

## The right-wing's message of hate

Terese M. Jordan  
Staff Writer

Conservatives often pride themselves on being down to earth, pleasant and affable friends of the common man while they accuse liberals of being snobby, elitist and out of touch with those in the middle class.

According to author and political commentator Joe Conason in his book, "Big Lies: The Right-Wing Propaganda Machine and How it Distorts the Truth," conservatives claim to speak for the silent majority and depict "limousine liberals" as silly, affluent elitists who despise the work ethic.

However, such a view of conservatives hardly seems probable. Just flip on the radio and listen to Rush Limbaugh and Michael Savage. Those people aren't friendly in the least, and none of them seem down to earth or pleasant at all.

For example, Savage was fired from MSNBC for saying to a homosexual caller on his television show, "You should only get AIDS and die, you pig!" Such an outburst from Savage is not surprising considering that on his radio show he frequently refers to homosexuals as "perverts," Asians "little soy-eaters," and immigrants as having come from "Turd World nations." Though Savage was fired from television, he still maintains a radio program in which he spatters offensive hate speech daily.

And what about his drug addict colleague Rush Limbaugh who resigned from his spot as a sports commentator on ESPN for spouting out a ridiculous, baseless comment concerning quarterback Donovan McNabb? Joe Conason said, this "down-to-earth"

conservative likes to spend his \$20 million a year salary on expensive cigars and \$2000 bottles of wine, and Limbaugh has referred to women's rights activists as "femi-Nazis" on his radio program. When Chelsea Clinton was 12 years old, Limbaugh took joy in referring to her as the "White House dog," and of blacks he said, "They are only 12 percent of the population. Who the hell cares?" Since when could snobby, elitist liberals get away with comments like that?

Nevertheless, vicious conservatism does not only find refuge in the media. Republican politicians and even college students have been known for ruthlessness. At a College Republicans rally in Washington, speaker Paul Erickson, an "operative who runs the 'Daschle Accountability Project,' an effort dedicated to undermining the reputation of Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle," shouted propaganda speech such as, "It is not possible to have a debate, a discussion, with (liberals) who at their root, at their core, hate everything this country stands for but don't hate it enough to leave."

Also during the convention, a number of items



Rush Limbaugh

were sold including T-shirts and mugs with slogans such as "No Muslims = No Terrorists" and "Bring Back the Blacklist."

Many students at the conference relayed their own vicious attacks. "I'm a Republican because liberals make me sick," said Georgetown student and chairman of Hofstra College Republicans Chris Siben. "I don't like whiny people and tree-huggers."

A recent John Hopkins graduate explained why he was a Republican.

"I'm racist, I love guns and I hate welfare. I'm racist against anybody who doesn't work for a living," Jeffery Chen said. "We're in Washington, D.C. You can guess who that is."

Is such speech what makes conservatives friendlier and more amicable than liberals?

Of course, not all conservatives are hateful and vengeful creatures. Supporters of Limbaugh and Savage are just ignorant, misinformed or spend too much time viewing the "Fox News" propaganda machine.

But for the conservatives who are friendly and down to earth, I only have one question: where are you hiding?

## Is baseball still America's pastime?

Luis Ferreiro  
Staff Writer

Through the labor strikes, owner infighting, the contraction talk nonsense and the shame of last year's All-Star game, baseball's position as America's pastime has been severely damaged.

Like no other sport, the NFL need not worry about attendance and television ratings, or listening to experts, analysts, and sport talk-shows about its problems. The worst things anyone ever says about the game is that the players show off too much, that the officials sometimes make bad calls, and that the salary cap has made it almost impossible to have dynastic teams anymore. It's hardly the sort of thing to make Major League Baseball officials worry. But even with weaker attendance and TV ratings following the 1994 strike, and the popularity of other sports increasing, baseball still remains America's pastime.



Despite an unprecedented marketing push and the addition of home-field advantage in the World Series as a prize for the winning league, baseball's All-Star Game failed to improve its TV ratings from last year's record low marks. But even with the mediocre ratings, the event outdrew June's NBA finals for the first time in nine years, and nearly doubled the average major network rating in prime time this summer. When it comes to the World Series, another significant decline in ratings is present since 1994. It would be almost senseless to compare these ratings to those of the Super Bowl. After all, an 18 game season that is decided by one single game is much different than a 162 game baseball season, which then goes through two rounds of playoffs, - a best of five, then best of seven series - to then finally determine the champion in the World Series.

The point is not to argue the stronger popularity that football currently possesses, or to undermine the problems and burning issues that baseball has had to face and will continue to face in the near future. But no other sport in this country has the history, or has had such impact in society as baseball.

While baseball is still America's pastime, football is America's passion. This doesn't mean however, that we should consider baseball America's pastime based on the old Yankee dynasties or the impact of Babe Ruth. In other words, we should consider the sport a pastime for what it is and not for what it was.

In doing so, we shouldn't just look at the attendance figures in major league games or at the World Series ratings. But we should keep in mind that on average every town in the United States is two to four hours away from a professional baseball stadium. And that most of these fields, the majority for minor league teams, are host to the most loyal sports fans.

So while football fans may have their instant replays, two minute warnings, coin tosses, and their 20 minute halftime beer break, baseball fans prefer the uncertainty of human judgment, the certainty of knowing that the home team is batting last, coaches wearing the team uniform without headsets, and not having to worry about the opposing team running out the clock.

It is not only about being a football fan and going to chant for my team, but about being able to go to a baseball game anytime, anywhere and know that whether my favorite team is at home or not, 99 percent of the fans will stand up during the seventh inning stretch to sing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame." But then again, that's just a ballpark figure.

— Bryan Reingrubner

## Parking: Does it give you a headache?

Megan Martinez  
Staff Writer

For many University of West Florida students, every school day is the same: wake-up, get dressed, drive to school, and then spend 30 minutes finding a parking space. With an influx of new students and a shortage of parking, the endless routine is not getting any easier.

Showing up early to school is wise, but how early is early enough? Even arriving 25-30 minutes early is sometimes not early enough for students to compete for parking. If all UWF students came early, then many would still be without a place to park.

The issue is not who gets the best spot. Rather, it is a matter of not enough spots for the current student population. The color segregation of the parking lots contributes to most of the problem. With parking lots divided into color-coded segments, students are out of luck when their permit-colored spaces are full, even if there are plenty of empty spaces in different colors available. Instead of this color system which reserves spaces for people that may not even use the space, parking spaces should be colorblind. It should be first

come first serve to all those that arrive on campus, with exception to the handicapped and staff. The entire student population could then utilize parking spots based on their arrival time.

The University has provided one solution in the student's troubled quest to park: the trolley. If there is long distance or bad weather involved, the trolley system is there to help. For students who arrive early and are still unable to find parking, the trolley allows them to park further away, and then ride to the main campus.

The trolley system is fairly new to the campus, and many people are unaware of how it works. For a fee that is added to tuition, students are able to ride the trolley around school and to the shopping center off campus.

Not only is the trolley beneficial to those who park further away, it also encourages people who live on campus not to drive their cars to class, providing them with a convenient ride. Since students are paying for the trolley with their own money, it seems like a waste not to at least try it out.

Admittedly, there are some downsides to the trolleys. They can sometimes be late or may experience

difficulties. Sometimes they can even make you late for your class because they have to make stops along the way. However, if you have plenty of time to spare, the trolley can get you to your destination without much hassle.

A system that many universities have adopted to cut down on parking aggravation is to preclude freshmen who live on campus from having cars. As residence halls are being built to accommodate more new students and a trolley system is making the campus and surrounding area easier to traverse, there are fewer reasons for new students to have cars. This system would promote a more cohesive college environment, and most important, free up parking.

More students are coming to UWF. A new residence hall is being built, which can only mean more people and cars on campus in the coming semesters. More students will mean less parking spaces and even more parking problems.

It's imperative new parking spots be created, and an effective system be implemented that better distributes and utilizes the existing parking spots. Students are stressed enough without having to worry about parking.

## Middle East writer's voice of reason silenced

Megan Youngblood  
Contributing Writer

After an 11-year battle with leukemia, Edward Said (sa-eed), 67, died late last month. His death falls amid the ongoing conflict in both the Israeli-Palestinian and Central Asian worlds, which he strove to change. A silence resounds now that his voice is inaudible.

Said was among the most important thinkers and writers of our time. His writings had a massive, worldwide impact both on scholarship and on wider public debate. But above all, he had a globally significant political voice. He was for many years a member of the Palestinian National Council, the Palestine Liberation Organization's "parliament in exile," and a key mediator between Arab and American worlds.

In one of his last published essays, Said wrote, "We are in for many more years of turmoil and misery in the Middle East, where one of the main problems is, to put it as plainly as possible, U.S. power. What the U.S. refuses to see clearly, it can hardly hope to remedy."

John Nichols affirms in The Nation that Said fought hard to awaken Americans to the damage our government's policies have done to the

prospects for peace and justice in the Middle East. Nichols argues that successive presidents refused to listen to Said's wise counsel, and millions of citizens were influenced directly and indirectly by his speeches, writing and tireless advocacy — to the extent that there has been a broadening of sympathy for the cause of Palestine and Palestinians in the United States in recent years.

Born in 1935 in British-ruled Palestine and raised in Egypt, Said traveled to the United States as a student. Becoming a professor of comparative literature at Columbia University, Said straddled a huge range of subjects, from opera and politics to the media and classical music.

But he will ultimately be remembered as an unstinting critic of Israel and, more surprisingly, of Yasir Arafat's Palestinian authority.

Said's groundbreaking 1978 book, "Orientalism," on the intertwining of culture and imperialism, forced open a long-delayed and still unfinished debate about Western perceptions of Islam.

Indian historian Partha Chatterjee wrote, " 'Orientalism' is a book which talks of things I felt I had known all along, but had never found the language to formulate with clarity. Like many great books, it seems to say for

the first time what one had always wanted to say."

Said claimed that he had a new, or renewed, fascination with the intensity of private satisfactions found in reading as a "solitary and consciously interpretative" process, and in the act of writing itself, both as sensuous pleasure and as "a refusal of the silence that most of us experience as ordinary citizens who are unable to effect change."

In the world today, he feared that we might be losing that connection, and thus that special kind of stubborn intellectual heroism. He insisted that we cannot afford to do so, and must find

new ways of pursuing the values once embodied by the solitary writer wrestling with ink and paper, ways appropriate to our globalized and electronic age.

Although Said cannot contest Israel's recent approved plan to expand Jewish settlements on the West Bank and construct parts of a barrier to separate Jewish settlers from nearby Palestinian communities, which could mark the boundaries of their future, his literature elicits a resonant voice. In the very least, his words should encourage us to reshape our misconceptions and activate our voices.



### Campus rule on alcohol

The rule against liquor being allowed on campus, while beer is OK does not make any sense.

Now having stated the rule, I would like to tell you all a story. I am a 22-year-old student and have been here for a few years, living on

## Letters to the Editor

campus for most of this time. My friends and I will sometimes get together and meet at an undisclosed location on campus, and (gasp) drink liquor. Now I know what you are thinking right now: "Bryan you must stop if the rules are not obeyed then anarchy will reign and the whole system as we know it will fall." But this is simply not true. The idea that liquor is either better or worse for you than beer is patently absurd. I have often wondered what is behind this thinking.

It makes no sense to me because I can tell you that you can get just as drunk from drinking beer as you can liquor.

My other main problem is the assumption that students will not drink responsibly and will do stupid things such as drive drunk. Please explain to me why it makes more sense for students to drink liquor off campus and have to drive back, than it does to let them drink here and have nowhere else to go.

Also, the idea that if you take away liquor, students will not drink is insane. You just require that they do it off campus or do it in hiding with secret passwords and handshakes to get in the room. College students go to school for the whole experience and learning your limits is part of the package. Without having chances like this and an opportunity to learn from their actions, how will anyone learn or grow?

— Bryan Reingrubner

## VOYAGER

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