertarians would resist that one too. School prayer? Come on, the Jesus Freaks and the free traders would never agree on that either. Or perhaps we should protect the environment more? Let's be honest, green is not a conservative color. But what about capitalism and the free market system? I think we've found our issue. Voices would surely rise in praise, with some even reciting (in German, nonetheless) F.A. Hayek's seminal *Road to Serfdom*, which for many in the room might sound something like Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

I do this little exercise not to insult libertarians – as we are allies on many issues – but instead to point to the relative diversity of opinion that exists under the broader tent of American Conservatism. Far from devaluing the contributions of libertarian-minded allies, I agree that supporting the free market is fundamental to the identity

community, and God, and are instead focusing almost exclusively on personal liberty, efficiency, and the free market. But there's a new constituency on the scene that hopes to fix these deficiencies, and it's come from the most unlikely of places: your local organic grocer.

Rod Dreher, a former National Review writer, has recently published a profile of this new group. Entitled, *Crunchy Cons: How Birkenstocked Burkeans, gun-loving organic gardeners, evangelical free-range farmers, hip homeschooling mamas, right-wing nature lovers, and their diverse tribe of countercultural conservatives plan to save America (or at least the Republican Party)* (whew!), Dreher's book provides an alternative option to the prevailing Republican ideology, and one which many beyond those groups enumerated in the title would find attractive. I myself, for instance, have never owned a pair of Birkenstocks, and have been to Whole Foods only twice in my life. And I don't think I would ever home school my kids. But after reading Dreher's insightful new book, I'd count myself as a "Crunchy Con" – not because I am a hippy of the Right, but rather because Dreher's message is alluring to all conservatives who believe

has ten. First, a Crunchy Con believes that modern conservatism and the Republican Party have become too concerned with material values and overlooked the "Permanent Things" in life: namely morality, family, community, and the environment. Second, while Crunchy Cons support the free market and share the broader movement's wariness of big government, many also feel that big business deserves the same level of skepticism and scrutiny. Third, Crunchy Cons believe that culture matters more than politics, and that if we value political and economic gains over the Permanent Things, our nation cannot survive for very long. And last, Crunchy Cons hold that a conservative philosophy which avoids restraint, particularly in the economy, to the exclusion of the Permanent Things, is neither good nor fundamentally conservative.

What I find most appealing about "Crunchy Conservatism" is its acknowledgement that true conservatism understands there is more to life than money. Dreher writes, "A society built on consumerism must break down eventually for the same reason socialism did: because even though it is infinitely better than socialism at meeting our physical needs and gratifying our physical desires, consumerism also treats human beings as merely materialists, as ciphers on a spreadsheet. It cannot, over time, serve the deepest needs of the human person for stability, spirituality, and authentic community."

He's correct: so often we on the Right seem to think that if only free trade were allowed, a tax were lowered, or a welfare program ended, then improvement would follow. But capitalism alone doesn't make a society click or function smoothly. As Dreher notes, "When the market harms the good society, it should be reined in. Because Crunchy Cons, as conservatives, do not believe in the essential goodness of human nature, we keep squarely in front of us the truth that absent the restraints of religion, community, law, or custom, the commercial

***There is surely more to life than money, business, and material success. And as such, there should be more to the conservative movement and Republican Party than advancing capitalism and free enterprise.***

of our movement. In fact, I'm a big fan of *The Road to Serfdom*. And to clear up any confusion, I certainly do not want to suggest that the Republican Party is ignoring social conservatives. On the contrary, the GOP has proven to be very strong on the issues of abortion and same-sex marriage. My concern here, however, is that many conservatives have in recent decades migrated away from the movement's original focus on personal responsibility, the family,

in something greater than themselves. And for those Democrats or moderate liberals in step with the socially conservative values of the Right, but who cannot bring themselves to vote for "the Party of Greed," Crunchy Conservatism may be an acceptable way of life.

The essence of Dreher's study can be summed up in just a few points, although his "Crunchy Con Manifesto" in the book

man will tend to respect no boundaries in the pursuit of personal gain. Absolute power corrupts absolutely, whether it's in the hands of big government or big business."

family, our community, the environment, or the Permanent Things. And so, while some groups within the conservative movement will argue that it is not the government's role

interests ought to stop and think about costs to communities from economic decisions taken by corporations... Either we figure out a way to live our economic lives according to traditional values, or we advance the cause of chaos and our own demise." Should we, as conservatives, keep communities safe and uphold the rule of law by restricting illegal immigration, or advance the interests of Big Business in the name of free enterprise? Apply this same reasoning to any host of issues, from the environment, to education, and religion in schools and you will see what I'm driving at.

Some may label me a "liberal" or attack me for going soft. As someone whose call for tolerance on campus earlier this year was met with comments from the left describing me as a member of the American Taliban, I wouldn't be too surprised. But I have hope that we on the Right can have a productive debate about these issues. What do we stand for? I hope it is not the free market and consumerism at all costs. I hope we choose to conserve what is valuable. I hope we can make the GOP the party for the family, the environment, and community.

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***I do this little exercise not to insult libertarians – as we are allies on many issues – but instead to point to the relative diversity of opinion that exists under the broader tent of American Conservatism.***

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You may be thinking that this would make for a great speech, but not good government or sound policy. Words are one thing, solutions are another. Dreher, however, uses the example of the elimination of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Texas to show how "conservative" consumerism has gotten out of hand. He describes how the demise of this program forced a stay-at-home mother to find a job in order to support her family financially. Family is the foundation on which societies are built – most, including members of the Texas state legislature – would probably agree on that. But instead of considering how the elimination of CHIP might affect families across the state, the Republicans in Texas voted to end the program. One has to wonder, does a decision like this put family values first? Should our priority be to shut down a state program and lower taxes, or to help conserve the family? Crunchy Conservatives would say we should protect the family first, and as Dreher writes, "[The Texas Republicans'] willingness to see families...suffer rather than raise taxes even the tiniest bit showed where their values really were." Could the state legislature have kept CHIP in Texas and not raised taxes? Probably. Did Texas Republicans look into it? No. Why not? Because conservatives have come to view the free market, low taxes, and small government as the *sine qua non* of our political philosophy, even when such values conflict with our purported commitment the family, the environment, and our culture.

I don't mean to suggest that conservatives should embrace extensive social welfare programs or unrestrained government spending. On the contrary, we should keep our families and communities in mind, and not pass the burden of an enormous debt onto our children: balancing the budget should be a Crunchy Conservative policy goal just as with any other GOP constituency. But in the process of balancing the budget, we must be attentive to not undermine either the

to preserve the family or save the environment, at the very least we should seek to formulate and enact public policies which are not harmful to the Permanent Things.

I am proud to be a conservative, and ultimately proud of the fact that we are able to hold these debates within the movement. Our peers on the Left certainly don't enjoy such robust conversation within their own circles, which has probably contributed to their political stagnation in recent elections. Indeed, the plurality of opinion on the right was demonstrated at a conference hosted by the James Madison Program last December entitled, "The Conservative Movement: Its Past, Present and Future," during the course


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***Our peers on the Left certainly don't enjoy such robust conversation within their own circles, which has probably contributed to their political stagnation in recent elections.***

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of which one attendee asked, "What the hell is a conservative?" Admittedly, it was a hard question to answer, even though we conservatives do hold many common beliefs. But the man's question drove to the heart of the issue: libertarians, social conservatives, Rockefeller Republicans, and crunchy cons will never agree on every platform. What we as members of a common movement must work out is what we value more: the free market or the Permanent Things. And how should we respond when these goals conflict?

For instance, a concern that is rapidly becoming the hot button issue of the day, and one which reveals the division between free enterprise cons and Permanent Things cons is illegal immigration. Many big business Republicans, including President Bush, are not prepared to stop the tide of illegal immigrants which is hurting our communities. Dreher writes, "Conservatives who can see the price ordinary Americans pay from lax immigration policies favored by business

And as Dreher rightly questions, "Is all this airy-fairy nonsense? Only if you believe in nothing greater than the bottom line, and that the phrase 'standard of living' refers only to the size of your bank account and the square footage of your house." There is surely more to life than money, business, and material success. And as such, there should be more to the conservative movement and Republican Party than advancing capitalism and free enterprise. Advancing both is vital, but we must not forget about the Permanent Things. 



*David Colquitt '09 is from Houston, TX and currently resides in Butler College. He spent the summer working for a Young Life camp in Canada.*

# THE ARTLESSNESS OF THE DEAL

## THE POLITICAL MISSTEPS OF THE DUBAI PORT WORLD PURCHASE

*Rick Morgan '09*

The past few weeks have been a roller coaster ride for President Bush's foreign policy as well as his relations with the American people, and even his own party. Since news broke that Dubai Ports (DP) World would be taking over stevedoring duties at six American ports, President Bush found himself bearing the brunt of the indignation from all fronts. Faced with a full-fledged Congressional revolt spearheaded by members of the GOP, Bush stood firm, but despite the President's support, DP World decided to relinquish its claim on the ports and withdraw from the deal.

This political upheaval started when DP World, a port-management firm owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), bought the British-owned Peninsular and Oriental (P&O) Steam Navigation Company for \$6.8 billion. The deal, which became public on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, ignited outrage throughout the United States. Polls showed that nearly 70% of Americans opposed the deal, with only 17% in its favor. This response, combined with the House Appropriations Committee vote of 62-2 against the DP World deal, convinced the company that the arrangement would be struck down by Congress, prompting it to withdraw from the purchase. Although the new ports arrangement is dead, it is worthwhile to go back and trace the implosion of this seemingly routine commercial transaction, as well as analyze how the affair was covered by the media, why the vast majority of Americans opposed it, and how President Bush mishandled the spreading wildfire.

It was the blogosphere that first broke the news. The "mainstream media" was about two days behind, still obsessed with

the accidental shooting of Harry Whittington by Dick Cheney when the exchange first took place. When it finally did hit the press, the story was described as "Arab firm taking over six US ports" on CNN and other news outlets. Such headlines inevitably grab the public's attention, and in a post-9/11 world, where national security is on everyone's mind, they have the power to generate alarm and concern. This portrayal, however, was misleading at best. Even though President Bush and DP World tried to clear up the misconception, they did too little too late. Ultimately, while the public's visceral, emotional response to the news was intense, it was the president's poor handling of the situation that eventually crippled all chances for success.

Regrettably, the press' initial presentation of the deal was not at all accurate. When DP World acquired P&O, it was not buying the ports of New York, New Jersey, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Baltimore as widely believed, but rather, it was taking on the obligations of P&O, which had

contracted with these ports to oversee terminal operations. Thus, DP World's actual role seemed to receive minimal attention in the media and in the statements of most politicians. In an interview with the *Tory*, Andria Muniz, Public Affairs officer for the Port of Miami, dispelled much of the

# EXPORTING AMERICA



Why  
Corporate  
Greed is  
Shipping  
American  
Jobs  
Overseas

LOU DOBBS

*Always eager to demonstrate their populist leanings, many cable news anchors led uninformed and often downright bigoted campaign against DPW's proposed takeover of US ports*

uncertainty regarding the role of DP World in operating the ports. In the case of Miami, DP World had acquired P&O's 50% stake in the Port of Miami Terminal Operating Company (POMTOC). And as Muniz stated, this

The most commonly-heard concern expressed by members of Congress was that allowing DP World to "operate" our ports would endanger national security, or at the very least pose enough of a risk as to make

the March 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of *The Economist*, any workers sent to the US from Dubai would still have had to meet national immigration standards and visa requirements.

Unfortunately, most of these details were obscured by the media and political firestorm which eventually consumed the deal. In their place, many politically-correct figures, including President Bush, argued that another reason caused the deal to fail —Islamophobia.

If one defines Islamophobia as an irrational fear of Islam, then Americans are certainly not Islamophobic. Particularly after 9/11, our fear of radical Islam is in no way irrational. Moreover, mainstream Muslim leaders have done relatively little to either assuage American anxieties or themselves confront the sources of violence in their own communities. We must place things in perspective, and for better or worse, the

timing of the deal has come at a low point in Islam's image with the rest of the world. In October and November of 2005, tens of thousands of French Muslims rioted and rampaged

through the cities of France. And then, throughout late January and February, throngs of Muslims stormed the streets of the Middle East and Europe destroying property – including several embassies – after a cartoon of the prophet Muhammad was published in a Danish newspaper. Adding to all this is the constant fear of terrorist attacks in the US, Europe, and Asia, there is little room in the equation for accusations of irrational fear.

It is of course unfair to label all Muslims as terrorists. Concerns about Islam are not caused by such Islamic cultural characteristics as dress (turbans) or dietary restrictions or any other irrational source of suspicion. On the contrary, our concern is directed toward Islamofascism, and is literally a matter of life and death, where no amount of politically-correct or multicultural rhetoric is going to prevent people from being concerned for their safety.

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***The deal, which became public on February 13th, 2006, ignited outrage throughout the United States. Polls showed that nearly 70% of Americans opposed the deal, with only 17% in its favor.***

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means that "As a terminal operator, POMTOC does not control any shipping line, its container volume, or its cargo. POMTOC's function is loading and unloading cargo from the actual vessel to the terminal and vice-versa." In a separate interview with the *Tory*, Steve Coleman, the spokesman of the New York/New Jersey Port Authority, confirmed the view that the acquisition would not fundamentally alter the functioning of the ports, asserting "day to day operations will not change."

The role of terminal operators such as P&O is to maintain and organize the labor and machinery needed to load and unload cargo ships in the most timely and cost-efficient manner possible. DP World is like any other business in this respect. Its goal is to maximize profit. So when DP World chose to purchase P&O, it did so with the hope that it could be even more cost-efficient and profitable than P&O had been as an independent corporation. This increased efficiency was believed to translate into added benefits for all parties involved: manufacturers and retailers could have their goods transported faster and at

the deal threatening. Those directly involved with the ports, however, do not share this view. Echoing the Bush administration's repeated assurances, Andria Muniz stated that "Security will still be conducted as it is today. This is achieved by the U.S. Coast Guard, which among other things, conducts security patrols waterside as well as landside and the



*A symbol of terrorism...or exactly the kind of free market liberalism we are supposedly trying to promote in the Middle East?*

Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection, which inspects containers entering and leaving the Port." Muniz went on to say that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Miami-Dade Police

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***While the death of the DP World deal in America is unlikely to either alienate the so called "Arab street" or win over any hearts and minds, it has soured relations with the most consistently pro-American sector of the Islamic Middle East – the Arab business community.***

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reduced cost, and consumers could reap part of the savings.

If American consumers and businesses would have benefited from DP World's acquisition of P&O, why was Congress trying to block the deal, and why were so many Americans opposed to it?

Department, and Seaport Security Officers are also involved in maintaining the security of Miami's port. Furthermore, Dubai had also signed agreements allowing American officials to inspect cargo ships headed to the US from overseas, even before the ships left their ports of departure. And as was noted in



That being said, it was unjust for Americans to lump the UAE into the Islamofascist “rogue state” category. Admittedly, two of the 9/11 hijackers came from the Emirates, and most of the funding for the attacks was funneled through Dubai, which is a notorious haven for money laundering, drug trafficking, and even the exchange of nuclear technology. But while the UAE is geographically-Arab, it is in many ways culturally-Western, and the nation has provided invaluable assistance to the US in its War on Terror. The Emirates, for example, have allowed the US Navy to dock at Dubai, providing impeccable security for our personnel. And after 9/11 they have been generally cooperative in helping the US track down terrorist money transfers through their banks. While they are certainly not a perfect ally, they are by far among the friendliest Arab regimes in the Middle East. And in the world of realpolitik, we need to cultivate all the geographically-significant allies we can get.

Despite our misconceptions, the DP World deal was not necessarily doomed from the beginning. President Bush, for one, staunchly supported it, but it was largely his administration’s handling of the affair which crippled the deal in the eyes of Con-

parties involved. As Port Authority spokesman Steve Coleman explained: “We don’t know if there are any security concerns because we don’t know anything about Dubai. Dubai has not been providing us with information.” Coleman also echoed the claims of other critics when he faulted the White House for not being open and forthcoming about the deal. “Our chairman (of NYPA) had written to Treasury Secretary John Snow requesting information, but no information has been provided,” he told the *Tory*.

The administration’s seemingly careless and lackadaisical approach to the affair



*Despite assurances that the U.S. Coast Guard and other U.S. security agencies would handle all port security issues, opponents of the plan insisted that administrative control by an Arab company would still increase the risk of terrorism*

***The administration’s seemingly careless and lackadaisical approach to the affair undermined the public’s trust in the president and served only to increase antagonism towards the deal.***

gress and the American people. While the White House understood that the UAE was an ally and that the deal would not endanger our national security, they should have recognized that in this time of uncertainty, the American people would be skeptical. Yet, Bush and his staff seemed genuinely puzzled why Americans would be concerned about the deal, and did little to address these concerns in the crucial early stages of the media blitz.

Several missteps hurt DP World’s prospects. To start with, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States did not conduct a full forty-five day review of the deal, as is typical. Furthermore, the Bush administration was not cooperative in providing information to the press or to the

undermined the public’s trust in the president and served only to increase antagonism towards the deal. Instead of sincerely acknowledging the public’s concerns, and addressing the issues in the early days of the controversy, Bush essentially provoked the opposition, threatening to veto any legislation against the deal (especially severe considering he has yet to use a single veto), and implying that Americans were being Islamophobic. But when people with meaningful and legitimate concerns are treated in such a heavy-handed and haughty fashion, they are unlikely to cooperate in advancing your agenda. To add insult to injury, in an effort to eke out a grain of political advantage from the situation, even if it meant betraying their own political ideology, Democrats began accusing Republicans

of abandoning concern for national security. Hearing this type of demagoguery from both liberals opponents as well as their own strong willed president, conservatives were only further infuriated.

The lasting impact of this turbulent affair remains to be seen. While the death of the DP World deal in America is unlikely to either alienate the so called “Arab street” or win over any hearts and minds, it has soured relations with the most consistently pro-American sector of the Islamic Middle East – the Arab business community. The DP World acquisition was certainly a long shot, and it is unlikely that a majority of Americans would have endorsed the deal. However, it did not have to end so bitterly. Ironically, the demeanor and tone of George W. Bush, the most ardent supporter of the deal, is what sealed its fate. It can only be hoped that this ugly episode will not harm our relationship with the UAE and that we will soon return to business as usual. **P**



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# “MISOVERESTIMATING”

## CONSERVATISM AT PRINCETON

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*Will Scharf '08*

Another *Tory* has come and gone, and I once again find myself sitting down to pen my “Last Word.” We have addressed some pretty big issues this month, ranging from questions of national security in the Dubai port debate to the very nature of American conservatism itself. We have thus punctured the oft-cited “Orange Bubble” enough for me to feel entirely comfortable bringing the scale of discourse back down to the local, although I do suppose that as the old adage goes, “all politics is indeed local.” Since by now most of you (those of you who read a magazine paginationally at least) have already seen David Colquitt’s article on expanding the ranks of the vast right wing conspiracy (which *The Nation* seems to believe meets at Robbie George’s house for prayer and cookies, but more on that later), I am going to leave explanations of the nature of conservatism aside for the time being and ask aloud another oft-whispered question: what is the state of conservatism on Princeton’s campus?

I ask because it seems to have become fashionable for the so-called “progressives” on this campus, including my good friend

Nassau Hall. We have heard that the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions is corrupting Princeton’s youthful minds with its string of conferences on, surprisingly enough, American Ideals and Institutions. More generally, we have heard that Princeton is a conservative fortress where progressives find themselves under fire from dawn until dusk, fighting the good fight and all that.

This all too rosy view of conservative cultural dominance on the Princeton campus was given a degree of national prominence recently when that paragon of unbiased reporting *The Nation* featured a cover story by Max Blumenthal in its March 13<sup>th</sup> issue entitled “Princeton Tilts Right.” The article was largely a piece of absurd personal invective directed against Professor Robert George and some of his likeminded associates at other universities and institutions. My personal favorite line was Blumenthal’s description of well-regarded Amherst politics professor and former James Madison Fellow Hadley Arkes as “reportedly Jewish” – his Judaism appar-



*Evidence of a broader conservative conspiracy on campus?*

undermining intellectual liberty at Princeton and replicating itself at other schools as well. Professor George is twisted into a sort of Jekyll and Hyde-like character, friendly and respectful to all during the day, but cruel, calculating and out to kill abortionists by night. Blumenthal eventually comes to the profound conclusions (“borrowed” from a previous *Daily Princetonian* article) that, strangely enough, conservative alumni prefer to support conservative professors over their liberal peers, and that organizations interested in supporting Catholic intellectual thought are more likely to support Catholic academics than non-Catholics. How very surprising.

Setting Blumenthal’s more delusional conspiratorial ranting aside, however, the question I posed earlier remains on the table: what is the state of conservatism at Princeton? Are we conservatives truly ascendant, perhaps even dominant? Or are we still a very-much oppressed political minority?

While none would deny that events in the last decade, including the founding of the Madison Program, have made Princeton a better place for conservative students, I wonder how far we have truly come. After all, I still hear the anti-Bush jabs from professors

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***Supposedly, Princeton is a conservative fortress where progressives find themselves under fire from dawn until dusk, fighting the good fight and all that.***

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Asheesh Siddique, the editor emeritus of the *Princeton Progressive Nation*, to rail against Princeton’s supposedly conservative political and academic atmosphere. Most recently, for instance, we heard from this particular segment of Princeton’s political spectrum that university-sponsored lectures by such high-profile Republicans as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice or Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff reflect a broader conservative sympathy in

ently compromised by his close personal and academic relationships with prominent Catholics. By Blumenthal’s reasoning, I guess that the two Chief Rabbis of Israel are similarly only “reportedly Jewish”, since they have been known on occasion to meet with emissaries of the Pope, and such seditious contact with gentiles has probably by now undermined their “Jewishness.”

Blumenthal also characterizes the James Madison Program as if it were an evil virus,

whose respective disciplines have little to do with contemporary politics. I have felt pressured during my time at Princeton to tailor certain papers to the viewpoints expressed openly in class, rather than to write my own beliefs for fear of being graded down. Every spring, accusations of politically-motivated mark downs of conservative Woodrow Wilson School students' theses by second-readers seem to float around, and it is said that being too outspoken a conservative is one of the most sure-fire ways of getting hosed come bicker or rush.

While liberals point to Professor George, I point to Professors Singer, Krugman, West, Slaughter, Silver, Rabinbach, and about a hundred other liberal professors whose scholarship I do not doubt, and for whom I have a great amount of respect, but who clearly do not merely tip the scales of political discourse to the left, but rather topple the scales entirely due to a lack of a comparable conservative counterweight. When you can count the number of outspoken conservative professors on one hand, but the number of outspoken liberals won't fit on a slide-rule, there's clearly a problem.

I am not calling for any sort of political litmus test in faculty hiring; on the contrary, I think such a move would be disastrous for Princeton's academic freedom and institutional reputation. I *am* calling for politically blind hiring, and a politically blind tenure review process. I am calling for

Society (as discussed in the Point and Punts section) that seem to populate every campus publication, satirical and purportedly objective alike, are immature, and show a fundamental lack of respect for the deeply-held beliefs of a large portion of our student body. If similar jokes were ever targeted against the homosexual community on campus, the University-funded LGBT would be up in arms, but nobody in either the student body or the administration is willing to stand with social advocacy groups like Anscombe or religiously orthodox groups on campus. Last year, for example, the Office of Religious Life actively tried to keep the Christian Union-affiliated Princeton Faith and Action (PFA) off campus, despite strong support for PFA amongst religious Christian students. PFA was only allowed to incorporate as a student organization after a



*Liberals can rest assured: Nassau Hall still tilts leftwards*

altered the dynamic significantly - none would deny that. Conservatives do at least have an ideological home on campus now, although to be fair Bobst Hall lies beyond even distant Charter Club's stone façade - but to say that conservatism is in any way dominant, or even on the path to dominance at Princeton would be to completely ignore the nature of political life on campus, which far from "tilting to the right" in the manner suggested by *The Nation*, continues to be heavily slanted leftwards.

And that's the last word.



*Will Scharf '08 is a history major originally from New York. An officer at Charter Club, Will is also involved in a number of conservative political and Jewish religious groups on campus.*

***I am calling for politically blind hiring, and a politically blind tenure review process. I am calling for active encouragement and endorsement of political pluralism by Nassau Hall, and for an apolitical classroom environment.***

active encouragement and endorsement of political pluralism by Nassau Hall, and for an apolitical classroom environment. When high profile conservatives like Condoleezza Rice come to speak at Princeton, I support the right of protestors to peaceably gather and voice their objections in any reasonable way, but only so long as the protestors in question are willing to recognize that cultivating a balanced political discourse is the responsibility of the University, and that they do not have the right to silence any political opposition to their own views.

I am sick of seeing flyers posted by the College Republicans and Princeton Pro-Life torn down because of petty political disagreement. Cracks against the Anscombe

threatened civil rights lawsuit. What kind of message does this send? That every minority on campus is under the protection of the University, except for political and religious minorities who are to be actively suppressed at every opportunity? This dichotomy is evidence enough that the 1984 Statement of Principles signed by the founders of the *Tory*, Yoram Hazoni, Dan Polisar, and Pete Heineke, which called for an end to this sort of ridiculous double standard applied to conservatives at Princeton, is as relevant today as it ever was.

Much has indeed changed since those early days of this venerable publication and the presence of Professor George and the James Madison Program have certainly





# April Fools

## **Ruth Marcus of the *Washington Post***

**"I have a new theory about what's behind everything that's wrong with the Bush administration: manliness." What about Condi?**

## **Bryant Gumbel, on the Winter Games**

**"So try not to laugh when someone says these are the world's greatest athletes, despite a paucity of blacks that makes the Winter Games look like a GOP convention."**

## **British Nursery Schools**

**In the name of political correctness, Oxfordshire teachers have their children sing "Baa baa rainbow sheep" instead of the traditional "Baa baa black sheep."**

## **The World Can't Wait (WCW), on its official website:**

**"We, in our thousands and very soon in our millions, must demand that BUSH STEP DOWN." Wow... these guys must really like Dick Cheney.**

## **Hillary Clinton, noted Biblical scholar, on Rep. Sensenbrenner's immigration bill**

**"It is certainly not in keeping with my understanding of the Scriptures... This bill would literally criminalize the Good Samaritan and probably even Jesus."**

## **Yale Admissions Officers**

**"In some ways I'm the luckiest person in the world. I could have ended up at Guantanamo Bay. Instead I ended up at Yale."**

**-Rahmatullah Hashemi '09, former propagandist and apologist for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan**

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