Coke protest goes flat

by Joseph Blewitt

You could tell by the long faces of the administrators gathered in the lobby of the LPC student center that the Activist Student Union’s March 2nd protest against DePaul’s contract with Coca-Cola did not go exactly as planned. Expecting to see a large number of their young comrades educating students on the virtues of corporate responsibility, they instead witnessed no more than six of the anti-everything usual suspects outnumbered by the DePaul Conservative Alliance, armed with flyers and free Coke products, gathering petition signatures to keep the soft drink on campus.

While the DCA recorded nearly 200 signatures in a little over two hours, the ASU, which has been collecting signatures for almost three years, claims to have only 500-many of which are presumably no longer students at DePaul. The ASU then traveled downtown to present its “demands” to Fr. Holtschneider. Surprisingly, Holtschneider actually met with the group, thanking them for their work and raising the possibility of a “third party vendor” as a solution to the controversy. In this arrangement, a third party vendor would be free to provide any beverages they choose.

“We are one step closer to having Hamas Cola on campus,” squealed Khaled Mashal on the ASU message board, apparently excited by the Cola on campus,” squealed Khaled Mashal on the ASU message board, apparently excited by the Cola on campus,” squealed Khaled Mashal on the ASU message board, apparently excited by the Cola on campus.”

DePaul University’s brand name, already sporting two black eyes on the issue of anti-Semitism, may need to make room for a third. Just last year, Professor Thomas Kloczek was fired after engaging in a debate with pro-Palestinian and Muslim students over Middle Eastern issues. Kloczek’s crime: He took Israel’s side. This on top of the University’s refusal to dismiss or even condemn Professor Norman Finkelstein, the notorious anti-Semitic who declared that the US deserved 9/11, called for solidarity with Hezbollah terrorists and labeled writer Elie Wiesel the “resident clown of the Holocaust circus.”

Even though Coke has met President Holtschneider’s request for an independent investigation by participating in a UN-sponsored inquiry, it hardly seems necessary. The Attorney General of Colombia as well as a Colombian court of law found no evidence to support the accusations made by SINTRAFILE, one of twelve unions representing employees of independently owned and operated Coke bottlers in Colombia. None of the eleven other unions have made any charges. In fact, SINTRAFILEALBEC asserts that there is “not a single indication” that Coke bottlers were involved in the deaths of nine union members over a fourteen-year period from 1989 to 2002. These alleged crimes are taking place in a nation where 35,000 Colombians have been killed in a 40-year and counting civil war between paramilitaries, drug cartels, and Marxist guerrillas.

Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos, a former journalist who was himself kidnapped by paramilitaries and held for nine months in 1990 explained “This is not a labor union fight, it’s a political fight.” [SINTRAFILE] took a myth and built a campaign out of it. They found a model that works and they’ve been very successful at it.”

The “model” Vice President Santos is referring to is widely known in the US as a “shakedown,” and Coca-Cola has proved to be an easy mark. Several years ago, Coke settled a racial discrimination lawsuit brought by the late Johnnie Cochran for nearly $200 million in the face of an Operation PUSH boycott led by Jesse Jackson, no stranger to DePaul. At a 33% fee plus expenses, it turned out to be a pretty nice payday for Cochran and Jackson.

In light of this, SINTRAFILE retained the services of labor strategist Ray Rogers who, in his own words, has “an unparalleled record of turning local labor strategies into highly visible...
America: A great nation that deserves the truth
by Norm Phillips

It is rather disgraceful to hear some students and many professors ramble on about how America is an oppressive, despotic, malicious nation. What they don’t seem to realize is that through their protests and classroom indoctrination, they’re taking for granted the civil liberties bestowed upon them by our founding fathers of this great country. They constantly complain about what the United States has done to its own citizens and what it has done to countries and peoples around the world. While it is important for people to understand the negative aspects of our country’s history, including slavery and internment camps, it is equally important to acknowledge America’s feats that have helped people here and around the world. Americans should be extremely grateful for where they live, especially when compared to other nations around the world.

In the 20th century, when countries were progressing into more freer societies, Nazi Germany was antithetical to this movement. This government eventually committed genocide of the worst form. After the election of 1933 in Germany, the Nazi Party was able to secure the legislative and executive posts that allowed them to quickly turn the government into a dictatorship. Anyone who challenged the government was arrested. Even worse, a tremendous propaganda machine was established to control both the media and education, all other political parties were banned, and citizen’s civil liberties were stomped on. Taking advantage of this power, the Nazi government conquered many nations and committed atrocities against millions. Fortunately, the war came to a close when America intervened and put an end to the Nazi regime. Imagine that pacifists, war actually brought upon a positive outcome; the destruction of Nazism.

Many people today do not realize the strife and struggle for citizens’ civil liberties in communist countries such as North Korea. The age of totalitarianism and oppression did not end with World War II; it very much exists to this day. With the conclusion of the Second World War, the Korean peninsula was divided into two military zones. The southern zone, controlled by the United States, eventually became the successful, prosperous and democratic South Korea. However, the northern zone occupied by the Soviet Union, was much less fortunate. Much like Nazi Germany, the country was made into an oppressive dictatorship. The economy of North Korea, almost exclusively placed in control by the government and under economic seclusion, has propagated a tremendously high level of poverty and malnutrition. With the government having tight control over the media, including newspapers, radio, and television, most North Koreans are unable to realize how horrible their living conditions truly are.

Similarly, Iran also restricts freedom of expression. Newspapers are primarily privately owned and vary with differing ideologies and viewpoints; however, the Iranian government tightly monitors these publications to ensure that no anti-religious or anti-national interest messages are published. The government reserves the right to even shutting down such papers, and it has done so since the late-1990s with those who advocated for liberal democratic reforms. The Supreme Leader of Iran, the faqih, reserves the right to overthrow any decision made by government on the basis that it may not follow the established provisions of Islam. Hopefully one day the Iranians can also realize the turmoil they live in and will rise up to the oppressive government they live under.

In the United States, the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press to allow American citizens to criticize many of the policies and actions of the government, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The First Amendment also guarantees freedom of religion which enables citizens to practice their own faith (or lack thereof) and allow government decisions to be independent of any certain dogmatic religious doctrine. This country has a diverse, decentralized economy that is increasingly embracing international markets, leading to further economic prosperity. Also, Madison so brilliantly created checks and balances between the three different branches of government to ensure that too much power does not fall into the hands of one branch. Other core values of the U.S. include the rule of law and right to a fair and speedy trial, which give the citizens empowerment. With these precepts of liberty and prosperity, people from around the world have been inspired by American values. These professors and students that do nothing but demean and assail the United States should acknowledge how much their country has granted them and appreciate the freedom we stimulate around the globe.

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James Madison authored the Bill of Rights, which guarantees the great freedoms Americans enjoy to this day

the U.S. include the rule of law and right to a fair and speedy trial, which give the citizens empowerment.

In Ukraine, the more recent ‘Orange’ revolution allowed for new President, Viktor Yushchenko, who is interested in advancing liberties and a decentralized government. Hopefully, the communist rule that has plagued his country for so long will come to an end under his rule. In China however, university students back in 1989 were squelched with their pro-liberty, pro-democracy protest by the authoritarian Chinese government. Hundreds were killed, thousands were injured, and many arrested for their participation in this protest.

When analyzing the United States and comparing it with other nations, one can see that Americans are extremely lucky to live in the country that they do. With notions of liberty and rule of law, this country has replaced fear with hope for not only Americans, but also for people around the world who are inspired by American values. These professors and students that do nothing but demean and assail the United States should acknowledge how much their country has granted them and appreciate the freedom we stimulate around the globe.

The Lincoln Park Statesman is sponsored by the Collegiate Network

www.collegiatenetwork.org
The little democracy that couldn’t

by Michael O’Shea

For the past three years of my life, I have given the Bush Administration my unwavering support in conducting its war on Iraq. It was essentially waged for national security purposes. Yet, a revelation today leads me not only to become disenfranchised with the current situation, but also lead me to face a sad fact of reality in which I believe I was wrong for supporting democracy in the Middle East. Hear me loud and clear liberals, this is not a confession of Bush’s misguided foreign policy, but more of a cultural awareness which I believe many of my conservative colleagues should take note of in today’s political climate of Iraq.

What has American foreign policy been advocating for the last three years since its tenure in Iraq? It has been promoting a stable, democratic state, which holds true the freedoms and human rights of all people, a republican form of government that espouses ideals and principles of the civilized world. Unfortunately, this is not the reality of the situation. Iraq recently adopted and ratified a national constitution which has all the proper tenets of a theocracy. The dissolution of Saddam has created an Islamic state, something which the US should not endorse.

Wikipedia defines a theocracy as “a form of government in which a religion or faith plays the dominant role. Properly speaking, it refers to a form of government in which the organs of the religious sphere replace or dominate the organs of the political sphere.” Article II of the Iraqi Constitution says the following: “First: Islam is the official religion of the state and it is a fundamental source of legislation. No law that contradicts the established provisions of Islam may be established.” This evidence clearly suggests that Iraq is now an official theocracy.

COKE continued

statewide and national campaigns while generating widespread organizational and financial support for his clients.” This organization comes from student groups like the ASU (all six of them) and the money from American unions gambling worker dues on a share of the potential settlement.

It was Rogers who created killercoke.org in order to “package and disseminate information that will place union adversaries on the defensive and sway public opinion in favor of the union.” Not everyone is falling for Rogers’ propaganda though. Ron Oswald, the General Secretary of the International Union of Food Workers, said “We have no evidence of complicity by Coke in the killing of workers. Sweeping, unsubstantiated allegations and assertions of the type found in the boycott appeal do nothing to help the cause of unions that organize and represent workers around the world.”

The irony in this case is that by supporting the “cause” of alleged crimes against union workers in Colombia, DePaul will be placing Chicago union jobs in jeopardy. The school does not purchase Coke products from Coca-Cola. They do so from an independently owned and operated local bottler which provides hundreds of good paying jobs to Chicagoans, not to mention the fact that a large share of DePaul’s athletic budget comes from the beverage contract. The local bottler’s employees and the DePaul student athletes will be the true victims of any anti-Coke action.

Rather than following the lead of New York University (which at least demonstrated good sense by firing Professor Finkelstein in banning Coke), perhaps we should look to another New York school, St. John’s University. Guided by the same Vincentian values as DePaul, St. John’s announced they have no plans to ban Coca-Cola products from campus - to replace them with “Hamas Cola” for that matter.

The cultural variation within this region is so drastically different that a republican form of government, one which the U.S. prides itself on, is virtually unattainable. Unfortunately for Bush, his idealistic vision and commendable, altruistic foreign policy objectives will ultimately fail. This is not to say that the initial justifications of the war were unwarranted; this is only an observation and analysis of the results of intervention in Iraq. Is the world better off without Saddam? Of course it is. But why do we hear President Bush use rhetoric such as “democracy” when in all reality, Iraq is now the direct antithesis of such a form of government?

What is the future of Iraq? The benign precepts of Islam have been soaked into the Constitution, thus creating a natural rift between those of Islamic faith and those who are not of Islamic faith. If this schism is not sorted out in the courts, or in the will of the legislature, then I fear the ultimate price for Iraq: a 21st century civil war between the Kurds and the Shiites. This hostilites can only grow deeper unless this constitution is amended in some form or another.

Although Iraq’s theocracy may seem to be an evolutionary concept of a hybrid form of democracy, a constitutional core, it is not. A theocracy can only ever, not once, achievable with the religious distinctions in the region; at least a democracy which adhered to Western principles. America now unfortunately may have created exactly what it wished to eliminate; a growing desire for legislating Islam in a state which was once secular. Although it may seem premature to cast judgement on the finality of Iraq, the foundation laid will be instrumental in determining the outcome. This unfortunate foundation is using the bricks of a theocracy.

Conservative Online Website

The conservative movement at DePaul has finally been reawakened. An online website brought to you by the DCA, College Republicans, Right to Life Group, and the Lincoln Park Statesman has been keeping tabs of the conservative movement at DePaul. With the latest updates from these organizations, students can follow and join the refreshed conservative trac- tion on campus. The Lincoln Park Statesman also has past issues on archive on this website. The website is www.depaulca.org.

ROTC, continued

is not where the problem lies. The reason such a de- bate even exists is because the same administrators and academic geniuses who cover the vast landscape of our nation’s top schools are the ones who can’t seem to leave behind the sixties and the social rejec- tion that was present against our military way back when. With lack of another way to express their dis- satisfaction with our armed forces, they proceeded to wage war in the court room. The end result was abys- mal and embarrassing, to say the very least. DePaul, along with FAIR’S 35 other members, put its tail be- between its legs and took the shameful walk home.

I should go on record to say that no school since the Solomon Amendment came into effect has denied recruiters the right to enter their campuses. A few have taken it upon themselves to refuse any ac- tive advertising of where and when recruiters would be on campus, but such actions are more of a show of anger than a true use of force. Federal funding, which supports many of FAIR’S school incomes (including DePaul’s I assume) is something too valuable to risk losing.

Therefore, to the dismay of these 36 schools, the recruiters will not vanish as they had hoped. It’s pleasing to know that not one of our wonderful jus- tices swallowed what FAIR had to say; for we’d be in real trouble if this were the case.

The Koran will now dictate the Iraqi Supreme Court decisions: the components of a theocratic government

How can a country pride itself on democratic ideals and religious tolerance when its Constitution proclaims that the legislature will use the Koran to dictate laws, and the Federal Supreme Court is allowed to adjudicate cases under Islamic law? Freedom of religious practices and an established state religion can never be juxtaposed within a constitution. Those two components are fundamentally a paradox. Is the Supreme Court in Iraq going to mandate that a Christian woman in Kirkuk must cover her face in public because it’s a law under the state’s official religion of Islam? Religious freedom and theocracy do not coincide, period.

Thanks to the ASU, these Coke promoters are now out of a job

Try telling this lieutenant he can’t recruit at DePaul

In the latest updates from these organizations, students can follow and join the refreshed conservative traction on campus. The Lincoln Park Statesman also has past issues on archive on this website. The website is www.depaulca.org.

The little democracy that couldn’t
Gitmo detainee defense lawyer Bill Goodman gets intellectually stifled at ‘Confronting Empire’ series lecture

by Nicholas G. Hahn III

On February 17th of this year, the legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Bill Goodman spoke on the legality of detention as part of the ‘Confronting Empire’ series. The Center for Constitutional Rights is a group, much like the ACLU, in which most of their clientele are terrorists, atheists, homosexuals, and members of the pro-choice movement. Goodman began his speech with a metaphorical castration of the Bush administration and continued with a disjointed rant on why our soldiers display more criminal characteristics than most of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

It was the same unfounded an uninformed argument of the far left that Bush’s power has grown to that of a dictator and most everything he does is unconstitutional. Unfortunately for Goodman, there was at least one person that had done their research on the President’s power, the legality of detention, and the legality of the United States’ methods of interrogation.

I presented to Goodman S.J. Resolution 23. This resolution was passed following the September 11th attacks and it has become the ground on which the President has rightfully stood in defending the War on Terror. The language of the Resolution is clear that Congress gives unequivocal power to the President, “the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations, or persons.” When I read that to Goodman, he looked at me as to infer he didn’t believe that affected anything. I then asked him if he knew what S.J. Resolution 23 was and he replied, “No, but what does that matter?”

Goodman, a purported lawyer, obviously cannot stand on any solid argumentative ground if he cannot recognize even half the issue. I asked him if he was an enemy combatant, and I read that to Goodman, he looked at me as to infer he didn’t believe that affected anything. I then asked him if he knew what S.J. Resolution 23 was and he replied, “I don’t know, I’m not the President.”

Goodman’s argument collapses under its own weight. When the issue is looked at specifically, there are certain requirements for an “organized resistance movement” to be protected: (a) That of being commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates; (b) That of having a fixed distinctive sign recognizable at a distance; (c) That of carrying arms openly; (d) That of conducting their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.

Terrorists, as a militia not affiliated with the State’s militia, do not comply with any of the above requirements to be protected. It is very clear that Goodman’s terrorist clientele have no legal standing whatsoever. When the issue is looked at specifically, Goodman’s argument collapses under its own weight. It did not seem to affect Goodman, however, that he did not know what an important Congressional resolution was.

It did not seem to alter Goodman’s paradigm when the Geneva Convention does not protect his argument. None of the mitigating points seem bother Goodman; but after all, he was preaching to the choir at DePaul University.
Letters To The Editor

Like what you see? Hate what you see? Let the Statesman know at LPStatesman@gmail.com

Bake Sale Incites Positive Debate

To the staff & writers: Without voicing my opinion on where I stand on the issue, interesting article on the Affirmative Action bake sale. I think discussion and debate from both sides of the political spectrum should be encouraged on issues like these. Have you thought about asking Greg MacVarish to hold a debate with you on the issue, and DePaul’s stance on Affirmative Action and or freedom of speech? What are your thoughts on the mass email sent out by the school regarding the incident?

Jeremy Johnson

Statesman’s Response:

There are meetings going on with several DePaul administration and the DCA about a future forum on free speech and affirmative action. The mass email sent out by Father Holltschneider was an unfortunate discouragement to free speech at DePaul. Even after we were found not guilty of the ridiculous harassment policy, he still interjected his own opinion and claimed that the bake sale “harmed the DePaul community.”

The letter also said he was troubled by the DCA protest in front of the Cultural Center; yet logically the campus, and Denise Mattson thinks either you guys did it or empowered someone to do so. I have a more plausible hypothesis: the Leftist goons did it in an attempt to frame you guys as racists. It’s probably the usual suspects.

“Mattson said the campaign has been politically charged since late January when a new campus organization, the DePaul Conservative Alliance, conducted an “affirmative action bake sale” at which blacks were charged less than whites. “That certainly created some dialogue about affirmative action policies and practices about minorities on campus,” Mattson said.”

Once again, good job. Keep fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,

Marcin Kulis
University of Illinois
Iraq ’03, 101st Airborne (Infantry)

Statesman’s Response:

It’s nice to see an American patriot like yourself appre- ciating the Statesman. On behalf of the Statesman I would like to thank you and the American patriots fighting terrorism abroad to keep Americans safe here at home. Because of people like you, America’s citizens can continue to enjoy the freedoms this country was founded upon.

Michael O’Shea, Editor

Free Speech Supporter

I read your newspaper and its viewpoint was quite contrary to anything else I had read or heard while at DePaul, in the classroom or otherwise.

Although not all of your philosophies align with my developing ones, it is still admirable to read an opposition to the DePaul mainstream and hear a voice for free speech still kept alive on campus. Well done.

Casey
DePaul awarded 2nd place in the Collegiate Network’s 9th annual Campus Outrage

It is now official. DePaul University has finally won an award in which universities across the nation annually compete for. Unfortunately, it’s not an academic award or an athletic award; it’s an award which highlights the worst excesses of “politically correct” students, faculty, and administrators in higher education. After three despicable acts squashing free speech on campus, DePaul has finally made national news. The Collegiate Network has granted 2nd place to DePaul for it’s 2006 Polly Awards. DePaul was second only to Yale, a university that enrolled a former Taliban official who had a 4th grade education. The DCA, which has been at the tip of all the controversy, is now receiving a monetary award for their courageous actions.

Debate between College Republicans and College Democrats

The DePaul College Republicans and the DePaul College Democrats will be debating several issues on Wednesday April 19th in SAC from 6:30 - 8:00. The actual room number is TBA. The issues being discussed are Wiretapping, Health Care, Illegal Immigration, and the recent party line vote of CAFTA being passed through Congress. All DePaul students are encouraged to come out and see your fellow DePaul colleagues engage in intellectual discourse. At the end of the debate, the audience will get to ask questions to the members on both sides of the panels. Be prepared to ask questions!

DePaul Student Life gives peace a chance

Every now and then the Statesman believes it should highlight the positive things DePaul has done for the conservative groups on campus. After months of the administration’s Arafat-like impediment of solidarity with conservatives, the peace process seems to be going smoothly under one office, DePaul Student Life. The director of Student Life, Suzanne Kilgannon, accommodated more than enough funds for Warrior to come speak at DePaul, and even assisted them in providing funds for his transportation as well. She also took it upon herself to hire an outside security force for the actual event.

Late last quarter, Suzanne reached out to the president of the DCA and College Republicans, Joseph Blewitt, in order to help conservative students on campus feel more welcomed at DePaul. Hopefully Holtschneider takes note of Ms. Kilgannon’s exemplary actions and this continued peace process can be initiated from all levels of DePaul’s notorious administration.

Russia gave US military intel to Iraq

The Russian government collected intelligence from sources within the US Central Command as America prepared for its invasion of Iraq according to Iraqi documents cited in a Pentagon report just released. The Russians gave this intelligence to Saddam Hussein, including troop movements and strategies. The report cites that the documents were passed on to Saddam during the early stages of war, a significant time for the US ground assault on Baghdad. Although the Russians deny these charges, there should be a full investigation into this matter, as it could have jeopardized American troops at the time. If these allegations are true, it comes as no surprise to the Statesman’s staff as Russia has been leading the charge with France to appease it’s financial interests in Baghdad.

1. The State of Kuwait has bad news not just for Feminists in Action members (FIA), but for all who believe women deserve the right to vote. A bill granting suffrage to Kuwaiti women was recently thrown out by a vast majority in parliament; on the contrary, women have been voting in the US for almost a century. Maybe the femi-nazis of the modern era should focus their seemingly boundless wrath on countries where women are TRULY oppressed.

2. Hey SPECTRUM members! Better think twice about spending your next spring break in Saudi Arabia. The laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia clearly state that homosexual acts are illegal and punishable by death. You should be the FIRST group promoting the neo-conservative agenda of freeing people around the world...right?

3. Catholics, be wary of traveling to China. If you want to practice your religion in the state-sanctioned and monitored churches you must first renounce the authority of the Pope. Chinese authorities have a nasty habit of harassing those whose hold deep Catholic views. Sound familiar DePaul?

4. Taking a swig of booze in Sudan might get you arrested, but, careful hippies, taking a hit of marijuana in Syria or Malaysia could cost you your life.

5. The regime of North Korea has banned the following in the interests of their communist utopia: unsanctioned religious and political activity, unauthorized travel, interaction with foreigners, and making fun of the current or former leadership or their families (Team America the movie was banned from the country!). You won’t find Paris Hilton there because all cell phones are banned as well (incidentally little white poodles are acceptable).

The Statesman’s Guide To: Traveling Abroad

Thinking of increasing your cultural awareness abroad? Unlike the Cultural Center, the Statesman gives you a guide to “diversity” in oppressive foreign lands! Use this guide for your global survival!

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The DePaul Conservative Alliance Counter Coke Protest
Thursday March 30th, 2006

For years the ASU has held protests against Coca-Cola on campus, but this time they were put on the defensive by the DCA. The Activist Student Union (ASU) was shocked to see the organization of the DCA’s counter-protest as they passed out flyers, had students and faculty sign petitions, and handed away free Coke products for all. The DCA does not want an alternative product at DePaul such as Mecca Cola, an alternative proposed by the ASU. Mecca Cola indirectly funds terrorism in Palestine, as they give thousands of dollars in profits to Hamas, a terrorist organization which is bent on the destruction of the state of Israel. The counter-protest was a huge success as they received roughly 200 signatures in just two hours. Thank you to all who participated and signed the petition. Write to Father Holtschneider if you feel strongly about this issue and help keep Coke on campus!