



# Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

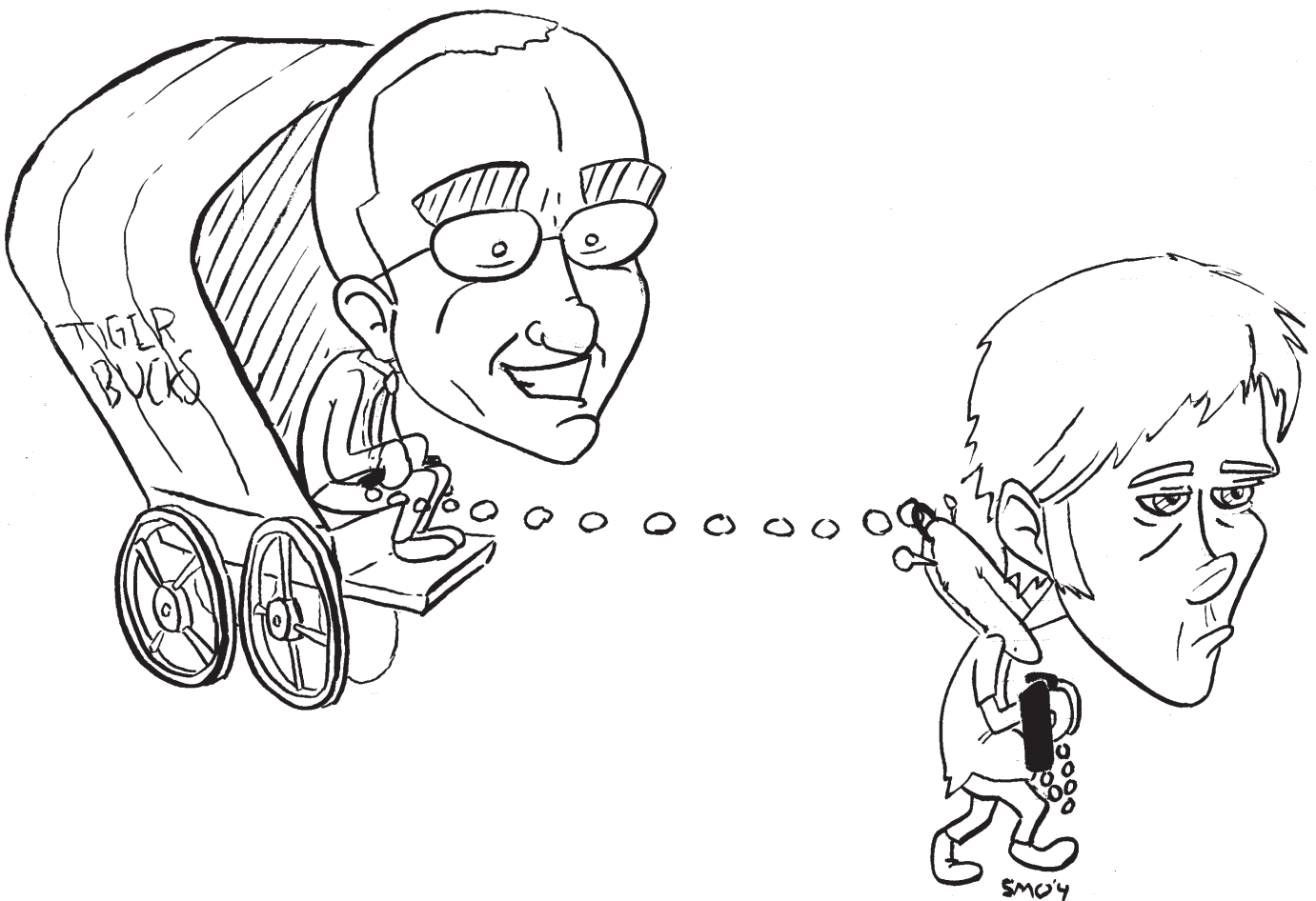
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## THE FETTERS OF CAPITALISM



## Ignorance is Strength

By Patrick Saccoccia

As I stirred the Crown Royal into my coffee this morning, it occurred to me that while our buddy Al has seen great victories in his bid for total economic and cultural control over RIT, there is always room for improvement. And so, to ensure the future success of his blitzkrieg on civil liberties and other naiveté's of the common man, I have compiled a short list of suggestions to streamline Simone's crusade.

First, build a snake pit in the academic quad. Once in place, and in full view of the public, the anointed need but suspend a basket of puppies over the pit, and announce that should any publication be shown to the student body without being deemed safe for kindergartners, the basket would be released and we would have only ourselves to blame for not believing hard enough. "Why snakes? Why not piranhas? Or broken glass? Or that giant food processor from the end of *Story of Ricky?*" Well Billy, while all three are good ideas, and would certainly get the job done, we wish to avoid any unnecessary involvement by Indiana Jones<sup>1</sup>. If a sufficient supply of puppies cannot be maintained, we can always substitute with kittens, diplomas, or Billy.

To have your publication deemed safe for school children, the publisher and editor must embark on a sacred quest of humility and enlightenment. The Journey begins in Building 1, with the "Dance of Unworthiness," an ancient tradition involving much groveling before the president, with a grand finale of washing Al's left big toe<sup>3/2</sup> with scent-

ed oils and the blood of an endangered species. If the dance is to his satisfaction, he shall give them a quest: to find his slippers, he just knows he left them around here somewhere. Once the footwear is returned, a group of scientists hold the pair of them down while they use a sharp stick to edit the brain tissue behind their eyes, rendering the lucky journalists able to write for the Reporter.

Next, have the chemistry department develop a fabric so advanced, that only those in complete support of your celestially ordained presidency shall be able to see it. If a student's is worthy, and you inform them you are actually wearing clothing, their faith will save them and they will see the cloth. If they are unworthy, they shall not be able to gaze upon the clothing, and they will deserve the ensuing blindness as punishment for their flawed thinking.

Begin paying student employees with Tiger bucks. Then follow early American mining practices as illustrated in *Slave Labor for Dummies*. With a population of workers unable to spend their paychecks anywhere but the Institute store, we can finally secure a permanent labor source and build "Crazy Al's Brick World<sup>2</sup>," a monument to what one man can accomplish with heavy funding, and no one to tell him he's wrong<sup>3</sup>.

And finally, to guarantee no one stands in the path of the righteous, form a secret pact with U of R to divide up Poland<sup>5</sup>.

1. Simone is afraid of large hats.
- 1.5 "Howard"
2. Disregard if already completed.
3. Which is a bad idea, think of the puppies<sup>4</sup>!

4. Unless Billy is up this week.
5. To monopolize the sausage factory industry<sup>6</sup>.
6. If you saw that one coming, go eat a cookie, you deserve it.

## I have Seen the Light

By Tom Samstag

I'd like to share with you an excerpt from Dr. Simone's answer to the latest person to ask about refusing *GDT* the services of The Hub<sup>1</sup>.

RIT's purpose is to prepare students for successful careers and productive lives. The conversations that have been occurring in *GDT* over the years have no place in the workplace or in the home, and the sooner those RIT students for whom this is an issue learn this lesson the better prepared they will be.

Now I know what you're thinking: not another article in *GDT* complaining about their recent misfortunes. But if that's in fact what you're thinking, you're wrong. You see, Dr. Simone's words have inspired me. They have allowed me to see the light.

I was once like most of you. At one time, I too thought that college was just a place of higher education, where students learn the skills and knowledge to be able to perform in their chosen career. I too was naïve to the fact that we're actually paying for priceless training on what is appropriate behavior in our future workplaces and homes. I, like the majority of unenlightened RIT students, actually believed that it was our choice to define what will be appropriate speech for our future households, but now I realize that the decision is not mine to make. I now realize that the choice of what is proper conversation in the workplace and home is best left up to a higher being, one who knows all and can therefore accurately judge what is befitting and what should be left unsaid: Dr. Albert Simone.

I have seen the light and I acknowledge that I was a

<sup>1</sup><http://my.rit.edu/portal/askthepresident/question.cfm?id=173>

sinner. I urge you all to accept the teachings of Dr. Simone into your heart before it is too late.

I have adopted a new philosophy for my day-to-day life to help me to live my life in a way to avoid conversation which Dr. Simone may believe to be hurtful and disrespectful to others. Before saying or writing anything, I ask myself “What Would Simone Do?” I have made myself a bracelet containing the abbreviation WWSD to remind myself

always that my actions now will prepare me for a successful career and productive life, and that I must trust Dr. Simone to lead me toward only making conversation that He deems appropriate for my workplace and my future home. I implore all of you to live your lives in the same manner; to ask yourself WWSD in all of your decisions and before speaking, and to trust in Simone to guide us all towards eliminating inappropriate speech and literature in our lives, as He sees fit.

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## Rant vol. 1 – “Fucking Politics!”

**By Jon Lareau**

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Is it just me, or are there more strings on the election candidates this year than there are on the instruments of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra? Fuck these candidates! They both suck. But that’s not the point of this rant. I’m not going to compare who’s better than whom, or whom you should vote for. Instead I’m going to bitch and whine about how fucked up our political system has become in general, throwing in a few expletives here and there (just to piss off people who think they have the right not to be offended)<sup>1</sup>.

It’s my firm opinion that the only people who are truly capable of running this country are the ones that are smart enough to know that they don’t want the fucking job! It has become blatantly obvious that the office of the President of the United States, an office that used to be held in high esteem around the world, has been totally disgraced and tarnished. It is now a generally accepted fact that the President is a sounding post for corporate interests and greedy hypocrisy. We are the laughing stock of the world! The government that was started ‘by the people’ and ‘for the people’ has been slowly slipping out of our (‘the people’s’) control for decades. Instead, control is now vested in pseudo-entities that are afforded the same rights as citizens, while their sole purpose and function is to make a select few individuals more money. America has done away with the idea of responsibility and integrity. Instead, we have embraced the idea that we will do whatever we can get away with. As part of that mantra, we eagerly shift the blame and point the finger. The drive for power has replaced the responsibility to do right.

And the worst part of all this shit — the big fucking turd in the middle of our taco — is that this is *all our own* fault! Yours, mine, and every one else in America! We are all to blame. *We* let corporations take control of elections. *We* let finger-pointing and making excuses become the expected norm. *We* pissed off other countries by allowing ourselves to go back on our promises, and only honoring those treaties that were convenient. *We* allowed our government to rape, pillage, and plunder the resources available to us, and to the world. *We* allowed incomprehensibly unjust and unfair

copyright laws to be enacted that give corporations the right to trample our freedoms. *We* fucked ourselves, and our economy out of jobs. *We* allowed social security to be doomed to failure. You and I both share this responsibility.

What the fuck were we thinking? Nothing. We were too busy watching MTV to care. Too concerned with Brittany Spears, Jennifer Lopez, and Oprah, to give two shits what was happening to the world around us. It is now time to recognize and accept our responsibility for these flaws, and to try to set right what our apathy and self-interest has allowed. Our first step should be to allow those that are truly capable of doing a good job running this country the opportunities they deserve.

### I propose a solution:

Since the major political parties have proven that they don’t know how to handle fiscal responsibility without submitting to the desires of greed and power, we remove that responsibility from them. Socialize political campaign funding. Remove the corporate and private sponsors. Remove individual campaign contributions. Remove the lobbyists.

We should allocate a fixed sum of money for any viable political campaign that wishes to run. All verifiable campaigns will be given an equal split of net allocated funds. This sum should be calculated by an independent research panel and updated on a regular basis to reflect changes in the economy. Candidates and their respective campaigns would only be allowed to spend their allocated funds, and no more. Any campaign funds not spent during the campaign period shall be returned to the coffers for future elections. No campaign specific contributions of any kind would be allowed, outside of the allocated resources presented to the candidate by congress. Donations towards the total amount available to all candidates would be allowed, but would need to be made through the independent fund allocation panel. Public and network television news stations during elections should allocate a fixed amount of airtime for each candidate per month, with each candidate receiving an equal share of

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<sup>1</sup> I’ll save that topic for another *Rant*.

unbiased prime airtime to inform the public of their political agendas. The amount of airtime can vary from station to station, as long as all candidates get an equal share.

Of course there are objections to this idea people will make right off the bat:

**Possible Objection:**

What about the payment for, and logistics of transportation and other resources for the campaign? Some campaigns will obviously have more members than others. And campaign members (in most cases) won't work for free. And there are individual variable overhead costs for campaign employees, such as health care. What if someone working for the campaign is disabled and needs special transportation arrangements. With such a possibility of diverse campaign environments, how can we expect every campaign to run on a fixed budget?

**Rebuttal:**

What better way to prove a candidate's fiscal responsibility and management capabilities? Do we really want this person in charge of our money, our livelihoods and our lives in general if they can't successfully put together such a comparably trivial thing as a campaign? Of course not!

**Possible Objection:**

How will we pay for this fund?

**Rebuttal:**

Are you a fucking idiot? How do you think we'll pay for it? According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the resident population of the United States, projected to 10/14/2004 at 12:13:44 PM EDT is 294,514,703. Even if we were to assume 25% of the population does not pay their taxes, that would still leave us with close to 220,000,000 people. Assume we ask each of them for just \$5 during election years, which would give the funding coffer close to \$1.1 billion in funds. That would supply more than enough funds for multiple campaigns, provided they were managed properly. Asking for \$5, or even \$10, once every 4 years is a small price to pay, in my opinion.

Thus we will remove a fundamental element of political inequality. We also will eliminate one of the major hurdles to independent candidates; overcoming the two big parties' financial muscle. Candidates will be free to express their opinions to the public, and will be able to be judged by the voting public accordingly. This also means that incumbent candidates can spend less time worrying about where they're going to get their campaign funds, and more time actually running the country and doing their fuckin' job!

Of course biases and imperfections in the system will still exist, but this would be the first step in taking responsibility for the errors that we have let slip by unchecked. And a first step in the right direction, no matter how small or large, is infinitely better than no step at all!



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