

EDITORIAL

Once again, our ode to final exams week

At issue:

For years, *The Daily Illini* used to publish the following editorial on the first day of finals each semester.

The Daily Illini Editorial Board:

Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the board, which comprises:

Steve Contorno, editor in chief; Katie Foody, managing editor reporting; Susan Kantor, managing editor visuals; Karis Morrall, managing editor on-air; Ann Coultas, newscast editor; Katie O'Connell, managing editor online; Patrick Wade, campus editor; Angelina Cole, metro editor; Pam Nisivaco, online content editor; Marguerite Day, copy chief; Andrew Mason, opinions editor

And it came to pass.
Early in the morning toward the last day of the semester,
There arose a great multitude smiting the books and wailing.
And there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth,
For the day of judgement was at hand
And they were sore afraid, for they had left undone
Those things which they ought not to have done,
And there was no help for it.
And there were many abiding in the dorms
Who had kept watch over their books

by night,
But it availed them naught.
But some there were who rose peacefully,
For they had prepared themselves the way
And made straight paths of knowledge.
And these were known
As wise burners of the midnight oil.
And to other they were known as
"curve raisers."
And the multitude arose
And ate a hearty breakfast.
And they came unto the appointed place
And their hearts were heavy
And they had come to pass,
But some of them

Repented of their riotous living and bemoaned their fate,
But they had not a prayer.
And at the last hour there came among them
One known as the instructor;
and they feared exceedingly.
He was of diabolical smile,
And he passed papers among them
and went his way.
And many and varied
Were the answers given,
For some of his teaching had fallen among fertile minds.
Others had fallen among the fallows,
While others had fallen flat.
And some there were who

wrote for one hour,
Others for two,
But some turned away sorrowful,
and many of these
Offered a little bull
In hopes of pacifying the instructor
And these were the ones who had not a prayer.
And when they finished,
They gathered up their belongings
And went their way quietly,
each in his own direction,
And each vowing unto himself in this manner:
"I shall not pass this way again."

War on Terror still goes on

Recent victories show that proper context is needed

In Somalia, another top al-Qaida operative is dead. In Syria, a nuclear reactor is destroyed. The former event was caused by an effective U.S. airstrike. The latter was carried out by Israeli bombing. Two nations, two separate events. Or so it would seem.

In reality, events such as these are closely linked. And yes, this connection goes far beyond the close alliance America and Israel enjoy. The association that both of these occurrences share is that they are both a part of a broader conflict. The United States formally recognized this battle six and a half years ago as the War on Terror.

In order to understand how these seemingly disparate incidents are a part of a larger whole, one has to understand what the War on Terrorism actually is.

This statement of "war" is merely a formal recognition of a longer ideological struggle that extreme fringe groups of Muslim extremists have been waging against us and others for some time now. These groups view Western strength and power as a huge threat. Some of these groups have finally determined to bring the West to its knees.

The classic example is al-Qaida itself: In 1997, Osama bin Laden declared war against America and stated his desire to destroy it using whatever means possible. He even explicitly mentioned using weapons of mass destruction against us.

So, in wanting to combat all groups like this after 9/11, we decided to fight back. To not offend the millions of peaceful Muslims, we declined to mention Islamic extremism in the name of our struggle. Because terrorism was the main tool the extremists used against us, we called our fight, "The War on Terrorism."

So we're reacting against a threat, but how much of a threat are these terrorists? How do acts of terrorism help their goal to bring down the West? Well, such acts obviously show strength to the Muslim world.

If they can attack us without facing retaliation, they will be called heroes and viewed as strong and mighty. They then might be able to negotiate for the WMD they so desperately desire. Or a Muslim government might aid them to increase its domestic popularity. Another scary prospect is that terrorists could take over home governments and employ national resources to get what they need.



DAN STREIB

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Think that last point sounds farfetched? Then you'd be in the same boat as all of those who thought it farfetched that groups of misguided Marxist terrorists would one day take power in many countries. These communists spoke of worldwide revolution, and once they had a power base, they tried to follow through on their goals.

The big difference is that the current crop of extremists are less hesitant to destroy civilization as we know it than the communists. They scored their biggest hit on Sept. 11, 2001. So instead of mistakenly thinking peace was the answer once again (after watching Kenya and the U.S.S. Cole), we retaliated in Afghanistan.

The big difference is that the current crop of extremists are less hesitant to destroy civilization as we know it than the communists.

In continuing to fight the war, we have made mistakes. But what is really important for the future of our nation is the current status of the fight. Well, let's take a look at what's currently happening in the world, shall we?

We don't want there to be unstable regimes in the Middle East where terrorist groups can take root. Thus, we continue to fight for stability in Iraq.

We don't want instability in regions where troops loyal to terrorist-supporting regimes still fight. Thus, we keep battling in Afghanistan.

We don't want the extremist groups to get WMD. Logically, we don't want anti-Western rogue nations with grudges to settle to get them either - if any nation would share weapons with terrorists, those types would. Israel helped us in that regard by destroying a Syrian nuclear reactor that was built by the North Koreans.

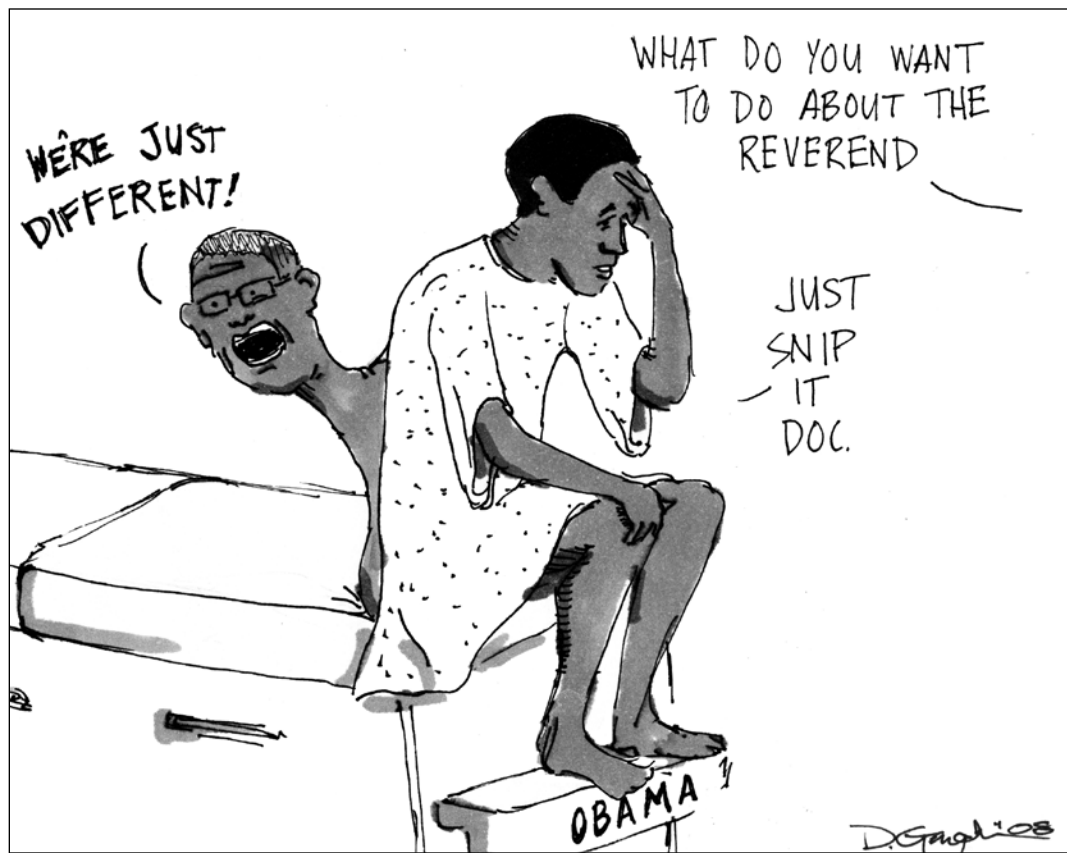
Lastly, we want to hunt down every last al-Qaida operative (current and former) and annihilate them. That's not just revenge. That's called safeguarding the future. We did this in Somalia.

One can see that these events are not only part of the War on Terror, but rather, they are its crucial parts.

In an election year, it's terribly important we remember to place events such as these in the proper context. Otherwise, our foreign policy and our safety will once again be in jeopardy.

Dan is a sophomore in political science. James Kenneth.

EDITORIAL CARTOON DANE GAYDOS, THE DAILY ILLINI



So, you want to be a DI columnist

The Daily Illini wants you to be an opinions columnist. That wasn't dramatic enough. The end is near, the ground shakes, hail falls from the sky and you should apply to be a columnist. Way too much impending doom. The Daily Illini wants YOU to be an opinions columnist. Can't go wrong with all caps.

Coming into college inspired by Superman and "All the President's Men," I had dreams of being a newspaper reporter. After being rejected by The Daily Illini three semesters in a row, I applied to be an opinions columnist on a whim.

A year and a half later, I'm still here, still unpaid and still happy with my choice. I'd like to give you insight into what you'll experience as a columnist.



SUJAY KUMAR

Sujay can be reached at opinions@dailyillini.com.

Your boss will be Andrew Mason, the opinions editor. He's a cross between Jedi-master Yoda and the Godfather. Andrew is wise beyond his years, and every week he'll give you the freedom to write 650 words about nearly anything, in any style.

Because you put yourself out there every week, there will be critics putting you down. This is done by commenting online

and, when really angry, sending in letters to the editor. I've been told to "stop writing irrelevant and idiotic articles," that my opening sentences are "truly painful" and that I wrote with "willful ignorance and premeditated malice to advance a political agenda."

Friendly readers have accused me of fear-mongering and have called me a lefty hack with more ego than intelligence, incredibly liberal and flagrantly homosexual for an Indian guy. If you're really lucky, your article may be showcased in a lecture so that a professor can make fun of you.

That being said, the harshest critics may be your friends. Your pals will voice their own opinions on your writing usually a la, "I read your article today. Uhhh, there were some funny parts. The end didn't really work for me..." As awkward as that may sound, it never seems to get old.

On the other hand, there will be those who will gush and sing your praises. "You are amazing, I'm all about (insert column topic here). You're going to make millions someday writing, and I will buy your book." These people tend to forget that you're still just a college student.

While there is no fortune, there's a fair share of fame. I've been recognized a few times. Once I sat next to a man reading "Moby Dick" on

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"They are the best practitioners of the old politics, so they will no doubt call me a traitor, an opportunist and a hypocrite. I will be branded as disloyal, power-hungry, but most importantly, they will use the exact words that Republicans used to attack me when I was defending President Clinton."

-Former Democratic National Committee Chairman **JOE ANDREW** announcing that he will cast his vote as a superdelegate for **SEN. BARACK OBAMA**. Andrew was appointed to the post in 1999 by then **PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON**. Andrew switched his support to Obama after endorsing his opponent, **SEN. HILLARY CLINTON** the day she announced her candidacy for president.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hate speech is slippery slope

I am appalled the DI views the decision to keep Timothy Brumleve's programming on air as a victory for freedom of speech.

While educated citizens may see past his slander and know to change the channel, they are not the concern. The concern is people ignorant of Jewish heritage who can be misled and persuaded by anti-Semitic messages.

Public access channels are funded with the same tax dollars that all citizens pay, including Jewish citizens, who then get to watch that money turn around and slap them in face.

Tuesday you wrote about eliminating hate crimes. Hateful speech is the beginning of a slippery slope to crime. Are you implying it's OK to preempt hate crimes so long as you don't commit them? Brumleve takes advantage of a community so concerned with upholding this "freedom" that it is ignoring the civil right of the Jewish cit-

izens to live in an environment that doesn't proliferate hateful and intolerant messages.

Brumleve abused his right by inaccurately titling his programs and doctoring credits and titles in that programming to confuse the matter of how he sources his shows. Now, the sources are known. He shows biased remarks from Louis Farrakhan (Nation of Islam's leader) and Rev. Ted Pike's comments accusing the Jewish people of crucifying Jesus and controlling the mass media.

In the case Beauharnais v.

Illinois, the Supreme Court held that defamation of a race is not protected by the First Amendment.

I feel it is my duty to remind you, editors, about what freedom of speech guarantees.

It entitles Mr. Brumleve to share his opinion. It does not entitle him to his own facts. The last time we stood by and let someone exercise their freedom with similar "facts" in the 1940s, six million Jews died.

OLGA MALKIMAN
Sophomore in Business