by Hannah Rappleye

Additional Reporting
by Kevin Dugan

Last Tuesday, two men inflated a ten-foot tall rat in front of the Lang building on 11th Street. As the rat stared into the windows of the second floor, the men—members of Asbestos, Lead and Hazardous Waste Laborers’ Local 78—passed out fliers with “Shame of The New School” written above a photo of President Bob Kerrey’s face.

The flier told students and faculty to protest The New School’s relationship with the Arun Bhatia Development Corporation, a Manhattan development company: AIB Development Corporation is currently renovating a building at 310 East 15th St., which The New School plans to lease and use as a dormitory next year.

Members of Local 78 said that the AIB Development Corporation subcontracted its asbestos-removal work to New York Insulation, Inc., a company that, according to them, underpays its workers. AIB Development Corporation’s contractor, Rider Construction, subcontracted the asbestos removal to New York Insulation.

According to records obtained from Local 78, 11 workers filed complaints with the union against New York Insulation in the past seven years. The complaints charge that the company withheld wages from the employees and exposed them to the asbestos.

AIB’s subcontractor, as part of a deal with Rider Construction, did not have insurance to cover its employees. AIB Development Corporation’s workers, under the subcontract, are not covered by Rider Construction’s workers’ compensation insurance. Members of Local 78 said that the company withheld wages from the employees and exposed them to the asbestos.

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According to AIB Development Corporation’s workers, they were not informed about the health risks associated with asbestos. They said that they did not have proper protective gear and were not properly trained to handle asbestos.

On January 4, 2008, a California court sentenced Norman Hsu, the former New School trustee, to three years in prison for fraud. Hsu was also indicted by a federal grand jury on December 4, 2007. He was charged with 15 counts of wire fraud and campaign finance fraud.

The indictment, in addition to carrying out an extensive pyramid scheme that defrauded investors of several million dollars, also involved federal campaign finance laws by making campaign contributions in other people's names.

After the indictment, Hsu was extradited to New York to appear in federal court.

During the four months Hsu was involved with The New School, as a trustee and a member of the Eugene Lang College board of governors, he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest in California. When Hsu was arrested in connection with campaign finance fraud in the fall of 2007, it came to light that he had failed to appear for sentencing in a California court in which he had plead no-contest to fraud charges.

As a trustee, Hsu contributed $400,000 to The New School and set up a scholarship at Lang in his name: New School President Bob Kerrey said that the university is holding on to Hsu’s financial contribution.

“We will have to wait until there is a verdict and in particular whether there is a restitution penalty,” Kerrey said after Hsu was indicted. “Even then it won’t be easy to know whether the money he gave us was obtained by fraud and from whom. But we will be watching the outcome very carefully.”

Hsu was a prominent fundraiser for many Democratic candidates, raising a total of $8.1 million for Hillary Clinton. Clinton and the other candidates immediately rid themselves of the money Hsu gave them in the fall of 2007, when it was discovered that he had plead no-contest to fraud charges.

by Jackie Statman

Jesse Statman

The New School hosted a release party for new Lorca book

Continued on Page 6

by Lauren Taylor & Rachel Knopfler

In a university that offers many concentrations, it’s encouraging to see students and professors joining to celebrate a milestone for the poetry department at Lang. Mark Statman and Pablo Medina, poets and Lang professors, have completed their three-year long translation of Federico Garcia Lorca’s Poet in New York.

Their book, published in Winter 2008 by Grove Press, reflects not only their strong admiration for Lorca, but a fondness and respect for each other’s work as well. Neither Medina nor Statman knew how much work this project would demand. “If we had known how much work this was going to be, we probably wouldn’t have done it,” said Statman at their January 31 celebration in Wollman Hall.

Thankfully, their passion for the project kept them hard at work. Statman continues, “We like each other too much. The only thing we were ever fought about was baseball.”

The glue that held these two together in their task, according to Medina, was that “Mark had a real sense of respect for my ideas. It’s his own love [of Lorca] that matches my love.” Says Statman, “I’m interested in the ways in which poetry helps us describe and define the world we live in— that is, to think about what it means to be a writer in this society. I want for my students what I want for myself: to read and to make work that is challenging, provocative and beautiful.” Medina, a novelist as well as a poet, has written four collections of poetry, including a book of translations. Statman has also published his own books, and his writing and previous translations have appeared in collections and journals.

Continued on Page 9

by Amelia Granger

Former trustee indicted on 15 counts of fraud

by Lauren Taylor & Rachel Knopfler

In a university that offers many concentrations, it’s encouraging to see students and professors joining to celebrate a milestone for the poetry department at Lang. Mark Statman and Pablo Medina, poets and Lang professors, have completed their three-year long translation of Federico Garcia Lorca’s Poet in New York.

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Continued on Page 9
Give Us Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Huddled Masses

Debating immigration at The New School

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Nativists in Philadelphia rioted against an alien invasion of America. The Nativists, a party who believed the original American settlers had rights all over the land, argued that the thousands of destitute Irish, then flooding into the country, were destroying their communities and taking their jobs—even though the jobs in question were ones that the “Natives” wouldn’t touch. Of course, from another perspective, the Nativists had no more claim on the land than the Irish, and perhaps less, for it was their forefathers who had wiped out the land’s original inhabitants.

Today we face a similar situation. Illegal Latin American immigrants are flooding into the country, laboring in the fields and in the kitchens, working for hours and for wages that most American-born citizens would never accept. Some say there is a labor shortage, but there aren’t even enough jobs, they argue, for us to tolerate foreign workers, let alone immigrants.

Immigration reform is obviously necessary. Because most of these workers are undocumented, their wages, hours, and living conditions are equally invisible. To build a reciprocal relationship with the Mexican government would be ideal, working together to share each country’s resources with the citizens of both. But to send every undocumented worker back to his or her country of origin, as some politicians have suggested—to offer some kind of amnesty to those living here, many of whom have been building lives in this country more than a decade, who have American-born children they would have to abandon if they were returned home—would be inhumane and impossible.

During last week’s immigration panel discussion at Tishman Au- ditorum, (see page 5) panelist Heather Mac Donald, author of “The Immigration Solution: A Better Plan than Today’s,” scoffed that Mexican politicians believe it is “a basic human right for Mexicans to come into the country illegally.” One could argue, however, that it is “their right. Much of the Amer- ican West—including California and the South West—belonged to Mexico up until the 1840s when we ‘won’ the land in a bloody war, where ‘Manifest Destiny’ was our only claim to the land. In any case, human rights are based upon a re- spect for justice and human digni- ty, not arbitrary borders that were established in a senseless, land- grabbing war.

Many critics of illegal immigra- tion say that aliens drain tax dol- lars from citizens by taking ad- vantage of public programs like schools, the health care system, and our transportation grid. Since immigrants do not pay taxes, they say, the result is a disproportion- ate burden for the average Ameri- can taxpayer.

But this isn’t entirely true. In 1996, the IRS issued Individual Tax Identification Numbers, or ITINs, for people without Social Security to pay taxes. This system has been used by many immigrants who want to earn their citizenship, and hope that credible tax filings will expedite that process. In 2006 alone, According to IRS.com, 1.5 million people applied for ITINs, a 30 percent increase from the year before.

On Wednesday night, Mac Don- ald argued that illegal immigrants should be punished simply be- cause they have broken the law. But of course, any knowledgeable person could point out that the United States has a long history of breaking its own laws and the laws of the international community— the torture of people captured in “The War on Terror” and the ille- gal detention of “enemy combat- ants” in Guantanamo Bay are just two frightening examples of our disregard for the rule of law.

Obviously, this issue is not as black and white as Mac Donald thinks. The laws that govern im- migration have always shifted throughout our history, depend- ing on what race the government felt like discriminating against. Of course, mass migrations of people into any country can have some negative consequences, but im- migration also benefits us in many ways. Most importantly, lawmakers must remember that they are dealing with real human beings, not “aliens.”

The crowd at the event Wednes- day night—composed of scholars, students, and people from all over the world—was evidence of some- thing we all know to be true: that immigration, and diversity, is not only at the root of this country’s success, but is inherently bound to its founding ideals.

The contentious atmo- sphere in the audience also demonstrated that this debate is one of the most pressing issues our coun- try faces. Perhaps the best thing about the American legal sys- tem is its ability, over time, to arrive at so- lutions that are just and fair. We hope that whoever gets elected to office next year will work with Congress to ensure that the federal government institutes an equitable and hu- man solution to the immigration problem.

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**Student Government Wrestles With Funding Requests**

**By Amelia Granger**

In the fall of 2007, a small group of Eugene Lang students thought they had come up with the solution to the school’s attrition problem. The problem was the lack of community atmosphere, and the best way to rectify that was by asking the LSU Student Government to fund students via The New School’s website.

The proposal—written by LSU Facilitator Dan Schullman and LSU/SDS member Alex Cline—to create the Lang mascot begins on a high note.

“Eugene Lang is a super wonderful happy fun place,” it reads. “However, 50% of our students are leaving. If Lang College were to have a mascot, we believe that it may alleviate some of the tensions between students and create a warm and fuzzy atmosphere for all involved.”

The LSU, with an annual budget of $30,000, is struggling with a lack of student involvement, and in deciding which proposals it should fund. Although the LSU bases its decisions to approve or reject proposals based on what will most benefit the Lang community, there are multiple interpretations of which projects those might be.

In the Fall 2007 semester, LSU gave four students $3,600 to attend a conference to develop anti-racist, anti-homophobic and anti-transphobic organizing skills. It granted one student $2,633 to study fair trade in the Yucatan, another $3,000 to spend a semester at sea and another $3,000 to study the plight of Black Brazilians at the Steve Biko Institute in South Africa. These proposals were approved on the condition that the students share their research and experience with the Lang community on The New School website.

In the proposal to create the Lang panda mascot, which has yet to be presented to the LSU, Schullman and Cline explain why a panda would be an appropriate choice: “(Pandas) spend most of their adult lives alone, which we feel allows the Eugene Lang student population for relation to them.”

> “You are an LSU member”

The proposal reads, “Also, we have bamboo in the courtyard.”

“I believe that New York City, one of the most heavily populated places in the world, can also be one of the loneliest,” said Schullman in an e-mail. “The mascot would be the corner of a wider effort to bring more events to The New School, and get more people out to events. It would show up at these events, fly for them, interact with and generally cheer up students.”

The LSU Facebook page features a panda suit on its wall, and Schullman and Cline say they have already gotten positive student response. But not everyone likes the panda.

“I don’t think I’d like it, for various reasons,” said Lang senior Winston Riley. “For one, it was a joke. It should just stay a joke.”

LSU’s budget increases each year, along with the number of students who attend the college. There are few restrictions on what it can be used for.

“Only the restriction that I know of is that proposals cannot be made to fund senior works,” said LSU faculty advisor Ella Turenne in an e-mail. “That is a direct request from the Dean’s office.”

In regards to student involvement, the conference, event organizers and assistant professor of Urban Studies Nevah Cohen said, “[We] expected students to filter in and out throughout the day.”

“[The event] was not well-promoted,” said Parsons freshman Miles Dymewy. “It was almost as if the faculty wanted to discuss the issue and forgot to tell the students.”

Cohen said the important thing to remember is the amount of work students are actually doing in the real world.

“I think people don’t go to LSU meetings because it’s generally not cool, in hipster terms,” said Lang student Chelsea Greenwood.

“I’ve never been to an LSU meeting because I don’t care about what goes on at the school,” said Lang senior Sean Flanagan. “I have other things going on.”

“LSU students are already involved in the LSU last semester seems to have compromised the fund- ing process,” according to the LSU Constitution states that there must be a minimum of 15 people present at a meeting in order to make decisions. But the minutes from the November 29, 2007 meeting reflect that only four voters were present.

“If you have four voters who aren’t enough to vote yes or no on the proposals, but we decided to move forward with the voting anyway,” said the minutes read. “The four voters approved a total of $4,633 in grants at that meeting.”

Schulman said he thinks one of the LSU’s most successful recent projects was putting a microwave in the Lang cafeteria, because “it was a small thing that helped a lot of people.”

Yet many approved proposals involve students getting considerable amounts of money to travel overseas to international communities.

“The reason students have to ask the LSU is because the school does not have a central international travel and study,” said González-Ramírez. “The LSU has become a backbone for the student’s international efforts.”

Shannon Bolt, a Lang alumna who was involved with the LSU for three years, said in an interview that they had “almost banned” funding for study abroad or senior travel during her tenure.

“If it’s truly beneficial to the Lang community, then the LSU is an aid,” said González-Ramírez. “But it shouldn’t be the only resource.”
**Exiles on 12th Street**

**The New School honors University in Exile's 75th year**

By Peter Holstien

Exiled scholars and political activitists have fled their homes and ethno- pia spoke at a panel discussion in [The New School Auditorium last Thursday (February 12) in a series that commemorates the 75th Anniversary of The New School's University in Exile.]

The University in Exile was founded as the graduate division of the Social Research Institute in 1933 by Alvin Johnson, the New School’s first president, to provide a safe haven for European scholars like Hannah Arendt, Leo Strauss and Erich Fromm, whose lives were revoked by the Nazi party.

NSSR Dean Michael Scholer announced at the beginning of the talk that Henry H. Arnhold, a member of the university's board of governors and currently offered a dia- nosis that will fund a three-year Scholar in Residence Program, in partnership with the Scholar Rescue Fund, an advocacy organi- zation, to hire scholars who have been expelled by their native countries.

Scholer declined to give the sum of Arnhold's grant after the pre- sentation, but added that it was “not in the millions.”

“The speakers recounted doing research in the trucking, often terrifying atmosphere of their homelands.”

The first was Ana Chávez, a woman who worked as a lawyer for 21 years in Iranian courtrooms governed by Islamic religious laws, known as Sharia. She is the author of several books, including her memoir, Crossing the Red Line: The Struggle for Human Rights in Iran, and has worked as a journal- ist for Reuters.

By [Eran’s Constitution], she said, “every door to reform is closed.”

In 2000, after she returned from a conference in Berlin, the Iranian government threw her in solitary confinement for two months, then instructed her with “acting against national security,” in order to “deprive [her] of citizenship rights,” according to the “Islamic dress code.” Only two weeks after she was released, she was arrested again.

After his release, she stayed in Iran while Kar received treatment for breast cancer in the United States. She has lived here since 2002.

Donny George Youkhanna, another speaker, served as the Di- rector of the National Museum in Baghdad until the summer of 2006. At the National Museum, he worked with the U.S. military and a short-lived, 1,400-man Spec- tacular Antiques Task Force to help retrieve 15,000 ancient artifacts that were stolen from museums and archeological sites during the rampant looting of 2003. The sto- len items included statues, vases, cuneiform tablets and antiqui- ties that date back 6,000 years. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, between 7,000- 10,000 items are still missing.

Youkhanna has high hopes for the American overthrow of Iraq’s President, Saddam Hussein. "If the United States wins," he said, "we will be more free,“ he said.

But as an English-speaking Christian, his family became a target of sectarian antagonism. In 2000, his fifteen-year-old son re- ceived a death threat in the mail. The Minister of the State Board of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage revoked all of Youkhanna’s execu- tive authority. He soon retired, took a job offer from the University of Stony Brook and moved his family to New York.

The final speaker was Berhanu Nega, a NSSR alumus and the International Scholar in Resi- dence in Economics at Bucknell University. Nega is a prominent Ethiopian opposition leader and a critic of Ethiopia’s capi- tal, Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia’s ruling party, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front, denied the democratic elections of May 2005. Nega never assumed his mayoral post because the government ar- rested him and threw him in jail for treason, along with about 50,000 other activists, politicians and journalists, he said. A pro- longed trial sentenced Nega and 37 other opposition leaders to life in prison, but the Ethiopian gov- ernment suddenly released them in July: Nega has been in the Unit- ed States since September.

Ethiopia is a key partner in the War on Terror and, according to CSI Today, has received nearly $20 million in American military aid since 2002. Nega is a fervent critic of U.S. foreign policy.

Asked about the Presidential elections during the reception af- ter the event, Nega put his right hand up, crossed his fingers and said that he is rooting for Barack Obama.

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**Union protests school over domes**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

workers to dangerous conditions. School officials and union reps were filed with the New York City Hous- ing Authority (NYCHA). One, filed in December, alleges that asbestos handlers were not instructed to wear masks or gloves and that asbestos bags containing asbestos leaked onto employ- ees because the supervisor did not adequately secure the bags.

"We were never informed about the dangers of the job," the com- plaint reads. "We weren’t informed that we needed a license." Both of the complaints filed with NYCHA state that the employees were paid $22.65 an hour with no benefits. In 2004, the New York City Comptroller, who sets wage and work in safe environ- ments, said that asbestos was a problem in the building.

School officials declined to give the sum of the $22.65 an hour.

"We believe the government is cred- iting NYCHA for the work that is being done," said Caroline Hanneman, Community Development Director at the New School.

"They use them, abuse them and exploit them" said Donny George Youkhanna, another speaker, served as the Di- rector of the National Museum in Baghdad until the summer of 2006. At the National Museum, he worked with the U.S. military and a short-lived, 1,400-man Spec- tacular Antiques Task Force to help retrieve 15,000 ancient artifacts that were stolen from museums and archeological sites during the rampant looting of 2003. The sto- len items included statues, vases, cuneiform tablets and antiqui- ties that date back 6,000 years. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, between 7,000- 10,000 items are still missing.

"It's crucial that we let Presi- dence Washington regarding public policy, but also in imple- menting regional economic plans.

"Where we go, people come up to us and ask us about issues that are not necessarily related to the city. They’ll ask you your opin- ion on the war in Iraq, their social security payment, their pohetes and the like. What I think needs to be done is restore credibility,” said Mutti Hanneman, Mayor of Hon- olo.

The mayoral panels, including Byron Brown of Buffalo, support- ed the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Ten Point Plan for 2008. This plan calls for a “stronger partnership between cities and the federal gov- ernment...and continues to lever- age private-sector investment.”

The ten points include an econo- my block grant to ensure climate protection, stronger police forces, community development grants and improving infrastructure.

Mayor Hanneman plans to in- crease tourism and the arts in Ho- no, while Mayor Brown has implemented a five-year plan to demolish 5,000 vacant buildings in Buffalo for new development.

“We talk about government so- cial policies, and if you’re going to talk about public and private partner- ship in your city, people need to believe the government is cred- ible,” said Hanneman.

**Globalization and You**

**Panel series talks recession**

By Wendy Biddlecombe

The New School hosted a series of panel discussions in the Tish- man Auditorium this semester that tries to explore how the global markets effect today’s econo- mic conditions.

The talks, “Bad Samartans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism” and “Urban Conversations: Strengthening the Middle Class,” looked at the coun- try’s dominant economic policies as the market potentially heads into a recession.

Ha-Joon Chang, an economist at the University of Cambridge, said in the “Bad Samartans” panel that modern developing countries have suffered because free trade ben- efits only developed nations.

“They say [economic recession] has been all single-handedly done by the market,” he said. “It doesn’t work like that. This process has been gradual.”

Chang said he supported eco- nomic protectionism, not free trade economies. Protectionism restricts and regulates trade be- tween nations through subsidies, and other forms of government intervention. With free trade, countries do not regulate com- merce, though taxes and quotas are sometimes imposed on goods. Chang said that the global econ- omy is made of countries whose economic might is not equal, so different nations should not have the same trade policies.

Panelists at the “Urban Conversa- tions” talk, which included mayors from across the country, said that local control and community groups were the key to solutions. They often talked to representatives in Washing- ton regarding public policy, but also in imple- menting regional economic plans.

"Where we go, people come up to us and ask us about issues that are not necessarily related to the city. They’ll ask you your opin- ion on the war in Iraq, their social security payment, their pohetes and the like. What I think needs to be done is restore credibility,” said Mutti Hanneman, Mayor of Hon- olo.

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Basement Buildout Gets Underway, Sort Of

By Elisa Deljanin

A construction project in the Eugene Lang basement, intended to yield new classroom and student space, has left some members of the university community concerned. Progress on the project, which began with demolition of part of the basement, appears to have stalled. Occupants and regular users of the basement have noticed no construction activity since this semester began.

“Everything is ripped up, but nothing seems to be going on,” said one professor who wished to remain anonymous. “If nothing is going to happen, I’d at least like to be able to use the bathroom.”

But New School administrators say the pause is a normal part of the construction process.

The construction workers have “done only exploratory work to expose infrastructure within walls and above ceilings,” said Lia Gartner, Vice President for Design, Construction and Facilities Management. “Once the project’s architects and engineers can see the location and conditions of items such as pipes, they can proceed to designing in detail the intended renovations.”

The renovation is taking place in two buildings: 66 W. 12th and 65 W. 11th. The basic idea is to move equipment such as boilers and heating system of the building to the roof to create more space for academic activity. The plans call for new classrooms and more student space, as well as a restored dance studio. There are also plans to create a skylight for those under the courtyard and to demolish the mezzanine level on 66 W. 12th.

Gartner declined to say how much the project is going to cost. “Scope, duration and cost of project are all currently under review, based on preliminary information gathered thus far,” she said. The New School Free Press reported in December 2007 that the reconstruction would cost an estimated $15 million and last one year.

Associate Dean Amos Himmelstein, who acts as the liaison between the project management team and The New School, has been trying to balance university concerns with the construction crew.

“I tell the project management team what they can and can’t do in terms of classroom and office rearrangements,” Himmelstein said. “At times, it’s like musical offices. We put people who are here in offices of people who are on leave.”

The disruption has caused some unhappiness among those who are still in the basement. Several professors, all of whom declined to give their names, complained about dust generated by the demolition. One of them said she was allergic to dust, adding that professors should have been given health alerts ahead of time.

Immigration Panel Draws Ire

By Mijaíl Benítez-Pimentel Additional Reporting By Sam Lewis & Júlia Schweizer

On February 6, New School president Bob Kerrey moderated a heated panel discussion of immigration experts in Tishman Auditorium. Panelists discussed the barriers that block a resolution to the immigration debate.

In his introduction, Kerrey called immigration “the most difficult issue in America.” This may have been the only point on which all panelists agreed on throughout the evening.

Panelist Heather Mac Donald, author of The Immigration Solution: A Better Plan than Today’s, proposed that the “public[s] concern centers on rules of law” regarding immigration. At the beginning of the event, Kerrey acknowledged Mac Donald’s position as being different than most New School students and reminded the audience, “we can disagree without being disagreeable.”

In Mac Donald’s opinion, since illegal immigrants come here without paper work, they should not be granted amnesty due to their respect of the governing laws. Mac Donald also encouraged accountability for the businesses in the United States that knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

The panel dealt specifically with the U.S.-Mexican border, which invokes issues such as crime, health care, terrorism and the economy. It was clear throughout the panelist’s conversation that this topic has many facets due to the diverse ways immigration affects the country.

Speaking of immigration reform from a personal level, Emilio Gonzalez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for the Department of Homeland Security, stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between “precaution and compassion.”

“Amercians love immigrants, but they hate immigration,” said Gonzalez. He said the “right” solution includes “sending some people home,” but granting amnesty to many.

According to a CNN poll conducted on January 14-16, 33 percent of participants stated that immigration was a very important and 27 percent said that it was extremely important. Approximately one million people attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally every year, of which about one hundred succeed, according to Kerrey.

According to the Pew Hispanic Institute, the number of illegal immigrants in the United States has now reached about 12 million. From a legislative standpoint, any type of vote would define the character of the country since immigrants are such an integral part of our history, culture and economy. The issue inspires so many opinions because it affects all citizens, from the makeup of neighborhoods to the job market.

There are 2,093 international students attending all divisions of the New School, said Jon White, Assistant Dean of Lang. This makes up approximately 21.3 percent of the total population. “At Lang College, approximately 3.5 percent of students are international,” said White over an e-mail. “To my knowledge, this represents just students admitted to our degree program with an F1 visa.”

According to Mac Donald, illegal immigration causes cracks in our social infrastructure. She used an example of a Texas emergency room, so saturated with illegal immigrants that insured patients were forced to wait hours. However, Jorge Bustamante, founder and president of El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, pointed out that undocumented workers pay nine billion dollars in taxes each year. According to the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, employers must deduct a certain amount from payroll checks—this money funds programs like Medicare.

Near the end of the night, audience members flooded the microphone. Audience members engaged in argumentative debate with the panelists, many concerned with the root causes of the recent influx of immigrants who pass the Mexico-U.S. border.

How do you feel about the immigration process in the United States?

“I disagree with the whole idea of the stress put on illegal immigration—it’s what our country is based on. They should focus on the war and other issues.”

“I think it’s exclusionary so that they can keep wages down.”

“How do you feel about the immigration issue around the Courtyard?”

“From a personal level,” Emilio Gonzalez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said, “I disagree with the whole idea of the stress put on illegal immigration—it’s what our country is based on. They should focus on the war and other issues.”

“I think it’s exclusionary so that they can keep wages down.”

“How do you feel about the immigration process in the United States?”

“At Lang College, approximately 3.5 percent of students are international,” said White over an e-mail. “To my knowledge, this represents just students admitted to our degree program with an F1 visa.”

“According to Mac Donald, illegal immigration causes cracks in our social infrastructure.”

“How do you feel about the construction in the basement of the Lang building?”

“The beginnings of construction in the basement of the Lang building.”
Kerrey on Primaries

By Sam Denlinger

New School president Bob Kerrey said recently that New York Senator Hillary Clinton should run on a joint ticket with Illinois Senator Barack Obama for the presidential nomination.

If Clinton wins the nomination, "I really think she should pick Ra-

rack Obama," Kerrey said.

He noted the Illinois senator's ability to generate "genuine enth-

thusiasm." Kerrey said that, in his "crazy thusiasm.

ability to generate "genuine en-

nack Obama," Kerrey said.

In an interview, Kerrey highlight-
ed the differences between the pri-

maries now and in the '90s. "We didn't have cell phones, really. Or we had these big, clunky things," he said. Jerry Brown—the former California governor who also ran in 1992—outed "a 1-800 number" as his technological novelty.

He also said that the internet has shifted power away from the candidates. Kerrey pointed to the "Macaus" controversy of 2006, when then-Virginia sena-
tor George Allen referred to one of his opponent's staffers by a racial epithet. Video of the incident was broadcast all over the Internet, and eventually on television. Allen lost his re-election bid.

Kerrey expressed disbelief at the amount of money raised and spent. "It already is [the most expen-
sive election in history]," he said. Jerry Brown—the former California governor who also ran in 1992—touted "a 1-800 number" as his technological novelty.

But with the primaries, "some things don't change," Kerrey said.

Kerrey lamented the "repetition" of running for president. Candi-
dates are constantly repeating "the same jokes, the same speech, the same applause lines," he said.

"You really have got to want to live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue," he said.

Kerrey said that he would not ac-
cept a spot on the national ticket, and is unlikely to accept a role in a
Democratic cabinet. Still, he does not regret his time on the trail.

"There's a long list of things I could've done different," Kerrey said of his '92 campaign. "[But] I'm glad I did it."
FREE·GAN·ISMS
ONE MAN’S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN’S TREASURE

BY: COURTNEY NICHOLS.....PG 8

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No Country for Old Men or There Will Be Blood?
Dumster Divas

Freegans save New York's trash

By Courtney Nichols

Beyond the realms of vegans or motorists, a minute subculture exists which seeks freedom from economic restraints. Known as the freegans, the group is defined, according to freegan.info, as "people who employ alternative strategies for living based on limited participation in the conventional economy and minimal consumption strategies." Or, as per the first rule by Marcheth the organizer of NYC's freegan crew, "You do want to reduce, reuse and recycle but act on earth, humans, and animals? Are you concerned about the wastefulness of our consumer society? Would you like to learn how to find usable goods in the refuse of our throwaway culture?"

Freeganism was originally founded upon convictions including waste reclamation and minimalism, eco-friendly transportation, rent-free housing and the general green aesthetic. Recently, however, the group has transformed into college aged dumpster divers versus a social identity other than trash mongrel.

The purpose of a freegan is not simply to fossick in trash but to challenge consumerism by revealing their homeland. Their foibles and culture, who were similarly affected by the "not-in-my-backyard" mentality has caused the freegans to rebel against these restrictions by revealing their homeland. Their foibles and culture, who were similarly affected by the freegans to put a face on their throwaway culture.

"Some find authentic Gucci bags and Louis Vuitton wallets"

"There is a contrast between official representations of countries and actual social reality. While Muslim clerics of the Republic strictly censor national television programs, women living outside Iranian borders have come to rebel against these restrictions by revealing their own stories of women in Iran. It is the rest of us what we already know about. Instead of this, it's becoming increasingly difficult to look beyond frightening portrayals of Iranians with famous memoirs like Betty Mahmoody's Not Without my daughter.

"They have the facts and methods of our different culture, who are present throughout the nation in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago, and continue to grow at a steady rate. Every Wednesday from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and every Saturday from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. "Freegan Bike Workshop" teaches participants how to use found bike parts and transform them into functional bicycles. Other happenings include "Trash Tour", in which freegans collect items that show how out (such as boxes, pens and plastic bags from corporations and bread and pizza delivery boxes) from a different location monthly and teach newcomers how to use these materials for the reason that waste. Others for the freegin inclined include "Freegan foraging" on found food supplies, and "Urban Foraging 101" specially designed to give virgin freegans who simply want the facts and methods of our throwaway culture."

Dumster divers have existed since the first drunk bar

"I did this on my own many, many years. It's how I furnished my first three apartments in New York. I feel it would be more fun with like-minded others."

For more information on upcoming events and general Q&A, email ask@freegan.info

Forget the Hijab: The Real Voices of Iranian Women

By Yuki-Jennifer Kurumi

With tensions between the U.S. and Iran continuing without a visible end, the further we distance ourselves from a country we already know so little about. Adding to this, it's becoming increasingly difficult to look beyond frightening portrayals of Iranians with famous memoirs like Betty Mahmoody's Not Without my daughter.

"Some find authentic Gucci bags and Louis Vuitton wallets" says the new subculture of freegan.info, as people want to learn how to find usable goods and home for Lapine. Keeping her peace was one thing, but refusing to speak became another. Lapine's talk to press. Rumors regarding her silence made their way through foodie and gossip circles, with the claim of a speculate duplicity to ensure more win-win cover-up. Jerry Seinfeld himself is responsible for getting the general public involved.

"I was hailed as 'the reincarnation of David Letterman'" says the critically acclaimed author of The Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler, who has landed on Lapine, showing her the fickle hand of fate. The Seinfelds should have breached Lapine's dignity with caution. It's a bold move to indulge the greedy.

V-Day the NSU Way

By Yuki-Jen Kurumi

In honor of the tenth anniversary of the formation of V-Day, Eve Ensler, the critically acclaimed author of The Vagina Monologues and founder of the V-Day organization, will be holding a special event in Tishman Auditorium on February 14. V-Day is the international awareness campaign that strives towards ending violence against women. Ensler informed her audience how V-Day strives to eradicate "femicide" across the globe, ranging from spousal abuse to female genital mutilation. Ensler talked about how she and her organization were hosting "V for the Tenth", a celebration and fundraiser for end violence against women at the Superdome in New Orleans. "V for the Tenth" is selling 320 tickets to the event, ranging from $25 to $1,000 for women and girls globally. The event will metamorphose the Superdome into "a celebration of the strength of women of New Orleans will be able to get caught up, practice yoga, and have money to live. "For V to the Tenth" is a culmination of all women to be held on Valentine's Day across the nation, with profits going to existing anti-violence organizations.

NEW SCHOOL NEWS NUGGETS

Missy Chase's Pain

By Lauren Taylor

Those who have kept abreast of the Missy Chase vs. Jessica Seinfeld copyright infringement lectures of Jerry. The Seinfelds should have breached Lapine's dignity with caution. It's a bold move to indulge the greedy.
A party to expose Scientology

By Helen Buyinski

What do Tom Cruise, Kirstie Alley and Beck have in common? They’re all members of the Church of Scientology.

Scientology’s high profile is no accident. Since the religion’s founding in 1954, it has sought out celebrity. L. Ron Hubbard reasoned that influential figures would attract more followers. Stars do not advocate Scientology out of sheer religious zeal, however: in return for their endorsements they receive hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of free services, in addition to posh accommodations at Scientology facilities. Scientologists claim the Church has no secrets and is completely open about its activities, but many details are conspicuously absent from its public image. Past incidents in Scientology’s history, and the flurry of legal issues surrounding them, continue to draw criticism.

One particular group of critics, calling itself “Anonymous,” seek to expose the negative aspects of Scientology through a thorough campaign of media awareness that is supposed to culminate in a protest outside Scientology centers spanning four continents on February 10. They began by temporarily shutting down Scientology’s web servers with a distributed denial of service attack. Anonymous seeks to publicize Scientology’s legal abuses—the religion has filed millions of dollars worth of lawsuits against critics, detractors, and ex-Scientologists since its inception, in addition to persecuting the largest US government infiltration in history: tampering with and stealing IRS documents to secure tax-free status for the “church”—and its more alarming personal abuses, which have prompted many, including the German government, to label it a cult. Criticism has been leveled at the high cost of simply being a Scientologist, which necessitates regular expensive “auditing” procedures in addition to classes, books, and other services. Detractors also claim Scientology’s training and indoctrination processes are no different than cult brainwashing tactics.

Alanna, raised by Scientologists, believes Anonymous and other critics are missing the point. “If a religion makes someone happy… and doesn’t have any press about anything harmful… then why attack it?” Sites like whyaretheydead.net, a compendium of Scientology-related deaths, would disagree.

Petkun, who has enjoyed a primarily Scientologist-owned publishing company, died at age 36 of complications arising from medical neglect after 17 days of “psychiatric treatment” in Scientology’s Fort Harrison Hotel facility in Florida. Hers is one of many such stories on the site. Alanna maintains that the general public is ignorant of Scientology and should “read a book.”

The Church of Scientology itself does little to dispel the aura of mystery surrounding it. Scientology has an extensive vocabulary incomprehensible to the outsider. Stories of the “Scientology state” are popular, stemming from the Training Routine for new Scientologists (called “pre-clears”) in which they lock eyes with another and are not permitted to blink or flinch. “It’s basically to be able to connect,” Alanna explains.

The non-reactive state that the Training Routines seek to create, however, is a hallmark of classic cult mind-control techniques. Scientologist doctrine posits that one’s problems stem from issues within the “reactive mind,” but a mind conditioned not to react to emotional and physical provocation is also unable to react to threat, and the individual is psychologically defenseless. If Scientology has no secrets, perhaps they should consider working with Anonymous, who purport only wanting the truth to be known. The fact that they are not suggests to some that Scientology has something to hide.

A party in celebration of Lorca and Statman and Medina

By Kate Hanselman

Ask Andrew Petkun about his work and he is quick to assert that he is a human rights advocate first, and a photographer second. On January 30, he came to The New School to speak about his series: “Documenting and Communicating the Realities of the African HIV/AIDS Epidemic.” Petkun explained how he came to this quest to “destigmatize those with HIV and AIDS” and to “evolve dignity and humanity” from his dying subjects.

Petkun’s work is hard to take in. It vacillates from peaceful to quietly heartbreaking. As Petkun told the stories behind some of his photographs, the passion he has for this cause was felt by all present. Portrait after portrait was shown—the remnants of families ravaged by HIV/AIDS, children who have become orphans; HIV+ mothers with HIV+ children. Petkun told stories for every photograph, each one more tragic than the last. In the final photograph, a woman holds a photograph of herself bathing her sons. The elder, maybe five years old, kisses the younger, an infant, on the forehead. The woman’s hands are wrinkled and frail. Petkun let the image stand alone for a minute, then elaborated. The woman found out that she was HIV positive after the younger son was born, also with HIV. Her baby died after photographs of the three was taken. Her older son is healthy, though Petkun believes that it is only a matter of time until he too becomes infected. The available care for the mother will be insufficient, and can only keep her comfortable until the disease takes over.

As the slideshow finished, the lights came up on a tear-eyed crowd, and Petkun took the time to elaborate. The hope, he says, “is that people get the message… that people want to change these realities.” Even the smallest act of generosity on our end can help, he said, and he stressed how “rich” we are, simply in our standards of living. His work may feel hopeless or grim but that, he noted, is not what should be taken from it. His final words of the evening sum up his true mission: “You have to give them something to live for. It can be done… I don’t have an answer…I’m just hopeful.”
Aphrodisiacs! Love! Roman Martyr!

By Yuki-Jennifer Kurumi

Valentine’s Day isn’t just a cheesy Hallmark holiday. Today, it seems to be about something sweet: topics such as happy sweethearts and gifts of confectionery and roses. But in fact, February 14 marks a tragic event that has forever colored my life, and somehow the New York Giants have brought the thought of never being able to be repeats of the only thing else to watch would be repeats of the game’s MVP, leading his team on a certain Eli Manning became the one of the most-entertaining and Super Bowl XLII. They beat the That’s right, the Giants did win pact on your life, and somehow ants will have some sort of im- and being only hope that the New York Gi- stand the damage this is wreaking on your psyche. It’s hard for me to remember they can be consumed but with a six-month shelf life, such as Red Fire (Ceylon chili and savor its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp and savour its subtle notes of crisp
Jonathan O’Toole: Conversation with an Anti-Abortion Zealot

By Jordan Katz

The HBO documentary Soldiers in The Army of God is a film that depicts the radical anti-abortion movement, from photographing and filming women entering clinics, to resorting to violence such as blowing up Planned Parenthood. Being a liberal woman who is the polar opposite of what I assumed Jonathan O’Toole stood for, I was fascinated to actually hear what the opposition had to say. I don’t agree with many of the politics that Jonathan stands for, but I felt compelled to hear the other side of it all.

Jonathan Katz: Does the Bush Administration depict the anti-abortion movement correctly?

By Jordan Katz: If by “depict” you mean is their priority structure an accurate reflection of the priorities of the masses of people who characterize themselves “pro-life,” yes. I hate the Bush administration for failing to use it’s political capital to stop legalized abortion and instead using it up to deplete on these evil wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I opposed Bush from the beginning, and was kicked out of the Marine Corps under his administration on suspicion of being a subversive. (I thank God for getting kicked out. I couldn’t have slaughtered people for them in Iraq. The reason I hate abortion is because I perceive it to be a horrible waste of precious human life endowed with innate dignity thus, with millions Iraqi dead. All the rhetoric from both sides about the Bush administration being a threat to Roe v. Wade was hype. Elitist politicians of the status quo never want to rock the boat.

J:K: Does an individual owe to be a Christian affiliation to be included in your group?

Jonathan O’Toole: The political party that I belong to is The Creator’s Rights Party, but I’m working together with a loose network of separatists around the country. You can read about our strategy at http://www.tcrp.us. I don’t know why anyone who isn’t monothestic would want to join our party, although I do have one very anti-abortion atheist friend who supports us. Basically, if you’re willing to sign on to the theological premise of the Declaration of Independence, then you’re welcome be a Muslim, Jew, etc.

J:K: If you could have gone back in time, would you have aborted Hitler? Bin Laden? Stalin?

Jonathan O’Toole: Your question presumes a readiness on my part to imagine myself with godlike powers. Honestly, the first thing I’d be tempted to do is go back and give myself advice prior to awkward moments in my adolescence. In the Gospels, Jesus said “It is necessary that of the offense must come but woe unto him through whom the offense cometh,” but I think the “necessary” principle applies to every evil thing that is past. So I can’t agree with WTWH’s premises because it involves me in presump- tion, although I will note that the God of the Bible commanded his people on numerous occasions to kill whole cities including the women and children, on the premise that He knew the future about those people and it was necessary from His perspective for them to die. So I’m not opposed to all elective abortion, I understand that it’s God’s job exclusively.

J:K: In your opinion, when does life begin?

Jonathan O’Toole: From the moment of fertilization, every egg and sperm contain distinct individual human beings. They are alive (until they die) and endowed with innate dignity thus, then you’re welcome to be a Muslim, Jew, etc. Does an individual have to be a member of a Christian affiliation to be included in your group?...
**Music**

**Teenager. Entitled.**

By KYLE McGOVAN

Considering song titles like "I’m
Don’t wanna be" and "Droppin’ Out,"
Gallagher seems to have found the
perfect five-piece outfit from Auburn,
New York. Entitled, their debut
album, "Night Tales," is a profoundly
fascinating, spacey centerpiece,
Tilt-a-Whirl! — his lyrics are remi-
scent of an early Steven Wright,
and his outlook on the importance of sexu-
al autonomy is an eminently
emphatic participant of her local
men’s rights group. Dawn is unfort-
nately of a career trajectory with
the Anda de la Riviera, an old friend
and mentor to whom he confesses, "I
feel like I’m losing my patience with
patients." While not the best
work of HBO, it will be interesting to
see how "It's Treatment" develops.

Somewhat recommended

**Rock ‘N’ Roll Revisited**

The Kinks: *Lola versus Powerman and the Moneymound*

By JOSH KURP

It’s sad how little the Kinks are
known, at least in comparison to
two of their contemporaries
who inspired the Who and the Rolling
Stones. But recently the Kinks
get a much-needed boost of popular-
ity thanks to Wes Anderson’s "The
Darjeeling Limited." In the movie,
"Strangers" and "This Time To-
morrow" are used during climactic
scenes, and in choosing the songs
to play instead of actual dialogue,
the filmmakers go out of their way
to placate the fans.

Both of those songs are on 1970’s
"Lola versus Powerman and the
Moneymound," which outside of
being the longest named album by
someone other than Fiona Apple,
is also a rock ‘n’ roll masterpiece.

It’s also an album that’s par-
ticularly relevant today. Much of
the Kinks deals with Ray Davies,
lyric and lead singer, and his utter
frustration at record companies
and the music industry as a whole.
"Strangers" captures the idea of
being free ("Intro" and "Got to be
free").

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Absences Make The Heart Grow Fonder

By ROBB MAYNARD

Some of you out there are under the impression that class attendance is very important. You know what else is very important? Pare-ties. And there’s no way I’m going to wake up after a night of drinking wine and smoking clubs, wrap my scarf around my neck and hop onto the L train to make my 5 p.m. class.

What are the characteristics of the revolutionary process? What are the tasks for revolutionary leftists in the 21st century? What will bring about this revolution I speak of?

• The formation of organizations that represent and unite diverse constituencies with a wide-range of priorities. These organizations must develop an analysis of the world in which we live, a vision for the future, and a strategic program.

• The winning of progressive reforms that weaken the power of oppressive institutions, improve the day-to-day conditions people must endure, and strengthen the ability of the movement to challenge elites for power.

• The creation of alternative institutions that prefigure the social relations of a participatory and egalitarian society. These institutions must be built to prove the law of gravitation of a new form of social organization, as well as to provide inspiration and hope.

Gordon continued, “Yes, but you can’t always do what you want.”

“Why do I have to come to school?” I asked Ms. Liu.

“Well,” she replied, “I think it’s especially important at Lang because we are a seminar college. It is tied to participation. It’s about the consistency of the group being there as much as possible.”

Lauria Liu had made an excellent point. Obviously I needed to look a little harder to find someone who might encourage my irresponsibility.

The writing department has its own stricter attendance policy. That is far more strict and merciless. Each unexcused absence in a writing course mandates the re-division of half a letter grade, and the fourth results in a failure. I decided to meet with the merciless Neil Gordon, chair of the writing department, to find out why the policy is so strict.

Neil Gordon was late to our meeting and when he eventually turned up, I asked him if he was late to three more interviews, I would count it as missing one interview altogether.

“The reason we have this policy is because writing classes are participatory,” Gordon added, “and it doesn’t make sense to miss three classes out of thirty. What’s the math on that?”

“I’m not a math concentrator,” I replied.

“It’s ten percent of the classes.” “Oh.”

“I’m suggesting there’s no good reason to miss a class for a trivial reason,” Gordon said. “This is a four-year program. We aren’t going to explain all over the place about…”


Setting cliché aside, and ignoring the blatant queer stereotypes, to a straight woman Logo is nectar to a straight woman Logo is nectar to a straight woman Logo is nectar to a straight woman Logo is nectar to a straight woman Logo is nectar. Though it is a bumpy road to victory, it’s long overdue.

It’s 5:30 in the afternoon. I’ve just returned home from a strenuous day at school with tired feet, and in aching and inward search for ideas that aren’t considered “downtown.” My options consist of a boring movie or channel-surfing for ideas that aren’t considered “downtown.”

“This is naive to believe that the president will bring justice and equality”

By PAT KORTY

In Isue 8 of the Free Press published an article criticizing the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and young leftists in general, for seeking to transform our society’s defining values and institutions using means that extend beyond the electoral arena. Solomon appears to believe that systemic change is both impossible and unnecessary in the United States, but he is wrong. Revolution in this country is not only possible, it’s long overdue.

Most Americans are familiar with the reality of our political and economic systems of representative ‘democracy’ and free-market capitalism: they yield the expansion and protection of power, privilege, and property for an elite minority at the expense of the liberty, dignity and fulfillment of the hard-working majority. What is necessary to change this state of affairs is a fundamental transformation in all spheres of social organization: a social revolution. Any change short of revolution leaves the defining and inherently oppressive features of these systems intact.

In Defense of Revolution

When Politics As Usual Is Not Enough

By ROBB MAYNARD

The writing department has its own attendance policy that is far more strict and merciless. Each unexcused absence in a writing course mandates the re-division of half a letter grade, and the fourth results in a failure. If you are excused, you can be excused if there are “extenuating circumstances” — but I’m not sure hangovers are considered extenuating. In order to understand this better, I approached Laura Liu, the head of the committee that designed this fascist policy.

“What do you have to do to come to school?” I asked Ms. Liu.

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Super Tuesday? Super Letdown

By KEVIN DUGAN

Super Tuesday is like the most exasperating orgasms you could imagine: months of buildup and one momentous release that really wasn’t worth it anyway. Almost half the states in the Union—24—voted on the same day last week, and all we’re left with is the promise of an even longer, more circuitous battle.

The talking heads have criticized Super Tuesday for having too many primaries at once, but really, it’s nowhere near as large as it should be. What if the presidential election were held in different states over a period of months? I doubt anyone would find it fair if the country chose its president based on momentum rather than policy ideas. The primaries have become no better than a hyped-up reality show, and that is exactly what is wrong with this mess. Both the Democratic and Republican parties should move their primaries to the same day.

Three months ago, Republican candidate John McCain was dead in the water. Only after winning New Hampshire was he considered electable, with no small part to the increased face time on CNN and Fox News.

That may sound like an argument for more primaries, but McCain announced his candidacy in February 2007, a full year before Super Tuesday. Hillary Clinton has been a speculative candidate since she ran for Senator of New York in 2000. That kind of lead time is more than enough for a candidate to make his or her stand known to the American public.

Instead, we get the same old script. The first few months, candidates talk in generalities—change to change Washington, to reach across the aisle—to work with the other party, to make the country stronger—without any specific plan. Then when the actual primary dates near, they unveil their plans on health care, the war, etc., that are filled with holes and laced with the same haughty rhetoric as before.

Don’t we deserve something more concrete? When someone votes, he or she should choose because they believe that a candidate is the best suited to run the country. Instead, the candidates act like they’re selling a product rather than trying to lead a country. Even if the airtime is polluting the primaries. More and more, it seems like everyone—from Obama to Huckabee—is looking to be America’s Next Top Rolemodel.

And the party leaders saw their primaries to the same day, maybe that would force each candidate to eliminate the momentum crack. They would start working on how to fix the economy and the war too many primaries at once, but really, it’s nowhere near as large as it should be. What if the presidential election were held in different states over a period of months? I doubt anyone would find it fair if the country chose its president based on momentum rather than policy ideas. The primaries have become no better than a hyped-up reality show, and that is exactly what is wrong with this mess. Both the Democratic and Republican parties should move their primaries to the same day.

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The Truth About Sustainability

BY ERIC MARCHESI

There has been plenty of buzz in recent years about global warming and other catastrophes, whether ongoing or soon to come. “Sustainability” has become a catch-all phrase that is now as vague as “green” and usually implies “recycling and other assorted nonsense is a piss in the ocean compared with the necessary tasks that lay ahead of us.”

A year ago, in February 2007, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released the most definitive report on climate change yet. It stated that if our activities that are causing global warming don’t significantly change (and so far, nothing has even budged), then in the next 100 years, the global average temperature will rise 4.5°C. This is an enormous significant change. At that point, most life on Earth will be exterminated, according to scientists at Boston University. Their research finds that a mere six degrees of global warming (caused by massive worldwide volcanic eruptions at the time) was enough to wipe out 95 percent of species that were alive on Earth about 251 million years ago.

Just for context, expect the plains of the United States to be overtaken by desertification when the temperature rises 3.6°C, eliminating plant and animal agriculture in the region, as well as the extinction of the coral reef world. By 3.8°C, expect to see deserts spreading down to South America, and the ice caps melting completely, causing such a substantial rise in sea level that NYC, with the rest of our coast, will be submerged. The combined effects of these two forces will displace millions of people. Environmental concerns in general, global warming included, are not being taken seriously by virtually anyone if we are to judge by the solutions being proposed. This is why I get angry when our society celebrates incremental increases in the efficiency of automobiles and agreements like the Kyoto Protocol, whose standards for change are so slow that it’s embarrassingly inconsequential. Killing the Earth slaver is a fake solution to a real problem, just as charity is a fake way to deal with poverty.

To me, “sustainability” seems more like a fashion adjusting your miniature American flag pins and noding in concurrence: “Of course it’s better, bee, and that film about ‘hearing Huckabee.’” I think it was called Bewitched. Anyway, for those few strugglers still desperately clinging to Ron Paul, allow me to explain why Mike Huckabee is the best choice for the Republican ticket. Time magazine named Huckabee one of the top five governors in the U.S. in 2005 because of his energy and passion in assisting evacuees from New Orleans. An estimated 70,000 evacuees fled to Arkansas and Huckabee ordered state agencies to take care of them. Huckabee is also a man of limitless faith and dedication—half of his waist. Huckabee opposes abortion, same-sex marriage and civil unions, and further yet, he supports creationism. Aren’t you sick of Hillary Clinton trying to tell you that you used to be a monkey? She can’t play the bass. What does she know?

Mike Huckabee has two of the most powerful and influential people supporting his candidacy: Jesus Christ and Chuck Norris, who apparently has counted to infinity. Twice. With their support, and that of Robb Maynard, you’d have to be a liberal to not see that Mike Huckabee is the man to support for the presidency.
The Lang in the Yucatan winter study abroad program provided a breath of fresh air and beautiful sunshine to 19 students. Led by history professor and Mexico enthusiast, Paul Ross, we studied the area’s history and culture, along with learning Spanish and the Mayan language.

Our base during the program was the sleepy pueblo of Valladolid. During the day, the streets bustled with women in colorfully embroidered dresses who sold fruit, vegetables and traditional clothing. Men carefully crafted leather shoes, wallets and purses while street vendors sold delicious cochinita and churros. By late afternoon, Valladolid was nothing more than a ghost town.

The hotel we stayed at was on the edge of a plaza erected in the mid-1500’s by Spanish conquistadors. Disgusted with the savage ways of the Mayans, the conquistadors destroyed their pyramids and used the stones to construct Catholic churches.

Our days began at 8 a.m., and by lunchtime, we had already visited ruins, museums and naturally formed swimming holes called cenotes, which were often used for sacrificial rituals by the ancient Mayans. But siestas recharged us for dinner and evening classes.

Our excursions included the great Mayan city Chichen Itza. The famous pyramid of the city, el Castillo, is famous for its 191 steps which visitors are now restricted from climbing.

The small town of Tihosuco is the home to the Museum of the Mayan Caste War, where history is shown through the eyes of the oppressed, rather than from the victor’s point of view.

Finally, we visited the remnants of a sisal plantation. Unfortunately, the majority of the labor used to produce this fiber occurred on haciendas, where workers were treated as slaves. Although the hacienda has been abandoned for several decades, the discrepancy between the well-maintained living quarters and the decrepit state of the other buildings evoked an eerie milieu of despair.

Physically occupying the same spaces as the ancient Mayans was breathtaking, unlike anything we could have gotten in the classroom. Sadly, when the Spanish missionaries arrived in the Yucatan, they destroyed the Mayan texts so all that are left are second-hand accounts of their great societies.

Although we were happy to return home, saying goodbye to the Yucatan wasn’t easy. Studying Spanish and Mayan culture on-site made the coursework come to life. We swam in the incredible blue water in Tulum; danced at a discoteca; visited the Merida, the capital of the Yucatan; went cliff-diving into cenotes; and ate more fresh guacamole than many do in a lifetime. For now, as we would say in Mayan, ma’alob, Chiktech-uts!