

Mel Gibson sues Bush Administration over Patriot Act

"I'm the original patriot," claims star

By Anne Marie Gaul
STAFF REPORTER

HOLLYWOOD, CA—Actor Mel Gibson announced plans yesterday to sue the United States government over the controversial security legislation known as the Patriot Act. "This is a flagrant violation of intellectual property rights," Gibson stated resolutely, "and an insult not only to myself, but to all of Hollywood. Besides, as anybody who's seen the movie can tell you, if anyone's going to save the nation from evil, it's me."

Gibson, the star of the nationalistic blockbuster film entitled "The Patriot," argues that by drafting legislation with the same name as the movie, the United States government is making "a craven attempt to ride the coattails of the commercial and artistic triumphs of the film, both domestically and abroad."

Travis Underwood, Gibson's lawyer, says his client's case is strong, pointing to evidence that the Patriot Act drew inspiration not only from the title of Gibson's movie, but also from its content. "Let's face it," said Underwood, "the movie is about a group of citizens whose rights have been denied by a government they never really elected in the first place. Sound familiar? Congress evidently ran out of ideas for fighting



BECCA LOHNES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Actor Mel Gibson rushes towards glory in a scene from the controversial hit film "The Patriot."

the war on terror and started watching war movies for inspiration—and the President signed on the dotted line."

Although spokesmen for the Bush Administration have refused to comment, there are rumors in Washington that a new military operation for Iraq codenamed "Operation Terminator" has been temporarily shelved to avoid further controversy.

Gibson closed the press conference with a stern admonition to the Bush Administration, fiercely delivered in a Scottish accent. "You may take our freedom," he declared, "but you'll never take our livelihoods!"

Embattled American Studies Department changes name to "Difficult Studies"

By David Chernicoff
STAFF REPORTER

Tired of Yale students calling its classes "guts," the American Studies Department unveiled a new look on Wednesday, announcing a plan to transform itself into the first ever "Difficult Studies" department by Fall 2004. The 27-year-old department, in an effort to save its last shred of self-respect, will shed its roots in "exploring historical relationships among diverse aspects of the American experience" and instead blaze a new trail in the area of "super-challenging coursework."

"It's all about image," said Difficult Studies Department DUS Stephen Pitti while simultaneously calculating the wave function of a hydrogen atom in sonnet form and juggling seven random objects. "I'd try to explain it all to you, but it's really, really hard—I'm not sure you could handle it."

According to DifStud's recently released "Manifesto of Difficulty and Pain," the department will break new ground in the still largely unexplored field of Difficulty. Concentrations within the department will include "Complication," "Obscurity," and "Questions Whose Answers Exceed Human Cranial Capacity." Preliminary course titles include: "That Sounds Pretty Hard: An Introduction to Difficult Studies," and "Difficulty in Modern Chicano Literature."

The manifesto goes on to give the newly-forged department a sense of direction and community. "Difficult times call for difficult

studies," it notes. "By immersing ourselves in problems of unprecedented complexity, we can facilitate an engenderment of stochastic vegetation and meritorious recapitulation, which in turn elide recidivistic cumulonimbus to flangelate verdigrisilious samovars. Plus, we can claim irrefutably that we're a lot more stressed out than everybody else."

The Difficult Studies Department aims to become the first of its type in the country to last longer than a month. Although similar projects have cropped up at CalTech, University of Chicago, and the Family Fun Clown School, none have survived past their first semester due to the bizarre mixture of difficult work.

"Our problem here was that students just couldn't cut it," said Fred Wenglemaster, the Immanuel Kant Professor of Convolution at MIT. "Studying Difficulty is no cake-walk: not like, say, computational fluid dynamics. That's pussy shit."

Student reaction has been mixed. While Pre-Med students have rejoiced at the opportunity for further resume padding, the majority of former AmStud majors—now caught in a perilous no-man's land of having to do real coursework—are flabbergasted. "I feel like the rug's been pulled out from under me," whined former Arts and Material Culture concentrator Randi Happenstance. "Now I guess I have to be a sociology major—what a bullshit department!"

After 60 years of conflict, hostilities end when Palestinian flag is captured

By Michael Rae-Grant
STAFF REPORTER

TEL AVIV—After a bitter struggle spanning nearly 60 years and countless failed diplomatic attempts at peace, fighting between Israelis and Palestinians ceased when the Palestinian flag was captured early this morning. This surprisingly swift end to the prolonged conflict came as a shock to many. “This is a bitter pill to swallow,” said Palestinian President Yassir Arafat. “Mahmoud [Abbas] said he would watch our base, but when I turned around, the dork had decided to go to the bathroom.”

The Israelis’ valiant thrust into enemy territory and subsequent capture of the flag occurred at a time of weakness for the Palestinian army; with much of their force held captive waiting for a tag out at the Israeli jail, defenders were scanty. “As soon as we heard, ‘Hamas! It’s time to come inside, you’ve been playing in the Gaza Strip long enough’, we knew it was all over,” said one anonymous Palestinian soldier. The Israelis were unsympathetic to the Palestinian plight, and ran off giggling, leaping into the air and exchanging high fives after they had taken possession of their goal.

Other nations, while relieved that the lengthy conflict is over, expressed confusion as to the reasons for the

cease-fire. “We’ve spent millions on diplomatic peace missions and invested countless hours of labor into solving this problem, and none of it worked,” said British Prime Minister Tony Blair. “And now, because someone has taken possession of a colored scrap of fabric on a pole, they decide to call it quits? That’s just silly.” Russian President Vladimir Putin was similarly perplexed, stating, “What’s with all this nonsense? I thought we were playing best out of three.” The United Nations, however, was elated by the resolution of this issue, as they never wanted to play capture the flag in the first place, instead wishing to engage in safer, more multilateral pursuits, such as “duck, duck, goose.”

As this particular centuries-old feud is put to rest, the world has become more optimistic as to the possibility of a swift end to other international quagmires. Perhaps China and Taiwan may finally reach an accord and end their tiresome game of rock, paper, scissors. Maybe North Korea will cease to insist that everyone play “king of the hill” when nobody else wants to. The world can only hope that a new era of peace and stability is at hand—an era in which no one will have to commit needless acts of violence in the name of recess glory.

Student trapped in 1930’s feuds with roommate trapped in 1960’s

By Aaron Margolis
STAFF REPORTER

At first, Brian Polk ’07 and Mark Golis ’07 were very excited to be roommates. But as soon as they began living together, their personalities started to clash.

Polk knew trouble was brewing when his roommate brought home a poster of Mohammed Ali straddling the Beatles. “It clearly shows a Negro attacking four obviously confused, long-haired faces,” Polk said. “A very disturbing image, indeed.”

Golis did not understand the objection. “I mean you’ve got Ali, who’s the greatest, and the Beatles, who are bigger than Jesus. It’s a totally righteous poster.”

A few days later, Polk returned to their dorm room to find that Golis



ARYEH COHEN-WADE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roommates Brian Polk ’07 (left) and Mark Golis ’07 during a rare moment of inter-suite harmony.

had repainted it without consulting him. “There were shades of all different colors—from red to blue to yellow—covering the walls in the wackiest patterns.”

“I figured, why should tie-dye only be for clothes?” said Golis.

Polk complained about the fine they would face at the end of the year. “Mark told me that we were ‘sticking it to the man.’ But then I asked him who this man was, and he said I was the man. But I don’t want him sticking any of his crazy paint on me. Then he told me that I don’t ‘dig it,’ and I said that I absolutely would not allow him to tear up the

floor.”

The roommates’ disagreements even extend into the political sphere. “I told him that those strikers were lucky to have jobs, especially with this Depression, but he called me a ‘square,’” said Polk. “What in a ring-a-ding-ding does that mean?”

Golis, however, prefers to focus on the bright side. “If Brian would just stop being so heavy, we could be chill. We have so much in common. I mean we both love the Star-Spangled Banner—Brian just prefers the unhip version while I like the groovy Hendrix cover. And, dude, we both hate disco.”

Weather

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Tonight: Shitty

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