

FAIRFIELD PREP

ZEITGEIST

"THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES"

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"You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION Presidio of San Francisco, California April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF ~~MUSLIM~~ JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

A Short Opinion Piece on Don't Ask Don't Tell

By Miles Steinert Class of 2012

"In reality, there are no biblical literalists, only selective literalists. By abolishing slavery and ordaining women, millions of Protestants have gone far beyond biblical literalism. It's time we did the same for homophobia."

-William Sloane Coffin



Don't Ask Don't Tell, it seems somewhat innocent in name but in reality it turns out that gays encounter the same witch hunt type persecution that Muslims are experiencing and other minority groups have dealt with in the past. How the Don't Ask Don't Tell system manifests itself most commonly is in the form of social revenge. For example, if there is someone who does not like another person in the armed forces often they go through their personal lives, find out that they are gay and get them kicked out. Cases of officers going through personal email and other private communications have been reported. It comes to the point where people are getting thrown out of the military for an extremely private issue that someone would need to go through their personal communications to even find out about!

There are instances where a person has qualities that they have no control over but affect their performance in the army such as color blindness or some other physical handicap. Homosexuality is not something that interferes with one's performance in the military; the simple fact that officers can't recognize gays without being told proves this.

So why don't we start accepting minorities instead of following the same pattern as with women and blacks and many other groups in the past? Obama's nominee to lead the marines says that repealing the law could hurt morale and stifle religious liberties (religious liberties references the reading of parts of the bible concerning gays). The definition of morale is: the confidence, enthusiasm, and discipline of a person or group at a particular time. So let me get this straight, if we start treating gay people equally the confidence level and enthusiasm in the military will be hurt? The discipline will be affected? Really? What bad things do you think people will do when they realize that the US government now treats them equally? And as for religious liberties, with all due respect, I think you should stop worrying about if the rights of the American Christians to read their book will be affected and look how you restrict the rights of the Muslim and Gay communities!

Editors Note: On October 12, 2010, a federal judge issued an injunction stopping the enforcement of Don't Ask Don't Tell, ending the 17-year old ban on gay troops

The Modern American Dream

By Dan Welch Class of 2012



If you were to be asked, at random, as I am asking you right now, what the nature of “The American Dream” is, how would you answer? Take a minute and *really* formulate that thought. While you do that, I’ll tell you a story.

Early this September, there was a great deal of press concerning The Grand Design, a book co-authored by renowned physicist Stephen Hawking. Of particular note was the fact that Hawking stated that, due to the advancements in M-Theory, he could confidently say that there is no need for God to exist. Specifically, that *“it is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going.”*

As I mentioned, there was a good amount of attention surrounding Hawking, or at least enough to gain some press. Even then, it only lasted for about half a week. The idea that the universe could have willed itself into existence, while its enormity is intimidating, isn’t exactly anything new. Hawking doesn’t even completely *block out* the possibility of God; he simply argues that in the presence of greater scientific understanding, He isn’t the only way to fill in the blanks anymore. All in all, this doesn’t sound like it should generate a whole lot of controversy.

- *"God did NOT create the Universe," says Stephen Hawking. To which God replied, "enjoy your chair"*

(@suicidecharlie)

- *It would seem Stephen Hawking's reason for no God is 'Just because'...Because it's all random & we have physics laws there is no God, hmm ok*

(@fififif)

- *When Stephen Hawking dies he can tell God how He never created the universe.*

(@MichaelMeyers)

- *If u really belive what Stephen Hawking says...then do us all a favor n go drink bleach!!*

(@DaOneMulatto)

These people are not politicians. They are not famous or rich. These are the people dreaming the American Dream, or at least our current incarnation of it. If you are not disturbed by this, at least a little bit, then that only means that you’re dreaming it too.

The week after the news had come and gone, as it is wont to do, was the 9th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade center. Every year there is sadness and tension as we remember those we’ve lost, as there should be. What absolutely should not belong is misdirected hatred, especially against Muslims.

*Politics, it seems to me,
for years, or all too long,
has been concerned with
right or left instead of
right or wrong.*

-Richard Armour



“Objective journalism and an opinion column are about as similar as the Bible and Playboy magazine.”

-Walter Cronkite

With every war, there is resentment against U.S. Citizens with connection to the enemy. One only needs to look at the Japanese internment camps of World War II to understand what I’m talking about. Things get more confusing when we are not fighting a specific nation, but a terrorist group such as Al Qaeda. The characteristic its members share that seems least vague is that they are Muslims. That is the label we give them: Islamic Fundamentalists. Because it is becoming harder to distinguish between civilians and enemy combatants, we tend to have a general wariness of Muslim-Americans.

I’m sure that you’ve heard about the so-called “Ground-Zero Mosque.” Any person who has cared to do their research knows that, 1) it is not on Ground-Zero, but several blocks away, and 2) it is not a mosque, but a Community Center aimed towards Muslims. Strangely, I can’t imagine that the “Islamic Community Center near Ground-Zero” would sound nearly as catchy.

But that’s the problem, really. “The News” isn’t really the news anymore, in some cases *literally*. Last year, Fox News basically chastised its critics for presuming that its more controversial (and popular) programs would actually be considered viable sources of news, and not simply “entertainment.” Yes, I should hope that a functioning individual is able to discern that Glenn Beck is nowhere near “fair and balanced,” but the point is that *they shouldn’t have to*. On either side, the people expressing the most extreme opinions have been awarded the most attention. Yes, there is a time for radicalism. Take Edward R. Murrow’s criticism of McCarthyism in the 50’s: this was a genuine effort to combat injustice using the news media, despite the fact that it could have cost Murrow everything. And in the end, the truth won out, and Goliath did tumble. What we, ideally, should have no time for is sensationalism and stupidity.

We tend to dignify absurdities in this beautiful nation of ours. In the absence of any true heroes, we try to find a villain for us to hate, so that *we* can be the hero. We find it more and more difficult to find unity in Love and Compassion, so instead we find it in criticism and loathing. The amount of people who took Terry Jones’ 9-11 “Burn a Koran Day” seriously pales in comparison to the people who thought he was just an idiot looking for his fifteen minutes of fame. Half of his congregation left, yes, and now his parish is going to go bankrupt paying back the security costs for the cancelled event. He ultimately failed. But damned if one way or another, he didn’t *still get* his fifteen minutes. Everybody was so focused on calling him an ignorant bigot, but at the same time pointing out that he still has the right to burn whatever the hell he wants that we didn’t realize that we are contributing to the problem. We shouldn’t be using this man as a way to justify ourselves to our peers. Or at least we shouldn’t feel that we *need* to.

So is that *it*? Is *that* the American dream? That you can have everything you ever wanted if you sacrifice your dignity and humanity? The joke is that the people who get the most press aren’t the ones we admire. They’re the Paris Hiltons, the Snooki’s, the Pastors Jones, and the Glenn Becks. Even Stephen Hawking, one of the most intelligent men in history ends up being made fun of by Internet bullies he’s never met because he has to use a wheelchair.

Maybe it's just been a rough month for all of us. We're living in uncertain times, and our enemies could be hiding anywhere. But then again, haven't we always been? And when you really think about it, we can always find bogeymen, provided we look hard enough. So yes, perhaps what I'm saying has no real relevance, and the concentration of these events was pure coincidence.

Or maybe there's something fundamentally wrong with America. *Our* America. In the age of Facebook and Twitter, we find that we have to hyper-compress full, elaborate stories into headlines in order to be heard. Now that we have hundreds of channels on our televisions, we find that we aren't restricted to the mere *objective* truth anymore. That's just not *interesting*. You see, it's really a scary world out there, and all I want to do is stay within the bubble of *my* truth, where I know it's safe and warm. And that's my God-given right as an American.



North Korean Succession

By Kevin Westfahl Class of 2012



We heard that when the Young General (Kim Jong-Un) was young, he was admired by everyone who met him for his intelligence and good personality."

-Citizen of Pyongyang

North Korea is currently in a very unusual situation with their longtime dictator Kim Jong-Il not being in good health and announcing that his son Kim Jong-un will take control of the country very shortly. This is not only a North Korean issue over new policies but it is especially important to the United States who has been trying to stop North Korea from creating their own nuclear facilities that can lead to the creation of nuclear weapons. Kim Jong-Il's policy was one of showing off his strength to the rest of the world by pulling stunts like shooting missiles into the Pacific. He also authorized plants to create nuclear bombs that he told the press was to be used as a deterrent to other countries.

Kim Jong-Un on the other hand has not spent that much time in the limelight unlike his father and therefore it is relatively unknown how he will act as a ruler. Some facts that are known about him are that he has received a Swiss education and has a passion for American basketball. This may seem like fun facts about the ruler but in fact this could possibly mean that Kim Jong-Un is a fan of American and European culture which can have a strong effect on how much he wants to talk diplomatic solutions with America and its European Allies. It is fully understood that Kim Jong-Il was never going to give up his nuclear facilities; however his son could take a different course of action. He could decide to take America up on their offer for funding in return for the destruction of their nuclear facilities or he could try and show his strength to his generals and other countries by continuing to create a nuclear bomb.

At the moment the deterrent argument is an important one because North Korea's number two Kim Yong-nam has stated that South Korea and North Korea are on the brink of war. With a nuclear weapon North Korea would easily be able to stop a war that could otherwise involve America as allies with South Korea. This may be all talk from the press loving generals but a possible war and nuclear arms make Kim Jong-Un's policies very important to global politics and especially American politics.



A Devastating Precedent

By Quinn Myers Class of 2012



Throughout the history of the United States, there has always been an underlying theme at the very core of our existence. This theme is racism. Its history in this country dates back to discrimination by the Jamestown settlers against Native Americans. This soon became commonplace, and grew rapidly. Racism in the New World then spread to African American slaves, where it continued to develop, and soon, it affected people of Asian, Irish, German, and Italian descent, not to mention countless other ethnicities. This history of racism is rightly looked upon today as a tragedy. It is renounced by most, as it should be. However, many people, whether they are politicians or reporters or just ordinary citizens often ignore what is occurring right in front of them. The theme of racism today has just as much influence as it has had for the past 400 years. While many ethnic groups, including African Americans, are still victims of racism, a large wave of discrimination has spread to Muslim Americans.

In the past several months, there has been an explosion of hate and prejudice towards Muslims in the United States. These emotions have been building up in our society since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, committed by Al Qaeda. They have been escalated by two U.S. wars in the Middle East, where Islam has been shown as a violent and oppressive religion. This is an extremely common misconception intensified by mass media outlets whose aim is to serve those in power, not ordinary civilians. The reality is that Islam is a peaceful religion. Let me say that again. Islam is a peaceful religion. To fully understand the situation, we have to realize that the religion of Islam did not commit the terrorist acts on 9/11. A crazy group of extremists did. We should not judge an entire religion by the actions of a very small portion of radicals who gain no respect from sane members of their faith. That would be like blaming every Christian for the actions of the Ku Klux Klan. And I know almost everyone can agree that that is ridiculous.

Since 9/11, there have been deeply discerning episodes of hate and bigotry throughout The United States. These actions are primarily fueled by ignorance and fear. These feelings took center stage this summer, when news outlets began to report plans to build a "mosque," three blocks away from the former World Trade Center site, now known as Ground Zero. Every major news station and newspaper reported this story nonstop, and eventually no one knew what was going on. This media blitz soon turned to the actions of Pastor Terry Jones, who had planned a National Burn a Koran Day on the Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which fortunately did not take place. Once again, media outlets had a field day with this story, piggy backing off New York City mosque plans. Both events have been taken out of context and embellished to a far extent. However, the actions of people involved in both occurrences are important to the rising incidents of Islamophobia and discrimination in the U.S.

The entire situation with the mosque in downtown Manhattan should never have been news. But unfortunately, in this era of the 24-hour news stations, stories that have no merit, regardless of their legitimacy, get reported. This all began with several members of the Republican Party, along with their personal media outlet Fox News, condemning the building of the mosque, saying it disrespected the victims of 9/11.

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



These people also claimed that the Imam set to run the mosque was a dangerous radical, with ties to Al Qaeda. The truth is, none of these claims are accurate. First of all, this building on Park51 developmental complex is not even a mosque. It is an Islamic Community Center with several prayer rooms, including spaces for Christians and Jews. Politicians and pundits on the right have tried to spin this issue to help their agenda, but what the community center comes down to is a meeting place for people of all religions to gather, not just Muslims. Next we come to the claim that Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the man who will be running the community center and is currently overseeing its development, is a dangerous radical. This could not be farther from the truth. Throughout his life, Imam Rauf has distanced himself from radical Islam, and preached about the peace and love Islam has created throughout the entire world. When asked about his plans for the community center, Imam Raul replied that it would be a, “shared space for community activities, like a swimming pool, playground for kids, and separate prayer spaces for Muslims, Christians, Jews and men and women of other faiths.” Does this sound like the plan of a radical Muslim who is in cahoots with Al Qaeda? Feisal Abdul Rauf has pledged his life to God and establishing peace on earth. He has condemned literally thousands of times the actions of Al Qaeda and the nature of their existence. This man is clearly not a dangerous radical, unless you consider peace and human welfare to be radical ideas.

Out of the mosque controversy grew serious anger from certain Americans against Muslims of all kinds. In New York City on August 25th, a young man named Michael Enright stabbed a cab driver for being Muslim. The incident is horrifying, and shows some of the current feelings of racism in America today. Other acts, such as teasing of Muslim children at school and inequality of pay between Muslims and other ethnicities may be non-violent, but is still severely alarming.

All of this insanity led up to the media coverage of Pastor Terry Jones and his ridiculous “National Burn a Koran Day,” which was set to be held on the anniversary of September 11th. The event thankfully never happened, but it still had a large effect on world politics. The event put the lives of our soldiers in serious risk by showing Muslims that there are people in the United States who have deep seeded hate for their religion. The actions of this pastor are basically furthering the cause of Al Qaeda. Under our Constitution, Terry Jones and anyone else in the United States have the right to burn a Koran, but that does not mean that the action is moral or just. Terry Jones and people who have similar views to him should not be given the time of day, because they promote hate and fear. And that is not what America is about. One quote that came out of the holocaust that can relate to this situation is, “Where books are burned, eventually people will be burned.” I think that the whole situation proves the fact that we should not judge an entire culture on the actions of a few fanatical people who seek to destroy it.

To bring this article to a close, I just want to state how disgusted I am with the current situation in the United States. We are supposed to be a progressive nation that supports all people, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Racism is truly a devastating precedent. And to know that there are people out there that want to “seal” the borders of our country makes me sick. Immigrants founded this nation, and our future depends on embracing this truth. We are not the best country in the world because of our military power or tyrannical corporate institutions. We are the best country in the world because of our diversity, and how that helps us to see every viewpoint, and truly represent the world.

*“It is never too late to
give up our prejudices.”*

-Henry David Thoreau

Conflict in Kashmir

By Andres Ramos Class of 2013

Today, India's Kashmir province is rife with violent protests. Angry citizens are demonstrating daily against the occupying Indian security forces that are present in the region. Every day the number of injuries and deaths for citizens increases as they face more intense police brutality in response to an increasingly seditious populous. The local citizens are fighting against the troop presence in the region in an attempt to reclaim their home.

The Indian government first established a large troop presence there decades ago in order to fight against a Pakistani sponsored insurgency in the region. That was when the number of insurgents in Kashmir was in the thousands, but today they only have a few hundred. Because the insurgency has virtually been defeated, the government has no need or right to maintain such an oppressive force in the region, especially if the people are clearly defiant towards them. The troops have been there so long that many younger citizens in the region, around my own age of 15, have known nothing but the sort of violent and chaos that has gained the world's attention their entire lives. They have never known peace like me or anyone else I know has known it, or like their parents. India can no longer justify keeping such a substantial troop presence in Kashmir when they are hurting the citizens they were originally supposed to protect, even if they are acting in defense of the protests civilian casualties are still inexcusable.

India must drastically reduce the troop presence in the region in order to restore peace and remove hatred, fear, and oppression. The government will be reluctant to do so since the region is also partially claimed and controlled by its neighbors China and Pakistan, its long standing rival. However, giving up the region or perhaps even giving it autonomy should be acceptable options to recreate peace and stability in Kashmir.



*A small body of
determined spirits fired
by an unquenchable faith
in their mission can alter
the course of history.*

-Mohandas Ghandi



A World-Class Education

By Henry Burbank Class of 2012

The year was 1776. We were officially at war with the British Empire, Benjamin Franklin was seeking an alliance with the French, and a radical new document had just been written: the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams along with himself and two others. The text stated that the thirteen British colonies had seceded from the Empire to form their own nation, the United States of America.

Most of these facts are commonly known. But what isn't is the age at which Jefferson finished the Declaration: a young 32 years old. James Madison, the father of the Constitution, was 36 when it was written, and George Washington was 43 when he became Commander in Chief. It is simply amazing how there was such a high concentration of extremely intelligent people at this unique time in history. Frankly, we were extremely lucky to have them.

Jump ahead 250 years. Instead of Jeffersons and Madisons, we have Palins and O'Donnells. Instead of Franklin, we have Beck. Instead of Paine, we have Olbermann. What happened to the people that believed so passionately in the well being of a people and a nation, not just themselves, and more importantly, what will the future entail for us? The United States is a nation that prides itself on being open and accepting, but with 68% of Americans being against the construction of a Muslim Community Center being built in New York City (CNN Poll), the reality isn't what we'd always like it to be. In addition, a study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that on average, Americans answered 16 out of 32 questions regarding world religions correctly. That's a straight 50%, otherwise known as an F.

In contrast, the founding fathers were not only familiar with world religions, but they studied them intently. They were able to recognize that all religions had something to add in our country, so they banned discrimination of religion in the First Amendment to the Constitution. Compare this to politicians like Sarah Palin who said "I'm not one of those who maybe came from a background of, you know, kids who perhaps graduate college and their parents give them a passport and give them a backpack and say go off and travel the world." Today, Palin is "liked" by over 2.3 million facebook users, who believe that she'll make a great President.

Honestly, I don't think that's the case. I think that in this age of Glenn Beck, Rachel Maddow, Keith Olbermann, and Rush Limbaugh, we are developing a generation that instead of looking at the facts and making their own conclusions, just take what other people say word for word. Anyone can see that a situation such as this is destructive to a democratic society such as ours. So what can we do about it? Educate.

The only way people can make informed decisions is if they are educated. It doesn't matter whether they are educated in homes, public schools, religious schools or whatever, as long as they are taught how to think and how to develop opinions. In China last year, the admissions councils began asking applicants which philosopher would win in a fight. There is obviously no clear answer to this question, and the students were forced to come up with an answer on the spot. This was a way, the colleges found, to test whether their students who excelled at mathematics and science, were able to formulate opinions on their own. The US needs to develop education methods that expose students not only to calculus and chemistry, but to world cultures and history. After all, the most effective method of education today is not the internet, smart boards, powerpoints, or textbooks. It's human-human interaction, and the more today's students can learn from their predecessors and counterparts the more informed they can be as individuals.



An Honest Assessment

By Jackson Roth Class of 2012

In four weeks the people will elect the 112th United States Congress. It is likely that many people are disgusted by the actions of both the Republicans and the Democrats and are not satisfied with casting a ballot for either. It is also becoming clear that neither major party has the guts to propose the serious fundamental reforms needed if this country wants to maintain its current global status.

The U.S. is currently facing a multitude of serious problems. We are still seeing the ripple effects of the 2008 financial crisis on the economy which resulted from inadequate regulation. Unemployment is hovering around 9.5% and doesn't seem to be going anywhere soon, our national debt is out of control, and no one wants to lend anyone any money. These issues don't even touch the deeper and more threatening problem that, since the mid-1970's, we've become a highly unequal society in terms of wealth. Over 40% of the wealth in this country is held by 1% of the population. By dismantling the Bretton Woods economic system (started by Nixon, sharply accelerated by Reagan and then spanning the terms of both Republican and Democrat Presidents) and replacing it with the so-called "laissez-faire" policies of Milton Friedman we destroyed our middle class. As a result of these policies the median real wage in this country has gone practically nowhere since 1973 while the CEO's wage has tripled. Since 1980, our government has largely catered to the rich by providing tax breaks, subsidies, and free trade agreements while leaving the middle class out to dry.

Our manufacturing and industrial base has been successfully exported and with it goes our best tool for upward social mobility. We've been told that America is going to have to be the hotbed for entrepreneurship and innovation yet our public school systems are failing. In addition to all of this our health care costs are out of control and global warming is waiting right around the corner. We are also waging an unnecessary and immoral war in the Middle East. Welcome to the 21st Century America.

The response from the Right has been nothing more than hysterical screams. They've traded in their Bush-Cheney bumper stickers for Ron Paul t-shirts and barely batted an eye. Many of the establishment Republicans have traded in their neo-con garb in favor of reactionary libertarianism. The "Tea Party" talks about changing Washington despite the fact that many of its leaders and backers are career Washington people. Their "change" is essentially recycled versions of the same free market policies that got us into this mess. Make no mistake that, with one exception, the tea party is a manufactured movement. The one exception is the anger that is felt by the average member who is being manipulated by the movement.

The Democrats have been slightly better, insofar that they haven't reacted with hysterics and instead prided themselves on being the party of moderation and sanity. But that doesn't change the fact that Obama has not delivered the change that he promised and instead has given us essentially a slightly leftier version of Bush's second term in office. The Democrats aren't providing the fundamental reform we need and instead are patting themselves on the back simply because they are not the party that has a loon like Christine O'Donnell. As much as not being the Republicans is a good thing, your party does need to actually have a legislative agenda if it's going to succeed.

Simply put the Left needs a revolution of its own. And that doesn't necessarily mean it becomes more radical like the Right has done. In fact New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wasn't far off the mark when he commented that we need a revolution from the "radical center." In some cases we need more government and in some less.



We need to get our economy rolling by nurturing growth and reducing inequality. We should pass adequate financial reform to prevent another 2008 crisis from happening, not the wimpy thing that got signed into law. We should follow China's lead and provide subsidies and perhaps invest publicly in alternative energy, the technology of the future. We should be passing laws that reform corporations by taking the power out of the hands of CEO's and upper management and giving it to the people who actually own the companies (the shareholders) and the people who actually produce the profits (the workers).

We need to fix our public education system and train the innovators of tomorrow. Maybe we should be pouring money into it, extending the school year, or actually listening to education experts. Maybe we should have a convention of teachers and let the ones who actually do the teaching decide what to do.

How do we shrink the budget? Simple, end the wars and sink our teeth into defense spending which constitutes over half of our federal budget. We outspend the rest of the world combined on our military. That spending is highly unnecessary and is detrimental to social spending and eliminating some of it could also be a way to balance the budgets. With our current domestic problems we can't afford these military conflicts at the moment, that much is clear.

On a final note, remember what I've said about the need for fundamental reform. Otherwise this country is going to change drastically and it will not be for the better.



In Defense of Public Property: You Can't Privatize Democracy

By Miles Steinert Class of 2012

Democracy relies on a public space, anything should be able to be done to the space and if the rules need to be altered they need to entirely be determined by democratic vote.

This means that there needs to be a public place where graffiti is ok, where loitering is ok, where saying controversial things is ok (this includes offensive statements). It needs to be as if you own this space (and as a member of the public, you do).

How can we have a democracy where other members of the public inform the public when non-destructive forms of expression are not permitted in areas that belong to the public? We need forced spreading of ideas in mediums decided by the people who have them. The last major place where complete public ownership exists is on the Internet. Most of the web has been privatized and turned into money machines because somewhere in our history the words, "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." became, "Life, private investors, and the pursuit of money."

Private corporations should not be allowed to buy advertizing space in public areas without asking every member of the public through vote, because, if they don't do this they are buying the space from people who don't own it. They blast us in our space with sexual imagery, which causes chemical reactions in our bodies that force us to look at their ads. It's corporate rape, and it should not be allowed. We have become so numb to the visual stimuli around us because of public space abuse. When someone buys a building, they bought the space in the lot, not everywhere around him so they shouldn't have the right to blast everyone in seeing distance with their messages. There needs to be a revolt at some point that says we are sick of people buying the sky line, I can't see the sun because there is an 80 foot picture of a half naked man trying to sell me his

But until that revolt comes we need to have at least our space, the public's space, respected by people who don't own it.

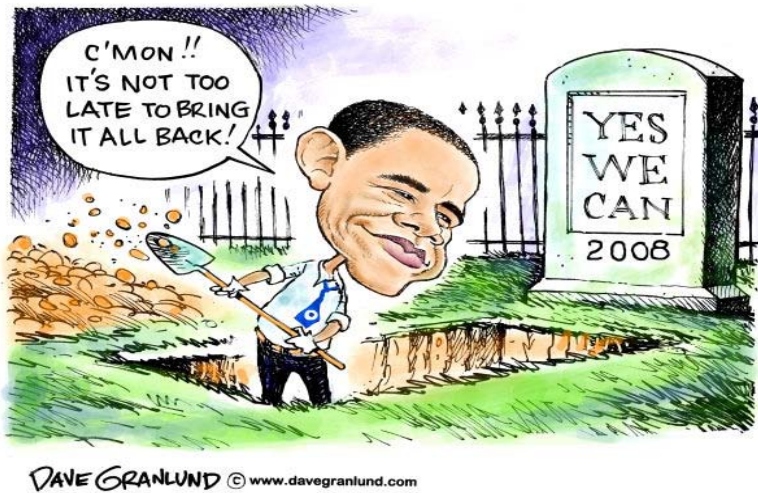
This societal numbness has become so infectious that the only way for masses to go to the movies is to have violence in them. Mass media sources only report shocking news because if there are tranquil events you won't feel the urge to keep watching. They need to make the next upcoming storm seem like a bid deal otherwise you won't check the weather! It makes us numb, all of our places that we own as a public have been bought and are being using to sell products to us.

The last hopes of democracy as ruled by the people exist on sites like 4chan, which instead of existing for profit exist for free expression. You may say, "But there are ways to spread ideas on sites like facebook and twitter!" but the idea of free expression is not to have a designated spot to put your ideas, it has nothing to do with making someone money on their multi-billion-dollar site. If there is no defiance of capitalistic rule then our country will be stagnant, the country is based off no tolerance for economic abuse, which ties into these points.

Now, in recent news, President Obama urged other countries to stop censoring the Internet. But now the United States Congress is trying to censor the Internet here at home! A new bill being debated this week would have the Attorney General create an Internet blacklist of sites that US Internet providers would be required to block. **CENSORSHIP OF THE PUBLIC MATERIAL DOES NOT HAPPEN IN A DEMOCRACY.** "But the Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to pass the bill this week -- and Senators say they haven't heard much in the way of objections!" says a writer for demandprogress.org.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we cannot stand for this; this is not what our country is about! Join me in signing a petition against this bill on <http://demandprogress.org/blacklist/>





Political Cartoon Page

Political Awareness Club:

Have something to say?
Stop by Mr. Szablewicz's room (B407)
every Thursday after school

President: Quinn Myers '12
Vice President: Jackson Roth '12
Zeitgeist Editor: Henry Burbank '12
Lead Contributor: Daniel Welch '12
Secretary: Charles Mastoloni '13

