

“façade.” Don’t worry, elite journalists: the PC moderation in the GOP is all too real. Maria Shriver is one of the few journalists to realize that the GOP’s “moderate façade” isn’t one. She can sit happily at a Republican convention now that the Party’s philosophy on domestic issues is so pallid her husband’s social liberalism isn’t even an issue anymore. A hodgepodge of pragmatism — as illustrated by Arnold Schwarzenegger saying that he learned free-market economics from Richard Nixon, the president who gave us price controls — has replaced any sort of rigorous philosophical conservatism.

John McCain says the “platform” is something you “stand on” during the convention and run away from during the campaign. Even that cynicism is *passé*: Republicans don’t even bother to stand on it during the convention anymore. The Republicans made it clear at the convention that they would, to their credit, fight the war on terrorism but they won’t fight the cultural one. The Republicans have internalized most of their opponents’ liberal attitudes on social issues.

The Sex and the City culture the Dems have worked hard to mainstream has become the cultural air both parties breathe. The president’s daughter, with her Sex and the City attempted witticisms, managed to progress even beyond the media progressives, some of whom commented on her conspicuous lack of taste and dignity.

THE ADMIXTURE of conservative and liberal currents at the convention was conveyed by Schwarzenegger laughing about “girlie men,” then Laura Bush praising them. She spoke of a “dad whose wife is deployed in Iraq recently” and his “struggles to rear his three children alone,” one of which is that he, through defective laundry techniques, is turning his childrens’ clothing pink. Shouldn’t this story have warmed the hearts of journalists who want the mothers and daughters of America sent to war? Or is a story about a father inept at laundry too old-fashioned for their ears?

CPR

ON CAMPUS

‘Butterbean’ Moore

California College Republicans resist a campus invasion by the Ayatollah of Idiots.

M I C H A E L P . D A V I D S O N

WE TAKE you to a boxing ring located on a college campus somewhere in California: “Ladies and gentlemen, now presenting to you, weighing in at 363 pounds, the King of Conspiracy Theories, Ayatollah of Idiots, Crony of Commies, Fat-man of Flint, Leader of Liars, Furor of Fraud, Master of the Misguided, Duper of Documentaries, and Faker of Facts, being led in by his trainer, Che Guevara, and cut-man, Karl Marx ... Michael “Butterbean” Moore ...”

Cheers from professors, administrators, bureau-

crats, and temporarily brainwashed students drown out the jeers in the arena. Beers thrown from the crowd drench the Monster from Michigan.

“And, now, weighing in at an average of 180 pounds, the Fighters for Freedom, Guardians of a Generation, Conscience of Conservatives, Generals of Justice, Ringleaders of the Right, Titans of Truth, Soldiers of Swagger, Lovers of Limited Government, and the Future of a Nation — led in by their trainer, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and cut-man, Abraham Lincoln ... the California College Republicans.”

Jeers pour over the young fighters who nonetheless, with moxie and tenacity, enter the ring.

Michael Moore Puts on the Gloves

Michael “Butterbean” Moore first waddled onto

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the California college scene in the fall of 2003 at Occidental College, a highly intellectual and reputable academic institution. But like most other academic institutions, Occidental's politics is leftist — so leftist it is occasionally known *not* to fly the American flag on campus while proudly flying the flag of the United Nations. Occidental College's Assistant Dean of Students Eric Peters threw Michael Moore's first punch, arranging Moore's campus appearance in the fall of 2003 (at the price tag of \$20,000, paid from alumni donations and student tuition). To date, Moore's bombast has *not* been balanced by a speech from any prominent conservative.

So — ding, ding, ding! With the help of liberal administrators at a private school, Michael Moore wins that round.

CRs Swing Back

Occidental College Republicans, wiping the sweat off of their faces, countered by conducting an independent inventory of Occidental's professors and found out that liberals make up 97 percent of the faculty — and this is a campus that prides itself on diversity.

The Oxy CRs publicized their findings and turned up the heat on the administrators by demanding the university offer a more balanced education. And as a result, two new classes are listed in the fall 2004 class catalog on conservative philosophy and taught by conservative professors. Persuading a leftist administration to offer a course on conservative thought, taught by conservatives no less, is an almost unprecedented accomplishment. Granted, that makes only two diamonds in a sea of coal; but they *are* diamonds. Given enough pressure, even coal turns to diamond. It's enough to make Butterbean Moore weak in the knees.

Bobbed and Weaved by a Double Standard

So a bloodied Butterbean swings again, this time at California State University, Sacramento. Sacramento College Republicans found out that UNIQUE — an Associated Students, Inc., (ASI) program funded by student fees — was set to show Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* on campus on September 15. ASI, by the way, in spring 2004 was invited to a "Support our Troops" rally commemorating America's Armed Forces and marking the fall of Saddam Hussein. The group declined on grounds that the event was too political, divisive, and in possible violation of their tax status.

UNIQUE's tax status is 501(c)(3). According to the IRS website, such an organization "... may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of

its activities and it may not participate at all in campaign activity for or against political candidates." Clearly, Moore's movie is part of the campaign against President Bush. But when two Sacramento College Republicans, Adam Willoughby and Jeffrey Allen, sent letters citing the tax code violation and saying that showing the film was blatantly biased and unfair, they were rebuffed. Dean Sorensen, CSUS Student Union program director, replied with a letter "respectfully [declining]" the request to stop the screening. To Sorensen, *Fahrenheit 9/11* is as politically innocent as *Shrek 2*, *Spiderman 2*, or *X-Men*.

"I know that feelings run high during the election season," Sorensen wrote, "but we can't just suspend programs with viewpoints that are frustrating for some. We are in the business of bringing programs of interest to the campus; people have to form their own opinions about the fairness and accuracy of what is being presented." Of course, given the opportunity to support our troops, that view was nowhere to be found.

The Sacramento College Republicans lost the battle to stop the film, but continue the fight to hold the school accountable. They may pursue a lawsuit. In the meantime, they attracted substantial attention on campus, registered voters, and recruited volunteers sympathetic to their cause. They also passed out fact sheets to rebut the arguments advanced in the film. In the end, challenging the student government and administration made them stronger, tougher, and smarter.

Moved Like a Butterfly, Stung Like a Bee

Michael Moore is also trying to appear at California State University, San Marcos. This financially-strapped, student-fees-hiking, complaining-about-budget-cuts university tried to bring in Butterbean at a price of more than \$37,000. Well, no, to be fair, his speaking fee was \$25,000, but the cost of a Moore speech also includes \$12,500 for use of the Escondido Center for Performing Arts facility the University uses for such large events, and then there's travel expenses and security, bringing the tab for Moore to substantially more than an already whopping \$37,000. In California's tough financial times, one must wonder about the CSU's financial priorities.

The Associated Students, Inc., (ASI) originally planned to allocate \$15,000. But, of course, they could not afford it, so they began negotiations with a liberal ally, Dean of Students Jonathan Pollard. The ASI persuaded Pollard to allow ASI to kick in \$6,750, and Pollard agreed to raise some of the rest. The uni-

versity's arts and lectures budget for intercultural speakers was going to throw in some money, along with the Office of the President and — believe it or not — a corporate sponsor, the Mission Federal Credit Union. Leftists don't mind so-called evil corporations that serve their interests, and neither, so it appears, does Michael Moore when he's enjoying spending their money in his corporate jet, drinking his Starbuck's lattes, or driving around in his limo.

CSU SAN MARCOS was determined to find the money to pay Moore by any means necessary ... until the College Pugilists caught wind of the scheme.

The San Marcos College Republicans, led by Chapter President Ashley Stuart and CCR Co-Chair Stephen Puetz, threw the "No Moore" lobby into overdrive. They campaigned against ASI on the grounds that (1) the school could not afford Moore's extravagant fee and (2) bringing Moore to campus hardly contributes to academic veracity or, without a counter-balancing conservative or Republican voice, to campus intellectual diversity. At first, the College Republicans made little progress. ASI surprised no one by voting 13 to 3 to allocate the funding. (The ASI president is the Palestinian-born ex-president of the Progressive Activist Network on campus who admits watching *Al-Jazeera* as her *primary* news source — no joke.)

The lefties and Moore's minions were fighting hard, but College Republicans were tenacious. They hit the newspapers, scheduled appearances on Rick

Roberts' radio talk show in San Diego, collected more than 150 signatures on a petition, appeared on the local CBS affiliate, and wrote a letter to University President Karen S. Haynes. We don't know what happened behind the scenes, but President Haynes put a brake on the Moore bandwagon in a September 13 e-mail:

"Universities are about the exchange of ideas." Haynes wrote. "Some ideas are uncomfortable, but being exposed to them is how we become confident in our own beliefs and values. That said, however, it is important that discussions be balanced. The University recognizes the need to present diverse points of view."

That stance is not at all typical of what we find at most universities. Moore's exclusive, pre-election appearance on campus remains a matter of intense lobbying and debate at California State University, San Marcos, but, for the moment anyway, it is off the schedule. One ding and a half — College Republicans so far are winning this round.

Keep on Swinging

And so it goes. The College Republican Pugilists confront Butterbean Moore and Leftie Academia at every turn, challenging leftist bias, conspiracy theories, and brainwashing with intellectual diversity and freedom of thought. The chant "USA, USA, USA!" will continue to send Butterbean Moore plummeting to the mat. And even when we lose, we gain some pretty well trained fighters for our cause in a battle of ideas that we will fight to the finish.

CPR

THE LAW

There they go again

State courts a lawsuit with its borrowing binge for puffed-up pensions.

H A R O L D J O H N S O N

Was it Freud, Jung — or maybe Professor Irwin Corey ("the world's foremost authority") — who defined "insanity" as "trying the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"?

As part of the 2004 state budget, California law-

makers included a pension-funding scheme that's a clone of one that was ruled illegal just 12 months ago. The new plan is to float up to \$2 billion in long-term

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