



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

Volume 25, Issue 7, Birthday
www.hellskitchen.org/gdt



Member of
Hell's Kitchen
www.hellskitchen.org



With the national treasures of Iraq looted from Baghdad's museums, the American flag raised above that fair city, protests ensuing from the grateful liberated people for the removal of U.S. soldiers from Iraqi soil, and the Kurds still getting screwed out of a national identity, it looks like Operation: Iraqi Freedom is almost at an end. Sure, we still have to help them rebuild their demolished infrastructure and industrial base so we can take their oil and let them decide their next president by voting among the candidates we select for them, and Saddam is still running around somewhere with Osama, but the Iraqi people have been liberated. They're free now. Free to shop at Wal-Mart and eat at McDonald's. Free to enter into a long civil war to decide the fate of their country. Free to kill and loot under the gentle auspices of American soldiers.

But what of those same soldiers? Idle hands are the Devil's workshop, and with the U.S. being led by a man with two belly-buttons, we're sure not going to allow any of that. Our soldiers need to be busy, busy, busy, fighting for our freedom to drive SUV's and eat over-priced, over-processed food until we vaguely resemble old medieval caricatures of Gluttony. And the best way to fight for our freedom is to invade all those freedom-hating countries out there that have heretofore left us alone.

It is with this in mind that we here at *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* have compiled a list of the nations the U.S. should invade now that we've finished with Iraq.

Japan

Japan has been producing anime despite UN Resolution 1513, titled, "Stop sending us your god-damned cartoon pornography." Prime Minister Junichiro "Richard Gere" Koizumi has repeatedly denied allegations, despite mounting evidence that Japan continues production in mobile hentai factories. Colin Powell plans to seek UN support after he presents satellite images of scantily clad, blue-haired schoolgirls to the Security Council.

South Korea

We need more episodes of M*A*S*H.

Canada

Canada has been secretly planning America's downfall for years, and we'd better invade before they come down and force us all to drink beer, watch hockey, and eat round bacon. And I'm still pissed Moxy Frivous is no longer together.

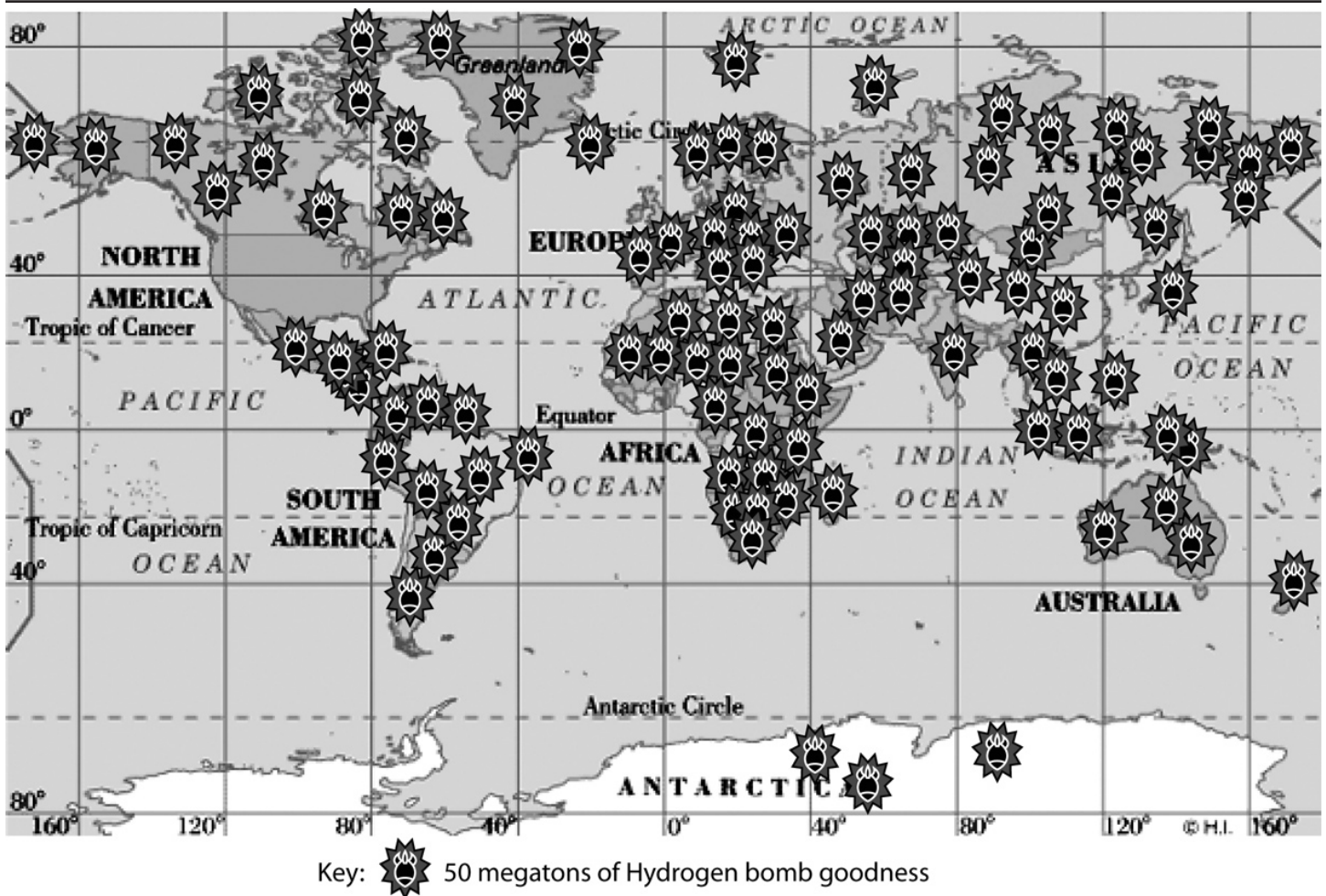
France

In a rapid turn of events, France has released a statement hinting that it might consider vetoing a U.N. resolution jointly supported by the United States and Britain. French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin revealed to the press Thursday that unless the United Kingdom agreed to "play fair" and stop its citizens from "being rude" diplomatic action might be considered. French officials in a separate press conference added that if the United States cloned Jerry Lewis and appointed him as a diplomat to France, relations could return to normal and France would stop bluffing about threatening to block the proposed resolution immediately. In response to French demands, Prime Minister Tony Blair told the French to "grow up" and "start acting like a real country." President Bush responded by asking where France was located, if bin Laden or Saddam Hussein agents could be there, and if troops would be necessary to free the French people from Hussein's dictatorship.

Congo

Friends, there is severe shortage of historically accurate representations of American Civil War brutality. One must recognize the U.S. need for tacit racism in the guise of "ancestral tribute," and that need must be addressed correctly. Will we as a great nation continue to allow groups such as The Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Emma Sansom Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose to butcher American history by using blank ammunition? Will we allow the War of Northern Aggression to be reduced to a pageant, a veritable Mikado, enacted by drunken hillbillies clad in crude homemade livery?

We must usher in a new reality. A reality in rolling hills of flaxen farmland, in which there are no pulled punches, and the phrase "collateral damage" does not exist. America must hearken back to a simpler time,



a great time, when any chap with a capital saw was a surgeon, and any fellow with a stump oozing laudable puss was on the mend. Alas, one must have gangrene for an amputation. And one must have a real wound, made by real weapons, for gangrenous infections. Infections, it seems, are the real casualty here. With the dearth of dead bodies and the presence of sanitary portable toilets, the spread of authentic infectious disease at modern Civil War reenactments is negligible. You'd be lucky to catch a cold. And I ask you this: Is a war without Cholera truly a war? Nay.

Therefore, it is in the best interest of the United States to invade Congo, remove its population to Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland, and force them to continue their civil war efforts while reenacting ours.

Painted in whiteface, wielding fully-functional period weaponry, and employing classic battle stratagem, brave warriors of Congo (and surrounding belligerent countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi) would bring the American Civil War into the present with the glorious gusto it deserves. Imagine

Antietam, rendered in its true resplendence. Lee against McClellan, Burnside, Meade, Jackson... Jean-Pierre Ondekane! Members of the Rwandan backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), and Uganda's Movement for Congolese Liberation (MLC) would don the Gray of Confederacy against the Tutsi-Marxist pseudo-dictatorship Blue of President Laurent Desire Kabila. Brother against brother, father against son, Tutsi versus Hutu versus Moderate Hutu versus Tutsi-Turned-Hutu, Banyamulenge against Interahamwe, Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) against Union of Republican Nationalists for Liberation (URNL). All of this, live on the newly designated H2-0 (History Channel 2) network, 24/7, with nightly commentary by FOX News and Trent Lott. Laurent Kabila will of course portray beleaguered President Abraham Lincoln and shall sign the Emancipation Proclamation, whereupon a cadre of pro-government Mai Mai (bands of traditional warriors who fight naked and believe that bullets cannot harm them) storm the battleground and offer Cannabis to the disarmed survivors, grateful for liberating them from the cruelty of their "white" masters. American specta-

tors would be encouraged to launch siege mortars and fire the hand-cranked Gatling guns at the lot, doing their part for America by fighting the Wars on Drugs, Terror, and Overpopulation at the same time.

Vietnam

So we can get a good Robin Williams movie. All we ask for is one.

Vatican City

For the porn.

Kuwait

The Kuwaiti government is responsible for numerous human rights abuses. Police physically abuse detainees and prisoners with impunity¹, although they are more likely to do so with non-Kuwaiti than they are with citizens. This would be considerably less alarming were it not that the Government officially regards its approximately 80,000 Bidoon residents as non-Kuwaiti, refusing to include them in census rolls. They are denied government jobs and free education, and are often denied travel documents. Bidoon who leave the country are many times refused reentry, and this doesn't take into account the many Bidoon that the government tries to deport every year. Freedom of religion is unknown in Kuwait: "The Government prohibits Muslims from converting to other religions. The law prohibits religious education for religions other than Islam... The Government does not permit the establishment of non-Islamic publishing companies or training institutions for clergy."¹

A significantly worse problem is the abuse of foreign women working as domestic servants, which are unprotected by the Labor Law. Reports continue that employers and coworkers abuse and rape these women, driving dozens to suicide or attempted suicide.

Uruguay

For making us confuse it with Paraguay

Turkey

At the end of the first World War, the Ottoman Empire was split into several new states, the largest being Turkey. This may have been in an effort to keep the Soviet Union from gaining control over the Middle

East. In order to keep a strong Turkey, the Allied powers had Russia withdraw from the northeastern part of modern Turkey, and the rest was decided by the Turkish Independence War.

But now that Russia is no longer a threat to international peace, we would do well to redefine Turkey along national boundaries. With the Hellenists in the west and the Kurds in the east, and the Russians in the north, it must be seen that Turkey is the state that is causing the real instability in the region.

We must liberate the provinces of Thrace, Mysia, and Bithynia, and amalgamate them into the nation of Byzantium. Pontus shall be allowed to remain as part of Turkey. We must liberate Kurdistan from Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. We must reinstate the northeastern Turkish boundary with the Russian states from before the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. And finally, Byzantium must share the administration of the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles with Russia.

This would quell many issues of contention. The patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox church would no longer be besieged by infidels, and the religion would be allowed to flourish. The Kurds would finally have a state, after seeking one for over a millennium. Russia's national boundaries would be restored, and they would get that warm water port that they've wanted for eons.

On this last point, a bit of history is appropriate: Russia's history is defined by their attempts to get a warm-water port. After the reign of Peter the Great, Russia made several attempts to open their markets up to the western world. Russia declared war on Sweden in the Great Northern War of 1655-1661, the Ottoman Empire in the Crimean War of 1854-1856, Korea in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, The Ottoman Empire again in World War I, and Korea again in the Korean War of 1950-1953.

If Russia had had a warm water port, it is likely that the Bolshevik Revolution would never have happened, as the revolution began as a reaction to the Russo-Japanese War.

Plus, Izmir would be in Byzantium, so Mahir would no longer be the Turkish Stud.

¹ <http://www.usis.usemb.se/human/2001/neareast/kuwait.html>

Paraguay

For making us confuse it with Uruguay

Quebec

The “Province” of Quebec has held the remainder of the potentially glorious nation of Canada under its tyrannical rule for far too long. Apart from breaking away from the proud Canadian tradition of humility, they have forced the entire Nation to kowtow to their ridiculous Francophonic notion. The fact that every single product entering or leaving Canada has to be in both French and English – simply due to the childish whims of only one-quarter of the nation² - is insanity defined.

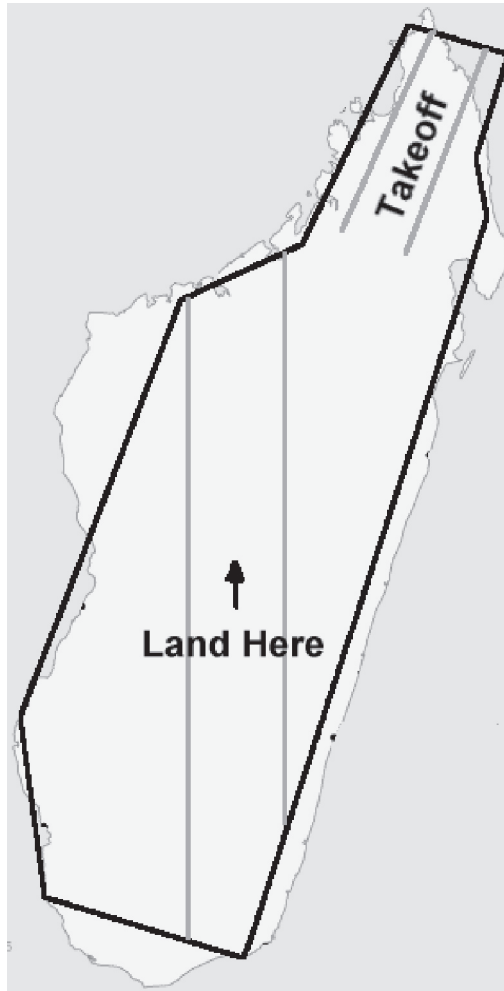
In short, we Freedom Loving Americans must remove the Quebecois-led repression from the Great Nation of Canada.

Sri Lanka

For looking like it's part of India when it's not.

Brunei

The Sultan of Brunei has been flagrantly thumbing his nose at the international community for over 15 years, amassing massive reserves of powerful prestige and racing automobiles in a country slightly smaller than Delaware. Satellite imagery has confirmed the existence of at least four royal major garage complexes, believed to hold at least 5,000 automobiles including 8 McLaren F1's, 6 Dauer 962 LM's, 2 Jaguar XJR-15's, 3 Cizeta V16T's, 1 Lamborghini Diablo Jota, as well as all of the Formula One championship-winning race cars since 1980³. CIA sources⁴ have also implicated the Sultanate in the proliferation of custom and “concept” vehicles, including the only right-hand-



drive CLK-GTR in the world, functional models of the Bentley Java and Ferrara Mythos, the Ferrari FX, and suspects it to have developed a classified Bentley/Range Rover hybrid known as the “Dominator”. The Sultan is clearly a threat to the freedom of both the American and Bruneian peoples and must be removed from power immediately – by quick, decisive, and recklessly bloodthirsty military action if at all possible. Operation: Joyride to Freedom will simultaneously liberate Brunei and increase regional stability by removing the existing government in favor of a skeleton crew

of American peacekeepers, while at the same time winning the hearts and minds of the Bruneian people by carpet-bombing their country with heretofore unnecessary humanitarian aid packets indistinguishable from unexploded cluster munitions. All efforts will be taken to avoid collateral damage to any structures believed to house photogenic, pro-U.S. civilians or valuable sports cars. A number of prominent American firms have already volunteered to participate in the rebuilding of Brunei's 9.5 million tonne/year oil industry⁵ once the country has been bombed into the proper conditions of extreme poverty, degradation, and educational deficiency befitting the common western stereotype of an Islamic state.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Devil is a known terrorist.

Madagascar

The carrier of the future must have a life span greater than 50 years. This indicates something about the current carrier fleet – many of them are getting pretty old. For example, the aging USS Kitty Hawk was commissioned in 1961⁶. There were rumors its

² <http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~agenhtml/agenmc/canada/speak.html>

³ <http://autozine.kyul.net/article/brunei/sultan.htm>

⁴ <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/bx.html>

⁵ <http://www.tradepartners.gov.uk/oilandgas/brunei/profile/overview.shtml>

⁶ <http://www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/details/CV63.htm>

decommission would be coming in 2002, and the ship is showing some age. The USS Constellation is due to be decommissioned soon, and it was also launched in the '60's. What then, of America's largest aircraft carrier, Great Britain? The British have graciously allowed us to use their country as an aircraft carrier since 1939. This carrier is so old that it can not even move! It is with this in mind that I propose the United States usher in the new era in carrier development by deploying Madagascar as our new flagship aircraft carrier.

Madagascar has over twice the carrier surface as Great Britain, and much of it is clear, flat space⁷. Its shape is also much more friendly towards current carrier design methods.

Ireland

So we can put the snakes back in.

Mexico

Mexicans are constantly seeking asylum from their ruthless dictatorship in the United States, forcing us to patrol our borders and threaten to build a really big wall. We could save a great deal of money by liberating Mexico and allowing U.S. corporations to avoid all the hassle of having to go outside the country to find a cheap labor source.

India/Pakistan

Besides being so similar as to be barely differentiable from one another, India and Pakistan have funded and harbored terrorists for decades. Both nations have developed weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and have often threatened the use of these weapons on each other. Human rights are an imaginary abstraction in Kashmir as militant groups battle each other by bombing civilians. India and Pakistan have already been involved in three wars since their independence from Great Britain, one in 1947, another in 1965, and again in 1971. Most recently, they were involved in a standoff in 2001, when nuclear war was fortuitously averted.

It is clear these nations are incapable of seeking peaceful resolutions to their conflict – which, like most conflicts of the second half of the twentieth century and beyond, stems from the artificial boundaries drawn by the British and retained after their empire fell. Although

⁷After we nuke the mountains down into glass-floored, self-lighting parking lots.

they have not declared war on each other in over thirty years, it could happen at any moment, and the U.S. needs to prevent such an atrocity from taking place by invading all of South Asia. Only under the auspices of a strong and benevolent nation will peace flourish in these two countries. Rudyard Kipling said so, after all.

Switzerland

For being so goddamned neutral.

Great Britain

England is responsible for most of the conflicts of our time, and they're currently in the process of riding America's coattails back into Empire. It's obvious they're only interested in aiding our war on Iraq (and soon Syria) so they can reconquer some of their former holdings. To say openly would simply be uncouth, and thus Tony Blair is pretending it's really about terrorism and all that, eh what? We should invade them now before they realize America used to be a British colony, too, and decide to fight the War on Terrorism by getting us back for that Tea Party thing a few years back.

Plus, their food sucks and their sense of humor is incomprehensible.

Georgia

For stealing the name of our state. Oh, and to protect their sorry asses from Russia.

Saudi Arabia

Ah, Saudi Arabia, birthplace of the Arabian Empire, the Prophet Mohammad, and Osama bin Laden. Home to state supported terrorists, a corrupt government that impinges on the basic rights of its people with impunity, and a dictatorial madman seeking to dominate the rest of the Middle East – and why not get the U.S. to help? Saudi Arabia, *where One Thousand One Arabian Nights* was written, where Disney's *Aladdin* takes place, where fanatical religious secret police torture foreigners and execute non-Muslims. Saudi Arabia, in which resides countless priceless historical treasures, and if we invade I can get in on some of the looting.

Guyana

If we can't "liberate" them, we'll make them

drink Kool-Aid.

Morocco

To make Sam play it again.

Australia

Australia needs to be punished severely for not properly containing Paul Hogan. Loosing him on America was quite possibly the worst act of terror in history.

Texas

The American public should demand the removal of the horrific dictators of Texas who have decreed that breastfeeding is pornographic and thus, illegal⁸. The mere fact that such a natural act as breastfeeding could be legislated against is a miscarriage of justice and evidence of a corrupt and false government. And so, it should become clear that it is vital to U.S. and global interests to remove this Francophonic threat.

Tibet

We can free it, then conquer it.

Detroit, MI

They can form their own country and have their own "National" hockey league. Maybe then their team can get past the first round.

Flint, MI

So we can make Michael Moore king of it.

Ah hell, the rest of Michigan

It's not like there's anything besides Grand Rapids left to go after anyway.

Germany

For too long the Germans have been under-worked and overpaid. The tyranny over vacation time must stop. They work a 36-hour week and have 6 weeks off a year. And for what? A few thousand Kraut-mobiles sold at excessive prices and with ridiculous names such as Tuareg and Kompressor. Like using a K makes them so much more amazingly special than the domestic cars we buy. Ever since the lazy West Germans took control of the last hard working communists in the country, all hell has broken loose. At least it would if the country weren't busy sitting around doing nothing. It's with this in mind that we absolutely must liberate the Germans from their own slothful selves.

Mordor

Peter Jackson and Steven Spielberg can fight over the movie rights for the "War is bad" docudrama.

Puerto Rico/Guam/Virgin Islands

To remind them that they're still our bitches.

Iceland

Björk.

Grenada

Because we can.

⁸ <http://www.kuro5hin.org/story/2003/4/19/23560/3126>

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre: Not a 12 Step Program

SUBMIT

gdt@hellskitchen.org



The Magic Wondershow

The Ballad of Magna Carta, or Resistance unto tyrants is obedience to God...

By Sean J. Stanley

Woe is the world, dear readers!
Woe, indeed.

Alas, alack a day, the Chair of Rhetoric has fallen!

Once the most revered position in a university, it is gone, replaced with ineffectual, diluted versions of its former self, catering to an impetuous mercantile culture that doesn't give a damn about anything. The last bastion of hope for this gruesome wanton generation has succumbed to the onslaught of mediocre scholarship. Rhetoric and philosophy were once woven together into a sublime marriage of high thought and (sometimes low) discourse, always provocative, seldom forgotten. Forensic debate was the core of university life, sparking true and meaningful intellectual rivalry, a far cry from the Final Four madness that swept the country as thousands of men sailed thousands of miles to kill in the name of peace. In the last two decades, college entry requirements in many schools have been reduced to a laughable minimum; some schools couldn't compete financially, others adjusted in order to accommodate the dim-witted basketball hopefuls who squander their educational opportunity to go pro.

This is not racism. I have statistics.

A recent NCAA report found that though 60 percent of athletes at Division 1 schools graduate in six years, only slightly more than 40 percent of black male athletes graduate¹. After the game, as the lumbering buffoons stumble out of sports bars to tip over cars and set trashcans on fire, I wonder how many think of the Supreme Court case that will soon shape Affirmative Action, and the college players who have prospered as a result. But I digress.

Weighing the import of "workplace skills" against the lofty goal of a "balanced education," uni-

versities have adopted "communication" as the catch-all mantle for what rhetoric used to be. Ostensibly put forth to teach students the value of persuasion, argument, and writing, it does little to foster any of these, usually reduced to photocopied readings and a term paper. A recent visit to a Professional Communication class found me sitting through five-minute presentations on the history of favorite sports, complete with Powerpoint presentations. Parents and administrators emphasize marketable technical skills; poor grades, abominable writing, and even lesser discussion performance in communication classes are often looked over. This is wrong. Fostering a generation that lacks a sense of history, an understanding of philosophy, and an awareness of aesthetic is wrong. These universities are doing more harm than good, to say the least about the educated citizens they purport to produce.

I know this from what I see. Since leaving RIT, I've found employment at the Johns Hopkins University, arguably one of the most prestigious schools in the country, if not the world. With an annual budget in the billions of dollars, it is the largest employer in Maryland, and the single largest recipient of federal research funds. And rightly so. Hopkins faculty in both the university and the teaching hospital are top in their field, garnering numerous awards and producing a steady stream of innovations each year. The president of JHU, Dr. William Brody, was part of the team that invented the MRI. Still, walking through the hallways, I'm ever reminded that a college education is by no means a litmus of intelligence. Liberal kids here protest anything and everything they see, in the hopes that the rally will lead to the obligatory drum and/or smoking circle after the event.

Right on, dude, right on.

Most would be hard pressed to suggest an alternative to this conflict, other than emphasizing the failure of diplomacy and democracy as a whole. I applaud their efforts for peace, however I'm sickened by their lack of skill in debate, and the general absence of a solid alternative. Their laziness in preparation for such a conflict results in bad press, cannon fodder for loud conservative pundits. And conservatives are no better. This morning, amidst the standard, vague "war is bad" college angst posters on the walls, I came across an ad for the College Republicans in which Edmund Burke

¹ <http://www.thehutchinsonreport.com/010103feature.htm>

(British statesman, parliamentary orator and political thinker) was quoted:

“The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

This is the definitive crux of many secular-conservative arguments for the war. It begs the question, why Hussein? Why not any number of oppressive dictators operating *carte blanche* in a variety of similar desert hellholes? Millions die each year in these vast political black holes. Some are hastily murdered by genocidal despots while the rest die slowly as the same dictators struggle to stem the outbreaks of Malaria, AIDS, and Tuberculosis because their hospital needs have been eclipsed by the needs of their paltry arsenals.

Famine: Eating disorder popular with many African adolescents.

Why not the Suharto dictatorship, who's control over East Timor (Thanks, Dr. Kissinger!) has resulted in over 400,000 dead². Or perhaps, the ever acerbic and mass murdering Robert Mugabe, who recently compared himself to Adolf Hitler at the state funeral of one of his cabinet ministers,

“I am still the Hitler of the time. This Hitler has only one objective, justice for his own people, sovereignty for his people, recognition of the independence of his people, and their right to their resources. If that is Hitler, then let me be a Hitler tenfold. Ten times, that is what we stand for.”³

The golden age of friendly dictators seems to have passed, but there are still pockets of subtle and/or overt American influence, especially in countries that sit astride large oil repositories. A prime example of this is Venezuela, who's own democratically elected president Hugo Chavez was almost ousted in a two-day military coup in 2002, his major opposition taking their cues from the US oil industry. Their ties to the Bush administration - in the form of National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice, vice-president Dick Cheney

and President Bush himself - have been well documented⁴.

Why?

WHY!

We shout and we shout and we whisper and we cry and we fear the day the rockets will fly over our heads. We try not to think about the pneumonia that is not just killing old people anymore.

Why not Congo or Uganda or Burma? Why do good men cast their eyes away from the 35 million people killed⁵ since 1949 in Chinese politicide? Is it the American need for Old Navy Low Rise Boot Cut Jeans? The thriving pirate cinema industry?

Blood Diamonds are forever!

Blood Chocolate tastes better!

How much blood will we spill for our own commerce? How many bodies must fall out of flaming buildings before we ask ourselves as a nation what is truly important, global stability, or the vanity of our careless lifestyle. The events of 9/11 did not happen because we were not prepared or secure enough; they occurred because a fat nation forgot that the strife of the poor and the dying can swiftly become anger and determination. We deserved it because we don't care. We don't care about NAFTA, the WTO, or the IMF. We don't care about most-favored nations, closed-door back-scratching, plausible deniability, and “arrangements that will be mutually beneficial to both our companies....” We still don't care. We want reality programming, but please don't show us dead bodies on teevee because that would just ruin our fat American day. If you drive a car, you support terrorism. If you pay your taxes, you support terrorism. If you question the actions of your government, you are a traitor and a terrorist, fit to fry with the Rosenbergs in a well-worn Texas electric chair.

Yes, I'm afraid the Chair of Rhetoric has fallen. Fallen from our schools, fallen from our communities,

² <http://www.etan.org/>

³ *'Hitler' Mugabe launches revenge terror attacks*, by Peta Thornycroft in Harare. (Filed: 26/03/2003) Daily Telegraph.

⁴ <http://www.chavezthefilm.com/html/backgrd/oil.htm>

⁵ <http://www.genocidewatch.org/genocidetable.htm>

⁶ Here are just a few instances in the bible when the Lord condones, encourages, or commands war or warlike behavior: Exodus 17:13, Exodus 21:20-21, Exodus 32:27, Numbers 21:35, Numbers 25:4, Deuteronomy 2:33-34, Deuteronomy 20:13-14, the book of Joshua, the book of Judges.

fallen from our homes. Homes where the outdated and irrelevant “Wisdom” of ancient texts fills the moral void that rhetoric once provided. Fear terrorism. Fear iconoclastic discussion. Fear peace. Fear God. Unfortunately for us:

Jews are irrelevant. Fuck the Jews.

Moslems are irrelevant. Fuck the Muslims.

Christians are irrelevant. Fuck the Christians.

You got us into this mess, please take a moment to get us out of it.

The above invective is directed equally, not to curtail backlash from any particular group against yours truly or the publication this appears in, but to make a serious point. I need not mention the pantheon of brutality condoned by the Bible⁶; in addition to the various smitings, human (sometimes just the virgins) sacrifices, many Biblical campaigns have been waged under the auspices of “The Word of God.” This would seem to indicate that the Lord loves a good knife fight. Take, for example, 1 Samuel 18:27, in which:

“David rose up and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. So Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife.”

According to the bible, two hundred foreskins are redeemable for a wife of noble lineage. I wonder why don’t we see more Mohel’s running about with princesses and supermodels? One would think that 200 foreskins would at least secure the favors of a lesser nobility, Sarah Ferguson or Princess Tatjana of Liechtenstein.

The Koran gives instructions on how to wipe your ass.

With stones.

Under theocratic doctrine, anything is possible if framed in the correct context, thus the Chair of Rhetoric has become a gilded throne. It is a throne for the greatest masters of persuasion - the preachers and zealots who command others to their deaths. Such is

the violent, simplistic way of theocracy, which stymies its secular opposition with guilt for asking why.

Why?

Protesting the war is not just an expression of concern for policies that may seem unfair or unjust, it more importantly demonstrates the use of one’s own intellectual capacity to arrive at an inimitable personal conclusion.

If the obvious moral arguments to war fail to persuade you, perhaps a brief fiscal note will raise an eyebrow. I submit to you that the war on Iraq, war on any other country even, is not a sound investment. 78 billion dollars could do far more than depose a dictatorial regime. It could liberate America forever. 78 billion dollars spent in the right places could establish a variety of alternate fuel technologies that would render us independent of any foreign oil interests. A clean-burning hydrogen fuel economy could easily be established with that much money. Or if we’re still hell bent on ecological destruction, a New York based company has discovered a method of converting ANY carbon based material into usable fuel oil and petrochemicals, ranging from gasoline to plastics⁷. It’s called Thermo-Depolymerization Processing and it works like this: Trash/waste/sewage goes in one end, oil comes out the other. If we established TDP plants across the country, we could turn our shit into Shine-o-la, literally. Shine-o-la, Penzoil, and Exxon Pure-Premium while we’re at it. Imagine how US foreign policy would change if we could take the 10 billion we give Israel each year and put it towards something useful. Because we don’t need them anymore. We don’t need any of them, so we can sit back and watch them kill one another. If God loves a knife fight, and America is a Nation under God we trust, then we should relish watching the primitive fools of the Middle East tear themselves to pieces over a few shreds of desert and some dead dinosaurs.

But we don’t care. We don’t read magazines about science. We don’t wonder what we’re leaving for our children and grandchildren. I support our troops. I’m cynical enough to understand that we need them. But I pity their wretched souls. Not for their chosen lot in life, but for the illusions sold to them in the form of Honor, Duty, and American Freedom. Those who fight

⁷ <http://www.changingworldtech.com/>

and those who die, do so for a dream that hasn't been alive in America for decades. They fight for a nation who's inalienable and God given rights are seldom used. They die for a populous that does not think. I am simultaneously intrigued and unsettled by the fact that the mindless majority of Americans fight vehemently for their right not to think. We will drink Pepsi. We will want our Babyback Ribs. We will allow single minded corporate conglomerates to slowly erode our privacy, whilst preventing the free exchange of information. We will just do it.

We will not vote.

The blood of patriots has refreshed not the tree of liberty, but the shrub of complacency.

The obituary should read:

Killed in action for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Killed in action. He loved his MTV

Killed in action, watch edited footage on CNN, see it raw on Al Jazeera.

Shot down. He loved NFL football.

Missing in action. But he'll be ok because he's an Army of One.

Prisoner of War. Rescued. Can't wait to sink his teeth into a Big Mac.

If you're a soldier, or a family member of a soldier, ask yourself this:

Do you really want to die for dumbass America?

If you do, please, I beg you,

Tell me why.



SUBMIT TO

NEF

AND TAKE
THE NEXT
STEP IN
PRIMATE
EVOLUTION

gdt@hellskitchen.org

Weather Report
Alexander Brazie

Hey friend
You'll never believe
What they said today

The warm weather is here to stay
There will be a bright sun
Clear skies and no wind

The people will come play again
The hacky-sack guys will form lines
The mathy guys will quit making splines

The giant yellow ball will roll a new
The barbeques will start and blaze
The people will laugh and gaze

The girls will smile,
This guys will wave,
Everyone loves a happy summer day

When the sky becomes warm,
A simple hope fills the air
That thing everyone can share

Past and present no longer conjoined
The go players will laugh and shout
The musicians will sing and turn about

The kindly ice cream lady says hi,
The poster hangers share in the delights
As photographers leave to snap the sights

Yes its going to be merry,
Yes its going to be bright,
Lets all gather under the warm sunlight.

Is Fractal a Form?
By Peter C. Gravelle

If I close the form
will I close my mind?
Become no better than a empty rind?
Become small, weak and infirm?

Lost my form. Lost my mind
Without I find a limited term

infirm mind find form

Brown Shoes and a Pack
Alexander Brazie

The sound of a solitary traveller
Echoed in the night
His shoes were brown and worn
His toes reflecting the moonlight

With a warm earthy pack
And thick leather coat
He walked briskly
As though he had naught to think about

Yet in his mind a million dreams
Boiled and brewed each day
His shoulders bearing his possessions
As the clock of his life ticked away

The traveller saw the coasts
The traveller crossed the sands
He climbed a few mountains
He visited many lands

Yet in the end there was no home
No place to call his own
Just a worn and beaten pair of shoes
And the pack he wore as he walked alone

p o e t r y

SG Elections: A PR Non-Entity

By Peter C. Gravelle

I'm holding a piece of shiny and colorful cardboard in my hand. This cardboard shard was distributed by RIT's Student Government on April Ninth of this year. Why, for fuck's sake, do I care when this accursed leaflet was distributed? Well, among other things, this piece of paper publicizes the RIT Student Government Presidential Debates. The debates that took place on April Seventh and Ninth.

What I notice about the preceding paragraph is the complete and utter lack of planning or sanity involved in this PR campaign. How am I, Joe RITLuser supposed to hear the candidates' views?

Worry not, for I can go online! The two official candidates' position papers are available at www.sg.rit.edu. And this write-in candidate I keep hearing about, how am I supposed to hear from them? Well, I found out from the RIT LiveJournal community (www.livejournal.com/~rit) that they have a website at sg.aphexonline.com.

So, I, the enterprising young RIT geek, head to these websites. The official candidates have their position papers on the SG website. In 6 point font. Once my eyes adjusted to the 5 pixel high fonts, I read a whole bunch of, "Hi, my name is Janey Sue, and I'd like to be SG President so I can get into grad school, or something. And I think that being mean to people is bad, and I want to help the students," and a whole bunch of other, non-specific, non-controversial babble. Maybe I'm just a jaded GDT writer, but I want a candidate with some *cojones*. So I ran off to the write-in candidate's website. And was greeted by a friendly, "You haven't

yet sold your soul to Macromedia, you fucking commie. Click OK to download a browser that comes attached to your operating system," message. Pardon

me for using Open Source and otherwise Free software (and I'm not talking about cost). So I revisited the site today in MSIE. I find a site designed in Macromedia Flash, a wonderful and powerful medium for animations over the web, without motion. That's right kids, not only did they attempt to hide their message behind proprietary software, but they didn't even use said software for its intended or best purpose.

Now, where am I? I'm stuck being uninformed on the nature of the candidates, just like everyone else. And yet again, Student Government has become nothing more than a popularity contest. But, you know what, I'm okay with that, because all a leader needs is the popular vote, right? Someone without the popular vote would have no mandate to rule with, so they'd be a sitting duck in office. Quack quack.

I have also noticed several people advocating voting for a plant. In particular, a ficus tree. I do like ficus trees. Their leaves are so shiny, and their trunks are so twisty. How can you go wrong with a ficus tree?

Of course, in all likelihood, that's who you voted for, right -- either your friend, or a ficus tree. Like my Dad always said: "Democracy: its a dirty, messy, horrible way of government. But everything else is infinitely worse."



LETTERS

Editor's Note: Letters received by *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* are not edited for spelling, grammar, blah blah blah.

Date: Sat, 19 Apr 2003 02:55:22 -0400 (EDT)

From: Alex Moundalexis

Subject: My two cents.

To the tenacious GDT staff,

When I resigned as Editor of GDT, a part of me wanted it to fail. Many who lead like to believe that the success of their organization is dependant on them. It makes us feel important, powerful, and that we're needed. Of course, that part of me is fairly shortsighted.

Despite being on hiatus, over the past quarter I've found myself enjoying the mix of composite images, sequential illustrations, cover art, as well as the articles. I know what goes into publishing a weekly magazine, especially one that has to overcome many different obstacles, and I'm really glad that so many of you rose to the challenge.

Put the pedal to the floor.

Alex Moundalexis

P.S. The bank keeps sending me bounced checks from GDT purchases. What do you want me to do with them?



Publisher: C. Diablo

Editors:

Dan Conley
Gary Hoffmann
Pete Lazarski

Layout:

Adam Fletcher

Writers:

Adam Preble
Matthew Denker
Andrew A. Gill
Peter C. Gravelle

Sean J. Stanley
Brad Conrad

Visuals:

Chris Muller
Bob Rutan

Contributors:

Alex Brazie

Printer Daemons:

Ed Brannin
Ray Wallace
Josh Brown

Musical Inspiration:

Saddam and Osama gettin' jiggy wit' it in Damascus

© 2003 Gracies Dinnertime Theatre. Don't reprint the contents of this publication without permission; that's stealing. All the work remains copyright the Authors, bitch.



Contact us at gdt@hellskitchen.org or by regular mail at:

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre
92 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604